



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 23.37 Thursday, September 14, 2017 Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren **F R E E**

Retired Chief Gene Taylor saves teen from getting hit by train

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

Belleville's retired Police Chief Gene Taylor is being praised for saving the life of a troubled Ash Township teenager on Sept. 5 in Carleton as she stood in front of a quickly approaching train.

Chief Taylor retired from his Belleville position in 2014 and for the last year has been working as a part-time police officer in Carleton for three or four days a month to keep his police credentials.

He said Carleton, in Monroe County, is about half the size of Belleville, with half the population. It's kind of like what Belleville used to be years ago when everyone knew each other, he said.

Chief Taylor said when he was on duty Sept. 5 he received a dispatch call at 3:50 p.m. about a disgruntled juvenile arguing with her mother at the Mill. The girl was

threatening to kill herself.

He said he responded to the call driving on Jones Street which is parallel to the railroad track. He said he glimpsed out of the corner of his eye a northbound train coming and he knew he had to hurry so he didn't get caught on the wrong side of the tracks.

When he got to the Mill the 14-year-old girl was struggling with her mother. They were about the same size, he recalled.

Chief Taylor said when she saw him, the teenager was angry and yelled at her mother, "You called the f---ing pigs." Then, to Taylor: "You're racist. All cops are racist..."

At that point the crossing arms activated and the engineer blew the warning horn blast, as required when approaching a crossing. The girl reacted like a horse bolting from the starting gate, Taylor said.

"She took off to the tracks with her mom right behind her and me next," Taylor said. "I thought I'd see a girl get hit."

The teen faced southbound in the middle of the tracks with her hands up in an X-type stance. The mother was there, too, trying to stop her daughter.

"I grabbed the little girl and threw her to the ground, face first in the gravel, and then sat on her and handcuffed her," Taylor recalled, saying the girl was struggling and screaming, "Let me up."

He said he remembers she continually swore at him, but he is proud he didn't respond to that and did not curse her during the tumultuous incident. He stayed sitting on top of her until the train passed.

He said he didn't remember how the mother got off the track, but he may have pushed her.

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Chief Gene Taylor, retired

School Board hears report on low scores on spring M-Step test

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

"Our students aren't performing where they need to be in this metric," said Van Buren Public Schools Curriculum Director Jeff Moore at Monday's regular meeting of the school board.

He gave a detailed report of the results of the spring M-Step test for students in grades 3-8, grade 11, and PSAT and PSA scores for grades 9-11.

After suggesting several things to consider, Moore said, "At the end of the day, they're still not where they're supposed to be."

"We're starting to see some successes ... in the cohort data we're seeing some slight gains ... if only 20% of third graders are proficient, it's a problem ... makes a tough life for several children [if they are not proficient in reading]... I'm happy with the improvements at the high school ... We need to perform better at third grade in ELA and math..."

Moore said they have added interventions,

but have to make sure they aren't pulling the students out of the classroom at the wrong time, during their reading and math lessons.

He said they are focusing more on assessments every single day, rather than test results once a year.

Moore provided numbers that showed that Savage was the only elementary school testing over the state average and all those in middle school and high school tested below state average.

"We want to be better than state average ... We can't settle for average," said board president Keith Johnston.

"Many times the state average is nothing to write home about," agreed member Alison Bennett.

Moore said in comparison to the rest of the country Michigan isn't doing a very good job.

Johnston said as a board they want to measure where the students are.

"We talk with our staff and they tie it

potentially to their livelihood," Moore said. "We want to emphasize it's for the best for our kids, rather than say, 'you suck.'"

He said they are following the Blueprint which is based on research and with it, "You can't go wrong." He said teachers are being given more power.

"It's important they have a choice in the direction we will go..." Kudlak said of the teachers. "Developing our teachers is our biggest asset. It's the best thing we can do."

At the end of the agenda, former school board member Sherry Frazier had comments from the audience.

"I've heard the same thing, year after year," Frazier said, noting the state average is so low it's an embarrassment.

She said the state is putting more and

more on the teachers and not giving them resources. Frazier said at a district she worked at the limit for students for first and second grade was 20-22. She said there is a class in Van Buren that has 32-35 in kindergarten.

"We're hiring a teacher for that," Kudlak said.

Frazier suggested the board needs to sit down and look at the budget because there is a need to try something different.

Kudlak said more kindergarteners registered for school than expected this year, which was a good thing and, "I think we'll have enough students to meet our budget."

He said it is frustrating to have to approve

(continued on page 17)

Belleville Candidate Forum set Sept. 20 at BHS Mini-Auditorium

The League of Women Voters will hold a candidate forum for those running for Belleville City Council in the Nov. 7 election.

The forum will be at 7 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 20, at the Belleville High School

Mini-Auditorium.

Running for four-year seats on the council are incumbents Tom Fielder and Jesse Marcotte and newcomers Kelly Bates, Gwen Hooks, and Jeff Vernon.

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SECOND FRONT PAGE

VBT approves new playscape, pavilion for Van Buren Park

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

Van Buren Park will be getting a new playscape and pavilion next spring.

At the regular meeting of the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees on Sept. 5, the board voted unanimously to purchase the playground equipment, at a cost not to exceed \$70,000, from Snider Recreation, Inc.

The play equipment is being paid for through federal Community Development Block Grant funds that must be spent by Oct. 13. The equipment must be delivered to the Van Buren Park pole barn by Oct. 11 to be stored until spring when it will be installed.

Matthew Best, deputy director of planning and economic development, said Developmental Services and the Parks and Recreation Department have recommended purchasing the playground equipment to meet this deadline.

The township's new engineers, Fishbeck, Thompson, Huber and Carr, were rushed to get the specifications ready for bidding and then bidding was rushed, having to publish

in *The Ann Arbor News* on Sunday, Aug. 27, with the call for bidders published in the *Independent*, the township's newspaper of record, on Aug. 31, the day before the 10 a.m., Sept. 1 deadline. Since the CDBG money available was \$70,000, the two bidders bid \$70,000 each.

Best said the play equipment has a nature theme with dual slides, four sets of swings, and is able to be expanded in pods. The 12 inches of certified mulch is estimated at \$3,800 and is in the budget for the installation charge in the spring.

He said a second batch of \$100,000 in CDBG funds has to be spent by the second or third week in December. That will be for the pavilion that will replace the park's Pavilion #2. The pavilion pieces will be stored in the pole barn, as well, over the winter for spring assembling.

"A lot of changes are being done in Washington," said Supervisor Kevin McNamara. "If you don't spend this money, they take it back."

He commended the staff and engineers for getting the bids in five days.

"We have to take advantage of what we have right now," said Trustee Sherry Frazier, referring to the available CDBG funds.

Trustee Paul White pointed out that the CDBG funds are not "free money" but are taxpayer funds that are paid to Washington that come back and are distributed by Wayne County.

Van Buren Park is open to the public, but users have to pay to get in. Cost is \$5 daily for residents and \$7 for non-residents; annual \$15 for residents and \$20 for non-residents; and annual \$8 for seniors.

In other business at the 40-minute regular VBT meeting, the board:

- Approved the Stormwater Maintenance Agreement between the township and Belleville Development, at 46418 N. I-94 Service Dr., as required by Wayne County. This agreement designates that the property owner will be responsible for and maintain the Stormwater facilities at Towne Place Suites. John Delaney suggested from the audience later that former Trustee Jeff Jahr get with the board members to set up opposition to the county's requirement, as

he tried to do for eight years;

- Heard Trustee White announce, in response to a letter sent by C.J. Marshall to board members, that he had paid for the drive between his home and his township office when supervisor and paid \$3,938 to the township. That was when he took over use of the leased vehicle used by the previous supervisor. There are records in the clerk's office to prove that, he said. He also said that he had reimbursed the township for the three lunches he acquired during the budget meetings. He brought a check to the treasurer's office for all the box lunches purchased, which had been paid for with township funds which he felt was unlawful, but Treasurer Sherry Budd refused to accept the check. She accepted his check, however, for the lunch he ate and the two he took home that were left over;

- Approved upgrading the board members' iPad Air 2's with 7.9" screen and 16 GB memory to Apple iPad Pro's with 12.9" screen and 256 GB memory at an estimated

(continued on page 10)

VBT Board members irked about not being told of McBride delay

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

"Rush, rush, rush. Get me off the board. And then – nothing! We had the engineering done last year!"

Van Buren Township Trustee Sherry Frazier complained at the Sept. 5 township board meeting about the delay of work on McBride Avenue that was not announced to board members after a rush by the school board to remove her from its board because of a perceived conflict of interest with her township board seat.

"Why wasn't the board told?" asked Trustee Reggie Miller. "I read it in the paper."

She referred to the *Independent* report from a meeting of the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education where School Supt. Pete Kudlak announced that the work on McBride had been delayed until spring.

Matthew Best, deputy director of

planning and economic development, tried to explain, adding he met with Wade-Trim earlier that day and they walked the area involved. He said they don't want to rush and they want to get the work done right.

Best said additional engineering was needed to address water and sewer work and driveway approach replacement that will occur in conjunction with the road improvement. They also needed permits and funding commitment confirmation.

He said current plans call for going out for bids in January or February and probably starting work on McBride in June after school is out.

"That wasn't the time frame we were given at all," Trustee Frazier said. "They've already authorized the \$90,000, so you've already got the money." She said she saw the payment for the school district's share on the school board's accounts payable list.

Frazier said parents are complaining. They thought they would get relief from the McBride roadway and it's still the same. She said her grandchild is going to McBride Middle School this year and so she is driving that roadway, as well.

"I don't remember saying it would start in the fall," said Supervisor Kevin McNamara, but he was corrected.

"Then, to read about it in the newspaper!" Trustee Miller continued. "We should have been told."

Best said they were waiting for approval from Wayne County and then there was the school district's timing and everybody's timing.

"We would never mislead..." Best said.

Frazier said if Best or the director knew more engineering was needed and permits needed to be obtained from Wayne County the board should have been told.

Supervisor McNamara said now he

remembered that they were told the project would start in October. He directed Best to give him an updated schedule.

"It said October," Frazier said of the original schedule that was never updated for the board.

"I'll be glad when Wade-Trim is gone," said John Delaney later in the meeting under public comments. He said he remembers when Dave Nummer from Wade-Trim said the road had to be done before November because that's when the asphalt batch plants close.

He said whenever Wade-Trim is involved there are delays.

Wade-Trim did the engineering on the McBride project last year, but the project did not move forward. This year, VBT changed engineers, but retained Wade-Trim for the McBride project because it had already done the engineering work.

Michael Doyle wins million-dollar Powerball prize in Belleville

Michael Doyle of Belleville is \$1 million richer after winning the Powerball prize in the Michigan Lottery on Sept. 2.

He matched the five white balls drawn – 06-21-41-52-62.

Doyle bought his winning ticket at the Belleville Fuel Mart, at the corner of Main and Fifth streets in downtown Belleville.

"I made my normal stop on Friday to get my Lottery tickets for the weekend,"

Doyle said. "I asked the clerk for five Mega Millions Easy Picks and four Powerball Easy Picks, put the tickets in my wallet and didn't think about them again."

"The next day, I stopped to get gas on my way to a friend's house and when I opened my wallet to pay for the gas my Lottery tickets fell out. That's when I saw I had Lotto 47 tickets instead of Powerball. So, I asked the clerk at the gas station for four

Powerball Easy Picks."

And, that was all it took.

On Tuesday [Sept. 5], I heard on the news that someone had won \$1 million with a ticket bought in Belleville," said Doyle. "I immediately checked my tickets and have been happy and nervous ever since I realized I was the winner because \$1 million is so much money!"

The 58-year-old man says he plans to buy

a new vehicle and use the rest of the money to retire.

"For all of the times we've said: 'We wish we could,' but didn't have the money, now we can," he said.

News release from
Michigan Lottery Commission

OPINIONS

Editorial

Tonight is big moment for new district library

The Belleville Planning Commission meets tonight at 7:30 to consider the site plan for the new Belleville Area District Library, to be built on Fourth Street and the present city parking lot.

"This is a big deal," said district library board chairman Sharon Peters at Tuesday's regular board meeting, adding that she will be there.

"It's one of the best things to happen to Belleville," said architect Dan Whisler.

Whisler said site plan approval is a major milestone in the project. The detailed building permits are expected to be considered in the spring.

John Juriga is on the district library board and the planning commission and he said he will ask the commission to recuse him, so there is no perceived conflict of interest.

Whisler said the estimated cost for the removal of about 3,800 cubic yards of dirt at the site to make sure the building is properly supported, will cost some \$400,000, so changes had to be made to the building plans. The proposed basement has been eliminated. Changes to the second floor windows will save the cost of tons of steel. It's still going to be a beautiful building, he assured them.

Besides this interesting agenda item on Thursday in Belleville, in Sumpter Township at 7 p.m., the Sumpter planning commission will be considering plans for FMAR so it can expand its care of local animals. Busy night.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

For those of you who are having trouble finding the Go Fund Me page to help with engravings and repairs to the Veterans Memorial in Belleville, here's the exact address: www.gofundme.com/vfw4434.

I was so sorry to receive the obituary for Glenn Richard Barker of Van Buren Township. Glenn was in my graduating class of 1954 at Belleville High School and he used to drop by to visit with me at the *Independent* office. He often mentioned when we had the lead roles in our junior play of "Our Town" at BHS. We had two sets of cast members and Glenn and I were in one set.

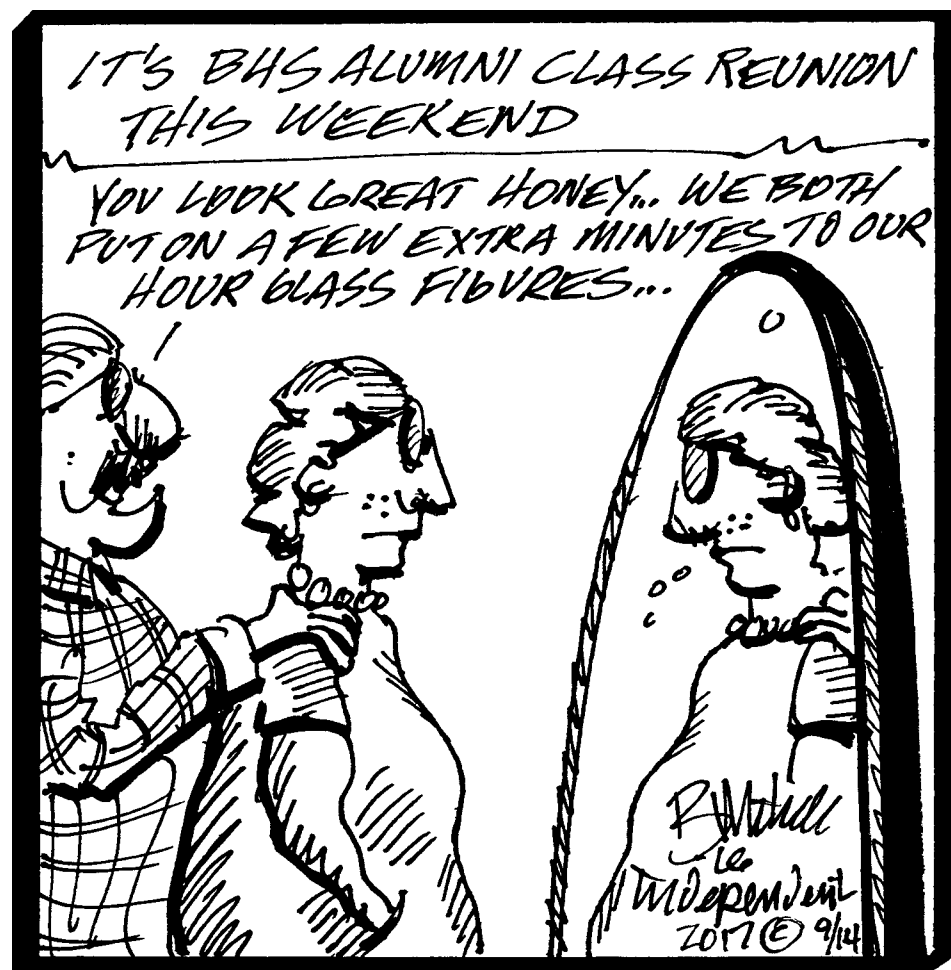
We also were in the senior play, Thornton Wilder's "By the Skin of Our Teeth." We were in the same classes and Sunday school classes since we were tots. I'm going to miss our chats.

Pete Pitzen reports that there was a skateboarder riding on High Street, on several different occasions during the Bugles Across America event on Sept. 3. He said a Belleville Police car, with two officers in it, were parked in the Grace Baptist Church drive and couldn't help but see the skateboarder, but did nothing.

Skateboarders are not allowed to play on city streets, I've been told.

Pete said he is talking to Belleville Police Chief Hal Berriman about reporting crime to Crime Mapping, which is a website used by all the police around Belleville and, he says, it is immediate.

We published the traffic pattern request that the VBT Police Department asked us



to print just before the Air Show at Willow Run. We have had a lot of complaints from people who followed that pattern.

One man emailed: "Traffic pattern did not work took 2 hours to make it to 94. Basically, every single car is forced into two lanes of traffic which is under construction."

That man obviously used the police-recommended west entry to the airport, which is jammed up with reconstruction of the roads for the automatic, no-driver cars.

Another man came in to tell of his frustrations on Saturday of the air show. It took him an hour and 45 minutes to get out of the show and to his home on Denton Road. If he didn't know his way around Ypsilanti, where he was routed, it would have taken longer. He said he usually goes every day to the air show, but he stayed home on Sunday and went out in his boat to watch on Monday. It was much nicer away from the crowd.

He said he will have to think about whether to go at all next year.

Four unsigned, hand-written letters in four, separate sealed envelopes were put into our mail slot early in the morning last week. They all were about the same subject: James Chapman and his ongoing misuse of our court system. They each criticized Judge Oakley for allowing all the postponements. One letter said, "Judge Oakley stated the police are 'out

to get Chapman' – as police should be! Chapman is always committing crimes because Judge Oakley lets him get off with a fine or community service. All people of Belleville know this... Judge Oakley is making a joke out of his courtroom and a joke of all of us who are the ones who are forced to be the subject of Chapman running loose in this town, doing as he wishes, knowing nothing will become of it..."


Another wrote that it would be good for Chapman to move to another town "since he is bad news here and just maybe the next town's judge will put him where he belongs..."

The third letter said, "Thank you, Rosemary, for your continued coverage of this so-called 'pint-size gangster' so the rest of the law-abiding residents know when to keep our property, home, children, and families safe!"

The final letter invited people to Google "James Chapman, Belleville, MI" and see what they get. The writer urges everyone to keep an eye on Chapman and speak up when the next incident occurs. Many are too afraid of retaliation to report his misdeeds, the writer said.

People walk into my office regularly to tell me about violent actions by Chapman, but they are too afraid to tell the police.





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-- John Maxwell



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Letters

Former Belleville Chief Taylor saves teen's life

To the editor:

The strength of a person's character is tested by the challenges he or she faces in life.

Many local citizens were sad to see Chief Gene Taylor retire from the Belleville Police Department several years ago. Then, on Sept. 6, I saw him on the Channel 4 news program. He had risked his life to pull a 14-year-old girl from the train tracks in the Village of Carleton. Right in front of an oncoming train.

Wow, I thought. Yet I wasn't really surprised by this heroic act. Gene Taylor spent many years helping to protect our community with the Belleville Police Department as an officer and later as the chief.

Sometimes we just have to go where life sends us. He is now an officer with the Carleton Police Department. God knew that Officer Taylor would be needed to save this young lady's life.

Best Wishes to Officer Taylor and his family.

LaMuriel Lyman
Belleville

Baby shower to gather items for First Step

To the editor:

The question has been asked whether or not the Community Baby Shower collections will be going to other areas besides First Step. The answer is no. All new baby items will be given to First Step in Western Wayne County. The need here is overwhelming and we continue to help First Step provide help to abused and violated survivors of such situations.

The Community Baby Shower will be taking place Saturday, Sept. 16, at the Trinity Episcopal Church located at 11575 Belleville Road, across from Burger King in Belleville. We need diapers, baby wipes, socks, and baby clothes from infant to toddlers. For more information: <http://www.carstillwagonpublishing.com>

All items should be brought to the Shower on Sept. 16 unwrapped. If you are unable to attend, please drop off your gifts at the District Library on Fourth Street off of Main Street in Belleville. You may also donate check or gift cards to: First Step, 4400 Venoy, Wayne, MI.

All women 18 and up are invited to this free event 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. to hear and ask questions of our speaker Hilary Hitte of First Step.

Thank you for helping those in need in our area.

Marian Caldwell
Van Buren Township

Thanks to Kevin McNamara and Dan

To the editor:

I cannot express how happy I am to be able to see our lake again! We drive over the Denton Road Bridge several times each day and until the last month or so, we could absolutely NOT see the lake when driving from Main Street, travelling west, past the cemetery and up to the stop sign.

Why? Because it was so overgrown for so long and no one seemed to care – until an email I sent to Mr. McNamara's office was answered immediately. Mr. McNamara gave me hope right away by acknowledging the problem and his awareness of it and by putting me in touch with one of his assistants, Dan Selman. Dan was able to eventually get a Wayne County machine that basically chewed up the vegetation along the roadway and inside the guardrail, a swath about six feet wide.

The township and the city can rest easy again: It is now safe for the runners from BHS, our local walkers, and the bicyclists to travel without being forced into the roadway. Visitors to our area, whether here for our festivals, the air show, the concerts, or a funeral, can view our community "jewel" more easily. This cleanup is a necessity that needs to be attended to annually.

Now, if we could only get the city to find a solution to the unwelcoming entry to our community, on the other side of Belleville Road, with the orange tape and temporary "fencing" blowing in the wind.

Thanks, Mr. McNamara and Dan.

Betty Byrd
Belleville

I had to smile: Mrs. O had to correct herself

To the editor:

I had to smile. Mrs. O had to correct herself. We all make mistakes. You took yours with such grace.

I still enjoy reading the *Independent*. You cover the news so well.

Note: I saw the complete eclipse in Clarksville, TN. I am lost for words of my experience.

Love to all my friends in Belleville, Sumpter, and Van Buren.

Vera Z. Howell
Southfield

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we must never forget that the highest
appreciation is not to utter words,
but to live by them."
— John F. Kennedy

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Obituaries



Joseph Ernest Pinter

JOSEPH ERNEST PINTER

(May 21, 1945 - September 7, 2015)

Age 72, a lifelong resident of Belleville, died peacefully at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital of Ann Arbor with his family at his side.

Joseph is the beloved husband of Alice for fifty-two wonderful years; dear father of Joseph "Tim" Pinter of Ypsilanti; proud grandfather of Taylor; cherished brother of Harry "Doc" (Bonnie) Pinter of Belleville, Robert (Diane) Pinter of Belleville, Larry (Simone) Pinter of Belleville and Skip (Debbie) Blackmore of Saline. Sadly, Mr. Pinter is preceded in death by his daughter, Tammy Pinter (d.1986) and brother, Ron (d. 2004). Joseph is also survived by many nieces and nephews, grand-nieces and nephews and many loving extended family and friends. Born on May 21, 1945 in Ypsilanti, Michigan to Harry and Ethel Pinter, Joseph was a life long Belleville resident. A co-owner of the Pinter's Flowerland Greenhouse of Belleville, Joseph truly loved his work and being available to serve the Belleville community. He was an active pilot for over thirty years, an avid motorcyclist, spending time with his beloved granddaughter, Taylor, following the Detroit Tigers and times with family and friends.

A funeral service was held at 11:00 AM on Monday, September 11, 2017 in the Main Chapel of the David C. Brown Funeral Home of Belleville, 734-697-4500. The Pinter family will greet guests one hour prior to the service. A procession to Hillside Cemetery of Belleville followed the service.

Visiting hours were held Sunday from 2 until 8 PM at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, memorial tributes may be directed to the American Cancer Society (www.cancer.org).

www.davidcbrownfh.com

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Obituaries



Glenn Richard Barker

GLENN RICHARD BARKER

(December 18, 1935 -- September 3, 2017)

Mr. Glenn R. Barker, age 81 passed away Sunday, September 3, 2017 following his long and difficult battle with Alzheimer's Disease and COPD. He was born December 18, 1935 in Wayne, Michigan a son of Merle and Doris (Jackson) Barker. On May 19, 1956 he was married to Sally Ann Wheeler.

Glenn loved all things of nature. He enjoyed music, swimming, boating and snowmobiling. He enjoyed his vacations up north with his family, children, and grandchildren. Sally and Glenn also enjoyed several trips to Maine.

Mr. Barker was the loving husband of Sally Barker for 61 years. Dear father of Linda (Gary) Missant and Garry (Sharon) Barker. Beloved grandfather of Joshua Barker, Mandy (David) Maier, Sarah Klepadlo and a great grandson on the way. Also survived by a sister- and brother-in-law Pat and Jon Waitz, a sister-in-law Helen (Philip) Wheeler, and many nieces and nephews. Mr. Barker was preceded in death by his parents.

Private burial services were held on Wednesday, September 6, 2017 at Hillside Cemetery, Belleville. The family has suggested memorial contributions in Mr. Barker's name to either the Alzheimer's Association, 25200 Telegraph Rd., Suite 100, Southfield, MI 48033 or Friends of Michigan Animal Rescue, P.O. Box 854, Belleville, MI 48112.

Arrangements by Higgeson and Neal Funeral Home, Belleville.

DORIS ELAINE NOVAK

(December 9, 1932 - July 15, 2017)

A Memorial Service will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, September 30, 2017 at Trinity Episcopal Church, 11575 Belleville Road, with Pastor Ian Twiss officiating. Desserts / refreshments will follow in the parish hall.

VERLENE KAY JOHNSON

(May 19, 1949 - September 03, 2017)

Age 68, died in a tragic apartment fire in Westland. Graduated from Belleville High School in 1967. Survived by husband Charles, daughter Julie, 3 sisters. Arrangements by David C. Brown Funeral Home.

RON JAMES MAYS

(June 19, 1971 - August 14, 2017)

Memorial service for Ron James Mays will be Saturday, Sept. 23, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in New Boston, 19109 Craig St., on the corner of Ellis. There will be visitation from 10-11 a.m., with the service starting at 11 a.m. There will be a luncheon in the church basement following the service.

If you see this, could you please share so as many of Ron's family, friends, and former students will know about the memorial service. Thank you all and God Bless!

DEBRA SUE SIZEMORE

(December 19, 1951 - September 3, 2017)

Debra Sue Sizemore, aged 65, of Roscommon, MI, passed away peacefully on September 3, 2017 surrounded by family.

Deb thoroughly enjoyed road trips, singing, dancing, and anything family oriented. Deb held the family title to scrabble and many other card games. Family and friends were Deb's passion and delight.

She was born to the late Clifford Allen Sizemore and Elizabeth Louise Hennessee on December 19, 1951 in Detroit, MI. Deb graduated from West High School in Garden City, retired from U of M hospital after 20 years. She lived in Belleville the majority of her life, then moved to Higgins Lake for retirement.

Deb is survived by children, Dustin (Shannon) Sizemore and Darren (Jessica) Sizemore; grandchildren Samantha, Pamela, James and Dierks; siblings Robert (Helen) Chote, Tom (Denise) Sizemore, Michelle Cross, and Rochelle (Richard) Carrier. She leaves behind numerous loving relatives and friends. A private memorial service will be held.

Please visit www.lifestorytc.com to sign the guest book and share your thoughts and memories with the family. Life Story Funeral Home, Traverse City.



Jennifer Lynn Gentz

JENNIFER LYNN GENTZ

(November 22, 1976 - September 09, 2017)

Jennifer Lynn Gentz, age 40, long time Belleville area resident, passed away on Saturday, September 9, 2017 at Henry Ford Hospital with her husband at her side.

Jennifer is the beloved wife of Auston Dwight Gentz and loving mother to four wonderful children: Hunter, Aiden, Cole and Riley. Jennifer is also survived by her dear mother Jettie J. (Bloodworth) Hagerman of Belleville, her sister Julie Hagerman of Belleville and several extended family and friends.

Sadly, she is preceded in death by her father, Jerry A. Hagerman (d.2016), her grandparents Jeanetta and Leslie Bloodworth, and James Hagerman.

Jennifer was always very caring and helped out her mother and sister whenever needed; she was very devoted to her family. She was an avid reader and also enjoyed scrap-booking, but most of all she loved spending time with her husband and children.

A visitation was held on Tuesday, September 12, from 1 to 8 p.m., and Wednesday September 13, from 1 to 6 p.m. at the David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI 48111-2764, (734) 697-4500.

A funeral service was held Wednesday, September 13, at 6 p.m. at the David C. Brown Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be directed to the wishes of the family. Cremation rites have been accorded.

**More Obituaries
on page 6**

More Letters

September is Suicide Awareness Month

To the editor:

The David C. Brown Funeral Home is recognizing suicide awareness during the month of September.

We have free awareness ribbons that are available to pick up and help stop the silence and stigma of suicide. Feel free to stop by during business hours to pick yours up today.

We have two events planned for September helping to provide suicide prevention and awareness. On Sunday, Sept. 17, we will take part in a Suicide Remembrance Vigil sponsored by the Monroe County Suicide Prevention Committee. The vigil will take place from 4-5 p.m. on First Street in the Pavilion in Monroe, located on the corner of East First and Washington streets. All are welcome. Call Jacqueline Dalzell, Grief Counselor, with any questions (734) 697-5090.

On Monday, Sept. 25, we are hosting a suicide prevention workshop. This is free for anyone who wishes to attend. It will be hosted by the SOOAR agency. The content of the workshop is QPR Suicide prevention and will help to inform those about the subject of suicide.

We will host this at the Brown Family Center, located at 678 E. Huron River Drive, Belleville, 48111. The workshop will begin at 7 p.m. and will end at 9 p.m. Please call Jacqueline Dalzell to register your attendance at (734) 697-5090.

Jacqueline Dalzell, Grief Counselor
David C. Brown Funeral Home

You're invited to parade at BHS on Sept. 22

To the editor:

Belleville High Student Council would like to invite the community to participate in a district-wide parade during Elementary Night at BHS on Friday, Sept. 22 from 5 until 8 p.m. Due to the overwhelming desire from students and parents at BHS to bring back a school parade, Belleville High School Student Council created the "Van Buren Public Schools Parade" which will be in conjunction with Elementary School Night during the next upcoming home football game.

The theme of the parade is "School Spirit" and each school is encouraged to decorate a wagon, trailer or carry a sign displaying their school spirit. Staff and students are also encouraged to dress in their school colors and carry their school banner. The schools will gather together in the BHS student parking lot at 5 p.m. The official parade kick-off time will be 5:30 p.m. We will march around the high school and

return back to the student parking lot. The wagons, trailers and banners will be on display in the parking lot after the parade is over.

Students will have the opportunity to enjoy several activities (face painting, games, refreshments, and bounce houses) sponsored by high school clubs until 8 p.m. We hope to see you there! For more information, please contact the BHS Student Council Advisors at (734) 697-9133.

Belleville High School Student Council

A lot of fund raising coming up for FMAR

To the editor:

Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue would like to thank the public who supported our booth at Sumpter Fest, Strawberry Festival, and the golfers and sponsors who helped our golf outing fundraiser be successful. We celebrated at our Volunteer Appreciation Party last Saturday night. Volunteers keep FMAR running. They also support our fundraisers. We hope you will, too.

Please attend our Spay-ghetti and "No Balls" Dinner THIS Thursday, Sept. 14 from 5-9 at the Van Buren Eagles Hall, 9961 Beck Rd. in Belleville. There will be a bake sale and raffles. Funds raised will support the FMAR Spay and Neuter Program. Cost is \$10 though only \$6 for children 12 and under. Younger than 2 eat free.

If you are unable to attend the dinner on Sept. 14 and you live in Sumpter, please attend the Sumpter Planning Commission Meeting at 7 p.m. that night. Pete and Marcy LaFramboise will be there attempting to get the final permit for our current expansion project. Permit is under question.

Along with our regular Meet & Greet events the second Saturday in the month at Pet Emporium in Ann Arbor, and third Saturday in the month at Petco on Warren in Westland, there will be an additional one from 10-2 at Gross Electric, 2232 S. Industrial Hwy. in Ann Arbor on Sept. 23.

A repeat fundraiser is a Beer Tasting at Original Gravity Brewing Co., 440 County St., Milan on Sept. 27, 5-10 p.m. There will be

an on-site Farmers' Market from 5-7, raffles, 50/50 drawing, tours of the brewery, and a craft beer brewed especially for FMAR. Order food off a tasty Panini Menu. For more information call Sandy at (734) 417-5117.

FMAR will partner with Belleville CBC hosting the Monster Mutt Walk on Oct. 21 from 1-3 p.m. in downtown "Booville." Costumed dogs and families can join up with a \$10 registration fee and a donated can of dog food. Email Janet Millard at jfayemillard@att.net or call (734) 558-5368 after 3:30.

Join FMAR at Wine and Beer Bars on Friday, Nov. 3, from 7-9 p.m. Vintners' Canton Winery at 8515 Lilley Rd., and right next store, Canton Brewworks at 8521 N. Lilley Rd. invite you to this fundraiser. Tickets are \$35 and include wine tasting, a souvenir bottle of wine, snacks in both facilities, and a beer flight. Participants will spend approximately 45 minutes in each facility.

Purchase tickets and get more information at fmar1.org/events or call (734) 461-9458. All proceeds will be used to care for FMAR animals.

Plan for your Christmas photo session now! On Nov. 11 from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m., Santa will be posing with furry friends (and you?) in front of a holiday spirited backdrop right at FMAR, 51299 Arkona Rd. Santa only asks that you leave FMAR a donation.

You've learned about our fundraisers. You need to know that aside from adult cats and dogs, puppies and kittens are available at this time. Please consider adopting a shelter animal or two to round out your family. The need is great. Thank you.

Linda Luke, Van Buren Township
FMAR Fundraiser

P.S. If you haven't heard, three Night Watchmen/Rodent Patrol positions have been filled by FMAR. Go to Belleville Area Museum's Facebook page to find out how you could donate needed items for them. Donations may be dropped off at the museum beginning Wednesday, Sept. 13, during museum hours.



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World War II reenactors list Belleville among favorite places to go

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Belleville Police Chief Hal Berriman told the Belleville City Council at its Sept. 5 meeting that the World War II reenactors who put on the Battle for Belleville recently, enjoy coming to Belleville.

"The guy who brought the troops in said of all the places they go, Oakridge, TN, and Belleville, MI, are their favorites because of the reception they get," Chief Berriman said.

He said the reenactors were in France earlier this year, near Utah Beach.

He said they want to come back next year with a full contingent, since there were

fewer this year.

This is the third year of the Battle for Belleville World War II reenactment, which is put on right on Main Street as a prelude to the annual Thunder Over Michigan Air Show at Willow Run Airport.

In the past, re-enactors from the Air Show also put on a battle at Village Park, next to Victoria Commons, and have had parades down Main Street, followed by displays of World War II weapons at Victory Park., all to promote the Air Show.

At its 20-minute, Sept. 5 meeting, the city council also:

- Held a one-minute public hearing, during which no comments were made, on an ordinance amendment to update the International Property Maintenance Code. Then, the ordinance amendment was unanimously accepted. "We need an up-to-date code," said Building Official Rick Rutherford. Councilman Tom Smith was absent from the meeting;

- Approved the fourth year of the Zombie 5K Run/Walk put on by the Belleville High School New Tech and the Belleville Downtown Development Authority. It will be held at 10 a.m., Saturday, Oct. 28, beginning and ending at the Horizon Park Gazebo. Runners will go out over the Denton Road Bridge through a residential area and then back. High Street will be closed from Main to Roys. The parking lane on Main from High to Denton will also be closed;

- Approved closing West Columbia Avenue in front of the high school for ten minutes at 5:30 p.m., Sept. 22, for an Elementary School Parade that will start at the Administration Building, go out into the street in front of BHS, and then back in the high school driveway. There will be activities for elementary school students and then attendance at a home football game;

- Heard Fire Chief Brian Loranger say the fire department got a grant for two more defibrillators through a Washtenaw County program. The Fire Department Auxiliary will be paying the 10% matching funds needed; and

- Approved accounts payable of \$535,237.75 and the following departmental expenditures in excess of \$500: to MI Finance Authority, \$26,385.17 for a loan payment from the DDA/State Revolving Fund; to GMS Sealcoating (approval prior to purchase), \$4,700 for striping Main Street, from General/Street funds; to Action

Training (carried over from the Aug. 21 meeting), \$2,520 for annual agreement, fire fund; to Emergency Reporting, \$1,668 for annual software package, fire fund; and to Snider Electric, \$618 to repair park fountains, DDA/Parks.

Gov. names Hill to Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Commission

On Monday, Gov. Rick Snyder announced the appointment of Deodge Hill of Belleville to the Michigan Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Monument Fund Commission.

The seven-member commission oversees the financing, design, and construction of Michigan's future Law Enforcement Officers Memorial.

"I thank Deodge for her commitment to honoring the brave law enforcement officers who gave their lives protecting our communities," Snyder said.

Hill is a physician assistant at Rainbow Center of Michigan. She also is the founder of the non-profit organization PHILL Inc., in honor of her late husband, that provides financial resources and programs to single mothers in college. Hill holds a bachelor's degree in kinesiology from the University of Michigan. She will represent surviving spouses representing Municipal Police Departments and replace Diane Philpot.

She will serve a four-year term expiring June 30, 2020.

More Letters

Send cereal box tops, ink cartridges to school

To the editor:

Please remind the readers to save cereal box tops and computer ink cartridges for the Van Buren elementary schools. The schools can get cash for them.

They can send the box tops and ink cartridges to school with the elementary students they know.

Ruth Kessel
Belleville

"Out of clutter, find simplicity."
— Albert Einstein

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VBT Board

(continued from page 3)

total cost of \$7,972.58. The iPads will be traded in for a credit of \$150 each. The cost includes \$99 accidental hardware coverage, Apple pencil, Apple case, document highlight software, and annual subscription fee of \$70. The upgrading was on the Consent Agenda and not discussed at the meeting;

- Approved the 2018 Holiday Schedule for closing of township hall 16 days for

holidays (including five days for Christmas) as recognized in the Salaried Employee Benefits Manual, AFSCME Local 236 and POLC contracts;

- Removed from the agenda approval of the 2018 Board of Trustees meeting schedule because Trustee Reggie Miller said she believes some of the April dates conflict with the planned conference of the Michigan Township Association;

- Heard John Delaney ask about the fifth version of the host community landfill agreement that was pending with Waste Management. Supervisor McNamara said the township audited WM's books, created a catalog from all the landfill agreements in Michigan, and gathered other information for board members. "We know what they make. We know what the figures are," he said, adding WM wants to get a deal done and there are nine years left to the present landfill. He said the wetlands permits they need will take time to get done. "We're not giving up anything"; and

- Heard Delaney praise the board members for their work that day. The work/study session started at 4 p.m. and the regular meeting started at 7 p.m. and board members were in session from 4 p.m. until the end of the regular meeting at 7:40 p.m. The work/study and regular meetings were on the same day because of the Labor Day holiday.

Birthdays

Sept. 8 – Tesha Burris-Harding
 Sept. 9 – Bernie Raymond
 Sept. 10 – Susan Featheringill
 Sept. 11 – Shila Judy
 Sept. 13 – Phillip Sanders

Do you have a birthday in September? Does anyone you know have a birthday soon? Call the *Independent* at 699-9020 and let us know. We'll list it in this column ASAP following your call. There is no charge.



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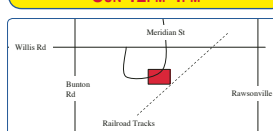
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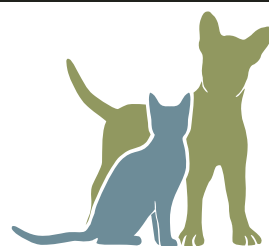
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Christening dress bonds three generations of Mildred Baker's family

A Christening dress was given to Robert and Mildred Baker by Mildred's parents, Lambert and Elizabeth Mida upon the birth of their first child, Robert, Jr. for his Christening. It was then worn by their next two children, James and Joan.

When the grandchildren started coming along, it was worn by all eight grandchildren for their baptisms: Natasha, Marcus, Robert III, Tara, Christopher, Stephanie, Elizabeth, and Glenn. Then, the great-grandchildren: Alison, Nicklas, Tyler, Joshua, Jack, Caroline, Emma, Nina, Eve, Edward, and pictured here is Gabriel Russell Genstil.

Parents are Tara and Mike Genstil of San Francisco. The Godparents are Marcus and Mindy Baker of Owosso, MI.

That makes 22 babies that have been baptized in this dress that is now 73 years old. Mildred Baker has had all of the names embroidered on the slip along with their dates of birth. The boys' names are in blue and the girls' names are in pink. The shawl that is used at baptism was knitted by Mildred.

Mildred says, "Each time the dress is brought out of storage it brings back many happy memories."

Great-grandmother Mildred of Belleville traveled with Grandparents Jim and Linda Baker of Frankenmuth, MI, to the baptism

in San Francisco. Mildred has attended all 22 baptisms.



Gabriel Russell Genstil

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Minding Your Business with Bob Mytych



The Belleville Curves in the Davenport Industrial Plaza is celebrating its 25th birthday on Sept. 28 and the first 25 people who walk in the door that day will get a free membership. The offer is for new members only. For info, call Curves owner Robin Gragg at (734) 697-2000.

Van Buren Public Safety's Family Fun Public Safety Day is this Saturday, Sept. 16, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Atchinson Ford on Belleville Road. There will be activities for kids and the chance to get up close with the township's police and firemen and their vehicles, members of the marine division, motorcycle and traffic units and much more.

Garden Fantasy Greenhouse on Tyler Road just east of Morton Taylor is open for fall with hardy Mums and Asters at \$5.99 each and five for \$25, and one-gallon perennials are just \$4.99 each and five for \$20. Fresh herbs are \$1.99 each and all cement statuary is 20% off. They're open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, from 1 to 5 p.m. Call (734) 697-1765.

Two Guys & a Saw Tree Service of Belleville offers free estimates and discounts to veterans and seniors. Call (734) 0960.

The Belleville Parks & Recreation's Annual Scarecrow Contest is coming up in October and applications are available at City Hall and on the website www.buyitin-belleville.com/booville. Deadline is Sept. 22 for the apps and the scarecrows themselves must be delivered to City Hall by Sept. 29. There's no entry fee. The scarecrows will be displayed along Main Street

with judging taking place during Harvest Fest on Oct. 14. Individuals and businesses are welcome to take part in the event.

Gemini Dreams, a one-man art show from Belleville's Bob Balderston will be held this Saturday, Sept. 16, from 5 to 9 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Express on the North I-94 Service Drive. RSVP only to (248) 202-3635. No guests under 16 permitted. There will be over 70 paintings on display and the event will feature comedic guest Steve Smargon. Visit www.bobbalderson.com. The event is a make-up show from a past cancellation due to medical reasons.

Belleville artist Debbie Juriga will be hosting her Lakeside Art Show on Saturday, Sept. 23, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 327 E. Huron River Drive. Items available for purchase include glass, basketry, bead-woven jewelry, leather jewelry, pottery, sand-casted lawn art, hand-sewn children's hats and quilting and much more. Admission is free. Call (734) 395-8613.

Cross Street Village Apartments at 210 West Cross Street in Ypsilanti is a 55-years-and-older community nestled in Ypsilanti's Historic District featuring 1- and 2-bedroom units, large floor plans with 14-foot ceilings, free heat and water, on-site parking, a large community room with full kitchen, and walking distance to shopping and restaurants. See their ad in today's paper and call (734) 483-8300.

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

“RAVEN”



Senior sweetheart **Raven** will be thrilled to find her fur-ever home. She is a friendly 10 year and 5 month old Coonhound mix that came to us very underweight from animal control. Despite hunger and whatever else she endured prior to arriving she has been the sweetest of sweet with all she meets. Some recent blood work found a thyroid issue needing daily medicine which explains her thin frame even through she eats like a horse. Being a hound mix, she will need adequate time to sniff outdoors but being a senior dog her energy level is pretty low. A few outside strolls a day is all she needs. **Raven** is a total love and just a very precious dog. We understand that many people are not looking to adopt a senior dog due to limited time with them but if you have it in your heart to give **Raven** a home for her golden years we know you will be happy you did. She is affectionate, doesn't need a lot of exercise and will warm your heart with her gentle disposition. Give **Raven** a chance to be your best friend for however long she can and you'll find the memories with her will be the sweetest ones at that. **Raven** is spayed, vaccinated and micro-chipped. Call **Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue** at **734-461-9458** or visit our website **fmar1.org** for more information.

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Davenport University honors local students

Jared Hurley and Amy Rouster of Belleville have been named to the President's List of Davenport University for the Summer 2007 semester. The President's List recognizes top students who excel with outstanding academic achievement. To achieve President's List recognition a student must maintain a minimum 3.8 grade point average while enrolled in at least nine credit hours of regular coursework.

Mallory Winner of Belleville has been named to the Dean's List for the Summer 2007 semester. For this recognition a student must maintain a minimum 3.5 grade point average while enrolled in at least nine credit hours of regular coursework.

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Correction: Different date for Chamber golf

In last week's paper there was a letter on page four from Karen Mida, president of the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce, about their upcoming golf outing. She got the date wrong. The golf outing actually is Thursday, Sept. 21. For more information, call the chamber at 697-7151.

Upcoming Meetings

- Thursday, Sept. 14 – Keystone Academy Board of Education, 6 p.m., Also, Sumpter Township Planning Commission at 7 p.m. Also, Belleville Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m.
- Monday, Sept. 18 – Van Buren Township work/study session, 4 p.m. Also, Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, Sept. 19 – Van Buren Township regular meeting, 7 p.m.
- Wednesday, Sept. 20 -- Van Buren Township Planning Staff Review, 1-4 p.m. Also, Belleville Downtown Development Authority, 6 p.m. Also, Van Buren Township Environmental Commission, 7 p.m. Also, special meeting at the Huron Township Hall at 6:30 p.m. for the public to get information on the replacement of the Waltz Road Bridge.
- Monday, Sept. 25 – Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education regular meeting, 7 p.m., Belleville High School Commons
- Tuesday, Sept. 26 – Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority (DDA) meeting at 5:30 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township workshop at 6 p.m. and regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. Also, VBT Water and Sewer Commission, 6:30 p.m.



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Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice



FALL TREE PLANTING WORKSHOP

-September 30th, 2017 at 10:00 am-



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Working with the Van Buren Township staff,
Alliance for Downriver Watersheds &
Citizen Foresters Detroit, volunteers will...

- Help plant 30 trees at the VBT Water Tower
- Learn the right way to plant a tree
- Be part of an ongoing project to 'increase the green' in Metro Detroit

Please park at Township Hall and walk over to the Water Tower
46425 Tyler, Van Buren, MI 48111
To register or for more info, please call 734-699-8913





HARVEST MARKET APPLICATION

Saturday, October 14, 2017

Name: _____ E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Please note what you will be selling:

Produce: _____

Plants/Flowers (live): _____

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Other: _____

Crafter: _____

Crafters ONLY please include pictures

During the annual Harvest Festival, a Harvest Market will run from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the 4th Street Square between the Bayou Grill and Egan's Pub. Set up will begin at 9:30 a.m. by entering off the Liberty Street parking lot. The fee is \$15 and since this is an outdoor show, you should consider using a 10 x 10 tent for your comfort.

This is not a juried show but space is limited. We would like to keep this to a Harvest theme but because it is during Booville, Halloween décor will be considered. Direct sale vendors may apply if their product fits the theme.

Please return this application with your check for \$15 by mail to my attention at: Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce, 248 Main Street, Belleville, MI 48111 or you may drop it off at the Chamber office.

For any questions or concerns, please contact me via my email: jfayemillard@att.net or call at (734) 558-5368 after 3:30 p.m.

Janet Millard, Event Coordinator
Belleville Central Business Community

Fireside

By Fire Chief
Amy Brow,
Van Buren Township



Welcome to the first article from the Van Buren Township Fire Department. Our goal will be to bring you monthly fire and life safety tips and reminders.

Recently the fire department has been responding to a high number of clothes dryer fires. These fires are occurring not only in homes, but in apartment buildings, as well. Doing laundry is a routine in our lives that we really don't give too much attention to, but is one that we need to take some safety precautions with to prevent tragedy.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, (NFPA) the leading cause of home clothes dryer fires is failure to clean them. This has been the case of the dryer fires we have been responding to. Dryer lint is extremely flammable and you should never use the dryer without a lint filter and make sure you clean the lint filter before or after each load of laundry. In addition to cleaning the lint trap, also remove lint that has collected around the drum.

It's also recommended by NFPA to have your dryer installed and serviced by a professional to ensure that the gas line and connection are intact and free of leaks and your dryer is vented proper directly to the outside of the home or apartment. This is

done by using a rigid or flexible metal venting material to maintain proper air flow and drying time. Make sure the air exhaust vent pipe is not restricted and the outdoor vent flap will open when the dryer is operating. You should also make sure it not covered by snow in the winter or blocked by debris like a bird's nest. An improperly vented gas dryer can also release carbon monoxide into the living area, as well.

If you notice that it is taking longer than normal for your clothes to dry, or the clothes are extremely hot when you take them out, you should clean lint out of the vent pipe. Brushes for cleaning dryers can be purchased at most home improvement stores.

Lastly, turn the dryer off if you leave home or when you go to bed.



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September 17, 2017

**SUNDAY,
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9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Registration - 9:00 am
Awards - 2:30 pm

Car Show Entry Fee: \$15
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Things to do in the Belleville area...

- **Thursday, Sept. 14** – Spay-ghetti and No Balls fund raising dinner for the Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue at the Van Buren Eagles, 9961 Beck Road, 5-9 p.m. Cost \$10 for adults, \$6 for kids, and kids 2 and under eating free.
- **Friday, Sept. 15** – Belleville High School Class of 1957 is holding its 60th reunion from 4 to 9 p.m. at Van Buren Eagles at 9961 Beck Road in Van Buren Township. Information: Marilyn Martin Jones, (734) 461-6883
- **Saturday, Sept. 16** – Pumpkin Festival spaghetti dinner from 5 to 7 p.m. at Community United Methodist Church, 11160 Olive St., Romulus.
- **Saturday, Sept. 16** – Van Buren Township Family Fun and Public Safety Day, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at Atchinson Ford, 9800 Belleville Road. Free fingerprinting of children, food, fun, lots of police and fire equipment and officers.
- **Saturday, Sept. 16** – Van Buren Eagles Riders Annual Hog Roast, 9961 Beck Road, Van Buren Township, opening at 1 p.m., dinner 3 p.m. Fund raising for charity. Information: (517) 672-1883.
- **Saturday, Sept. 16** – Fall Craft Show from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Belleville Moose, corner of Sumpter and Harris roads. \$1 admittance. Crafters and bake sale. No vendors. Food and drink available. Crafters will raffle off items. Do not need to be present to win.
- **Saturday, Sept. 16** – Belleville High School All-Class Reunion runs from 2 to 8 p.m. at the BHS Commons. Tickets now are \$30. Information at (734) 787-4601.
- **Saturday, Sept. 16** – Moose Lodge #934, 45476 Harris Road at Sumpter Road, invites the public to a 6 p.m. to midnight steak fry, \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. Space is limited. (734) 325-7799
- **Sunday, Sept. 17** – Flu Shot Clinic from 8:30 a.m. until noon at the Belleville

First United Methodist Church, 417 Charles Street. Most insurances accepted.

• **Tuesday, Sept. 19** – “Taking Control of Your Cash – Eliminating Debt” is the title of a free presentation at 7 p.m. at the Belleville Area District Library. Cindy Leonard from The Society for Financial Awareness is special guest speaker. Register for this free workshop at (734) 699-3291.

• **Tuesday, Sept. 19** – Roughneck Rescue & Sanctuary in Willis is holding a fund raiser to earn money for a new barn: Draws for Paws. The event is from 5 to 9 p.m. at Salt Springs Brewery, 117 S. Ann Arbor St., Saline. Live music by The Parsnips. Information: Dawn Reeves, (734) 272-9702

• **Wednesday, Sept. 20** – The League of Women Voters will hold a public forum at 7 p.m. at the Belleville High School Mini-Auditorium for the five candidates running for the Belleville City Council in the Nov. 7 election.

• **Wednesday, Sept. 20** – You’re invited to “FunFoods,” a FREE vegetarian cooking seminar, beginning at 6:30 p.m. at Wayne County Community College Western Campus, 9555 Haggerty Road. Live recipe demonstrations, food tasting, helpful handouts, and questions and answers. Sponsored by Seventh-day Adventists. Call to reserve a spot. (918) 902-9977

• **Thursday, Sept. 21** – Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce holds its golf outing at Woodlands of Van Buren on Ecorse Road west of Hannan. Information: Paul Henning, 697-7151

• **Saturday, Sept. 23** – September Coffee Hour for State Rep. Kristy Pagan at 10 a.m. at Belleville City Hall Council Chambers, 6 Main Street. Tell her your concerns.

• **Monday, Sept. 25** – State Rep. Kristy Pagan is holding an Education Town Hall from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Canton Administration Building, Township Board Room, 1150 S. Canton Center Road.

• **Wednesday, Sept. 27** – Beer-tasting fund raiser for Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue, 5-10 p.m., Original Gravity Brewing Company, 440 County St., Milan. Information: Sandy at (734) 417-5117.

Belleville Parks and Recreation



ANNUAL SCARECROW CONTEST

Calling All Families, Individuals, Businesses, Organizations

No entry fee ♦ Application on website or at City Hall
 ▶ Pick up your scarecrow form at City Hall ◀

Sept 22 Applications Due ♦ Sept 29 Scarecrows Due

Scarecrows displayed along Main Street through October
 Judging during Harvest Fest on October 14

In October Belleville Becomes BOOville
 Celebrating Harvest and Halloween with a month of fun & spooky events
www.buyitinbelleville.com/boo-ville

DOWNTOWN ON THE LAKE






Lakeside Art Show

Saturday, September 23, 2017 – 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
327 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville

• glass • basketry • beadwoven jewelry • leather-wrap jewelry • leather books & purses •
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School Board

(continued from page 1)

a budget in the spring before it is known how many students will be in the district in the fall.

"It's not working," Frazier said of the measures Moore talked about to raise student scores. She said Moore, and curriculum directors before him, talked about test scores going up one or two points as successes, but that's not enough.

Frazier said Savage has the best scores and Kudlak said one-third of the students are in the gifted group at Savage.

"That didn't seem to come into being with the big brouhaha [over Savage M-Step scores in the past]. I wonder if they *cheated* again at Savage," she said, referring to the ongoing rift over Savage scores. Frazier was the only school board member not sued by Savage teachers because she rejected the cheating charge.

"If we want to be the best, we need to think outside the box," Frazier said.

Frazier complimented Kudlak on his comment about the development of teachers as the district's biggest asset. She said teachers are in the classroom every day with the students.

Reggie Mulligan, a retired teacher, said maybe they are looking at things from the wrong end. She said she wrote MEAP tests in the past and, "Now it's so covert. You can't look at the test before, during, and after the testing and if a student asks for help you only can say, read the question again.

"If I wrote a test and so few passed, I'd ask myself what I did wrong," she said. "Who's examining the test writers?"

Frazier said she would like to see a comparison of scores with Keystone Charter Academy, where many Van Buren students are attending. She said the Keystone students are "breathing the same air" as the present Van Buren students and she wonders if their scores could be better.

In other business at its Sept. 11 meeting, the board:

- Approved four board members as delegates for the Nov. 9 Michigan Association of School Boards Delegate Assembly in Lansing: Keith Johnston, Kelly Owen, Alison Bennett, and Darlene Gerick. Susan Featheringill and Simone Pinter are alternates. Kevin English said he could not attend;

- Approved terminations of teacher Kyle Gleason of BHS after two years of service

as of Aug. 31, accepted other employment; Linda Maxwell of Owen retiring after 20 years of service on Sept. 1; and Caterina Delia of Haggerty GSRP after three years of service, terminated as of Aug. 16;

- Approved hiring teachers David Mahoney for BHS as of Aug. 30; Kelly Jesue for Savage as of Aug. 30; Joseph Marino for BHS/Owen as of Sept. 5; Heather Fischer for Owen, as of Sept. 5; Jeffrey Wiemer for McBride as of Sept. 6; and Sarah Hern for Haggerty as of Sept. 15;

- Accepted the resignation of non-instructional staff member Candice Testorelli of Owen after one year of service because she took another job;

- Approved the hiring of the following non-instructional employees: Gina Murphy as half-time secretary at Rawsonville, Amber Maples as lunch room supervisor at Tyler, Tilden Dickens as lunch room supervisor at Owen; also, the following paraprofessionals: Jennifer Drogowski at BHS, Vicki Ceckiewicz at Owen, Pamela Underdahl-Ackerman in the Adult Trans. Program at Haggerty, Chance Lowell at Edgemont, Lauren Vandierendonck at Owen, Ethel Frankling at Haggerty, and Krisandra McKay at Edgemont;

- Heard Kelly Owen report that the Van Buren Education Foundation's Sunset fundraiser on Saturday was the biggest fund raiser they've had to date, with a lot of staff there to show what they did with their grants. School Supt. Kudlak said there were more than 200 people in attendance;

- Heard Supt. Kudlak say, "We've lost one of our own," in reference to former teacher Ron Mays. He announced the memorial service will be at 11 a.m., Sept. 23, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in New Boston;

- Heard Supt. Kudlak announce that the All Class Alumni Reunion on Saturday will feature Polish food this year; and

- Heard Human Resources Director Abdul Madyun report that a lot more staff than usual showed up for the free breakfast and that's a good sign of increased morale. He said he has been sending out exit interviews to those leaving the district and, "I have to tweet to see if I can get more replies."

22.41% of VB buses fail Michigan State Police annual safety checks

In figures recently released, the Michigan State Police report that of the 58 vehicles in the Van Buren Public Schools fleet, 22.41% failed safety checks.

The report states 45 buses passed the test, eight received yellow reports, and five got red tags.

Yellow means the buses are safe to operate, but need to be repaired within 60 days. The red tags are unsafe and are not to be put back on the road without repairs.

The report states 162 districts in the state had 100% passing rates and 69 had 100% failing rates.

The MSP tested the buses between Sept. 1, 2016 and Aug. 31, 2017.

For the 2016 test report, 57 Van Buren buses passed the test, four got yellow tags, and six were red tagged, out of the total 67 buses.

BHS home games

Here are upcoming Belleville High School home athletic events:

- Thursday, Sept. 14 – Boys Freshman Football 4 p.m. against Crestwood; Boys Varsity Tennis 4:30 p.m. against Tecumseh; Girls Freshman & JV Volleyball 5:30 p.m. against Dearborn; Girls Varsity Swim & Dive 6 p.m. against Crestwood; Boys JV Football 6:30 p.m. against Crestwood; Girls Varsity Volleyball 7 p.m. against Dearborn

- Friday, Sept. 15 – Boys JV Soccer 4 p.m. against Canton Prep Academy; Boys Varsity Soccer 5:30 p.m. against Canton Prep Academy

- Saturday, Sept. 16 – Girls Varsity Swim & Dive "Tiger Invite" 10 a.m.

- Wednesday, Sept. 20 – Boys JV Soccer 4 p.m. against Cabrini; Boys Varsity Tennis 4 p.m. against Dearborn; Boys Varsity Soccer 5:30 p.m. against Romulus

Diane Kiessel
Belleville Athletic Secretary

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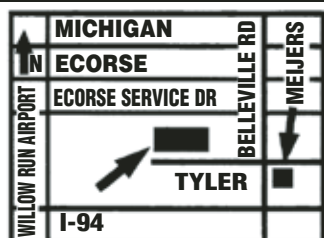
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GREENBRIAR SUB-WIDE GARAGE SALE. Located at the corner of Belleville & Van Born Rds. Thurs., Fri., & Sat., Sept. 21, 22, & 23, 9am-5pm. 9/21

ESTATE SALE. Furniture, housewares, home décor, misc. Tools in a barn. Sept. 22 & 23, 9am-5pm; Sept. 24, 9am-2pm. 49631 Willis, Belleville. 09/21

TRUMMAGE SALE. Morningstar Church, 44441 Clay Rd., Belleville. Oct. 4-6 & 11-13. 09/28

YARD SALE. Thurs., Fri., & Sat. Sept. 14, 15 & 16, 9am-5pm. Tools, camp equipment, paintings, crafts & books, household misc. 44492 Robson Rd. 09/14

HUGE FAMILY GARAGE SALE. Thurs., Fri., & Sat., 10am-?. 2 Ford tractors, air compressor, 2 mini refrigerators & odds & ends. 46695 Willis, Belleville. 09/14

2-FAMILY YARD SALE. 9-15 & 16, 9am-5pm, 43150 Riggs Rd. Large tools, mower, J.D. Gator, tractor implements, travel trailer & misc. 09/14

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More Letters

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St. Jude's Novena

May the sacred heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, helper of the hopeless, pray for us.

St. Jude answered my prayer and I am extremely thankful.

Thank you, B.T., Belleville

Thank you, St. Jude

To the editor:

I want to "Thank" St. Jude for answering my prayers. I will always be grateful.

Thank you, S.J.

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Court Watching:

Stacy Wayne Rose, Jr. bound over on murder charge

By Rosemary K. Oztman

Independent Editor

Stacy Wayne Rose, Jr., 18, of Taylor was bound over to circuit court for an arraignment on the information Sept. 6 on a charge of first-degree murder.

Rose is charged with slashing Robert Briscoe, 49, in the chest with a knife at about 10:30 p.m. July 30 in Huron Township as Briscoe tried to protect his sons from a crowd of teenagers in front of his home.

Briscoe, an appliance repairman who was said was able to fix anything, was the father of five with several grandchildren living in his mobile home.

A preliminary exam was held before 34th District Court Chief Judge Tina Brooks Green on Aug. 30. Five witnesses testified and then Judge Green bound Rose over to circuit court.

The witnesses testified that Rose and seven others came to the Briscoe home in Huron Estates, in the 22000 block of Inkster Road, early in the evening of July 30 to demand that Tina Briscoe pay Rose \$70 that her son Tyler owed him for seven Adderall pills Rose supplied to him.

She testified she told Rose that she would check with her son when he came home and if he owed anything, she would make sure it was paid.

"Your son is a f---ing dead man," Tina Briscoe testified that Rose said to her before he left, after she had threatened to call police if he didn't go away.

She asked her husband to move her company car from the driveway so it wouldn't get damaged by the teens in case they came back. She said she was sitting on the porch and saw her oldest son Robert, Jr., running between the trailers to their home.

A large group of from 20 to 24 teens arrived and the family tried to get Tyler out of there because they were after Tyler, Tina Briscoe testified.

She said one punched at her husband, into the left cheek, she thought. Her husband held his neck and called out, "I'm bleeding bad." After the stabbing everyone disappeared, she said.

Robert Briscoe, Jr., also testified to the death of his father. He said Rose called Tyler and said he was coming over to fight. At first the money owed was supposed to be \$70, but then it was \$30, Robert said.

Robert testified he suggested they go to Brownstown Middle School if they wanted to fight because there were too many children in the Briscoe mobile home and he didn't want any of them injured. He said he and his brothers waited at the middle school for a half hour and when Rose didn't come, went back to his home and saw his mother on the porch.

Then, he said, four cars pulled up and people he named hopped out of the cars. He said his mother screamed and his father came out to protect them. He said his parents and his brothers had no weapons.

"Stacy punched my dad's neck and then

my dad called out, 'He stabbed me. I'm bleeding bad.'" Robert testified. He said they laid his father on the ground and he helped his brother and a neighbor with CPR. "I knew he wasn't going to make it," Robert testified, referring to the gurgling in his father's chest.

Then three teen witnesses who were at the scene testified as to what they saw. Some changed testimony from what they told Huron Township Police the morning after the murder to protect Rose, but then agreed with the prosecutor after he reminded them of their sworn statements. The courtroom was full of young people, many crying and upset.

Media reports state Rose was arrested shortly after the murder by Taylor Police on a traffic stop.

The post mortem report said Briscoe died of a stab wound to the chest, severing the carotid artery, and the method of death was homicide.

Retained defense attorney Marc Lakin said his client never said he didn't do the stabbing, but Lakin said it wasn't premeditated. Judge Green said since Rose came to the home first and then came back, she believes there is reason to believe there could have been pre-meditation.

This is the first homicide in Huron Township since 2009.

At Rose's arraignment on the information at circuit court on Sept. 6, a jury trial on the charge was set for Nov. 1 before Judge Kevin J. Cox.



Independent photo by Rosemary K. Oztman

Keith Parish, 10, of Sumpter Township walked next door from his home to inspect a University of Michigan Survival Flight helicopter that had flown into his next-door neighbor's backyard on Sunday. The helicopter was on display during the annual Sumpter Township Fire Department corn roast at the township hall on the other side of the yard. On board the aircraft are, from left, John Dickensheets, Matthew Macias, Joe Mollinger, and John Booth.

Chief Taylor

(continued from page 1)

Taylor said he drove the girl to the hospital for treatment in Monroe and talked with her along the way. He said she is very smart in math and is taking classes in the ninth grade that he remembers taking in the tenth grade.

She told him that she didn’t want to live because nobody cares about her.

“I care about you,” Taylor told her. He reports she was smiling when he said goodbye to her at the hospital. When asked by a nurse why he had brought her in, he explained, “She tried to kiss a train.”

When he got home that day, his wife asked him, “How was your day?” and he replied that there was a disgruntled girl that he had to take to the hospital.

The next day he had a meeting with the Carleton Police Chief Roy Johnson. Chief Johnson said he had been contacted by officers in other jurisdictions who wanted to know why his officer was yelling into the mike about a suicide attempt and that the subject was in custody. They would have come to help if he needed it.

Taylor said he was shouting because the train sound was so close that he didn’t think he could be heard.

Also, the CSX Railroad officials called the chief after they looked at their video from the train that showed Taylor was 1.27 seconds from getting hit when he grabbed the girl from the tracks.

At 25 mph the train was moving at 47 feet per second and, at 20 yards, it was 1.27 seconds away.

“I never saw the train,” Taylor recalls, referring to it as tunnel vision. “Things just happened. I was sitting on her so she wouldn’t go back.”

He repeated, “I never saw the train.” If he had looked at the train he might have “stutter-stepped” (hesitated) and the ending would have been different, he said.

Chief Johnson referred to Taylor as a hero and told him, “Don’t say you were just doing your job,” referring to Taylor’s usual comment.

The Monroe News covered the life-saving story and it was picked up by Channel 4 television in Detroit and other media. One reporter told Taylor that there is so much negative reporting on cops that they all wanted a “feel-good” story about police.

When referred to as a hero, Taylor replied, “There’s a little bit of hero in all of us.”

The day after the rescue was the 40th anniversary of Taylor becoming a police officer. He worked for one year in Wayne, where his father had been an officer, one year in Carleton, and 38 years for the City of Belleville.

Taylor said when he was an officer in the City of Belleville that has two train crossings he took a class from the railroad companies. He said the big lesson was to call the engineer crew to make sure they are all right after an incident, so they will know someone cares about them.

He said he tried and no one picked up the CSX number he called, but he later learned the CSX crew was pretty well shook up

after this incident. They have reports of close calls and this was way over the line for a close call, he said.

“For me, the sun came up the next

Two local men suspects in separate cases

Jeffrey T. Thurman, 18, of Van Buren Township is one of three suspects accused in the murder of Brandon Cross, 19, in Pittsfield Township on April 2.

On Aug. 31, the preliminary exams for the suspects were adjourned for a second time, this time until Oct. 5 in 14A-1 District Court.

The other two suspects are Calvin D. Vanderhoff, 16, of Canton Township and Xavier F. Payne, 16, of Ann Arbor.

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN BOARD MEETING MINUTES SEPTEMBER 5, 2017

Supervisor McNamara called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room. Present: Supervisor McNamara, Clerk Wright, Treasurer Budd, Trustee Frazier, Trustee Martin, Trustee Miller and Trustee White. Others in attendance: Secretary Montgomery, Planning and Economic Development Deputy Director Best, Executive Assistant Selman, and an audience of two (2). **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Frazier moved, Miller seconded to approve the agenda. Motion Carried.

CONSENT AGENDA: Martin moved, White seconded to approve the revised Consent Agenda removing Consent Agenda item #10 [Approval of the 2018 Board of Trustees Meeting Schedule]. Motion Carried. The consent agenda included: Work Study Session minutes of August 14, 2017, Closed Session minutes of August 14, 2017, Special Board Meeting minutes of August 9, 2017, Special Board Meeting minutes of August 10, 2017, Board Meeting minutes of August 15, 2017, Prepaid List of August 17, 2017, Prepaid List of August 24, 2017, Prepaid List of August 31, 2017, Voucher List of September 5, 2017, Approval of the 2018 Holiday Schedule, Approval of the replacement of current Apple Airpad Board Packet Tablets.

CORRESPONDENCE: Trustee White responded to a letter he had received from a resident regarding his use of a Township vehicle while serving as Township Supervisor. Trustee White indicated he was charged for his personal mileage as evidenced by mileage records maintained by the Accounting Coordinator. Supervisor McNamara announced that Public Safety Day is Saturday September 16, 2017 from 10 a.m.-2:00 p.m. at Atchinson Ford. This event is free to all Van Buren Township residents. Clerk Wright announced Van Buren Township has formed a community partnership with Van Buren Public Schools in establishing a Chess Club at Owen and McBride Middle schools this fall. Those interested can sign up at the Van Buren Township Park and Recreation webpage: www.vanburen-mi.org/parks-and-recreation. The program begins the 2nd week of October and volunteers are needed (even if you don’t play).

PUBLIC COMMENT: Resident reminded Board members of the agenda guidelines for correspondence as opposed to announcements.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Wright moved, Miller seconded to approve Resolution 2017-20 the Stormwater Maintenance Agreement between the Township

and Belleville Development. Motion Carried. This agreement designates that the property owner will be responsible for and maintain the Stormwater facilities on the property located at 46418 N. I-94 Service Dr. Martin moved, Miller seconded to approve the purchase of playground equipment for Van Buren Park in an amount not to exceed \$70,000. Motion Carried. Bids were received and opened on September 1st. Snider Recreation, Inc. was selected as the recommended provider of choice for the playground equipment. The project is consistent with the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, is being funded through the use of Community Development Block Grant funds, and is expected to be completed in the Spring of 2018 in conjunction with replacement of pavilion #2. **REPORTS:** The May and June 2017 Budgetary Reports were received. Reports are available for inspection at the Clerk’s office, 46425 Tyler Rd., Van Buren Township, MI 48111.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Van Buren Township has formed a community partnership with Van Buren Public Schools in establishing a Chess Club at Owen and McBride Middle schools this fall. Those interested can sign up at the Van Buren Township Park and Recreation webpage: www.vanburen-mi.org/parks-and-recreation. The program begins the 2nd week of October and volunteers are needed (even if you don’t play).

NON-AGENDA ITEMS: Board members requested an update on the delay of the McBride Road Improvement project. Deputy Director Best indicated additional engineering was needed to address water and sewer work and driveway approach replacement that will occur in conjunction with the road improvement, permitting and funding commitment confirmation. Trustee White praised the efforts of everyone involved in the air show and indicated he had reimbursed the Township for the three lunches he acquired during the budget meetings. Resident expressed concern over projects engineered by Wade Trim, thanked the Board and staff for their dedication, encouraged dialogue with Wayne County and Wayne County municipalities as it pertained to Stormwater maintenance agreements and questioned if an agreement with Waste Management would be forthcoming. Supervisor McNamara indicated that he has prepared numerous documents for Board members to review regarding the landfill and is allowing Board Members a time to review the materials received.

ADJOURNMENT: Miller moved, Budd seconded to adjourn at 7:40 p.m. Motion Carried. Leon Wright, Township Clerk Kevin McNamara, Supervisor Published: September 14, 2017

Cub Scout Pack 793 sets New Scout Orientation Night for Sept. 20

Cub Scout Pack 793 will hold its New Scout Orientation Night at 6 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 20, at St. Anthony Catholic Church, 409 W. Columbia Ave., Belleville. New scouts will be able to register and obtain information regarding the Cub Scout program.



City of Belleville Regular City Council Meeting Minutes August 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 Conley.

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 None

4. AGENDA APPROVAL

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

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Smith, second by Marcotte to approve the regular city council meeting minutes of August 7th, 2017 as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS None

7. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

Ordinance Amendment: Property Maintenance Code Motion by Fielder, second by Smith to adopt calling for a public hearing during the Resolution No. 17-067 regular business meeting on September 5, 2017. The purpose of the hearing is to receive public comment on repealing/replacing portions of Ordinance No. 95-305 “International Property Maintenance Code” which the City of Belleville uses to regulate and govern property/building maintenance.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

A. Yankee Air Museum: Battle for Belleville Motion by Loria, second by Marcotte to adopt Resolution No. 17-068 approving the Yankee Air Museum’s request for the annual “Battle for Belleville” on September 1, 2017 from 6:30 to 7 p.m., with a military vehicle display from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Streets to be closed and cleared of parked vehicles are: Main, Roys and Fourth.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. Town Web Design Contract

Motion by Loria, second by Smith to adopt Resolution No. 17-069 approving a 3-year website design and development contract with Town Web as follows: \$5,058 for the first year (inclusive) and \$1,563 for maintenance in Years 2 and 3.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

9. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE & DEPARTMENTAL EXPENDITURES

Motion by Marcotte, second by Fielder to approve Resolution No. 17-070 for accounts payable and payables over \$500.00 with a revised total of \$222,851.28 which excludes the \$2,520 payment to Action Training Systems requested by the Fire Department. Council Member Marcotte wants to meet with the Belleville Fire Chief to further discuss alternative training sources.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Marcotte, Second by Smith to adjourn meeting at 7:58 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherri Scharf, City Clerk

Approved: September 5, 2017

Published: September 14, 2017

Court Watching:**Father bound over on charge of CSC-2 with daughter in VBT**

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

A father who is accused of rubbing his groin against his awakened teenage daughter as he slept in her bed has been bound over to circuit court for a Sept. 20 arraignment on the information.

The preliminary exam for the 41-year-old father was held before 34th District Court Judge David Parrott on Sept. 6, and there was just one witness: the 15-year-old daughter.

He is charged with criminal sexual conduct – second degree (relationship) the night of June 7 at his home on McBride Ave. in Van Buren Township.

The *Independent* is not printing the names of the people involved in an attempt to protect the daughter and son.

The teen testified she was sleeping in the bed at her father's home at about midnight when her father came into the bedroom, laid very close to her, put his arm and leg around her, and started thrusting his body against her side.

She said she was wearing a tank top and underwear and was wrapped in a blanket.

She said she was able to escape from under his arm and leg and run into the bathroom next door. She said she cried a lot and then came back into the room to get her clothes, grab her cell phone, and get out of the house. She called her mother and then walked to the VBT police station nearby.

The father's retained attorney, Michael Rataj, cross-examined the girl gently and she explained that her parents were divorced and had joint custody. Nothing like this had ever happened before, she said.

She said the room she was sleeping in is what used to be her father's bedroom. Then after he remarried it was his and her stepmom's bedroom before they moved their bedroom upstairs. The downstairs bedrooms were for her and her brother after that.

She said her father's new wife was her best friend.

She testified when her father laid down next to her she asked, "What is going on? Is everything OK?" She said she thought

he needed a hug. But he didn't say anything and appeared to be asleep, she said.

When Rataj asked her in detail about how she was wrapped in a blanket and how her father didn't grab any of her private parts, she started to cry and asked for a break.

After the break, she testified about how her mother had always told her if there was any problem at her father's house, she should call her mother and walk to the police station.

So, she called her mother and walked to the police station about a mile from her father's house. She said she walked into the police station and said, "My dad sexually assaulted me" to the officer on duty and then her mother walked in.

"I talked to her and then she talked separately with police," the girl testified.

She said her father didn't stir or say anything while she was leaving and was hugging the stuffed dog her boyfriend had given her.

The prosecutor asked for the case to be bound over to circuit court and Rataj agreed there was a question of fact involved that should go to circuit court. Judge Parrott ordered the case bound over.

The prosecutor said there is a no-contact order as part of the \$50,000 personal recognizance bond and the father has called the school to get information on his daughter and son. She said while that was not exactly contact, she thought the judge should tell him not to do that.

"Denied," Judge Parrott said, without further comment.

VBT Officer Jeff Stanton is the officer in charge of the case.

Jada Alexis Thompson

The preliminary exam of Jada Alexis Thompson, 17, was not held because the complaining witness failed to appear. Judge Parrott dismissed the charge without prejudice. Thompson was charged with assault with a dangerous weapon and assault and battery in VBT on Aug. 7. She was free after posting \$5,000/10% bond and bond was to be returned. David Reams was the court-appointed attorney and VBT Det. Mike Long was the officer in charge of the case.

The preliminary exam had been set for Aug. 30, but the 14-year-old complaining witness didn't have a ride to court. Judge Tina Brooks Green gave VBT another week to get their witness to court.

Luke Berry Ridner

A charge of aggravated stalking in Belleville was dismissed without prejudice against Luke Berry Ridner because the prosecutor did not have enough evidence to continue since the complaining witness didn't wish to testify.

Steve Robinson was the retained defense attorney and the Belleville officer in charge of the case had retired.

Brandon Kareem-Stephen Abdullah**Baron Polk, Jr.**

Brandon Kareem-Stephen Abdullah, 23, and Baron Polk, Jr., 25, are co-defendants and each charged with two counts of larceny from a motor vehicle in VBT on Aug. 25.

Both waived their preliminary exams and Judge Parrott bound them over to circuit court for arraignments on the information Sept. 20.

Abdullah was free after posting \$20,000/10% bond. Daniel Bitar is his court-appointed attorney and Bitar also stood in for Polk's court-appointed attorney Stephani Labelle before Judge Parrott.

Polk is free after posting bond of \$10,000/10%. Judge Parrott advised Polk that he has two civil infractions from 2014 that need payment on his fines.

VBT Officer Jeff Stanton is officer in charge of both cases.

Alexzander Carson Wynder

Alexzander Carson Wynder, 23, had three cases before Judge Parrott with a bond of \$10,000/10% set for each. Wynder was lodged in the Wayne County Jail and appeared in court via video.

His court-appointed attorney Olga Vermalinka said her client wished to waive preliminary exams on all three cases and Wynder agreed. Judge Parrott bound him over to circuit court on Sept. 13 on all three, noting the paperwork said he has yet to be fingerprinted. Judge Parrott said since Wynder is in jail it shouldn't be a problem to fingerprint him.

Vermalinka said her client also has holds on other charges.

The charges against Wynder in 34th District Court are larceny from a motor vehicle and possessing stolen property from \$200 to \$1,000 in Belleville on May 6; larceny from a motor vehicle in VBT on May 6; and larceny from a building in VBT on July 23.

Joshua Kenneth Mashatt

Joshua Kenneth Mashatt, 28, agreed to plea guilty to possession of marijuana on June 1 in VBT and the charge of intent to distribute marijuana was dismissed. Judge Parrott accepted the plea and fined him \$895. Mashatt had been free after posting \$20,000/10% bond.

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City of Belleville Public Notice

POLICE VEHICLE AUCTION**NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN BY THE UNDERSIGNED THAT ON **SEPTEMBER 21, 2017** at 10:00 a.m., at Region Towing, 45908 Bemis Road, County of Wayne, Michigan, a public sale of the following vehicle will be held:

2006 BUICK, FOUR DOOR, VIN: 1G4HR57Y26U249365

DATE: SEPTEMBER 11, 2017 **BELLEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT**
6 MAIN STREET

PUBLISH: SEPTEMBER 14, 2017 **BELLEVILLE, MICHIGAN 48111**

BY SHERRI SCHARF, CITY CLERK

Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

Out of the 483 dispatch calls for service reported by Van Buren Township police for the past week, the following are selected for this column.

Sunday, Sept. 3:

0002 – noise complaint, Chatsworth/Quirk
0029 – malicious destruction of property, Westlake Cir.
0055 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.
0119 – noise complaint, Sylvia Dr.
0256 – domestic, Elwell Rd.
1031 – property damage accident, I-94/Haggerty
1313 – harassment call, Oak Ln.
1446 – welfare check, Rogers Ave.
1503 – malicious destruction of property, Haggerty School
1958 – retail fraud, Belleville
2028 – narcotics crime, Arthur St.
2111 – larceny, Parkwood Dr.

Monday, Sept. 4:

0100 – personal injury accident, Belleville/Tyler
0104 – family trouble, Evelyn Ct.
0107 – noise complaint, Meadows Ln.
0127 – assault & battery, N. I-94 Service Dr.
0140 – disorderly, Denton Rd.
0801 – malicious destruction of property, W. Adams
0802 – suspicious person/vehicle, Denton Rd.
0817 – malicious destruction of property, Denton
0920 – suspicious person/vehicl1617e, Hardwood Dr. / Ironwood Dr.

1148 – suspicious person/vehicle, W. Huron River
1223 – property damage accident, Rawsonville
1403 – property damage accident, S I-94 Service
1617 – larceny, Hamilton Ct.
1621 – disorderly, E. Huron River Dr.
1622 – family trouble, Ash Dr.
2044 – harassment call, Denton Rd.
2125 – noise complaint, Oak Ln.
2200 – larceny, Park Estates Dr.

Tuesday, Sept. 5:

0009 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
0034 – suspicious person/vehicle, Freedoms Way
0232 – noise complaint, Oak Ln.
0305 – noise complaint, Oak Ln.
0714 – property damage accident, N. I-94 Service Dr. / Quirk Rd.
0802 – personal injury accident, Ecorse/Denton
1042 – property damage accident, Ecorse/Haggerty
1515 – malicious destruction of property, Savage
1608 – larceny, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1624 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.
1647 – disorderly, Belleville Rd.

1741 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / N. I-94 Service Dr.
1754 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1820 – assist other dept., Harbour Pointe
1841 – overdose, Mida
1844 – hospice death, Country Ln.
1845 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1925 – personal injury accident, Denton/Michigan
1940 – suspicious person/vehicle, Rock Creek Dr.
2011 – property damage accident, WB I-94 / Belleville Rd.
2014 – harassment call, N. I-94 Service Dr.
2035 – property damage accident, Ecorse Rd.
2054 – assault & battery, Belleville Rd.
2158 – suspicious person/vehicle, Borgman Ave.
2219 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
2250 – private property impound, Belleville Rd.
2303 – noise complaint, S. Bellridge Dr.
2342 – overdose, Richard Run Dr.

Wednesday, Sept. 6:

0339 – suspicious person/vehicle, N. I-94 Service
0357 – 911 welfare check, Kouza Ct.
0436 – unauthorized driving away of auto, S. Bellridge Dr.
0733 – suspicious person/vehicle, Amanda Dr.
1007 – property damage accident, Belleville/Tyler
1049 – larceny, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1116 – lost property/child, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1311 – mental subject, Barnwell Dr.
1321 – domestic, Meadows Lane
1457 – larceny, Belleville Rd.
1609 – suspicious person/vehicle, Marlowe Ave. / Crowley Ave.
1630 – lost property/child, Jackson St.
1657 – larceny, McBride
1729 – property damage accident, Denton Rd. /

Michigan Ave.

1908 – malicious destruction of property, Meadows Ln.
1923 – suspicious person/vehicle, Haggerty/Tyler
2001 – suspicious person/vehicle, N. I-94 Service
2011 – suspicious person/vehicle, Sandalwood
2022 – suspicious person/vehicle, Haggerty/Riggs
2122 – mental subject, Sandalwood

Thursday, Sept. 7:

0115 – larceny from auto, Westlake Cir.
0255 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Westlake Cir.
0319 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Westlake Cir.
0804 – abandoned auto, Dalton Dr.
0816 – juvenile complaint, N. Ponderosa Trl.
0922 – property damage accident, N. I-94 Service
1034 – breaking & entering, Dellor St.
1136 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.
1528 – noise complaint, Burlwood Ln.
1656 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1730 – property damage accident, Morton Taylor / Ecorse
1743 – property damage accident, Quirk/Belleville
1811 – road hazard, E. Huron River Dr. / Martinsville Rd.

1817 – assault & battery, Parkwood
1822 – disorderly, Belleville Rd.
1941 – suicidal person, Daisy Blvd.
1955 – assist other dept., EB I-94/Belleville Rd.
2003 – road hazard, NB I-275/Ecorse
2036 – harassment call, Parkwood/Tyler
2145 – suspicious person/vehicle, Kirkridge
2241 – suspicious person/vehicle, Mida

Friday, Sept. 8:

0756 – personal injury accident, Ecorse/Morton Taylor
0858 – fraud, S. Adams
1217 – suspicious person/vehicle, Briarwood Dr.
1407 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1524 – suspicious person/vehicle, S. Purple Sage
1534 – larceny from auto, Haggerty Rd.
1535 – larceny from auto, Haggerty Rd.
1536 – road hazard, EB I-94/Belleville
1638 – missing person, Riggs Rd.
1639 – larceny from auto, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1743 – neighbor trouble, Martz Rd.
1751 – property damage accident, Morton Taylor / Tyler
2030 – fight, Haggerty Rd./S. I-94 Service Dr.
2048 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
2212 – shooting, Park Estates Dr.
2259 – disorderly, Maple Dr.

Saturday, Sept. 9:

0005 – disorderly, Oak Ln.
0013 – suspicious person/vehicle, Pine Dr.
0105 – personal injury accident, Ecorse/Sheldon
0132 – hospice death, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0150 – fight, Rose
0319 – juvenile complaint, Haggerty
1107 – disorderly, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1205 – personal injury accident, Belleville/N. I-94 Service Dr.
1512 – domestic, Maple Dr.

1520 – suspicious person/vehicle, Haggerty/E. Huron River Dr.
1642 – assist other dept., E. Main St.
1654 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.
1655 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1755 – larceny from auto, Oak Ln.
2026 – harassment call, Tompkins St.
2202 – noise complaint, Bemis Rd.
2257 – property damage accident, Michigan Ave. / Denton Rd.
2323 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.

Also on this week’s log are 139 traffic stops, eight of which were on the I-94 and I-275 freeways.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Sept. 3:

1546 – traffic offense, W. Columbia
1552 – intrusion alarm, Owen
1917 – assist fire dept., Menlo Park Dr.
2031 – assist fire dept., Main St.
2118 – suspicious person/vehicle, W. Columbia
2339 – disorderly, N. Liberty St.

Monday, Sept. 4:

0227 – family trouble, Estrada Dr.

0458 – suspicious person/vehicle, Bedell St. / E. Huron River Dr.
1129 – intrusion alarm, W. Columbia Ave.
1237 – assist fire dept., Biggs Ave.
1256 – intrusion alarm, Main St.
1410 – warrant arrest, Tyler
1424 – assist fire dept., S. Liberty St.
1626 – assist other dept., Ash
2305 – suspicious person/vehicle, Potter Dr.

Tuesday, Sept. 5:

0727 – assist citizen, Main St.
0818 – 911 welfare check, High St.
0937 – intrusion alarm, Victorian Ln.
1020 – intrusion alarm, Owen
1123 – family trouble, Main St.
1145 – juvenile complaint, Victory Park
1228 – vehicle lock out, Carmell St.
1331 -- found property/child, S. Industrial Park Dr.
1350 – warrant arrest, Tyler
1613 – suspicious person/vehicle, Brain St.
1816 – domestic, Harbour Pointe Dr.
1940 – suspicious person/vehicle, Hull Rd.
2147 – assist fire dept., Main St.
2226 – disorderly, Henry St.

Wednesday, Sept. 6:

0158 – parking complaint, Belle Villa Blvd.
0837 – assist fire dept., Belle Villa Blvd.
1112 – animal complaint, Potter Dr.
1231 – fight, E. Huron River Dr.
1522 – assist citizen, Menlo Park Dr.
1738 – assist citizen, Rustic Lane
1834 – property check, Horizon Park
2117 – parking complaint, Henry St..
2218 – fraud, W. Wabash Ave.

Thursday, Sept. 7:

0829 – animal complaint, Harbour Pointe Dr.
0902 – narcotics crime, W. Columbia Ave.
0955 – lost property/child, Main St.
1002 – malicious destruction of property, W. Columbia Ave.
1012 – welfare check, Sumpter Rd./Industrial Park
1123 – disorderly, Captain Nemo
1149 – larceny, Henry St.
1236 – shooting, 5 Pts.
1245 – property check, W. Columbia Ave.
1626 – animal complaint, Harbour Pointe Dr.
1735 – property damage accident, Main/Denton
1915 – family trouble, Menlo Park Dr.
2243 – assist fire dept., E. Huron River Dr.

Friday, Sept. 8:

1157 – intrusion alarm, E. Thornhill Ct.
1423 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, W. Columbia Ave.
1451 – disorderly, W. Columbia Ave.
2040 – noise complaint, Loza Ln.
2240 – motorist assist, Main St.
2256 – intrusion alarm, W. Columbia Ave.
2334 – intrusion alarm, Third St.
2344 – welfare check, Carmell St.

Saturday, Sept. 9:

0754 – disorderly, Carmell St.
0858 – assist fire dept., Carmell St.
1511 – vehicle lock out, Victory Park
1641 – fight, Main St.
1935 – suicidal person, Charles St.
1935 – parking complaint, Menlo Park Dr.
2053 – suspicious person/vehicle, Henry St.
2129 – fireworks, Roland St.
2208 – warrant arrest, Main St.

Also on this week’s log are 88 traffic stops.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Sept. 3:

0009 – noise complaint, 20000 bl. Karr Rd.
0112 – citizen assist, 17000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
0129 – alarm, 8100 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
1024 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1153 – civil dispute, Texas
1233 – fire dept. assist, 45000 bl. Harris Rd.
1454 – animal complaint, Texas
1553 – fire dept. assist, Rustic Ln.
1701 – well-being check, Second St.
1815 – warrant arrest pick up, 26000 bl. Sumpter
1918 – warrant arrest pick up, Bemis/Rawsonville
1936 – suspicious incident, Savage/Harris
1945 – reckless driver, Willis/Rawsonville
2221 – suspicious person, Alaska
2321 – noise complaint, 50000 bl. Judd Rd.

2351 – noise complaint, Rustic Ln.

Monday, Sept. 4:

0902 – trespassing complaint, 8200 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
1219 – suspicious person, Rustic Ln.
1312 – 911 hang up, 48000 bl. Wear Rd.
1346 – assist other agency, Sumpter/Oakville Waltz
1455 – fire dept. assist, 46000 bl. Weimer
1542 – fire dept. assist, Colorado
1550 – larceny, 46000 bl. Willis Rd.
1559 – fire dept. assist, 49000 bl. Willis Rd.
1701 – personal injury accident, Willow / Martinsville
1844 – down wires, Odyssey/Bemis
2000 – lost property, 24000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
2034 – warrant arrest pick up, out of township
2051 – fire dept. assist, Rustic Ln.
2350 – suspicious incident, Hampshire

Tuesday, Sept. 5:

1131 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1138 – assist other agency, 51000 bl. Willis Rd.
1142 – ordinance violation, 45000 bl. Harris Rd.
1236 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1313 – 911 hang up, 19000 bl. Wescott Dr.
1426 – citizen assist, 18000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1500 – death investigation, 47000 bl. Willis Rd.
1559 – fire dept. assist, 24000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1700 – suspicious person, Rustic Ln.
1820 – civil dispute, Pecan
1826 – suspicious incident, 45000 Judd Rd.
1830 – fraud complaint, Wayside
2150 – well-being check, Knollwood

Wednesday, Sept. 6:

0338 – civil dispute, Creekside
0900 – animal complaint, 46000 bl. Claxton Dr.
0937 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1020 – subpoena service, out of township
1024 – subpoena service, 8200 bl. Oakville Waltz
1033 – subpoena service, out of township
1040 – subpoena service, out of township
1119 – fire dept. assist, Rustic Ln.
1227 – citizen assist, 25000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1726 – animal complaint, 22000 bl. Bohn Rd.
1741 – shots fired, 25000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1855 – fire dept. assist, Rustic Ln.
2029 – subpoena service, out of township
2043 – civil dispute, Nevada
2102 – property damage accident, 46000 bl. Claxton Dr.

Thursday, Sept. 7:

0151 – violation of park rules, 24000 bl. Sherwood
0456 – alarm, 47000 bl. Wear Rd.
0822 – warrant arrest pick up, Sumpter/Oakville Waltz
1100 – suspicious incident, 46000 bl. Kozma
1227 – 911 hang up, Rustic/Hampshire
1321 – malicious destruction of property, 24000 bl.

Karr Rd.

1328 – suspicious incident, 44000 bl. Wear Rd.
1342 – citizen assist, Virginia
1500 – ordinance violation, 20000 bl. Martinsville
1630 – alarm, 22000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
2232 – suspicious vehicle, 29000 bl. Elwell Rd.

Friday, Sept. 8:

0909 – animal complaint, 39000 bl. Willis Rd.
1310 – fire dept. assist, 48000 bl. Willis Rd.
1513 – fire dept. assist, 24000 bl. Carleton West
1532 – fire dept. assist, 19000 bl. Crandell Ct.
1619 – neighbor dispute, Rustic Ln.
1738 – threats complaint, 40000 bl. Harris Rd.
1748 – threats complaint, 39000 bl. Willis Rd.
1934 – fire dept. assist, Rustic Ln.
2057 – civil dispute, Rustic Ln.
2137 – fireworks complaint, Savage/Clark
2239 – juvenile complaint, 40000 bl. Willow Rd.

Saturday, Sept. 9:

0107 – citizen assist, 44000 bl. Paris Dr.
0825 – mental health commitment, 19000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
1243 – property damage accident, Rawsonville / Wear
1641 – civil dispute, 40000 bl. Harris Rd.

Also on this week’s log are 14 follow-up investigations, 34 miscellaneous details, 74 patrol checks, and 11 traffic stops.

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- Feline Aids/Leukemia
Combo

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#4 \$89

- Exam • Distemper
- Feline Aids/Leukemia Test
- Fecal • Deworming

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#5 \$79

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- Rabies 1 Year • Fecal

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- Distemper • Rabies 1 yr.
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- Fecal • Heartworm Test

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#4 \$39

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#5 \$89

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- Bordetella • Heartworm Test
- Rabies 1 yr.

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#6 \$79

- Exam • Distemper
- Lepto • Bordetella
- Rabies 1 Year

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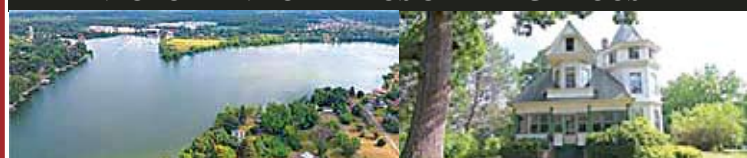
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6654 SADIE, VAN BUREN

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3 BEDROOMS - 2 BATHS



9290 RAWSONVILLE, AUGUSTA TWP

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