



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 30.18 Thursday, May 2, 2024

Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

FREE

Candidates file for Aug. 6 primary election

All the incumbent Van Buren Township Board members filed for reelection to their four-year positions by the April 23 deadline, except for Sherry Frazier, who did not file for reelection. Instead, her son, William Frazier, filed for her seat.

The seven Democrats are unopposed. They are Supervisor Kevin McNamara, 44712 Greenbriar Dr.; Treasurer Sharry Budd, 42700 N. I-94 Service Dr.; Clerk Leon Wright, 9961 Andover Dr.; and Trustees Don Boynton, 13237 Dover Ct., Bryon Kelley, 49202 Peninsular Dr.; and Kevin Martin, 9405 Madison Dr.; and newcomer for trustee William Frazier, 271 Holly Ln.

Sumpter Township

The Wayne County Clerk's Office lists the following candidates for four-year terms in Sumpter Township:

For supervisor is incumbent Timothy Bowman, R, 21321 Karr Rd.; Vincent Warren, R, 46465 Dunn Rd.; and Nelson Po, D., 45025 Harris Rd. (Although Sheena Green, R, was listed on the township list of April 23 as filing for supervisor, her name was not on the county list for supervisor as of Tuesday morning.)

For clerk, Donald LaPorte, R, 19240 Sumpter Rd., is unopposed.

For treasurer, incumbent Bartley Patterson, R, 23745 Sumpter Rd., is unopposed.

There are four trustees to be elected. Those listed as filing by the county clerk are incumbents Peggy Morgan, R, 300 Edgewood Dr.; Matthew Oddy, R, 17638 Odyssey Dr.; and Timothy Rush, R, 28941 Martinsville Rd.; also, newcomers James Frazier, R, 44030 Harris Rd.; John Honey, R, 43900 Clay Rd.; Robert Lintner, Jr., R, 483 Wayside Dr.; Ovidiu Suci, R., 44349 Clay Rd.; Tyler Thomas, R, 21321 Karr Rd.; and Antoine Jordan, D, 44946 Judd Rd.



The Charles B. Cozadd Foundation of the Belleville Rotary Club presented a check for \$9,874 to the Van Buren Township Fire Department during the club's April 23 meeting. In front, seated, is David C. Brown, foundation president. From left, standing, are Van Buren Township Fire Chief David McNally, Rachael Kozlowski, Ray Eissinger, Keith Bruder, foundation vice-president David Parrott, and 34th District Court Judge Lisa Martin. Parrott and Judge Martin are members of the foundation, but not Rotary Club members. Fire Chief McNally said the grant is to be used for 800 megahertz pagers, which is upgraded technology for the fire department. He said the dispatch center will be able to operate more effectively if Van Buren upgrades, since Belleville Fire Department got a grant from the Cozadd Foundation last August to upgrade its pagers. He said about five years ago they stopped making the pagers VBT firefighters are using. Since VBT dispatches both Van Buren and Belleville fire departments, now they can be totally digital. He said he hopes to have the new pagers in operation by June. Belleville Fire Department received a grant from the Rotary foundation of \$18,000, which included the cost of 20 pagers and some of the money needed for the department to put up its own channel. VBT would dispatch the Belleville department out on its own channel and then it would go on the regular channel. Now it can be all together. Sumpter Township FD also has the new system.

Independent photo by Rosemary K. Otzman

Those who also have filed as candidates to be on local ballots for the Aug. 6 primary election as of the deadline at 4 p.m. Tuesday, April 23, are:

- U.S. Senator from Michigan: Nasser Beydoun, D, Dearborn; Hill Harper, D, Detroit; Elissa Slotkin, D, Holly; Justin

- Amash, R, Grand Rapids; Peter Meijer, R, Grand Rapids; Sherry O'Donnell, R, Stevensville; Sandy Pensler, R, Grosse Pointe Park; and Mike Rogers, R, St. Joseph.

- Sixth U.S. Congressional House District: Debbie Dingell, D, of Ann Arbor; and Heather Smiley, R, of Riverview.

- 31st Michigan House District: Reggie Miller, D, of Van Buren Township and Dale Biniecki, R, of Monroe.

- 32nd Michigan House District: Jimmie Wilson, Jr., D, Ypsilanti; James Chapman, R, of Ypsilanti; Martin Church, R, of Ypsilanti;

(continued on page 16)

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SECOND FRONT PAGE

Four Distinguished Graduates, 63 BHS students inducted

Four new Belleville High School Distinguished Graduates and 63 BHS students being inducted into the Honor Society were honored at ceremonies Friday at the BHS auditorium.

Distinguished Graduates honored were Darlene Loyer-Gerick, Frederick Martin, and Harry Bradley Traskos. Honored with a special posthumous award was Arthur Joslin.

Darlene Loyer-Gerick Class of 1985

Darlene Loyer-Gerick was a Belleville school student from Kindergarten until graduation, and attended Elwell Elementary School, South Junior High, and BHS. She served as manager for the Girls Volleyball Team and on the BHS Morning Announcement crew all three years and was a member of the Marching Tigers for her junior year.

She also was a Girl Scout throughout school and achieved her Gold Award before graduating. She attended Ripon College in Wisconsin and earned her bachelor of arts with a dual major in computer science and organizational leadership. While at Ripon she was a member of the Forensic Team and joined Pi Kappa Delta for speech and debate.

After college, Darlene spent a summer in Colorado looking for employment before deciding to move back home to Belleville. Her first job was teaching computers part-time at St. Anthony's Academy. She had a career in retail management from 1989-99, then worked doing computer support and training. She started in the IT department at the University of Michigan Health Centers in 2004, doing computer support, and transitioned to facility manager in 2015. She reached 20 years as a university employee in January 2024.

She was appointed to a vacated trustee position on the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education in June of 2017. She was then elected secretary and still serves in that position.

Darlene has been an Adult Girl Scout volunteer assisting troops and leading troops since 1990. She was an advisor for the Marina Gerick's Benches for Belleville project which started in 2018 and resulted in numerous benches and picnic tables for the community and thousands of pounds of bottle caps being saved from landfills.

Darlene also was on the board of Cougar Football and Cheer, later named as the registrar. She was on the board of the Belleville Area Little League as safety officer. She also served on the District 16 Safety and Information Director for Little League in Michigan for two years. She has assisted with the Junior League World Series in Taylor since 2000. She works in the Stats Room for the event and last year



Independent photo by Elaine Gutierrez

Inducted as Distinguished Graduates of Belleville High School on Friday were, from left, Frederick Martin, Harry Bradley Traskos, and Darlene Loyer-Gerick. Randy Brown, at far left, accepted the posthumous award for Dr. Arthur Joslin, Brown's classmate and life-long friend.

she was organizer of the Stats Room and its staff.

Darlene is married to Ron Gerick and they are the parents of BHS Class of 2023 graduate Marina Gerick.

Frederick Martin Class of 2005

From a young child, all the way until he went into the service, Frederick Martin worked on the family farm. His family would assist others who were less fortunate by helping with meals in the neighborhood. As a young man in school, he helped by getting a job as a mechanic along with farming to take care of family elders.

He was then called to service for his country, fighting in the Korean conflict. He would send his military pay back home to help provide for his family. When he was finished with his service, he and his family made the decision to go into business together full time. In 1956, they opened Martin and Son Service on Sumpter Road in Belleville. They enjoyed providing service to the community from Dec. 3, 1956, until he retired and closed the business at the age of 89 in 2021.

Frederick worked his way up to become master mechanic, which was helpful from time to time to the mechanic shop teachers at Belleville High School. Many times he was across the street at the vocational education center answering many questions for the students and teachers alike. When the state of Michigan required teachers to be certified mechanics, he spent many nights at the vocational education center

working to help each teacher get certified. He also hired students from BHS, helping them get their mechanic's licenses. After years of helping the vocational education center, Frederick decided he might not be educated enough and wanted to lead by example. He graduated from BHS with his oldest grandson in 2005.

Frederick married the love of his life, Juanita, a year after the business opened. They were together until her passing in 2020. He and his father built the family home in 1963 and the residence is still occupied by the family to this day.

Harry Bradley Traskos Class of 1971

Harry Bradley Traskos is a lifelong resident of Belleville. He grew up on Sumpter Road in Van Buren Township. As a boy he joined Boy Scout Troop 231 in Belleville. After graduating from BHS in 1971, he joined the Van Buren Township Fire Department. He became a fire fighter and worked his way up to fire chief. He was the first chief over Stations 1 and 2. He served in this position for 14 years.

When Brad was fire chief, he asked voters to pass a 1-mill tax for one year to buy three fire trucks. At that time, he spoke before voters who filled the BHS Auditorium and answered all of their questions. The millage passed and he got the three trucks to protect the community.

During this time, he got married and moved to a home in Sumpter Township on Willis Road. Shortly thereafter he became a father of triplets (2 girls and a boy). Then,

he decided that with his growing family it was time to retire from the chief position. During this time, he was also employed by General Motors at the Milford Proving Grounds, working in the Safety Crash Lab. While he was at GM he continued fire fighting for GM at its facility.

After retiring from GM, Brad was asked to serve on the Van Buren Public Schools Education Foundation. Brad often said he was very proud to be a board member of the foundation because it gave so much back to Van Buren Public Schools.

Dr. Arthur Joslin

Class of 1981 - Posthumous Award

Dr. Arthur (Art) Charles Joslin, J.D., age 60, passed away Feb. 21, 2023. He was born on Nov. 23, 1962, in Ypsilanti, MI, to Dave Joslin and Gail Hunziker. Art married Diane Craven on Feb. 14, 1990 in Ypsilanti, MI. He will be remembered as a loving father, devoted husband, and good friend to many.

Dr. Joslin earned a master's degree in Voice from the University of Michigan School of Music and a Doctor of Musical Arts from the University of Illinois School of Music. He enjoyed singing from classical, operatic, pop/rock, and gospel genres, as well as from the Great American Songbook for over 40 years. Trained as an operatic baritone, Dr. Joslin appeared in leading roles, concerts, and recitals in Detroit, Philadelphia, San Diego, Sacramento, Toronto, Windsor, Little Rock, Atlanta, Las Vegas, Washington, D.C., and Nairobi, Kenya. He soloed at the National Cathedral and the Kenyan National Theatre.

In the last years of his life he earned a couple of his advanced degrees: Juris Doctor from the Thomas Cooley Law School (2021) and Doctor of Musical Arts (2023).

Art served his community as a volunteer firefighter, a reserve police officer, and a chaplain. He also was a professional scuba diver, firearms training instructor, journeyman, and an experienced security and close-protection specialist. Art had more than 35 years of experience and training in Hapkido, Brazilian Jui Jitsu, with Level 4 (black belt) in Commando Krav Maga.

For the Van Buren Township community, Dr. Joslin was a volunteer fire fighter at Station #1. He also volunteered in the Van Buren Public Schools in his area of expertise -- music. Dr. Joslin volunteered with David Declark at Savage Elementary School in music education. He also volunteered with the Belleville High School Marching Band for eight years, helping with band camp and teaching music to students.

(continued on page 17)

O P I N I O N S

Editorial

Stepping into May brings lots of activities to area

We have stepped into the month of May, which features what the Ojibwe call the "Full Flower Moon" on May 23 because of all the blooms we see. The Cree called it the "Frog Moon" because May is when frogs tend to become active. The Cherokee call May's full moon the planting moon.

And, May is when activities pick up in the tri-community, with dates being set for the Garden Club to plant flowers at the abandoned sewer building on N. Liberty Street at First Street and the Rotary Club planning for sprucing up the landscaping and planting anew at the gazebo in Victory Park.

The new kayak launch is in place at Van Buren Township's French Landing Park and people are using the kayaks available there to rent – a new offering this season, along with the new fishing deck and upgrades there.

The annual lakeside cleanups by BYC and church groups have been scheduled. Work started this week on drilling next to the still-closed Denton Road bridge, but it's too soon for any progress on the bridge.

And, the plans for the Memorial Day parade on May 27 are in place, followed by a ceremony at the Veterans Memorial, along with one day of a Farmers Market in downtown Belleville on the same day.

We, and a chorus of frogs, welcome a busy, beautiful month of May.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

A reader called last Thursday to say he was very concerned to read about the proposed tracking of visitors to the city of Belleville by the city's DDA as a marketing venture.

He was furious to read that visitors to Lakefest last year were "geofenced" without their knowledge as a demonstration. They could tell where all the people had been and where they went from Belleville.

He said he is cutting off all ties with the city and alerted seven businesses that he will no longer patronize their stores, including the flower shop and oil change on Main Street, and why. He said he has informed the local Masonic Lodge he will no longer attend its events and will give up the Bugles Across America ceremonies at the Veterans Memorial on High Street, as well.

I told him the DDA won't vote on the proposal to finalize it until at least its next meeting at 6 p.m., May 15, at the Belleville Area District Library. He didn't care.

He said recently he learned the OnStar on his five vehicles reports his driving habits to his insurance company, so he took the vehicles to Wayne and had the OnStars disabled.

The reader also said he, and the other four friends he was eating with on Thursday, have decided to no longer bring their cars to the Monday night car shows on Main Street. The violation of their privacy is too much to take, he said.

He said, in another issue, he is a graduate of the University of Michigan and he has contacted them and canceled his alumni subscription and dues because of all the disruptive demonstrations on the campus that are allowed to continue.

I told him some people just shake their



heads about all the upsetting things happening in the world today, but he is moved to action. He said if you're Jewish, you can't just shake your head.

He explained that his home had been in the Denton neighborhood of Van Buren Township and then years ago the township lines got changed and he has been in Canton Township ever since, without moving a thing.

Pete Pitzen, a Belleville VFW member who has given away hundreds of free flags to people who come to him at his Biggs Street address, said he now has a new claim to fame. He is school superintendent.

He said in a typographical error on page 17 in our April 25 edition, he is referred to as superintendent of schools. He said he is going to enjoy the salary.

Actually, I meant to type "Pete Kudlak" and instead typed "Pete Pitzen" and our proofreader didn't catch it to correct me. By the time advertising manager Janet Millard noticed the error, the pages were already on the presses and it was too late to fix it.

Also, last week we mentioned that Pitzen's flagpole blew down in a recent storm and help was needed to dig out the old foundation for the new pole. Pete and many other VFW members are getting too old for that kind of activity.

I called retired Belleville Police Chief Gene Taylor to find out if he could find some helpers. I got a message on Thursday

that Chief Taylor and Kevin Whitehead dug up the old foundation and Pete's son "Re-Pete" and Pete were to pour the cement for the new flagpole on Friday and the new flag would be flying on Sunday or Monday.

Pete says the new pole is rated to withstand 100 mph winds.

At the Rotary Club meeting on April 23, there were representatives of a Girl Scout troop which is planning to put up a Hygiene Kits Pantry, similar to the book shelves put up so people can help themselves to books. They said the Rotary had been collecting hygiene products at a drop-off point in the library to help the school with homeless students and they think it would be a service to the community to install this Hygiene Pantry.

The details are being worked out. They said toilet paper is especially needed, as well as shampoo, soap, and other items.

A 16-year-old student from Lake Orion suddenly passed away on April 19 during a school trip to Houston for the international FIRST Robotics championships, which was also attended by the BHS robotics team. The *Houston Chronicle* reported the death being investigated as a suicide and an autopsy was being done.



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Letters

Enjoy the longtime flora and fauna in Belleville!

To the editor:
 How the citizenry has changed from the 1920's to the present. I think I'm living in a community of "wimps!"

Hey, population! The geese are a part of the "flora and fauna" we hold so dear to Belleville's heritage -- and I don't mean back to the early 1900s but ALL the way back to that statue (for those of you too busy to read about him, it is Rene-Robert Cavalier, Sieur de la Salle who camped there with his four men in April 1680) that stands with hand on hip looking down Main Street and wondering, "What the H-LL happened?"

Sure, we've grown, as Park E. Gregory's book "See Again" will attest. And we've grown more since this book's publication, and in the past ALWAYS in cohabitation with the "flora and fauna" that existed here BEFORE us!

Now for convenience sake let's push the geese out because someone wants to spread their blanket on the lawn and listen to some music for a couple of hours -- or we must dodge some droppings by some un-housebroke goose!

Maybe you were even one of those drivers who so graciously stopped on High Street while mama goose and goslings crossed the street from water to greener pastures.

Back in 1997 we held Music in the Park and made use of the existing bandstand (or gazebo, today) and reminisced -- about when we were in grade school -- about coming to this park on the last day of school and the great times growing up here. How this park was named after the victory of World War I and all the activities here during World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. We still see little ones coming here on the last day of school to celebrate.

Question? What happened? Why High Street? Why block off traffic for 1-2 hours of music? Oh, the view. Should have known the view for a few hours for a few weeks in the summer is the price the lives of hundreds of geese is worth. They and the goslings are the price of progress? They aren't even welcome among our deceased! Complaints about navigating "goose-mines" between cemetery headstones have prevailed for years. Not welcome among our dead -- not welcome among the living. Where?

Sorry, I could go on about this! Just let me say: "Grow up, people!" If you attend Music Lakeside (that my wife enjoys VERY much) bring a chair, sit on the street so the rest of us can enjoy the view and sunset and you won't have to worry about the "goose grease!" Move back to Victory Park. Or, if you want, embrace the beauty of Belleville/Van Buren/Edison Lake at sunset, before the EPA or DNR allows the waterlilies to finish the job already completed at Rawsonville Road (complete eradication of the existing water view) with an expanse of waterlilies!

To the City of Belleville: Work on something more impacting, like taxes, STREETS & SIDEWALKS, a safe community, and maintaining the high standards previously set by your predecessors.

Cornell Anton, Jr.
 Belleville

Does Belleville realize how invasive AI is?

To the editor:

Believe it or not, the city of Belleville seems to be planning in the future the highly controversial subject of artificial intelligence (AI). Personally, I think this is a field that has achieved much attention from books and authors and the mass media (TV, radio, etc.).

This wave of the future I don't fully understand. The most information that I receive about AI is on the stock channel (CNBC). Do the experts have the vaguest idea of what they are dealing with?

George Orwell would be shocked if he could only see what has all the appearances of AI. Namely, Placer.AI. The Lakefest boat races last summer provided the means of utilizing intrusive, invasive, and highly improper behavior snooping on people with their AI technology. Seems like a "black ops" situation to me.

However, it presented to the DDA its plan to utilize AI to find out where you are going, where you went. Your personal life would seem to be compromised. Correct me if I am wrong.

Placer.AI wants to charge the city \$7,000 per year for the privilege of using its wonderful services. Personally, I think it should be paying the city. Does anyone feel that their constitutional rights would be violated? Let us hope and pray the city will use due diligence before rushing to judgment.

I think I will just kick back and read *Animal Farm* again.

Rodger King
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Obituaries



Timothy Kirklin

TIMOTHY KIRKLIN

(November 1, 1955 – April 26, 2024)
Timothy Kirklin, lifelong resident of Van Buren Township, Michigan, passed away peacefully on April 26, 2024, at his home. He was born on November 1, 1955, in Belleville, MI, to Jack and Ionia (Hensley) Kirklin. After high school Tim joined the Army. In 1980 he welcomed his only son, James. He worked at General Motors as a Laborer until his retirement in 2006. He has spent the last 28 years with his beautiful wife, Janice Buczek. Tim loved to talk to anyone and everyone. He never met a stranger and could always come up with a story to tell, even if he made one up! Tim was loved by many and was a proud "Child of God". He was very generous but on the same coin loved a good bargain. Flea markets and garage sales were the passion of his down time. He was always looking for and finding treasures to bring home.

Tim is survived by his loving wife, Janice Buczek of Garden City, MI, his son, James Kirklin of Clearwater, FL; his bonus daughter Heather (Robby) Simmons of San Antonio, FL; his siblings, Tom (Maureen) Kirklin of North Port, FL and Gloria Zuccaro of Van Buren Twp., MI; as well as many family & friends.
He was preceded in death by his parents and his sister, Darlene McKenna.

A visitation from 12-8 p.m. with a service at 6 p.m. has been planned for Friday, May 3, 2024, at the David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Drive, Belleville, MI, 48111, Pastor Gordon Moore will officiate.
www.davidcbrownfh.com

GARY LEE AKRIDGE

(January 28, 1987 – April 22, 2024)
Gary Lee Akridge, age 37, of Monroe, died April 22, 2024 in a car accident. Born Jan. 28, 1987, he was the son of Kelly Kathleen Green and Gary Hastings Akridge, Jr. He married Amanda May Yates on July 6, 2013 in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Gary is survived by his children Brent/Roxy, Gracie, Mason, and Angel; stepchildren Scott, Matthew and Hannah Turner and step-granddaughter Adelynn Turner; siblings Edward Akridge, Clinton Evans, Amber Hall, Billie Welker-Holbrook, and Danny Kramer; as well as several aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and cousins with whom he was especially close, including Natalie Rhiannon Cooper. Gary was preceded in death by his wife Amanda, his grandfather Gary Hastings Akridge, grandmothers Linda (Jones Akridge) Dixon and Sharon (Warwick) Bartels. A celebration of his life will be held on May 4, 2024 at Harvest Community Church of the Nazarene, 571 New York Ave., Lincoln Park, MI 48146. Family and friends may visit from 11-2 with the service beginning at 2 p.m. He will be laid to rest at Highland Cemetery in Ypsilanti, MI.

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Obituaries



Dennis Edwin Branstetter

DENNIS EDWIN BRANSTETTER

(April 22, 1958 – April 22, 2024)

Dennis Edwin Branstetter, passed away on April 22, 2024 which was his 66th birthday, born to Wayne and Mary Branstetter on April 22, 1958, in Ferndale, MI. Dennis graduated from Madison Heights High in 1976, worked for the Coca Cola Company as a forklift driver for 30 or more years, and retired in 2019.

Dennis loved the outdoors; he enjoyed fishing for walleye on Lake St. Clair, the Detroit River, and hunting.

Dennis leaves behind his siblings Brenda (Brian) West of Toronto; Daryl Branstetter of Van Buren Township; and nieces and nephews Kenneth Brown, Michael Brown, Jenifer Ugolini, and Karen Bensted.

Dennis is preceded in death by his loving parents.

A visitation and service was held Saturday, April 27, 2024, 11 AM visitation with service starting at 2 PM, Gordon Moore officiating at the David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI 48111. Burial took place immediately after the service at Hillside Cemetery in Belleville.

Memorial donations may be made to the American Lung Association of Michigan. <https://www.lung.org/help-support> www.davidcbrownfh.com



GILBERT HOPKINS

(November 30, 1936 – April 27, 2024)

Age 87 of Willis. Survived by wife Constance; children Kevin, Gary, Gregory, Susan, Mike, Rodney, Bonnie; grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great grandchildren. Memorial will be 1 p.m. May 4 at Lighthouse Church. www.davidcbrownfh.com

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Patricia O'Connor

PATRICIA O'CONNOR

(October 8, 1954 – April 27, 2024)

Patricia O'Connor, age 69, of Van Buren Township for many years, passed away on April 27, 2024, at Corewell Health Hospital, in Wayne, MI, with her family by her side. She was born on October 8, 1954, in Detroit, MI, to Franklin and JoAnne (Hensley) Swain.

After her high school years, she married and raised her two children, becoming a devoted and dedicated housewife to her family. In her younger years, Patricia enjoyed country line dancing and any type of craft. Later in life she enjoyed volunteering at the Henry Ford Museum, as well as giving her time to her church, St. Anthony's Catholic Church. She was involved in the welcoming committee and St. Theresa's Circle, as well as helping with funeral luncheons. Patricia was a big animal lover, especially cats. She had two of her own and claimed several feral cats as her own also.

She did not stop at cats in the wild, she enjoyed feeding the birds as well, and loving animals was a passion for her. And she loved to play bingo. Most of all though, she loved her family. Patricia is survived by her daughters, Michelle (Gregory) Snead of Van Buren Twp., MI, and Kimberly (Berge) Avesian of Bloomfield Hills, MI; her grandsons, Justin and Joshua Snead; her brothers and sisters, Jim, Cindy, Sandy, John, Jerry, Frankie, Darlene, Jimmy and Laura; as well as many nieces, nephews, cousins, friends and neighbors.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Bruce O'Connor, and two brothers, Kevin and Jeff.

According to her wishes, dignified cremation rites have been accorded with the David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Drive, Belleville, MI, 48111. A memorial will be held on Saturday, May 4, 2024, with time for gathering at 10 a.m. and a funeral service officiated by Father Bryan Shackett at 1 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorial donations in honor of Patricia to St. Anthony Catholic Church are appreciated, and envelopes for donation will be available at the funeral home or the Michigan Human Society. www.davidcbrownfh.com

SUSAN VENDA

(February 3, 1956 – April 25, 2024)

Age 68, of Willis. Survived by husband Vincent; daughters Chantal Weatherly and Venessa Venda; brother-in-law Doug Viers; sister-in-law Deborah Murphy. Cremation rites have been accorded and a celebration of life took place May 1 in Whitmore Lake. www.davidcbrownfh.com

DIANNE LYNN GASSER

(September 16, 1945 – April 28, 2024)

Age 78, of Belleville for many years and formerly of Romulus. Survived by brother Gary; sister Linda; children Sheryl and Kevin; grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great grandchild. Service 12:30 p.m. May 2 at Brown Funeral Home, Belleville. www.davidcbrownfh.com

Obituaries



Karen Sucher

KAREN SUCHER

(January 3, 1949 – April 23, 2024)

Karen Sucher, beloved wife, mother, grandmother, and friend to many, passed away peacefully on April 23, 2024, at the age of 75.

Born on January 3, 1949, in Morgantown, West Virginia, Karen lived a life filled with empathy, kindness, and unwavering dedication to her friends and family.

Karen, born Karen Jackson, grew up in Morgantown, West Virginia to Tom and Geraldine (Newlon) Jackson and graduated from Morgantown High School class of 1966.

She continued to West Virginia University where she graduated in 1970 with a degree in Art.

Karen's professional journey began as an art teacher in Morgantown. She moved to Belleville, Michigan three years later with an opportunity to become the Manager of Lemontree Apartments. Here, lifelong friendships were formed. She moved up the ladder quickly with Hall Financial Group and soon was the Regional Vice President --

managing multiple apartment communities throughout the Midwest and South.

Karen leaves behind the love of her life, David, who she met when he moved to Belleville and rented an apartment at Lemontree in the early '70s, they married in 1982 and shared a beautiful life together. Their three daughters, Jill Everingham (Brent), Carrie Sucher and Laura Davey (Keith), were the center of their universe -- there was nothing more special to Karen than time with her family. She loved to make each one of her five grandchildren, Kayla, Drew, Jack, Reid and Grant feel special and encouraged all their individual aspirations. Her nephew, Sean Malone, always held a special place in her heart along with her very best friend, Tom Smith, and countless other close and lifelong friends. Karen is preceded in death by her father Tom, mother Geraldine and sister Cheryl Malone. Karen was a devoted mother, attending every sporting event, school play, and family event. Her wisdom and wit filled their home, creating cherished memories that will live on forever.

Karen had a passion for decorating and entertaining -- her home was a thing of beauty, her tablescapes at holidays and parties, magazine worthy -- she took great pride. Her lakeside backyard once a spot for entertaining friends and family members -- the parties she hosted were always special, elaborate, and memorable. Yearly family trips to Charlevoix with family were always one of her favorite times along with winters with David in Daytona Beach with their many friends there. Karen equally enjoyed her downtime at home -- relaxing and watching MSNBC with her cup of Morning Joe.

Karen taught the values of kindness, empathy, and authenticity -- continually thinking of others before herself. Her warm smile and genuine interest in others made it easy for her to make friends with complete strangers, many of whom went on to become great friends. Karen's personality was immeasurable and her Facebook comments, which were one-of-a-kind, will be a void for many. David, her children, and grandchildren along with her wide circle of friends will miss her immensely.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests contributions be made to Harper's Journey and the Mathis Family. Karen would insist on helping Harper continue her brave fight.

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063553807833>
Venmo @Shellie-Mathis

A celebration of life will be held at The Belleville Yacht Club on Sunday, May 5, 2024, 2:00 p.m. with a service beginning at 3 p.m. Let us MOFO cheers to Karen's life and the beautiful legacy she leaves behind.

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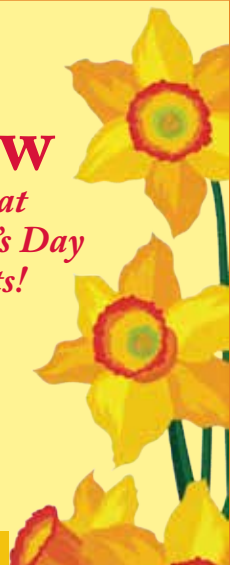
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Learn more about Foster Care:

May 30th, 6:30pm
Belleville Area Public Library

#FosterCareMonth
www.guidingharbor.org

MAY IS NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH



Obituaries



George Alexander Renton

GEORGE ALEXANDER RENTON

(February 8, 1921 - April 25, 2024)
George Alexander Renton formerly of Belleville, Good Hart, and Harbor Springs, Michigan, passed away at the age of 103 on April 25, 2024.

George was born to George Stewart Renton and Donna Bell (Leonard) Renton on February 8, 1921. He was raised in Belleville and graduated from Belleville High School in 1939. After graduation he attended the Henry Ford Apprentice School in the Tool and Die department. George joined the Air Force on October 3, 1942. He served in the 9th Air Force in the European Theater until he was discharged on November 12, 1945.

On September 29, 1945 George married Marilyn Ames who preceded him in death on September 8, 1965. They had three children, Frank (Cher) of Chelsea, Michigan, Barbara (Trond) of Camas, Washington, and Ann (Guy) of Travelers Rest, South Carolina.

On September 1, 1967 George married Adelle Basset who preceded him in death on April 28, 2017. Adelle had three sons, Robert (Ann) of Brookfield, Wisconsin, Joe of Saline, Michigan and Scott of Castleberry, Florida. George has fifteen grandchildren and several great grandchildren.

George worked at Draw Tite Trailer Hitch company from its beginning in 1946 till 1971. During that time, he became one of the owners. He is remembered with love by all who knew him.

DANIEL STATHAM

(October 16, 1954 - April 25, 2024)
Age 69, longtime resident of Belleville, passed away after battling medical issues for many months. Survived by siblings, Richard, Douglas, and Mark Statham, and Deborah Hopkins. www.davidcbrownfh.com

Things to do in the Belleville area...

• **Friday, May 3** - Third-annual Community Day at 34th District Court from noon to 3 p.m. with demonstrations, tours, food, and other attractions. Meet with the judges. Court is at 11129 Wayne Rd., Romulus 48174.

• **Saturday, May 4 and Sunday, May 5** - "What's the Buzz?" Used Book Sale will be held at the Belleville Area District Library, 167 Fourth St., from 12-3 p.m. on Saturday and 1-4 p.m. on Sunday, sponsored by the Friends of the Library. On Saturday the annual perennial plant swap will be held at the library.

• **Wednesday, May 8** - Drive-Through Chicken Supper at Willow United Methodist Church, 36925 Willow Rd., New Boston, (734) 654-9020. Pick up from 4:30 p.m. until sold out. Call orders in by 4 p.m. for faster service. Menu: four pieces of chicken, mashed potatoes, dinner-style biscuits & gravy, green beans, cole slaw, dinner roll, choice of pie. \$14 for carry-outs (cash or check only).

• **Saturday, May 18** - Ford Mercury Restorers Club of America, Swap Meet, Car Show/Corral, site opens at 7 a.m., one day only. At the Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd., Ann Arbor 48103, exit 175 off I-94 then go south three miles, free parking. Over 80 vendors; \$5 admission fee, 16 and under are free. Information on car show: (248) 444-3169.

• **Monday, May 27** - Memorial Day Parade 10 a.m. from BHS to Main Street and Farmers Market on Fourth Street Place, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., sponsored by Belleville Central Business Community. Also, VFW/PLAV Memorial Day Service at 11 a.m. at Veterans Memorial on High Street.

• **Wednesday, May 29** - American Red Cross Blood Drive, noon to 6 p.m. at the Sumpter Township Community Center gymnasium, 23501 Sumpter Rd. For an appointment, log onto RedCrossBlood.org (sponsor code Sumpter), call the township office at (734) 461-6201, ext. 2226, or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).



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More Letters

Main Street will lose business with tracking

To the editor:
The first point of this opinionated letter is to thank Mr. Joe Flange for his letter regarding medical personnel in school to control children's health-care services. This is a disgrace.

And now you want to control people who live and visit Belleville with AI Intelligence. This tracking device will deter all them coming to our city. Do they honestly think we are ignorant of this scam?

What is next, a toll booth off the Bridge and give/show your bank account and credit cards?

Belleville means Beautiful Village not a city controlled to invasion of one's cars to be tracked.

Main Street will lose business. The next meeting for the DDA is at the library. Would be wise for them to look up "socialism."

Keep our city safe and free of eventual hackers.

Again, kudos to Mr. Flange. He should run this city. He is an American, not a DICTATOR!

Ann Lorac
Van Buren Township

Some thoughts about our Denton Rd. Bridge

To the editor:
I'm sure in due time we'll have a great, new, safe bridge and roadway that will replace the older Denton Road Bridge and causeway. However, I'm wondering if the original safety report was a little over-zealously written. Seems to me a weight limit could be put into place and it would be safe enough to cross, at least until the

construction phase begins.
If permitted, I would volunteer to be the first to attempt the crossing. If something happened, it wouldn't be like falling off the Ambassador Bridge into the Detroit River. Of course, cross over at your own risk.

Jim Graham
City of Belleville

Robotics Boosters to hold session at BHS for 16 elementary teams

The Tiger Robotics Booster Organization will be hosting yet another robotics event, this time for the 6-10 year olds at the elementary school level.

The event will be held on Saturday, May 4, from 8:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. at the Belleville High School cafeteria. The public is invited and may enter though the main entrance at BHS.

Sixteen elementary school teams will participate in this non-competitive event designed to introduce students of this age group to STEM-related activities.

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If you'd like to meet me, please go to friendsofmichigan.org/adoptable-dogs and fill out an app! I'm neutered, microchipped, up to date on shots, get monthly prevention, and I'm heartworm negative!

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Musings

By Janet Millard
Independent Advertising Director



It's time to shop! May 5, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Cheryl Wagner's Art & Garden Show on W. Huron River Drive. There are always great gifts at this once-a-year show and right in time for Mother's Day. Of course, you may shop for yourself as well. See her ad in the paper today.

Through the years, when I am asked for names of non-profit organizations who need donations or a fundraiser, I always say Girlstown at Guiding Harbor and/or Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue (FMAR). Both local organizations do amazing work.

FMAR is holding its 15th-annual golf outing at Green Oaks Golf Course on Saturday, June 22. They need golfers and, of course, sponsors. Contact Dawn at (734) 904-9060 or Golf@DirtyK9.dog for more information.

Speaking of Guiding Harbor, May is Foster Care Month, and they are planning an informational meeting on May 30. See their ad in the paper today and save that date so you can attend and bring a fresh start to a young life.

Hope you have been noticing the Estate Sale in our classified ad section. An Estate Sale is set at the Roberts Brothers Funeral Home (Higgerson O'Neal Funeral Home) on Main Street. Scheduled for May 9 through May 11, there should be some really great finds.

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Another great organization that gives back to the community is the Belleville Rotary Club. Its annual golf outing is scheduled for June 6 and, of course, they also need golfers and sponsors. Contact Joyce Rochowiak at (313) 304-0474.

Belleville Area Council for the Arts is looking for local artists who would like to exhibit, sell, and work on their art all at the same time during the Belleville Farmers Market on Mondays, June through September, from 4 to 7:30 p.m. For more information contact Kathryn Wood at woodkathryn43@gmail.com

BHS at-home games

- **Thursday, May 2** – Boys Varsity Golf vs. Stevenson HS, 3 p.m. at Willow Metropark GC; Girls JV Tennis vs. New Boston HS, 4 p.m.; Girls JV Soccer vs. John Glenn HS, 5:30 p.m.; Girls Varsity Soccer vs. John Glenn HS, 7 p.m.
 - **Friday, May 3** – Girls Varsity Tennis vs. Wayne Memorial HS, 4 p.m.; JV Baseball vs. Flat Rock, 4:30 p.m.; Boys Varsity Lacrosse vs. Chelsea HS, 5:30 p.m.
 - **Monday, May 6** – Girls Varsity Tennis vs. Edsel Ford HS, 4 p.m.; Varsity Baseball vs. Stevenson HS, 4:30 p.m.; Boys Varsity Lacrosse vs. Salem HS, 5:30 p.m.
 - **Tuesday, May 7** – JV Softball vs. Wyandotte Roosevelt HS, 4 p.m.; Girls Varsity Tennis vs. KLAA Crossover HS, 4 p.m.
 - **Wednesday, May 8** – JV Softball vs. Stevenson HS, 4 p.m., doubleheader; JV Baseball vs. Stevenson HS, 4:30 p.m.
- Go Tigers!
Diane Kiessel
BHS Athletics Secretary

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Independent photo by Elaine Gutierrez

Bagpiper Ian Gruenhagen led the procession of Distinguished Graduates and members of the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education into the Belleville High School Auditorium for Friday's ceremony.



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"There is a cult of ignorance in the United States, and there has always been. The strain of anti-intellectualism has been a constant thread winding its way through our political and cultural life, nurtured by the false notion that democracy means that 'my ignorance is just as good as your knowledge.'"
 - Isaac Asimov

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Upcoming Meetings

- Monday, May 6 – Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, May 7 – Van Buren Township regular meeting, 6 p.m.
- Wednesday, May 8 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 5:30 p.m.
- Thursday, May 9 – Keystone Academy school board, 5 p.m. Also, Sumpter

- Township Planning Commission, 6 p.m.
- Also, Belleville Planning Commission, 7 p.m.
- Monday, May 13 – Van Buren Township Public Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m., BHS
- Tuesday, May 14 – Sumpter Township workshop/regular meeting, 6 p.m. Also, Belleville Area District Library board, 7:30 p.m.

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Independent photo by Rosemary K. Otzman

David and Denise Ferber of Willis were among those taking part in last weekend's Sumpter Township Spring Vendor Market with booths flooding the community center gymnasium. Denise is active in the Van Buren Township senior center, teaching card making and seasonal painting and also volunteering in the senior gift shop. Her husband of more than 50 years is the former mayor of Allegan.

34th District Court presents Community Day on Friday, May 3

The 34th District Court invites the public to its third-annual Community Day at the court from noon to 3 p.m. on Friday, May 3. The court is located at 11129 Wayne Rd., Romulus 48174.

Community Day will have a variety of activities and vendors, including:

- Tours of the court;
- Food trucks;

- Car show;
- Public Safety demonstrations;
- Bomb squad with its K-9 unit;
- Dive team; and
- Custom motorcycles.

This event is open to the public, families, and children of all ages from the community covered by the 34th District Court: the cities of Belleville and Romulus and Huron, Sumpter, and Van Buren townships.



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– Steven Wright



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AUCTION

PUBLIC AUCTION

NOTICE is hereby given that on MAY 18, 2024 at 12:00 P.M., Full House Self Storage at 7886 Belleville Rd., Belleville, MI 48111 is holding a public auction. Unit(s) may or may not include the following: household items, recreational items, appliances, furniture, misc.

M567 & 1427, Jennifer Miller; J610, G465 & S948, Gary Kaufman; R930, Dewey Faulkner; G458, Jazmene Long; 1419 & J616, Cornell Fox; M569, Adam McNabb; K651 Aafrika Poole; N817, P756 & L516, Sunshine Inc.; P751, Steven Smith; K657, Shunya Cleveland; P759, James Diamond; 1400, Leander Boyd.

Publish: May 2, 2024 and May 9, 2024

ESTATE SALE

MAY 9-11, 209 MAIN ST. Downtown Belleville. Contents of historic Roberts Brothers Funeral Home (Higgerson-Neal FH) to be sold during estate sale.

<https://estatesales.net/mi/belleville/48111/4013406>

05/09

GARAGE/YARD SALE

MULTI-FAMILY YARD SALE. 46700 Weimer Rd., Belleville. Thurs., May 2-Sat., May 4, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Designer purses, collectibles, refrigerator & much more.

05/02

RUMMAGE SALE

ST. ANTHONY CATHOLIC CHURCH, 409 W. Columbia Ave. Fri., May 17, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Sat., May 18, 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

05/16

VEHICLES FOR SALE

SUMMER'S COMING. 2009 PONTIAC GT G50 Hardtop Convertible. 113,000 miles. Like new, inside & out. \$8,550. Must see. Private owner. (734) 695-0819

05/09

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05/16

2012 H-D FLHTCU (Harley-Davidson). Ember red sun glow. Stage-one air & exhaust. Heated hand grips. Garage door opener. Day & Indoor storage covers. Road Tech GPS mount w/XML radio antenna. Service manual. \$12,500. (734) 699-1238. Leave message.

05/16

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HUSKY TOOLBOX, good shape, for mid-size pickups, \$97. Tonneau cover, roll-up, good shape, for mid-size pickups, \$193. Bob (734) 260-0007

05/02

TWO ELLIPTICALS, \$45/ea. or both for \$80. HealthRider Total Body, \$75. Stationary bike, \$50. Bob (734) 260-0007

05/02

CRAFTSMAN SNOW BLOWER, 5 HP, Auger type. Runs good, 18 years old. \$117. Bob (734) 260-0007

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CANNA BULBS, \$1/ea. or \$5/bag. Ready to plant. (734) 461-0857 or (734) 904-7577

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YELLOW MEN'S 26" 10 SPEED BIKE. New seat, needs new tires. Good condition. \$150. (734) 740-2516

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

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Garden Club to hold annual perennial plant swap May 4 at library

The Belleville Area Garden Club will hold its annual perennial plant swap outside the Belleville Area District Library from noon to 1 p.m. on Saturday, May 4.

The library is also hosting the Friends of the Library used book sale on Saturday and Sunday and will give away free comic books starting at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday.

Also, Garden Club president Janine Houle will be presented with a Rotary Club Cozadd Foundation grant for the club at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday at the old pumphouse at the corner of N. Liberty Street and First Street in Belleville to fund a native pollinator garden at the site. The garden will include a winding flagstone pathway from the city sidewalk to the front door of the no-longer-used pumphouse on Belleville Lake.

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Ask the Mortician Event

Have you had questions about death and/or funerals?

Are there things you want to know but are not sure about asking?

Now is your chance to have lunch and learn all the ways you can have a funeral, or just ask questions about anything funeral related.

David C. Brown Funeral Home will host this event at Sam's Restaurant in Belleville on Tuesday, May 14th from 12 pm until 2pm. Lunch will be provided, an entrée choice can be selected. Since space is limited and this is a FREE event, please RSVP to Jacqueline Dalzell at (734) 697-4500.



SMALL ENGINE MECHANIC.
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JANITORIAL POSITION for large office building in Canton. Pleasant work environment. Mon-Thurs: 9 p.m.-midnight. Fri, Sat, Sun: 6-9 p.m. \$17-\$18/hr. rdunn08@yahoo.com 05/02

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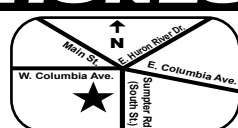
PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:

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

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



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Election

(continued from page 1)

and Jonathan Hoover, R, Ypsilanti.

• Wayne County Prosecuting Attorney: Kym L. Worthy, D, Detroit.

• Wayne County Sheriff: Joan Merriewether, D, Detroit; Raphael Washington, D, Livonia; Articia Bommer, R, Detroit; and T.P. Nykoria, R, Detroit.

• Wayne County Clerk: Cathy M. Garrett, D, Detroit; Hadi Tarraf, D, Dearborn.

• Wayne County Treasurer: Eric Sabree, D, Detroit.

• Wayne County Register of Deeds: James W. Williams IV, D, Detroit; Bernard J. Youngblood, D, Grosse Pointe Farms; Afaf Ahmad, R, Westland.

• Wayne County Commission, 11th District: Jeremy R. Cady, D, New Boston; Tim Craiger, D, Van Buren Township; David Hotz, D, Romulus; Joe Richert, D, Romulus; Allen R. Wilson, Romulus.

• Wayne County Judge of Probate Court, incumbent: David A. Perkins

• Wayne County Judge of Probate Court, non-incumbent: Daniel L. Mercier, Detroit; Todd E. Briggs, Grosse Pointe Farms; Macie Gaines, Grosse Pointe Park; and Ron L. Haywood, Detroit; and Jennifer Beth Parmalee, Grosse Ile.

• 34th District Court Judge: Robert P. Coutts of Van Buren Township filed on March 29 and then withdrew and refiled on April 22. Todd L. Barron of Romulus and Teresa Patton of Van Buren Township, both filed on April 22.

Candidates had until 4 p.m. on Friday, April 26, to withdraw from their filings.

The primary election takes place on Tuesday, Aug. 6, and the general election on Tuesday, Nov. 5.

Filing false FEMA applications may lead to criminal charges

If you apply for FEMA Assistance and purposely claim disaster damage that never happened, you may be charged with a serious

Work restarted April 29 for CAV corridor pilot on 3 miles of I-94

Starting April 29, crews will close the outside lane of westbound I-94 from Belleville to Rawsonville roads in Wayne County to complete a high-friction surface treatment.

Work started in August to equip the left lane of westbound I-94 with digital infrastructure to support the I-94 connected and automated vehicles (CAV) corridor pilot project. Crews expect to complete the treatment on May 4. This work is weather dependent, and delays may require additional closures beyond May 4.

When this work is complete, the CAV corridor pilot will be fully operational, and Cavnu, the private company developing this project in partnership with MDOT, will begin testing CAVs along the corridor.

During testing, advanced signs will notify drivers that the left lane of westbound I-94 is closed to traffic from Belleville to Rawsonville roads. Testing will only be conducted with dedicated test vehicles during off-peak hours.

Outside the testing phases, the left lane will be available to all road users. Drivers who choose to use this lane will not be able to access the Belleville rest area or exit at Belleville Road due to the placement of the delineator posts that separate the technology-enabled express lane from the general-purpose lanes on I-94.

More information about the I-94 CAV corridor pilot is available on MDOT's website, including a video explaining the goals of both the pilot and future plans to provide a CAV lane for road users.

crime.

FEMA must make sure taxpayer dollars go only to Michigan homeowners and renters in Eaton, Ingham, Ionia, Kent, Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland and Wayne counties who suffered genuine loss caused by the Aug. 24-26, 2023, severe storms, tornadoes and flooding. The agency takes payment of funds to the true survivors very seriously.

Those who are caught filing a false application for FEMA assistance can be charged with a felony and, if convicted, face a maximum 30-year prison term and up to \$250,000 in fines.

Any applicant who has made a mistake when reporting damage or has misrepresented losses may correct or cancel their claim. Individuals need to call the FEMA Helpline at 800-621-3362 to withdraw or correct an application and prevent prosecution. The helpline accepts calls seven days a week from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. If you use a relay service such as video relay service (VRS), captioned telephone service or others,

give FEMA the number for that service.

If you know of someone who is filing a fraudulent application, report this or other instances of fraud, waste, or abuse.

You may contact the Department of Homeland Security Office of the Inspector General (OIG) at 800-323-8603.

You also may fill out a fraud complaint online at the OIG's website (www.oig.dhs.gov) or mail to: DHS Office of Inspector General: Mail Stop 0305; Department of Homeland Security; 245 Murray Drive SW; Washington, DC 20528-0305, and mark it for the attention of the Office of Investigations – Hotline.

You also may call FEMA's Office of the Chief Security Officer (OCSO) Tip line at 866-223-0814 or email to FEMA-OCSO-Tipline@fema.dhs.gov.

The deadline to apply for help with FEMA and the U.S. Small Business Administration is Wednesday, May 8, 2024.



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City of Belleville Public Notice



CITY OF BELLEVILLE

Request for Proposals

Refuse and Recycling Services

The City of Belleville is looking to select a qualified firm to provide refuse and recycling services for the City of Belleville.

Principal Contact

Jason Smith, City Manager

6 Main St

Belleville, Mi. 48111

734-252-4307

jsmith@Belleville.mi.us

Bid Information

Bids are due at 4:00pm, Friday, June 28, at 4:00pm, and will be opened July 1, 2024, at 10:00am.

Full details regarding the RFP, including how to submit questions, can be found at

www.bidnetdirect.com//cityofbelleville

The City reserves the right to accept or reject any proposal for any or no reason and to waive any minor irregularity if determined to be in the best interest of the City of Belleville.

Published: May 2, 2024, May 9, 2024

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Charter Township of Van Buren Planning Commission will hold public hearings on **Wednesday, May 22nd, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.**, in the Board of Trustees Room, 46425 Tyler Road, Charter Township of Van Buren, Wayne County, Michigan to consider the following request.

- Case 23-049:** A request by CBE, LLC; Brian Leibrandt on behalf of Tractor Supply, to rezone the Parcel ID# V-125-83-134-99-0003-701 from AG (agriculture) to SRMU (Sumpter Road Mixed Use).
- Case 23-049:** A request by CBE, LLC; Brian Leibrandt on behalf of Tractor Supply, for a special use approval to allow for outdoor sales/display areas for proposed retail development at Parcel ID# V-125-83-134-99-0003-701.

Please address any written comments to the Van Buren Township Planning Commission at, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, MI 48111 or by e-mail at rakers@vanburen-mi.org. Written comments will be accepted until 4:00 p.m. on the hearing date and all materials relating to this request are available for public inspection at the Van Buren Township Hall prior to the hearing.

Van Buren Township will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aides and services to individuals with disabilities who are planning to attend. Please contact the Van Buren Township Planning & Economic Development department at 734-699-8913 at least seven (7) days in advance of the meeting if you require assistance.

Posted: April 30, 2024

Published: May 02, 2024

Distinguished grads

(continued from page 3)

Selection Committee

The Selection Committee for Distinguished Graduates for 2023-24 was made up of: BHS Principal Nicole Crockett, BHS Alumni Coordinator Linda Clayton, Historical Society president Tom Fielder, Distinguished Graduate Committee member Shelly Brown-Chudzinski, and former Distinguished Graduates Randy Brown, Karen Skszik-Mida, and William Wolters.

National Honor Society Inductees

As a part of Friday's ceremonies, the following BHS students were inducted into the National Honor Society:

Jessica Agyemang, Tyler Barnes, Liliane Baseka, Griffin (Gretchen) Behnke, Julianna Blair, Zaria Braxton, Lucas Bryan, Tristan Bullard, Corissa Cannon, Keemah Carey, Vincent Castellani, Sydney Cramer, Amiyah Davis, Isabella DeLibera, Grace Dembny, Kendall Duncan, Collin Glimpse, Jeffrey Graves, Gracie Hallock, Cameron Harris, Jordan Haskins, Abigail Heringhausen, Laryssa Hernandez Lopez,

Allie Horchem, Kaleya Houston, Dayton Jenkins, Brayden Lane, Samvith Lanka, Logan Larocque, Bruce Lee, Hannah Lind, Josephine Mallari, Bryant McGee, Janiyah McGowan, Cooper Mears, Aaron Mesa Cardenas, Abraham Mesa Cardenas, Deshaun Murray, Kaylee Palacio-Galvan, Jarrod Peterman, Lillian Peterson, Ian Prentiss, Lydia Roberts, Kaylee Rupnow, Jaiden Rutley, Sir Samuel, Kaiah Sargent, Mary Seranillo, Evelyn Similo, Rut Slatineanu, Anaya (AJ) Smith, Grace Spaulding, Rilee Suggs, Ethan Sulea, Aiden Tulik, Michael Umstead, Lois Ureche, Amelia Waldroop, Valerie Wilhide, Bryanna Wilkerson, Kurtis Wilson, Shemar Woodson, Shemir Woodson.

Current National Honor Society Officers

Current officers of the National Honor Society are: Lyla Mallari, president; Kelly Montgomery, vice-president; Nyla Britton, secretary; Lukas Igonin, treasurer; and Lucy Andreana, publicity manager. The more than 60 members of the current honor society were on the stage with the new inductees during the ceremony.

VBT LDFA elects Dotson, Kudlak, Dine as officers for 2024

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Michael Dotson of Wayne County Community College District was re-elected chairman of the Van Buren Township Local Development Finance Authority at its regular meeting April 9.

Van Buren Public Schools Superintendent Pete Kudlak was elected vice chairman. Doug Peters, a retired attorney who was the previous vice -chairman, retired from the LDFA in October.

Alex Dine was elected second vice chairman, a position Kudlak had held in 2023.

In other business at the 29-minute meeting on April 9, the LDFA:

- Held an Informational Meeting as required by PA 57 – 2023;
- Approved the first amendment to the 2019 Loan Agreement between the township and the LDFA. Now that there has been a \$12 million settlement with Visteon, the auditors said they have to retract

Section 5 of the agreement to make things right. The amendment will be on the next agenda of the township board for approval. The township has, as of December 2023, loaned the LDFA \$8,046,569.53 including interest for bond payments;

- Discussed replacing street lighting on Visteon Way, from Hannan to Ecorse roads in Grace Lake Corporate Center (formerly Visteon Village) and voted to have the township sit down with Sovereign and LDFA member Scott Medlen to make a decision on the DTE proposal, which has no cost to the township. The original agreement had the township buying a stock of the special- design pole. Now, there are choices of LED poles in stock at DTE. The option came following a pole that was knocked down in an accident and DTE had to replace it with a different-looking pole;
- Was introduced to the newest LDFA member Gina Dorazio who was attending her first meeting. She is a residential appraiser and lives in the township.

VBT DDA to send letters to businesses in district to do spring clean-ups

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

At the March 26 meeting of the Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority, DDA Administrative Director Merrie Coburn said letters are going out to all the businesses in the DDA district, asking them to clean up for spring.

She also said the county now supports a dedicated left-turn-lane signal at the Tyler/Belleville intersection. She said the DDA paid Wade-Trim \$10,000 for a study and they said it wasn't needed. Now, there has been another study and there are figures to support the signal.

In other business at the March 26 meeting, the DDA:

- Heard Supervisor Kevin McNamara report that last year the township paid a company with temporary staffing to pick trash along I-94, Van Born, Morton Taylor, and Sheldon roads, since the 34th District Court no longer provides workers. He said he paid \$10,000 last year and the roadsides are getting trashed up again. He said now it looks like they never did anything. He asked the DDA for help. Chairman Craig Atchinson said the DDA would pay for pickup as it goes, but only in the DDA district;
- Heard Executive Director Coburn report that the new banner couplings ordered for the streetscape light poles turned out to be the wrong couplings and so they are sending them back to get the right parts. It is expected to take 40 days to get the right couplings for the Business Banners. Chairman Atchinson and DDA member Baskin noted the lights in the streetscape are blinking on one side. Coburn said she would check into that; and
- Heard Coburn give an update on the grants being sought and report that four property owners of the 14 still unsecured have signed for right of way acquisition by the township on Belleville Road. There are several steps to take before the township board is asked to vote on taking the unsigned properties to court to take the properties legally.

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Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

There were 241 dispatch calls reported by Van Buren Township police last week including the following.

Sunday, April 21:

0229 – animal complaint, N. I-94 Service Dr.
xxxx – repossession, Park Estates Dr.
0848 – intrusion alarm, Rawsonville Rd.
xxxx – intrusion alarm, Monterey Dr.
1006 – domestic, E. Huron River Dr.
1249 – domestic, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1401 – domestic, Park Estates Dr.
1443 – disorderly, Rawsonville Rd.
1501 – civil matter, Denton Rd.
1606 – larceny, Belleville Rd.
1550 – welfare check, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1554 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1625 – intrusion alarm, Bayshore Dr.
xxxx – larceny, Belleville Rd.
1639 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1650 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, Ecorse Rd./Belleville Rd.
xxxx – threat, Sylvia Dr.
1810 – animal complaint, Belleville Rd.
1821 – harassment call, Richard Run Dr.
1823 – assist fire dept., Rawsonville Rd.
1917 – hospice death, Pebblebrook Dr.
1931 – assault & battery, Victoria St.
2022 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.

Monday, April 22:

0004 – neighbor trouble, Bog Rd.
xxxx – repossession, Meadows Cir.
1002 – animal complaint, Bog Rd.
1101 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Purple Sage Ct.
1126 – fraud, Village Green Ln.
xxxx – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Dellor St.
1154 – property damage accident, Amanda Dr.
1514 – animal complaint, Belleville Rd.
1522 – lost property/child, Quirk Rd./Ayres Ave.
1527 – intrusion alarm, Revere Dr.
1556 – parking complaint, McBride Ave./Pierce
1606 – vehicle lockout, Belleville Rd.
1644 – property damage accident, Haggerty Rd. / N. I-94 Service Dr.
1715 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd.
1740 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1819 – welfare check, Brookside Dr.
1850 – juvenile complaint, Belleville Rd.
2018 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Belleville Rd.
2108 – juvenile complaint, Parkwood Dr.
2217 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Belleville Rd./Tyler Rd.
2355 – intrusion alarm, S. I-94 Service Dr.

Tuesday, April 23:

0027 – missing person, N. Bellridge Dr.
0717 – intrusion alarm, Hardwood Dr.
0806 – property damage accident, Tyler/Haggerty
xxxx – personal injury accident, Haggerty/Tyler
0951 – civil matter, Holly Ln.
0936 – hospice death, Harmony Ln.
1047 – hospice death, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1048 – found property/child, Tyler Rd.
1121 – larceny, E. Huron River Dr.
1256 – civil matter, Holly Ln.
1303 – civil matter, Victoria St.
1317 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1421 – private property impound, Haggerty Rd.
1434 – found property/child, Christina Ln.
1437 – domestic, N. Ponderosa Trl.
1457 – found property/child, Richomd Dr.
1641 – intrusion alarm, Hardwood Dr.
1959 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.

Wednesday, April 24:

0013 – family trouble, Rawsonville Rd.
0220 – property check, Walden Woods
0249 – intrusion alarm, N. I-94 Service Dr.
0314 – road hazard, Edison Lake Rd. / E. Huron River Dr.
xxxx – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
0617 – welfare check, Renton Rd.
0801 – intrusion alarm, Robbe Rd.
0925 – animal complaint, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1037 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1141 – larceny, Denton Rd.
1209 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
1416 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance,

Quirk Rd./N. I-94 Service Dr.

1444 – warrant arrest, Tyler Rd.
xxxx – larceny, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1711 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1712 – operating while intoxicated, Belleville Rd.
xxxx – misc. complaint, Bayshore Dr.
1816 – domestic, Oak Ln.
1857 – fraud, Hannan Rd.
1841 – larceny, Lighthouse Dr.
1852 – assist other dept., Williams/Rawsonville
1906 – larceny, Parkwood Dr.
1933 – assist other dept., W. Huron River Dr. / Rawsonville Rd.
1938 – domestic, Jackson St.
2007 – intrusion alarm, Ladonna Ln.
2148 – domestic, Water's Edge Ln.
2155 – intrusion alarm, Hull Rd.
2302 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Parkwood Dr.

Thursday, April 25:

0117 – intrusion alarm, McBride Ave.
0740 – parking complaint, Andover Farms
xxxx – repossession, Denton Rd.
0833 – misc. complaint, McBride Ave.
1002 – fraud, Solitude Ln.
1113 – private property impound, Rose Blvd.
1135 – operating while intoxicated, Anna Dr.
xxxx – repossession, Denton Rd.
1220 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, Anna Dr.
1411 – fraud, Peninsular Dr.
1523 – private property/property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1533 – suicidal person, Oak Ln.
1547 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd./ Van Born Rd.
1704 – follow up by officer, Bellridge Blvd.
1716 – welfare check, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1739 – welfare check, Rawsonville DNR
1921 – welfare check, Denton Rd.
1838 – personal injury accident, W. I-94/Belleville
1843 – intrusion alarm, Haggerty Rd.
1913 – welfare check, Redwood Dr.
2018 – civil matter, Bog Rd.
2106 – disorderly, Parkwood Dr.
2119 – neighbor trouble, Pond Bluff Dr.
2212 – property damage accident, Michigan Ave.
2335 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, S. Ponderosa Trl.
2356 – 911 welfare check, S. Bellridge Dr.

Friday, April 26:

0526 – road hazard, Belleville Rd./Ecorse Rd.
xxxx – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
xxxx – misc. complaint, Tyler Rd.
xxxx – misc. complaint, Holly Ln.
0908 – property check, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0927 – unattended death, Morton Taylor Rd.
1022 – civil matter, Sylvia Dr.
xxxx – misc. complaint, Bayshore Dr.
1106 – civil matter, Cross St.
1245 – misc. complaint, Tyler Rd.
1345 – misc. complaint, Harbour Club
1419 – intrusion alarm, E. Sadie Ln.
1434 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Belleville Rd.
1451 – threat, Sunrise Ln.
xxxx – civil matter, Parkwood Dr.
1610 – juvenile complaint, Hannan Rd.
1634 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
xxxx – ordinance violation – all 7300 MICR codes, Michigan Ave./Rawsonville Rd.
1826 – abandoned auto, Monterey Dr.
1712 – family trouble, Sunrise Ln.
1807 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1807 – welfare check, W. Huron River Dr.
1847 – property damage accident, Michigan Ave. / Denton Rd.

1929 – disorderly, S. I-94 Service Dr./Beckley Rd.
1953 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, E. Huron River Dr.
2027 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Pebblebrook Dr.
2029 – neighbor trouble, Parkside Dr.
2153 – domestic, Belleville Rd.
2325 – assist other dept., Brandi Dr.

Saturday, April 27:

0051 – property damage accident, Haggerty Rd. / E. Huron River Dr.
0306 – welfare check, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0319 – assist other dept., Denton Rd.
0725 – family trouble, Sumpter Rd./Hull Rd.
1206 – animal complaint, Van Buren St.

1151 – civil matter, N. Ponderosa Trl.
1208 – civil matter, Sondra Dr.
1333 – property damage accident, Denton Rd.
1329 – juvenile complaint, Belleville Rd.
1331 – assist fire dept., S. I-94 Service Dr.
1440 – intrusion alarm, Van Born Rd.
1539 – welfare check, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1547 – parking complaint, Hampton Dr.
1641 – road hazard, Belleville Rd./S. I-94 Service
1814 – parking complaint, Borgman Ave.
1807 – mental subject, Hanover Dr.
1902 – threat, Chloe Ct.
1910 – assist fire dept., E. I-94/Haggerty Rd.
2002 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
2015 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Rawsonville Rd.
2203 – assist other dept., Executive Dr.
Also, on this week's log are 72 traffic stops, 16 of which were on the I-94 and I-275 freeways.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, April 21:

0337 – assist citizen, Harbour Pointe Dr.
0618 – intrusion alarm, Main St.
1517 – disorderly, Sumpter Rd.
1624 – larceny, Sumpter Rd.
1712 – traffic stop, Sumpter Rd./Hull Rd.
1804 – traffic stop, E. Huron River Dr./Edgemont
2020 – traffic stop, Church St./Third St.
2227 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, W. Columbia Ave.
Monday, April 22:
0312 – disorderly, Robbe St.
1423 – animal complaint, Main St.
1609 – property check, Clarence St.
2002 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Oxford Ct.
2300 – property check, Victorian Ln.

Tuesday, April 23:

0031 – intrusion alarm, Owen St.
0236 – assist fire dept., Oxford Ct.
1003 – juvenile complaint, W. Columbia Ave.
1154 – animal complaint, Brain St./High St.
1327 – juvenile complaint, W. Columbia Ave.
1344 – larceny from auto, Henry St.
1651 – property check, Victorian Ln.
1821 – ordinance violation – all 7300 MICR codes, Second St.
2053 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
2123 – traffic stop, E. Huron River Dr./N. Edgemont Ave.

2123 – property check, Clarence St.

Wednesday, April 24:

0249 – intrusion alarm, E. Huron River Dr.
1055 – civil matter, Sumpter Rd.
1309 – juvenile complaint, W. Columbia Ave.
1445 – assist other dept., Main St.
1739 – intrusion alarm, Main St.
1830 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Menlo Park Dr.
1841 – traffic offense, Main St.
1957 – family trouble, W. Columbia Ave.
2105 – traffic stop, Water Works
2123 – traffic stop, N. Liberty St./Fifth St.
2128 – traffic stop, Madelon St./E. Columbia Ave.
2156 – traffic stop, Savage Rd./Victorian Ln.
2224 – breaking & entering, N. Liberty St.

Thursday, April 25:

0055 – traffic stop, N. Liberty St./Belleville Rd.
0116 – traffic stop, Main St.
0404 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Carmell St.
0512 – intrusion alarm, Owen St.
0944 – repossession, S. Liberty St.
0953 – traffic offense, Savage Rd./Victorian Ln.
1253 – assist fire dept., Menlo Park Dr.
2049 – traffic stop, S. Biggs Ave./Greylock St.

Friday, April 26:

0713 – private property/property damage accident, W. Columbia Ave.
1508 – mental subject, N. Liberty St.
1606 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Owen St.
1924 – threat, Belle Villa Blvd.
2037 – assist fire dept., Belle Villa Blvd.
2045 – mental subject, N. Liberty St.
2113 – threat, Owen St.
2133 – assault & battery, Owen St.
2133 – traffic stop, Brain St./High St.

Saturday, April 27:

1151 – parking complaint, Victorian Ct./Victorian Ln.
1332 – domestic, San Carlos St.
1751 – neighbor trouble, Menlo Park Dr.
1940 – larceny, Santa Clara St.
2033 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Sumpter Rd.
2103 – intrusion alarm, N. Edgemont Ave.
2143 – robbery, Sumpter Rd.
2234 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Sumpter Rd.
There are 12 traffic stops on this week's log.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, April 21:

0050 – suspicious person, Maine St.
0348 – fire dept. assist, Timberlane Dr.
0908 – civil matter, Virginia St.
0941 – traffic complaint/hazard, Clark Rd./Willow
1051 – civil matter, Indiana St.
1228 – welfare check, New Mexico
1332 – fire dept. assist, 49000 bl. Willis Rd.
1522 – neighbor dispute, 46000 bl. Bemis Rd.
1812 – shots fired, 25000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
1912 – suspicious circumstance, New Mexico St.
2029 – juvenile matter, 24000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
2221 – fire dept. assist, Rustic Ln.

Monday, April 22:

0244 – alarm, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
0259 – malicious destruction of property, 23000 bl. Elwell Rd.
0427 – fire dept. assist, Birch Dr.
0458 – fire dept. assist, 45000 bl. Harris Rd.
0631 – family trouble, Vermont St.
0727 – fire dept. assist, 19000 bl. Sharon Ct.
0737 – death investigation, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1049 – 911 hangup, 47000 bl. Wear Rd.
1108 – 911 hangup, 21000 bl. Wilmot Rd.
1143 – civil matter, 23000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1253 – suspicious person, Colorado St.
1350 – assault, 23000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1735 – follow-up investigation, 23000 bl. Sherwood Rd.

1807 – fire dept. assist, Alaska St.
1948 – felony warrant arrest, out of township

Tuesday, April 23:

0842 – civil matter, 49000 bl. Willis Rd.
0930 – fire dept. assist, 41000 bl. Judd Rd.
1156 – fire dept. assist, 44000 bl. Willis Rd.
1434 – fire dept. assist, Elwell Rd./Willis Rd.
1500 – traffic complaint/hazard, 23000 bl. Sumpter
1529 – animal complaint, Sumpter Rd./Willis Rd.
1611 – alarm, 50000 bl. Willis Rd.
1700 – follow-up investigation, out of township
1704 – 911 hangup, 44000 bl. Bemis Rd.
1809 – assault, Birch Dr.
1852 – 911 hangup, 47000 bl. Bemis Rd.
2011 – down wires, 24000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
2018 – citizen assist, Colorado St.
2047 – welfare check, Hampshire Dr.

Wednesday, April 24:

0105 – 911 hangup, California St.
0811 – 911 hangup, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1024 – fire dept. assist, Wayside Dr.
1141 – fire dept. assist, 41000 bl. Judd Rd.
1245 – ordinance violation, Rustic Ln.
1245 – follow-up investigation, Rustic Ln.
1257 – follow-up investigation, Rustic Ln.
1514 – larceny, 50000 bl. Willis Rd.
1536 – assist other agency, 49000 bl. Willis Rd.
1636 – animal complaint, Arizona St.
1653 – civil matter, Magnolia Dr.
1735 – suspicious person, Arizona St.
1748 – 911 hangup, Wayside Dr.
1750 – felony warrant arrest, Carriage Ln.
1758 – disorderly person, Magnolia Dr.
1839 – disorderly person, Magnolia Dr.
1935 – family trouble, Washington St.
1947 – civil matter, Rustic Ln.
2013 – welfare check, Knollwood Dr.
2115 – 911 hangup, Rustic Ln./Brookview Dr.
2202 – traffic complaint/hazard, Rawsonville/Judd
2322 – alarm, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

Thursday, April 25

0546 – fire dept. assist, 21000 bl. Elwell Rd.
0626 – welfare check, California St.
0712 – suspicious circumstance, Colorado St.

(Continued on page 19)

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

(continued from page 18)

0836 – breaking & entering report, Redwood St.
 0918 – animal complaint, 47000 bl. of Wear Rd.
 0929 – follow-up investigation, California St.
 1030 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
 1040 – suspicious circumstance, 20000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
 1106 – fire dept. assist, 21000 bl. Wilmot Rd.
 1516 – citizen assist, Redwood St.
 1651 – suspicious circumstance, 44000 bl. Willis
 1659 – breaking & entering report, 46000 bl. Willis Rd.
 1727 – follow-up investigation, Arizona St.
 1801 – suspicious person, Sherwood Rd./Wear Rd.
 1850 – animal complaint, 43000 bl. Harris Rd.
 1912 – fire dept. assist, Oregon St.
 2235 – suspicious circumstance, Wyoming St.
Friday, April 26:
 0006 – fire dept. assist, 17000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
 0015 – welfare check, Arizona St.
 0211 – animal complaint, 8300 bl. Rawsonville
 0759 – 911 hangup, 41000 bl. Judd Rd.
 1348 – animal complaint, Sumpter Rd./Dunn Rd.
 1425 – fire dept. assist, Arbor Ln.
 1742 – suspicious person, 24000 bl. Elwell Rd.
 1927 – family trouble, 20000 bl. Karr Rd.
 1928 – fire dept. assist, 20000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
 2002 – follow-up investigation, Hampshire Dr.
 2021 – 911 hangup, Vermont St.
 2151 – mental health call, Judd Rd./Fenster Ave.
 2229 – assist other agency, Rawsonville/Willis
Saturday, April 27:
 0159 – alarm, 8300 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
 0329 – assault, California St.
 1056 – alarm, 8300 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
 1924 – follow-up investigation, 24000 bl. Elwell
 2212 – alarm, 8300 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
 2240 – 911 hangup, Rustic Ln.
 2257 – fire dept. assist, 20000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
 Also on this week's log are 144 patrol checks, 49 traffic stops, and 13 misc. details.

Local writer Vern Watson prints memoir: 'Against the Odds'

By Vern Watson
Sumpter Township

In the small town of Belleville there isn't too much excitement on an average day. But there are things that go on and just aren't noticed by many of the folks that live here.

It's a great place to live and for generations that was kind of a secret. In recent years, however, many things have changed and there has been growth that we hadn't seen for many of the years in the past.

If you talk to some of the older folks they just can't believe the amount of traffic that you see on Belleville Road when you leave the I-94 expressway and head into town. For generations it was just a two-lane road, one lane in each direction. Today, there are five lanes coming into and out of town. The whole area was considered a rural area and one of the biggest things going on was the 4-H Fair on Quirk Road.

Then there was the Strawberry Festival in the early summer that brought many to our little community to enjoy a piece of the country with us. People came to pick their own strawberries and enjoy the carnival atmosphere playing games and riding the rides.

It was great being young and walking around with the atmosphere of the music in the background and with your girl or guy by your side. You just looked forward to meeting up with your friends so you could pal around together with them.



Vern and Denise Watson celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

We had the fireworks on the 4th of July with a big parade for our small town and the lucky girl that was crowned the Strawberry Festival Queen was riding in the parade with the runner-ups by her side.

She'd do it all again come the Christmas Parade and we were a proud little community celebrating our kids as they marched down Main Street from Belleville High School. That's where the Strawberry Queen had won her crown in the competition.

It was a friendly environment and there was a lot of chit-chat going on. St. Anthony's Catholic Church was a big part of all those things for years and the carnival backed up to their parking lot and it offered much to the festivities. Occasionally, someone might get out of line but it wasn't a major problem.

Friday night in the fall was all about football and cheering for the hometown team even though we went through some lean times on the field, the Belleville High School Marching Band was the best! They were awesome as they marched down the field and the stands were packed. What an amazing show they put on for their parents and friends in the stands.

Over the years we have made some gains and we have suffered some losses in our little community. The old high school is gone. We don't have a pool hall or some of the things we used to have but it is still a great place to live. There are many subdivisions that have been built in recent years and we have a line of new stores and places to eat. We got the new Belleville High School that we needed for years, we have a new Belleville Library and on top that we have a new author in Belleville.

His name is Vern Watson and he has lived in this community long enough to see all these things. He was here when Farmer Jack was the grocery store on the other side of the expressway as you left town. His

kids played in the band and his daughter was the Strawberry Festival Queen. Then his grandkids marched in the Christmas Parade with the Belleville High School Marching Band another generation later.

So he has seen a lot of Belleville, and this is where he made his home after meeting a girl that had lived here all her life at the time he met her. Now all these years later he has written a book about the journey. It is not only about his personal journey but the story of his whole family as they navigated life.

The book is titled "Against the Odds" and is about to be released for sale. It is the story of a journey that covers a life time. It tells of his generations that have overcome poverty, health issues, abuse, addiction, and so many things, to become a strong family that today reaches out to others.

After Vern and Denise lost their oldest son, Tim Watson, to a brain tumor his family has continued to reach out to those in similar circumstances for the past 18 years and have helped many families. In the book "Against the Odds" it tells of many of these experiences and provides the inspiration that we all need, to get through these difficult times.

The book will be available at libraries around the area for those who would like to read it for free, providing the libraries will accept it. It is the work of a humble man that worked with his hands throughout his life to provide for his family. On the cover of the book are the words written below.

From Homeless, at Michigan Central Station when 5 years old to Generations achieving success and living the American Dream. It was truly Against the Odds and done a step at a time! No handouts, no welfare, no subsidies, and little education. The boy was married and a father at 18. Read how it was done and the journey along the way. It is a wonderful story of overcoming it all, and finding the missing pieces to succeed in life, Against the Odds.

The book, Against the Odds, will be available on Amazon.com and at Barnes and Noble in the next few weeks.

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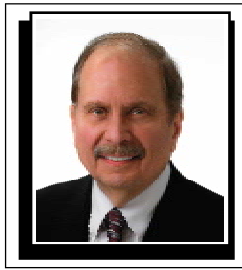
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