



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

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Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

FREE

News release:

VBT Board votes to get rid of blended rate

A news release sent out by Van Buren Township Deputy Supervisor Dan Selman at 7:41 p.m. Monday, announced that the township board of trustees would approve ending the blended-rate firefighter program at its meeting the next day, on Tuesday afternoon.

The Tuesday meeting is after the *Independent's* deadline for this week's paper, so the details of the meeting and the actual vote will be reported in full next week.

The news release said the blended-rate program was instituted in 2003 and was designed to address the issue of covering shifts in the fire department with police officers. [The program was signed off on by Supervisor Cindy King and newly appointed Public Safety Director Jerry Champagne, but not voted on by the board.]

Revisions to federal labor laws affecting dual-employed or "blended" public service employees later established a pay scale altering the base pay that effectively translated to "blended-rate" fire fighters costing three times that of a full-time fire fighter, the release said.

The federal rules also made the program mandatory unless the blended-rate employees agreed to end the practice, which they hadn't.

The news release said VBT pays out more than \$300,000 a year to this program and will pay two installments of \$408,000 each over two years to the blended-rate fire fighters to end the program permanently. Deputy Selman said there are six blended-rate fire fighters.

"Van Buren Township is in the process of forming a full-time fire department," said Township Supervisor Kevin McNamara

(continued on page 3)



Photo courtesy of Elaine Gutierrez

The Friends of the Belleville Area District Library held their annual general membership meeting on Saturday. Officers for 2022 were elected. From left are Rika Regentin, treasurer; Manny Lavin, secretary; Donna Gilkey-Lavin, vice president and Katerina Tyner, president. Presented were the 2021 annual treasurer's report and committee reports for membership, used-book sales, on-line book sales and public relations. Library Director, Mary Jo Suchy, gave "Reflections on 2021," sharing difficulties in keeping the library open the past year with changing COVID restrictions. She said she is looking forward to more in-person programming for 2022, currently being scheduled by the library staff.

VBT neighbors concerned over gas station, party store

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

"I love my house. I love where I am. I thank this gentleman for letting me know about plans for the corner of I-94 S. Service Drive and Haggerty Road," said Dr. Martha Taylor.

She told the Van Buren Township Planning Commission at its Jan. 12 in-person meeting that she lives on the corner, right across the road from the site, and, "I was traumatized. We have invested a lot."

She thanked Tim Craiger who told her about the plans discussed for the northwest corner that includes a fuel station, a party store, and a restaurant, as discussed

at a planning commission meeting in December.

Dr. Taylor spoke during the General Discussion portion of the agenda at the end of the meeting.

Dan Power, VBT director of planning and economic development, said at the commission's last meeting, the owner of a 2.5-acre parcel of land where Lakeview Motel is, gave a preliminary introduction of his plans for the corner.

Director Power said the land currently is zoned for single-family residential, except for one multiple residential parcel. He said there has to be consistency with the Master Plan and for the owner to build what he would like, there would have to be an amendment to the Master Plan and then rezoning. He said it's an involved process and there are two required public hearings.

He said the owner had no formal application, only a preliminary discussion. Power said if there is further action on this,

he will let the neighbors know and put a notice in the newspaper of record.

"When is he going to come to talk to the township staff?" Dr. Taylor asked.

"At any time," Power replied. "He has not applied formally."

Vidya Krishnan, the township's planning consultant from McKenna Associates, explained that a property owner can come and ask the township about developing his property.

"We have to let every landowner have due process," she said, adding this does not imply the township is in support.

She said if the request for rezoning is against the Master Plan, they can't do it. Then they can request to change the Master Plan. If that happened, an individual notice will be mailed to her house, Krishnan said to Taylor.

Another neighbor asked if the DNR has any say about a gas station being so close

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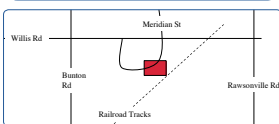
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BELLEVILLE AREA DISTRICT LIBRARY

with Camiel Davenport



We are excited to host local resident and Business Strategy Coach, Camiel Davenport, at the library for a series of presentations essential to anyone pursuing a small business venture.

She will be presenting on a variety of topics, beginning with her first presentation, "Starting Your Business." Registration is required for this program. Please register online or by calling 734-699-3291.

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SECOND FRONT PAGE

VBT concerns

(continued from page 1)

to the lake.

Krishnan said if it comes to a site plan and engineering approval, EGLE would get involved. DNR is now called the department of Engineering, Great Lakes and Environment, she said.

Commissioner Jeff Jahr said a rezoning request would require a public hearing.

Krishnan said that public hearing would be published in the newspaper and individual notices sent to residents within 300 feet, 15 days before the hearing.

Neighbor Tim Pryce, 41190 Lakeview Ct., also got up to speak, noting they were away and came home and read about it in the newspaper. He said he would continue to write letters to the township.

"We have a longstanding daycare center," he said, pointing out there are rules about no alcohol and the plans for that corner include a "grab and go" store.

Pryce suggested the township give this property owner some heads up about why this isn't going to work so he can spend his money on building residential on that corner. He said a gas station is less than two miles away and, "Do we need it?"

Pryce said the Mobil station across the freeway is looking bad and the owner there could put in EV plugs. Or, the person wishing to build the fuel station on the corner could switch properties with the Mobil station owner and do him a favor.

Craiger, 41166 Lakeview Ct., said he is against the rezoning. He said that is a very dangerous curve and he has to turn there. He said they couldn't get a school bus stop

VBT Board

(continued from page 1)

in the news release. "The costs and rules established by the federal blended-rate program have proven to be an insurmountable obstacle to that vision and they must be eliminated. Van Buren plans to hire three full-time firefighters with the savings."

In the most-recent *Independent* report on VBT salaries, published Feb. 11, 2021, Kenneth Floro got top compensation in the public safety department with \$96,162 in fire wages for 2020 and \$118,603 in police wages, for a total compensation of \$272,614.

The next highest was Marc Abdilla with \$195,104 in total compensation for his police and fire employment. Ryan McCormick, Louis Keele, and David Champagne each earned more than \$190,000 in total compensation. Ordinance officer David Schuler earned \$124,197.

The report on the 2021 salaries is expected to be published by the *Independent* within a few weeks.

there.

Commissioner Medina Atchinson said it would help the public to review the meeting of Dec. 8 to see all the questions the commissioners asked of the property owner.

"It's wonderful to have the public comment," said Commissioner Jahr. "It's been a while."

This was the commission's first in-person meeting in about a year.

[According to the Feb. 12, 2004 *Independent*, a freeway-type development for this same property, including a gas station with lights, was rejected in late 2000 and then again in June 2003. The township board rejected the resurrected June request on Feb. 3, 2004. The planning commission recommended denying both developments because they conflicted with the Master Plan and went against the Master Plan policy to keep that area as lower-density-residential land use.]

Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2022-26

In order to qualify for state grants, the township must have a Parks and Recreation Master Plan updated every five years. The last such VBT master plan was approved in 2016.

The public hearing on the plan was held during the Jan. 12 commission meeting and those in the audience who came to talk about the fueling station/party store/restaurant project also commented on the master plan.

Krishnan said the 30-day comment period on the master plan ended the day before this meeting and another public hearing on it would be held by the township board on Jan. 18.

Krishnan went over details of the master plan, noting a public survey showed the top request was for a community pool, followed by programming on animal rescue, a dog park, skateboard park, a golf course, improved lake access, and more restrooms in the park. Krishnan said that in other communities she had worked for they don't necessarily follow through on the things in the master plan, but in VBT they do.

She detailed the capital improvements for year one of the 2022-26 period, which included the community center, French Landing Park Phase II, Iron Belle Trail Head at Riggs Park, Park Signage, Park Security Cameras, Riggs Park Landscape Management, Playscapes and Pavilions, with other projects throughout the five years.

She said each park is rated by the DNR from a low of one to a high of five. Krishnan said Van Buren Park rated a five and French Landing Park was a one. Now upgrades are being done to French Landing Park.

Resident Steven Dark, 8804 Ironwood, pointed out an error on their population

chart and asked about upgrading the pavilion at Quirk Park. Jennifer Zaenglein, recreation director, said they are doing two pavilions at Van Buren Park and looking at Quirk Park in the future.

Dark asked about the DNR property the township acquired and what they are going to do with that. Zaenglein replied that there are no plans right now, but they are looking at it carefully for the best use of the property.

Dark asked if they will put future parks on property the township owns on Elwell and Haggerty, which are mentioned in the master plan, but the DNR property is not mentioned.

Zaenglein said there are no definite plans for those two properties. She said they are looking for what residents would like in their own backyards and residents should feel free to reach out to the township to tell them.

Dr. Taylor said French Landing Park needed work and she is glad to see it being upgraded.

Zaenglein said they have great improvements there, including walking paths and the removal of the old play structure, which was replaced with a pavilion. There are raised gardens. She said Phase II will feature a new fishing dock, a possible kayak/canoe launch, and furniture. People will be able to reserve the pavilion.

Craiger said the pavilion roof looks like fabric and Zaenglein said it will have to be maintained.

Pryce asked if there will be plug-in parking for any of the parks and Zaenglein said they will be looking at the master plan for Van Buren Park. She said they will be looking at how to bring standards in all the parks, including wifi. She said they are definitely talking about EV plug ins and maybe even at township hall.

Craiger said it was interesting that the pool was what the township wanted the most and that didn't move forward.

"We look at what people want," Zaenglein said, noting the bonds came off the books for the fire department, but adding a pool doubles the cost of the community center. She said a pool is extremely costly and, "If we built it, would you pay for it? The cost outweighs the need at this time. Our population is increasing. Maybe in the future."

Craiger said he was looking forward to a bike/skate park and a dog park, other top choices along with the pool.

The commission passed a resolution recommending the master plan to the township board.

Tree permit for Waste Management

The commission also approved a tree removal permit for Waste Management in the area WM needs for stockpiling excess soil until it is needed for the approved landfill expansion. They will clear 33 acres

of trees, the entire southwest corner of the landfill property at 39670 Ecorse Rd., some of which got a permit granted a year ago.

Craiger asked if this was the former golf course property and James Hamann, area disposal manager for WM, said it was.

Power said this was part of the 245 acres of Woodland Meadows landfill site, which is expanding. He said this request for a tree removal permit has nothing to do with the rare wetlands discovered on the site, which has been reported in newspapers.

In another question, Dark asked why Jiffy Lube hasn't started the construction that was approved on outlots at Meijer. Power said it was a supply chain issue and the water and sanitary lines are ready to get started, which should be soon.

Commissioner Atchinson asked what's happening with the Mobil station at the northwest corner of Haggerty and the N. I-94 Service Drive and Power said there has been some activity on the project.

He said he will compile a summary of the projects under way in the township.

Congresswoman Dingell invites students to craft Valentines for Veterans

With less than one month until Valentine's Day, Congresswoman Debbie Dingell, MI-12, invites local students to participate in the "Valentines for Veterans" project by making handmade valentine cards for local veterans.

Since 2015, students across the region created hundreds of cards to show veterans how much they are loved and appreciated. This is the eighth year in a row that Dingell has organized the "Valentines for Veterans" project.

"In the midst of an ongoing and emotionally and physically draining pandemic, a simple gesture of love and kindness can change a life, especially for the men and women who have served our nation," said Dingell. "For Valentine's Day, I invite all students to join us in showing our veterans how much we appreciate their service and sacrifice with handmade valentine cards. This year we will again recognize the bravery of VA doctors, nurses, administrators, and staff who have risked their own health and safety to protect those in their care against COVID."

Drop off the handmade valentines to Dingell's Ypsilanti office at 301 W. Michigan Ave., and staff will ensure they are delivered. Call (313) 278-2936 for assistance or to get questions answered. The cards will be delivered on Valentine's Day to both the John D. Dingell VA Medical Center and the Lieutenant Colonel Charles S. Kettles Ann Arbor VA.

OPINIONS

Editorial

VB T Board agrees to finally get rid of blended rate

It's taking a big payoff to six public safety employees for the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees to finally get rid of the blended rate for mostly police officers also working as fire fighters for a huge salary.

According to the most recent salary list published by the *Independent*, for 2020, the police officers also working as fire fighters all made more than the salaries of Supervisor Kevin McNamara or Public Safety Director Greg Laurain.

And this blended-rate program has been going on since 2003, after Supervisor Cindy King fired former Public Safety Director Chris Elg and hired Jerry Champagne. King and Champagne quietly assigned the blended-rate agreement with the employees without a vote of the township board. But, it was in place and grew in cost after the federal government decreed they had to be paid overtime rates for each minute doing a second job in the township. The agreement could have been canceled if the employees agreed, but they didn't.

Every year, after the *Independent* publishes its list of salaries for the previous year, readers say they take the papers with that information to their friends in other police departments and those out of town who are shocked at the figures. This year should be much higher than usual because of bonuses given for COVID service. We can hardly wait.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

Van Buren Township Clerk Leon Wright called on Friday to talk about last week's editorial and virtual meetings. He has been fighting for the continuation of virtual meetings to protect everyone for some time. He said his deputy is out with COVID.

Clerk Wright said the Wayne County Commission had supported virtual municipal meetings through Dec. 31. Then, the State Legislature over-ran that decision and said as of Jan. 1 all meetings will be in person, under the Open Meetings Act.

Although the Omnicron variant of the virus seems milder and we may be pulling out of the pandemic, we're not there yet, he said.

Wright reminded me that his oldest brother died in 2012 and he promised he would take care of his brother's family, the best he could from being so far away. He said they wouldn't get the vaccine, although he pleaded with them to get it.

Now, he has learned that his niece went on a ventilator the previous Saturday and now they are weening her off the ventilator.

He said he would go down to Alabama again and insist they all get the vaccine.

That's some of what's going on in his life concerning the coronavirus, so you can understand his stand on virtual meetings.

Also in last week's editorial, we mentioned that Milton's Pharmacy in Belleville had COVID-19 test kits. We had seen their sidewalk sign announcing the test kits the previous week. When we delivered papers this week, however, the test kit announcement had been removed. She said they got 300 kits and they were all gone, but she will be ordering them again.



She said they are very hard to get.

When we pulled into Harold's U-Haul yard on Rawsonville Road to deliver papers last week, he had just two vehicles on hand. He usually has a lot of vehicles, but not this time. We asked him about it and he said most of the moves are one-way out of state. Of course, he has access to more vehicles.

We received a news release from United Van Lines that said 57.7% of its Michigan moves were outbound from the state and only 42.3% were inbound. The company said in 2021 one-third (33.6%) of outbound moves from Michigan were due to jobs, while 28% cited family considerations. On the inbound side, 48% of those moving to Michigan cited family as the reason.

Other reasons given for leaving the state were retirement (26.94%), lifestyle (16.44%), health (5.7%), and cost of living (1.83%).

On the invoice register report for the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees' Jan. 18 meeting, there was an employee settlement for former Belleville Area Museum Director Katie Dallos. It was a \$10,000 payment to Sommers Schwartz.

Clerk Leon Wright said Dallos wanted the check made out to her attorney, so the attorney fee will be coming out of that \$10,000.

The museum has been closed since

March 2020 when COVID-19 arrived, reopened briefly on Sept. 7, 2021 and then closed two days later. It's been closed ever since. Dallos was on furlough for most of the time the museum was closed and then, according to her Facebook post, she was terminated.

Van Buren Township Supervisor Kevin McNamara told the *Independent* last week that the township would be having a public meeting on the museum in late March or April. Meanwhile, Davenport Brothers is beginning work on the planned connection of the museum to the former fire hall behind it.

Scott Jones bought the site of the former Stoney Creek Motorsports at the corner of High Street and West Columbia Avenue, Belleville, formerly owned by Bill Wolters, who retired. Wolters said Jones told him it was for his corporate headquarters for Belleville Main, LLC. That's the corporation that's building all the new stores in the fifth block of Main Street at the Belleville Bridge.

Jones also has planned a housing development next to Sandy's Marina in Van Buren Township and owns many, many acres of land in other parts of the township.





www.bellevilleareaindependent.com
mail@bellevilleareaindependent.com

**152 Main St., Suite 9,
Belleville, MI 48111**
734-699-9020
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Letters

Thank you for story on ordinance department

To the editor:

Thank you for the article on the Sumpter Township Ordinance Department in this week's paper. The efforts of the township to rid the community of blight and the work of those three highlighted individuals specifically have been unfairly demonized repeatedly in letters to the editor.

Over the past couple of years, the successes in cleaning up properties around the township are impressive and continue ramping up as we march into the future. Blight enforcement is, in many instances, not a once-and-done act. The day after their property is blight-free, many people will begin collecting junk again and start the problem anew -- a never-ending problem for the ordinance department but one they tackle with dedication, professionalism, and compassion.

Again, thank you for the positive article on their fine work. As always, we ask anyone with concerns about the condition of any property in the township to reach out to the ordinance department for a proper investigation and enforcement, if appropriate.

Eric B. Luke

Director of Public Safety/ Chief of Police
Sumpter Township

Little League gearing up for another fun season

To the editor:

We hope everyone had a happy and safe holiday season and now that they are behind us the Van Buren Area Little League is gearing up for another fun-filled season of baseball and softball.

The spring and fall seasons of VBALL were very successful with multiple teams participating in the Little League tournaments. We would like to thank all the coaches, players, parents, volunteers and sponsors that played a key role in the success of our seasons.

If anyone would be interested in joining the board of Van Buren Area Little League we have positions available. We are looking for the following positions: secretary, chief umpire, field maintenance and player agent, and as in the past we always need help in the concession stand.

Operating a successful Little League program takes help from several different people and although these positions are all volunteer you will find they are very rewarding when you are making an impact on the lives of young athletes. Those who are interested in volunteering can send us an email at vanburenarealittleleague@yahoo.com. If you are planning on registering your son or daughter, registration opened on Monday, Jan. 10, 2022 and will close on Monday, Feb. 28, 2022. Parents can go to <http://www.vanburenarealittleleague.org>, create an account and register your child. We offer a \$15 discount for parents registering two players and a \$30 discount for families registering three players.

Each year our complex gets more improvements and our league gets better and better, so don't miss your opportunity to watch some amazing young athletes play the greatest game on earth. Opening day will be May 7, 2022. Hope to see a lot of smiling faces!

Marc Littleton, League President
Van Buren Area Little League



Jan. 20 – Ernesto Guzman

Jan. 21 – Kathy Kovach

Jan. 22 – Scott Russell

Jan. 23 – Andrea Vandenberg

Jan. 24 – Angie Koste

Jan. 26 – Stephanie Hunt, Alicia McGovern

Feb. 14 – Andrew Davis

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Quilt Guild seeks donations for foster kids

To the editor:

The Western Wayne County Quilt Guild is driven by opportunities to spread kindness one quilt at a time. The new year is upon us, a year in which we can continue to help those in need within our community.

The guild is currently making quilts for foster children. Foster children often go from home to home with the clothes on their backs and a trash bag full of their belongings. We are reaching out to all of you for supplies to help these children.

We are asking for donations of duffel bags, suitcases, or toiletries. Let's help these children feel the love we have to offer. If your New Year's resolution is to make a difference in someone's life, this is your perfect chance to do so.

Donations can be dropped off to the front desk at the Belleville Area District Library, 167 Fourth St., Belleville, MI, 48111.

If you have any questions, I can be contacted at (734) 262-3322.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.
Susie Jaszcz
Western Wayne County Quilt Guild

One Call Does It All...
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Obituaries



John Louis Nigg

JOHN LOUIS NIGG

(April 26, 1938 – January 11, 2022)

John Louis Nigg, resident of Belleville, Michigan, and Naples, Florida, passed away after working together with his Surgeons at St. Joseph's Hospital in Ann Arbor for over 70 days in the ICU. A fighter with a strong intellect and character, John's will to live inspired those who knew him best up to his last breath.

John is married to Patricia Lee Nigg (Pat) for 60 years. His commitment and love for Pat, their love for each other, will remain eternally an inspiration to his family and those that know them. Pat never left John's side and was there by his side holding his hand as he passed on.

John grew up in Romulus and played football at Romulus High School. John also graduated from Wayne State University in Detroit with his undergraduate degree in business and his MBA. He worked the majority of his career at Ford Motor Company and retired from Ford. John was a continuous learner, skilled investor and real estate owner. He was also an athlete that focused on running. John ran multiple Detroit Free Press Marathons, qualified and ran multiple Boston Marathons. John was part of the Striders Runners Club.

John is preceded by his mother Audrey Nigg, a ghost writer of gospel songs and a spiritual force. His father George Nigg, a good man who loved John and his family.

John is survived by his wife Pat, his son Brock Nigg of New York, Connecticut and Oregon, Brock's wife Heidi Lohrfink-Nigg, Brock and Heidi's daughter, Emily Nigg of Trinity College in Connecticut, and his son Bruce Petrossian of Portland, Oregon.

Both of John's sons graduated from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Bruce was Valedictorian of Belleville High School and Brock is founder and Chairman of the Board of iES MACH, a successful property technology company in NYC. Heidi Lohrfink-Nigg is an educator in Rye, New York, for 28 years.

John and Pat traveled the world together and saw every place and thing they wanted to see and do. John loved fishing, boating and water skiing on Belleville Lake where the family has a house and in Naples on the Gulf. John loved watching his sons wrestle and compete. He encouraged and led by example the values of hard work, continuous learning and being responsible. John loved Michigan Football. He got to see Michigan finally beat Ohio while he was in the ICU.

A good man, John knew his self-worth, and lived life by his values. John leaves a legacy of values that include the following:

- You get what you earn - work for it
- Don't be an asshole
- Live within your means - be responsible
- Don't assume - educate yourself and use your brain

We will miss John and we know he is at peace with no regrets. He leaves those who love and know him a legacy that will continue to inspire. Go Blue, John!

Visitation will be Thursday 4-8 PM, Friday

12-5 PM, and 10-11 AM Saturday, January 22, 2022, at David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI 48111. Interment will follow at Hillside Cemetery, Belleville, MI. www.davidcbrownfh.com

LOUIS ALBERT LANKTON

(January 22, 1949 – January 8, 2022)

Age 72, of Ypsilanti Township, of COVID-19. Survived by three children, Leora, John, Stephanie; 11 grandchildren; 8 great-grandchildren; his loving companion Angela and her 4 children. Brown Funeral Home.

ROBERT LORNE AYRES

(January 23, 1924 – December 14, 2021)

The memorial service scheduled for Jan. 23 at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Dearborn, has been postponed due to COVID-19.

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Court Watching:

Final conference continued to March 14 in Bailey murder cases

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Raymond Lee Bailey, 38, of Wyandotte who is charged with murdering four people in Sumpter Township on Aug. 15, 2020, had what was called his sixth "final conference" Jan. 13 before Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Kelly Ramsey and the conference was continued until March 14.

Bailey has been in the Wayne County Jail without bond since his arraignment on Aug. 19, 2020. He was bound over to circuit court at the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice by 34th District Judge Lisa Martin on April 26, 2021. Besides the four, first-degree murder charges, Bailey is charged with four felony firearm charges. Conviction on

just one murder charge could bring life in prison.

He is charged with the shooting deaths of his former fiancée and her sister and their two cousins: Laura Tanner, Sarah Tanner Grupa, and Neil and Forrest Sampson in Laura's home in the 24900 block of Martinsville Rd. in Sumpter Township.

Bailey had been charged with domestic abuse and assault to do great bodily harm less than murder (felony assault) at 34th District Court in November 2019, but both charges were dropped. The domestic abuse charge was dismissed without prejudice when the victim, Laura Tanner, did not come to court to testify against him.

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Obituaries



Hubert Ray Nicks

HUBERT RAY NICKS

(August 27, 1925 – January 13, 2022)

Hubert Ray Nicks, age 96, of Ypsilanti, MI, passed away Thursday, January 13, 2022, at his grandson Brandon's home, surrounded by family. He was born August 27, 1925, in Dickson County, Tennessee, son of Albert H. Nicks & Mary (Grimes) Nicks. He was drafted into the U.S. Navy where he served in World War II as a signalman. He returned from the war and then graduated from Charlotte high school, class of 1947. He was a commercial pilot, and car salesman, as a life-long career. He was a member of Ann Arbor Federation of Musicians in 1968 and a member of the Democratic Club of Taylor. He enjoyed playing guitar, playing at different clubs around Ypsilanti, and spending time with his family and friends. He was an honest man and was well respected by all who knew him.

Mr. Nicks is survived by son Kenneth Ray (Cindy) Nicks of Ypsilanti, MI; 3 grandsons: Brandon (Kellie) Nicks of Belleville, MI, and Casey Nicks and Shawn Nicks, both of Ypsilanti, MI; 5 great-grandchildren: Preston, Celia, Jewel, Jesse, and Owen; brother John Nicks of Newfoundland, Canada; sister Ruth Proctor of Charlotte, TN; half-brother Willard Nicks of Gainesboro, Tennessee; lifelong friend Gary Daley; and loving companion and friend D. Jean Wilder of Belleville, MI; also survived by numerous nieces, nephews, extended family and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, also two brothers Preston Nicks and Paul Nicks, also a sister Peggy Batey.

Visitation was 12-8 PM Tuesday and 10-11 AM Wednesday, January 19, 2022, with an 11:00 AM Funeral at David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI 48111 (734) 697-4500. Pastor Chad Brendtke officiated. Interment followed in Soop Cemetery, Van Buren Township, MI.

Memorial contributions may be made to Disabled Veterans and would be appreciated.
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Barbara June Story

BARBARA JUNE STORY

(October 21, 1931 – January 11, 2022)

Barbara June Story, age 90, longtime Belleville resident, passed away Tuesday, January 11, 2022, at Brookdale Senior Living, Ann Arbor, MI. She was born October 21, 1931, in Detroit, MI, daughter of Cyril & Emily (Crutchley) Longstaff. She graduated from Bentley High School, class of 1949. Soon after, she married V. Dale Story. He preceded her in death on January 9, 2006, after 55 years of marriage. Barb loved the outdoors and their 8-acre homestead: bird watching, mowing, gardening, and teaching all her grandchildren how to swim. She was a longtime and active member of Trinity Episcopal Church, Belleville, for many years. She enjoyed helping with funeral luncheons, Strawberry Festival activities, and hosting the annual CROP Walk. Barb also loved animals, had many pets over the years, and enjoyed volunteering at Friends of Michigan Animal Rescue (FMAR). She loved baseball games and was a huge fan of the Detroit Tigers. She also enjoyed watching General Hospital.

She is survived by four daughters: Sandra (Bob) Seaton of Belleville, MI, Laura Munro of Dundee, MI, Susan (Truong) Hang of Belleville, MI, and April Hale of Romulus, MI; 7 grandchildren: Michael, Mark, Jennifer, Jade, Chelsea, Tia, and Holly; two great-grandchildren: Taylor and Dylan; also, numerous extended family and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband Dale Story, also a sister, Delphie Eagle.

A gathering will be held 12-2 PM Sunday, January 23, 2022, with a 2 PM Memorial Service at David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI 48111 (734) 697-4500. Rev. Sally Boelter will officiate. Due to the current Pandemic, it will be required to wear a mask while inside the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to FMAR and would be appreciated.
www.davidcbrownfh.com

COVID-19 deaths in 48111 rises to 108, positive tests at 7,624

The number of people who have died from COVID-19 in the 48111 zip code rose to 108 as of Monday, Jan. 17, according to figures from the Wayne County Health Department. This is up from 94 last week where it has been since Christmas.

The positive tests for COVID-19 in 48111 totaled 7,624 on Monday, Jan. 17, up from 7,097 on Monday, Jan. 10.

On Monday, Jan. 17, the separate totals released by the Wayne County Health Department for the tri-community were: Van Buren Township, 5,196 positive cases, 61 deaths; City of Belleville, 924 positive cases, 22 deaths; and Sumpter Township, 1,504 positive cases, 25 deaths.

The Van Buren Public Schools had 75 positive cases on the week it came back from winter break, Jan. 4-7 and 71 cases Jan. 10-13, with no cases posted for Jan. 14. That makes a total of 432 positive cases posted since the beginning of the school year.

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"Small Business Savvy" is the title program of presentations by Camiel Davenport, a local business strategy coach, coming to the Belleville Area District Library on Wednesday, Jan. 26, at 7 p.m. Davenport will be presenting on several topics to anyone pursuing a small business venture. "Starting Your Business" is the program up first. Registration is required and can be made online at www.belleville.lib.mi.us or by phone at (734) 699-3291. See their ad in today's paper.

Dine to Donate to benefit Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue on Feb. 13, from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. at Aubree's on Whittaker Road in Ypsilanti. Dining patrons will be donating 10% of their bill to the shelter with their Dine to Donate flyer, available on FMAR's Facebook page. Call (734) 461-9458. To see adoptable pet profiles or for other ways to support the no-kill shelter located in Sumpter Township, visit www.friendsofmichigan.org.

The reconstruction of Huron River Drive from Sibley Road to the intersection at Hannan Road at McNasty's Bar in New Boston is completely done and open to traffic. When the weather breaks this spring, Wayne County will be expanding the new concrete road and sewer project east of that intersection and through the curve in that portion of the village downtown. It's much needed. There's talk that the Applefest will be returning, too. Finally. The former New Boston Pharmacy location will be having a new business in there soon and the former River's Edge Café/Tiffany's on the River restaurant downtown will be re-opening with a new owner. We're told this by an intel source on the ground there, aka my

brother Tom. Details to come.

I love the new Atchinson Ford ad on our back page. It features photos of employees and customers as they say thank you to the community for making them the 36th ranked dealership in the United States for 2021. Their sub-slogan they've adopted says it all: "Where Ford Meets Family." Congratulations!

Last week's column should have read the Van Buren Area Little League (VBALL instead of BALL) is open to player registration for baseball and softball for the spring 2022 season. My apology. The league has board positions available, along with help needed in field maintenance, concessions, and other volunteers. Opening day is May 7. Visit www.vanburenarealittleleague.org and email league president Marc Littleleson at marclittleleson@yahoo.com. Do you have empty cans and bottles lying around? The league will take them and will always arrange a pick-up, with the proceeds going to the organization. Sponsorships are also available.

Upcoming Meetings

- Monday, Jan. 24 – Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m., BHS Commons.
- Tuesday, Jan. 25 -- Sumpter Township meeting, 6 p.m.
- Wednesday, Jan. 26 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m.
- Monday, Jan. 31 – Belleville City Council strategic planning session starts at 6 p.m. at city hall. Public invited to watch, but may not participate.

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ORPHAN OF THE WEEK SHILOH



MEET SHILOH!

She's your typical sweet Husky girl. We believe she is about 7 years old but still has a ton of energy and spunk left for years to come. She loves to go for walks, play with her toys and of course chat up a storm! **Shiloh** came to us as an owner surrender; we were told the home was even too hectic for a husky. We were informed she lost her eye due to a dog attack earlier in her life. Only having one eye doesn't slow her down one bit or take away from her very attractive looks. **Shiloh** does tend to be vocal and high energy making a house a better living arrangement versus an apartment or townhouse. She was said to have lived with children previously, however she can be a bit overwhelmed by toddler energy and it's recommended she go to a home with older children or teenagers. **Shiloh** does not get along with cats at all. She doesn't seem to have much desire to live with other dogs either so will do best as an only pet.

Shiloh is spayed, micro-chipped, Heart-worm negative and up to date on vaccines. Visit our website <https://www.friendsofmichigan.org/adoption-application> to fill out an application to meet her.

Township Supervisor wants Sumpter to have its own museum

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

At the in-person Jan. 11 workshop before the regular meeting of the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees, resident Mary Sherwood asked, "What are we going to do about the museum?"

"It's a shame to have it closed," she said.

"For almost two years." She said many people have enjoyed the museum.

Trustee/Deputy Supervisor Tim Rush said Sumpter gives \$10,000 a year to Van Buren Township to support the Belleville Area Museum, but the township has no say in how the museum is run.

"It think it should be opened again,"

Sherwood insisted.

"I'd like to see our own museum with our own artifacts, so we can open it when we want to," said Supervisor Tim Bowman, repeating what he has said at previous meetings.

"If Van Buren Township says close it, we have nothing to say about it," Supervisor Bowman said of the current museum.

"Please, do what you can," Sherwood urged the board.

Trustee Peggy Morgan said a lot of things were scheduled at the museum and then it closed. She said it's supposed to reopen.

Trustee Rush said the company he works for does almost all of the security for Van Buren Township and the township did a big investment in the museum.

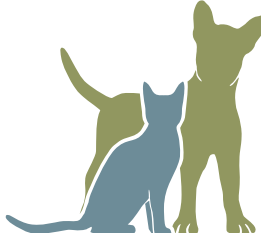
"Don't forget it. Please," Sherwood said.



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District Library Board reelects Sharon Peters as chairman for 2022

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

Sharon Peters was reelected chairperson of the Belleville Area District Library Board at its regular, in-person meeting on Jan. 11.

The other officers were reelected as well: vice chairperson Mary Jane Dawson, secretary Alma Hughes-Grubbs and treasurer Tonya Stoudemire.

The motion by John Juriga to reelect everybody included the committee members, but that was eliminated from the motion because the chairperson appoints committee members with their approval.

Chairperson Peters asked committee members to let her know if they wished to serve on a different committee this year before she makes the appointments.

There had been no marketing committee meeting during the past month, but Library Director Mary Jo Suchy said they are

working on special invitations for the donors' event. She said the final order has been made for the signs and they are expected to be delivered Feb. 9 and should all be installed by March 3, just in time for the donors' party on March 11.

Director Suchy said they are working to get Paul Keller to play for both the donors' event and the grand opening event.

"We're still looking at the COVID number, hoping it will go down as fast as it went up," Suchy said.

"We are hopeful COVID will allow us to have the schedules we planned," Peters added. She said the date of the next marketing meeting will be determined after the board meeting when everyone can compare calendars. Hughes-Grubbs and Dawson are the official members of that committee. Dawson was absent from the Jan. 11 meeting.

"A wonderful time it will be," Peters said of the library events.

In other business at the 52-minute meeting, the board:

- Heard treasurer Stoudemire announce the library had another clean audit. Suchy said the construction expenses will be done

at the end of this fiscal year on June 30;

- Heard Suchy report that she feels like she is in the movie "Groundhog Day" as COVID yet again causes the library issues. She said over the past two weeks she has had eight staff members with COVID exposures over the holidays. She said so far they are juggling schedules, but they may have to invoke some temporary closures if numbers continue to climb. She said she currently is requiring all staff to mask up when they are in the public areas of the building. "I am hoping the latest wave will be short," she said. Suchy said she filled in as teacher for a computer class at the Sumpter branch and they had five students;
- Heard Joy Cichewicz report that there

are too many staff members with COVID at the library in Ypsilanti where she is director. She said Santa backed out of an event they had planned for children. "They all got it from the holidays," she said, noting she watches the COVID numbers in the Independent and their numbers in Ypsilanti are five times Belleville's numbers;

- Heard Peters say her children and grandchildren are in Chicago, New Orleans, and New York and they all got COVID for Christmas; and

- Heard Juriga say he would like to get a grant for the library to hire a social worker to help people get jobs. Linda Priest said homeless people use libraries and a social worker could help them.

Heidi Gohl, Nakeya Cooper on SNHU President's List

MANCHESTER, NH – Heidi Gohl and Nakeya Cooper of Belleville have been named to the Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) Fall 2021 President's List.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.70 and above are named to the President's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits; undergraduate day students must earn 12 credits in the fall or spring semester, and online students must earn 12 credits in either EW1 & EW2, EW3 & EW4, or EW5 & EW6.

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Sumpter Township brings back former financial director

By Rosemary K. Oztman

Independent Editor

Scott Holtz, former financial director of Sumpter, was reinstated in his position with a wage of \$80,000 with a 6-1 vote at the Jan. 11 regular meeting of the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees. He was scheduled to begin work the next day. The board directed township attorney Rob Young to draw up a one-year contract.

Trustee Peggy Morgan voted against the motion to hire Holtz, who had resigned with one week's notice in April 2019 to take a job with Lenawee County at an office a few blocks from his home in Adrian.

At the time of his resignation, Trustee Morgan, who was then former treasurer, said she was so happy Holtz was leaving. She said he messed up her retirement benefits and he kept postponing things that needed to be done.

Holtz replaces Michelle Cole, who resigned Nov. 29 with one week's notice.

When he first was hired on Oct. 16, 2017 he replaced the retiring Jim Glahn, CPA.

The hiring was not on the Jan. 11 agenda and was discussed at the workshop and then added to the agenda at the regular meeting that followed.

Clerk Esther Hurst said Holtz is no longer at his previous job and maybe he could be financial director for Sumpter.

Trustee Morgan was surprised because this had never been discussed publicly. Then she said she realizes everyone else on the board knew, but they didn't tell her.

She suggested having Plante Moran handle that position and Clerk Hurst said she would prefer having someone inside the

office being finance director.

Trustee Matt Oddy said they discussed it at the committee level raised the salary to attract a candidate.

"This is fantastic," Trustee Oddy said. "Scott was exemplary. Plante Moran has a cost of \$175 an hour and it would cost three times more than having on inside."

Clerk Hurst said her office is handling the pay process and other things the financial director had handled. She said over Christmas the paper checks didn't get to the township. She said her staff is getting burned out. They also need someone to handle human resources.

Oddy said the committee agreed they needed to hire a township administrator with human resources ability.

"We keep going back to the same thing," Trustee Morgan said of a township administrator. She said Cole did her job but she wasn't supported.

Oddy said she told everyone she loved working here. He asked if that wasn't true.

Morgan said the township shouldn't even have an administrator and Oddy said that's her opinion.

In other business at the Jan. 11 meeting, the board:

- Approved the proposal by Burnham and Flower for the Blue Care Network Medical/Rx at an annual cost of \$414,775, VSP Vision at an annual cost of \$2,148, and Delta Dental at an annual cost premium increase of 0.88% per enrolled employee, effective Feb. 1;

- Approved PSALZ,LLP to conduct the 2021-22 financial audit at a cost of \$15,400 and, if required, the Single Audit (A133

Federal Funds Compliance) at a cost of \$10,000;

- Approved terminating the employment of probationary fire fighter Jacob Kosikowski, who had been with the department four months before leaving for the military and asking the department to hold his position while he was away;

- Approved promoting fire Lt. Jamie Good to captain. Public Safety Director/Police Chief Eric Luke said when the fire chief was promoted it left a vacancy and Good passed the promotional written test in December. He said Good is an asset to the department;

- Approved training of a union employee to serve as backup to the Water Billing Clerk. BS&A training was quoted at \$1,125 for the day and all employees were invited to participate. Treasurer Vincent Warren said the goal is to cross-train his staff so they can fill in for each other when necessary;

- Added to the agenda at the meeting and then approved an opting out resolution as required by state law if a municipality is not contributing

- Approved adding to the agenda at the end of the meeting, as moved by Trustee Matt Oddy, and then passed, 6-1, a motion to move forward on advertising for a township administrator. Former financial director Cole had also been deputy supervisor. The deputy supervisor job was taken off the job description. The salary should be commensurate with experience, Oddy said;

- Discussed in the workshop that B&M Crane is moving its crane into the back location behind the DPW/Recycling area. They will do the work they need to do and then leave. The township insurance company said it was OK as long as they had insurance;

- Heard Clerk Hurst say, during the workshop, that she wants to have a policy on the pay process and handling, which involves ACH and PaperCopy Checks. She said her office can only do so much and, "I don't want to wear my staff out";

- Heard Oddy try to add another item to the agenda: the planning commission's recommendation to approve a text change in the zoning ordinance that allows used car dealerships. The owner of the slaughterhouse on Bemis Road, next to Fox Auto and Insurance Auto Auction lots, wants to add used cars to use of his property. Attorney Young said this hasn't been put into resolution form yet and Clerk Hurst

said usually they have a resolution and a number. She asked if anything was pressing and when told it wasn't, she said, "I'd like to see a resolution";

- Heard Supervisor Tim Bowman announce that 50 stockings were given out for the Christmas event for children, the township hall would be closed Jan. 17 for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, and Sumpter Township got a perfect score for the assessing done by WCA Assessing Services;

- Heard Oddy thank the supervisor and clerk for keeping board members informed with reports coming out of the supervisor's office;

- Heard Young report all the municipalities in the 34th District Court jurisdiction now are taking their juvenile matters to the district court instead of downtown Detroit. He also said the township is in court on a number of issues with the ordinances and they are leaning on property owners. There are a number of dangerous buildings that were discussed at a Dangerous Buildings hearing, but most didn't require demolition. He said many complied with the ordinance, but it's never 100%;

- Heard Public Safety Director/Police Chief Luke report that there were no homicides last year and an incident that was initially misreported was on their list but shouldn't be. He said the average police response time is less than three minutes. He also reported the township runs a warming/cooling center at the community center and offers 24-hour shelter, if necessary. He said Sumpter is one of only nine communities of 43 in the county that offers this. He said the person who complains that Sumpter should put its warming/cooling center service on the township sign, instead of on the website or Facebook, "makes me angry" because the letter writer gives "bad information." The person who is critical says many people in Sumpter do not have computers and many don't even have phones, but they do drive by the community center;

- Heard Trustee Don LaPorte make a motion for an item not on the agenda, seconded by Hurst, to have the supervisor's office do six-month performance reviews on DPW Director John Danci and Fire Chief Rick Brown. Trustee LaPorte said it was just a formality; and

- Heard Trustee LaPorte remind residents that there are free smoke detectors at the clerk's office and fire department.



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Thoughts on voting

This letter to the editor of an unknown paper (probably the Ypsilanti Press) was published in the late 1960s. The writer died last year the Agent Orange he had contact with while fighting in Vietnam. His ex-wife Caroline Dempsey of Van Buren Township said this clipping was found in her attic when it was being cleaned out recently and she wanted to share it. It was suggested she take it to the newspaper and she did.

To the editor:

Though it would seem very unlikely, I suppose the Federal Government could enact legislation which would require all citizenry 18 and over to register and vote. Now, in Australia, voting is compulsory and the penalty for not doing so was a \$4.50 fine when last I was there. To give you some idea of the cost of the \$4.50 fine, I earned \$1.25 (net pay) an hour working as an unskilled welder in a non-union factory in South Australia. However, I was not required to register to vote and I might add that I received a fair day's wages for a fair day's work. The fine for not wearing a shoulder safety belt while riding in an automobile was \$15.00. I paid it with no *Barney* though I cried in my beer for two weeks like a *Wowser*. Being the *Sticky-beak* that I am, I found that the average Australian, that I talked with, knew even less about his own government than I did of mine.

With regards to my own voting record, I registered to vote (with no fanfare) at the age of 21 years and upon doing so I promised myself that as long as I complained daily about the United States of America and all the injustice therein, I would cast my vote in each and every election it was my privilege to do so. To the best of my knowledge, I have not broken faith with that promise, of eight years ago, in any way. As a matter of fact, I voted via absentee ballot from the highlands of Vietnam, the slopes of Norway, and the golden plains of Australia.

I've been hoodwinked by some of the shrewdest disciples of Machiavellianism ever unleashed in an election. Indeed, I've helped to elect in one capacity or another, just about every political parasite under the red, white, and blue canopy of our Great Republic.

Yes, my fellow Americans, I'd do it all over again – if only out of spite. See you at the polls.

Barney: An argument.

Wowser: A strait-laced fanatic.

Stickey-beak: An inquisitive person.

Fellow American:

James H. Albertson, Ypsilanti.

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Publish: January 20, 2022, January 27, 2022

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– Albert Einstein

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Court Watching:**VBT woman charged with shooting at O'Reilly's bound over**

Sonya Javah Moore, 39, of Van Buren Township was bound over to circuit court on all charges for a Sept. 29 arraignment on the information after a live preliminary

exam before 34th District Court Judge Lisa Martin on Sept. 22.

A calendar conference was set at circuit court for Oct. 22. A final conference was set for Dec. 17 and then reset by the court to Jan. 18.

Moore is charged with assault with intent to murder, assault, and armed robbery, plus three counts of felony firearm on June 24 at O'Reilly's distribution center on Haggerty Road in Van Buren Township.

The defense attorney's request for a reduction of her \$25,000 cash bond was denied by Judge Martin because of the severity of the charges. The judge pointed out Moore had two other outstanding cases with this court. She remained in custody at the Wayne County Jail.

The only witness to testify at the preliminary exam was Timothy Freeman who said he worked at O'Reilly's and came outside for a break on June 24. He said a young lady came round the corner of the building, pulled a handgun out of her black hoodie, and shot at his face. He said she said he was "doing her girl," which he clarified to mean having sex. "I met her in the rehab center and then I started fixing her car," he said of Moore, adding he was a mechanic.

He testified the bullet shot out the window in the building behind him. He said she wanted his phone and pin number and he gave it to her because she had a gun. She got into his phone and couldn't find her girlfriend's number and so threw his phone

on the top of a car.

"I don't know who her girlfriend is," he testified. He said she wanted him to drive her to her girlfriend, but police came, and then he walked back into the building. He said some young ladies found his phone and gave it back to him.

On Sept. 24, Moore also was arraigned on two bench warrants at 34th District Court before Judge Martin.

Things to do in the Belleville area...

• **Saturday, Jan. 22** – Wayne County Health Department is holding a COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic, open to all, plus boosters, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at McBride Middle School, 47097 McBride Ave., Van Buren Township.

• **Saturday, Jan. 29** – President's 2022 Charity Fund Raiser to benefit Ele's Place Ann Arbor, from 5 p.m. until midnight at Van Buren Eagles #3996. Tickets are \$20; open to the public. Ele's Place is a nonprofit, community-based organization with the mission to create awareness of and support for grieving children, teens and their families. Event will include entertainment by Tequila Mockingbird starting at 8 p.m. Dinner from 6 to 8 p.m. includes pulled pork and chicken, baked beans, mashed potatoes, salad, dinner rolls and butter and assorted desserts. Purchase tickets at foe3993.com/

events or at the Van Buren Eagles, 9961 Beck Rd., Van Buren Township.

• **Sunday, Feb. 6** – Bugles Across America begins at 7:15 p.m. at the Veterans' Memorial in Horizon Park on High Street in the City of Belleville. On the first Sunday of each month there is a brief ceremony to honor those who serve in the military. There is the Pledge of Allegiance, the National Anthem, and Taps. All are welcome.

• **Saturday, Feb. 12** – Wayne County Health Department is holding a COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic, open to all, plus boosters, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at McBride Middle School, 47097 McBride Ave., Van Buren Township.

• **Saturday, Feb. 19** – 2022 Special Olympics Polar Plunge at Belleville Yacht Club.

• **Sunday, March 6** – Bugles Across America begins at 7:15 p.m. at the Veterans' Memorial in Horizon Park on High Street in the City of Belleville. On the first Sunday of each month there is a brief ceremony to honor those who serve in the military. There is the Pledge of Allegiance, the National Anthem, and Taps. All are welcome.

• **Friday, March 11** – Belleville Area District Library will honor donors with a special celebration at the library at 6:30 p.m. This is by invitation only.

• **Sunday, April 3** – Bugles Across America begins at 7:15 p.m. at the Veterans' Memorial in Horizon Park on High Street in the City of Belleville. On the first Sunday of each month there is a brief ceremony to honor those who serve in the military. There is the Pledge of Allegiance, the National Anthem, and Taps. All are welcome.

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• **Friday, Jan. 21:** Freshman Boys Basketball vs Stevenson, 4 p.m.; JV Boys Basketball vs Stevenson, 5:30 p.m.; Varsity Boys Basketball vs Stevenson, 7 p.m.

• **Tuesday, Jan. 25:** JV Girls Basketball vs Wayne Memorial, 5:30 p.m.; Varsity Girls Basketball vs Wayne Memorial, 7 p.m.

Diane Kiessel

Belleville High School Athletic Secretary

Corrections: VBT address incorrect, Omicron spelled wrong

On page 12 in the Jan. 13 issue of the *Independent*, the online address to get information on the Sumpter Road Corridor plan in Van Buren Township was incorrect, twice. It should be vanburen-mi.org/SumpterRoadCorridor.

This was part of a news release prepared by the new public relations employees at the township and we did not catch the error before publication. Thank you to Thomas DeRousie for alerting us.

Also, in the editorial on page 4, the COVID-19 variant Omicron was misspelled. We regret the errors.

Rosemary K. Otzman, editor

Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

There were 276 dispatch calls reported by Van Buren Township police last week including the following.

Sunday, Jan. 9:

0012 – property damage accident, S. I-275/Ecorse
0345 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.
1001 – property check, Southport Apartments
1020 – assist citizen, N. Purple Sage Ct.
1108 – private property/property damage accident, Pebblebrook Dr.
1121 – civil matter, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1127 – welfare check, Hoeft Rd.
1313 – parking complaint, Belleville Rd.
1403 – welfare check, Belleville Rd.
1442 – mental subject, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1508 – suspicious person/vehicle, Pebblebrook Dr.
1508 – assist other dept., Maple Dr.
1613 – suspicious person/vehicle, Wildbrook Dr.
1619 – family trouble, McKinley St.
1729 – assist other dept., Ecorse Rd.
1812 – unauthorized driving away of auto, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1837 – Menards property check, Belleville Rd.
1908 – Walmart property check, Belleville Rd.
1925 – suspicious person/vehicle, Park Estates
2013 – unattended death, Harmony Ln.
2048 – Meijer property check, Belleville Rd.
2204 – warrant arrest, S. I-94 Service Dr.
2305 – civil matter, Parkwood Dr.
2308 – welfare check, McBride Ave.

Monday, Jan. 10:

0002 – domestic, Denton Rd.
0156 – intrusion alarm, Haggerty Rd.
0233 – neighbor trouble, Parkwood Dr.
0326 – assist other dept., Locust Dr.
0632 – property damage accident, E. Huron River
0854 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Park Estates Dr.
0958 – larceny, Riggs Rd.
1042 – welfare check, Haggerty Rd.
1105 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.
1211 – welfare check, Lancaster Dr.
1220 – background investigation, Chatsworth Dr.
1243 – follow up by officer, Harbour Club
1320 – suspicious person/vehicle, Sumpter/Hull
1325 – assist other dept., Parkwood Dr.
1542 – juvenile complaint, Quirk Rd.
1559 – road hazard, Belleville Rd./Tyler Rd.
1604 – suspicious person/vehicle, Rawsonville Rd.
1634 – assist fire dept., Bog Rd.
1644 – private property/property damage accident, Anna Dr.

1705 – welfare check, Harmony Ln.
1721 – civil matter, Spruce Ln.
1746 – juvenile complaint, Belleville Rd.
1804 – juvenile complaint, McKinley St.
1807 – juvenile complaint, Rawsonville Rd./Capitol Dr.

1818 – disorderly, Belleville Rd.
1832 – welfare check, N. Bellridge Dr.
1857 – suicidal person, Quirk Rd.
2325 – civil matter, S. I-94 Service Dr.

Tuesday, Jan. 11:

0000 – suspicious person/vehicle, Fay Dr.
0021 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
0356 – breaking & entering, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0406 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.
0458 – suspicious person/vehicle, Denton Rd.
0739 – parking complaint, Country Walk Blvd. / Savage Rd.
0918 – fraud, Birch Dr.
0943 – trespassing, Martz Rd.
0946 – welfare check, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1023 – threat, Denton Rd.
1032 – juvenile complaint, Belleville Rd.
1145 – traffic offense, Belleville Rd.
1219 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Beckley
1231 – larceny, Parkwood Dr.
1301 – threat, Haggerty Rd.
1332 – threat, Parkwood Dr.
1352 – animal complaint, Haggerty Rd.
1400 – assist other dept., N. I-94 Service Dr.
1544 – traffic offense, park Estates
1631 – assist other dept., S. Sheldon/Yost
1750 – suspicious person/vehicle, Amanda Dr.
1750 – suspicious person/vehicle, E. Adams
1829 – civil matter, Bemis Rd.
1918 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / E. I-94

2018 – suspicious person/vehicle, Kirkridge Park
2045 – civil matter, McKinley ST.
2056 – shooting, Briarcliff Dr.
2131 – breaking & entering, Parkwood Dr.
2208 – suspicious person/vehicle, Chatsworth Dr.
2340 – fight, Ecorse Rd.
2344 – family trouble, Winchester St.

Wednesday, Jan. 12:

0439 – assist other dept., W. Walden Dr.
0702 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1150 – suspicious person/vehicle, S. I-94 Service
1158 – suspicious person/vehicle, S. I-94 Service
1234 – property damage accident, Ecorse Rd.
1254 – civil matter, Belleville Rd.
1412 – private property/property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1750 – sexual assault, Lacy Dr.
1815 – missing person, Quirk Rd.
1925 – larceny, Parkwood Dr.
2036 – juvenile complaint, Quirk Rd.
2048 – assault & battery, Belleville Rd.
2121 – private property impound, Oak Ln.
2204 – welfare check, Denton Rd.

Thursday, Jan. 13:

0245 – noise complaint, Outer Dr.
0523 – suspicious person/vehicle, Burtrig St.
0540 – 911 welfare check, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0653 – 911 welfare check, Milton Dr.
0818 – assist other dept., Belle Villa
0916 – welfare check, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0931 – welfare check, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1005 – suspicious person/vehicle, Westlake
1015 – larceny from auto, Lake Villa Dr.
1057 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / N. I-94 Service Dr.
1103 – misc. complaint, Maple Dr.
1320 – ordinance violation, Marlowe Ave.
1544 – animal complaint, Robson Rd.
1732 – traffic offense, Tyler Rd.
1737 – fraud, Haggerty Rd.
1753 – property damage accident, Sumpter/Hull
1830 – parking complaint, Parkwood Dr.
1854 – assist fire dept., Landmark
1938 – overdose, Ash Dr.

1948 – malicious destruction of property, N. Bellridge Dr.
1950 – private property/property damage accident, Sandlewood Dr.
2006 – welfare check, S. Woodbury Dr.
2014 – domestic, Salem Ct.
2239 – Meijer property check, Belleville Rd.
2256 – hospice death, Harbor Ln.
2351 – domestic, S. I-94 Service Dr.

Friday, Jan. 14:

0015 – assist fire dept., Montague Ave.
0043 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
0209 – shooting, Robbe Rd.
0336 – disorderly, Lake Villa Dr.
0757 – suspicious person/vehicle, Stonebridge Dr. / Solitude Ln.
0908 – family trouble, McKinley St.
1017 – welfare check, Bradley Dr.
1020 – fraud, S. Ponderosa Trl.
1044 – fraud, Oak Ln.
1053 – trespassing, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1120 – welfare check, Sumpter Rd.
1125 – assist fire dept., Arthur St.
1142 – threat, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1158 – civil matter, Parkside Dr.
1200 – welfare check, W. Huron River Dr.
1201 – fraud, Solitude Ln.
1202 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Beckley
1204 – animal complaint, Sumpter Rd./Hull Rd.
1202 – suspicious person/vehicle, S. I-94 Service
1330 – mental subject, Filmore St.
1354 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, Van Born Rd./Belleville Rd.
1535 – parking complaint, Deanna Dr.
1601 – neighbor trouble, Outer Dr.
1700 – suspicious person/vehicle, Sheldon Rd.
1712 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / N. I-94 Service Dr.
1722 – assist other dept., bridge
1750 – mental subject, Belleville Rd.
2150 – suspicious person/vehicle, Independence Ln. / Haggerty Rd.

Saturday, Jan. 15:

0014 – warrant arrest, Van Born/Haggerty
0906 – family trouble, S. Ponderosa Trl.
1017 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, S. Timberview Dr.
1128 – welfare check, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1331 – suicidal person, S. I-94 Service Dr.

1342 – property damage accident, Belleville/Tyler
1422 – assist fire dept., Belleville Rd.
1432 – traffic offense, Belleville Rd./E. I-94
1436 – assist other dept., E. I-94/Beckley
1500 – parking complaint, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1508 – assist other dept., Sumpter Rd.
1524 – assist fire dept., Martinsville Rd.
1557 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.
1602 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1852 – property damage accident, Sumpter/Chaney
2041 – shooting, Edwards Rd.
2046 – harassment call, N. Ponderosa Trl.
2152 – disorderly, Morton Taylor Rd.
2202 – domestic, Parkwood Dr.
2334 – intrusion alarm, Haggerty Rd.
2358 – suspicious person/vehicle, Haggerty/Tyler
Also on this week's log are 72 traffic stops with nine of them being on the I-94 freeway.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Jan. 9:

0017 – misc. complaint, Main St.
1225 – animal complaint, Sumpter Rd.
2028 – suspicious person/vehicle, Potter Dr. / E. Huron River Dr.

Monday, Jan. 10:

1121 – traffic stop, Main St./Third St.
1141 – traffic stop, Main St./First St.
1213 – traffic stop, South St./Henry St.
1329 – assist other dept., Second St./Main St.
1426 – traffic stop, High St.
1431 – larceny from auto, N. Liberty St.
1550 – road hazard, Carmell St.
1631 – larceny from auto, South St.
1831 – traffic stop, Savage Rd./Victorian Ln.
1956 – civil matter, Burso
2222 – assist other dept., Carmell St.

Tuesday, Jan. 11:

0831 – traffic stop, Church St./W. Columbia Ave.
0835 – traffic stop, E. Columbia Ave./Madelon St.
0905 – traffic stop, E. Columbia Ave.
0917 – traffic stop, Angola St.
1030 – parking complaint, Main St./Fourth St.
1347 – traffic stop, W. Huron River Dr./Bay Pointe
1412 – traffic stop, Main St./Third St.
1538 – traffic stop, Main St./High St.
1549 – traffic stop, E. Huron River Dr./Madelon
1550 – traffic stop, Main St./High St.
1557 – traffic stop, Main St./High St.
1616 – traffic stop, Main St./Fourth St.
1636 – traffic stop, Main St./High St.
1647 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
1723 – traffic stop, Main St.
1733 – traffic stop, Main St.
1749 – traffic offense, Main St.
1800 – traffic stop, Belle Villa Blvd./Menlo Park
1807 – traffic stop, Belle Villa Blvd./Menlo Park
1835 – traffic stop, High St./Edison Ave.
2030 – traffic stop, E. Huron River Dr./Loza Ln.

Wednesday, Jan. 12:

0106 – traffic stop, Sumpter Rd./Belle Villa Blvd.
0252 – traffic stop, Savage Rd./Victorian Ln.
0922 – suspicious person/vehicle, Main St./E. Columbia Ave.
0929 – traffic offense, Main St./High St.
0935 – welfare check, Menlo Park Dr.
0942 – warrant arrest, Main St.
1107 – welfare check, N. Liberty St.
1531 – harassment call, Main St./Fifth St.
1628 – civil matter, N. Liberty St.
2201 – traffic stop, Main St./First St.

Thursday, Jan. 13:

0027 – motorist assist, W. Columbia Ave./Main
0145 – family trouble, Belle Villa Blvd.
0756 – civil matter, Belle Villa Blvd.
1208 – juvenile complaint, Owen St.
1512 – malicious destruction of property, Belle Villa Blvd.
2118 – suspicious person/vehicle, Victorian Ln.
2334 – traffic stop, E. Huron River Dr./Angola St.
2337 – property check, Carmell St.

Friday, Jan. 14:

0107 – traffic stop, Main St./Third St.
0222 – traffic stop, South St./E. Wabash Ave.
0740 – intrusion alarm, South St.
0928 – juvenile complaint, W. Columbia Ave.
1016 – traffic stop, Main St.
1025 – traffic stop, Main St./Fourth St.

1128 – welfare check, Main St.
1136 – larceny, N. Liberty St.
1156 – fraud, E. Thornhill Ct.
1616 – juvenile complaint, W. Columbia Ave.
2049 – traffic stop, W. Columbia Ave./Huron River Dr.
2113 – traffic stop, W. Columbia Ave./Edison
2136 – traffic stop, Sumpter Rd./Owen St.
2329 – traffic stop, Main St.

Saturday, Jan. 15:

0011 – traffic stop, Main St./High St.
0839 – traffic stop, Main St.
0905 – traffic stop, South St./Henry St.
1150 – traffic stop, Fifth St./Main St.
1410 – traffic offense, High/Main
1522 – traffic stop, Main St.
1535 – traffic stop, South St.
1555 – traffic offense, Belleville/Quirk
1724 – traffic stop, Main St.
1758 – traffic stop, Main St.
1817 – traffic stop, Madelon St./E. Columbia
1844 – traffic stop, High St./Brain St.
1859 – welfare check, W. Wabash Ave.
2106 – traffic stop, E. Columbia/Madelon St.
2145 – traffic stop, Main St./Third St.
2210 – traffic stop, E. Huron River Dr./Clarence
There are 48 traffic stops on this week's log.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Jan. 9:

0221 – assault, 46000 bl. Willis Rd.
0317 – suspicious vehicle, 10000 bl. Rawsonville
1130 – animal complaint, Edgewood Dr.
1244 – fire dept. assist, Pecan
1446 – property damage accident, Oakville Waltz Rd. / Sherwood Rd.
1523 – follow-up investigation, 22000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
1639 – fire dept. assist, Edgewood Dr.
1715 – alarm, 44000 bl. Willow Rd.
1735 – fire dept. assist, Arizona
1752 – 911 hangup, 49000 bl. Judd Rd.
1756 – follow-up investigation, 23000 bl. Sumpter
1917 – death investigation, Edgewood Dr.
1936 – fire dept. assist, 8200 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
2000 – alarm, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2015 – citizen assist, Sumpter Rd./Bemis Rd.

Monday, Jan. 10:

0931 – civil matter, Judd Rd./Elwell Rd.
0958 – fire dept. assist, 48000 bl. Wear Rd.
1259 – lost property, 49000 bl. Willis Rd.
1348 – fire dept. assist, 50000 bl. Willow Rd.
1446 – death investigation, 21000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1657 – suspicious person, Bemis Rd./Lohr Rd.
1716 – suspicious circumstance, Montana St.
1848 – fire dept. assist, 45000 bl. Bemis Rd.
2045 – alarm, Rustic Ln.
2131 – fire dept. assist, Second St.

Tuesday, Jan. 11:

0157 – fire dept. assist, Arizona
0833 – fire dept. assist, 22000 bl. Fenster Dr.
0946 – mental health call, Hampshire Dr.
1019 – citizen assist, 43000 bl. Clay Rd.
1102 – fire dept. assist, Rustic Ln.
1240 – fire dept. assist, 18000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1331 – assist other agency, 23000 bl. Karr Rd.
1449 – civil matter, 40000 bl. Harris Rd.
1814 – fire dept. assist, 47000 bl. Bemis Rd.
1938 – fire dept. assist, Hampshire Dr.
2327 – citizen assist, Savage Rd./Bemis Rd.

Wednesday, Jan. 12:

1037 – assault, Timberlane Dr.
1101 – fire dept. assist, Nevada St.
1724 – juvenile complaint, 23000 bl. Sumpter

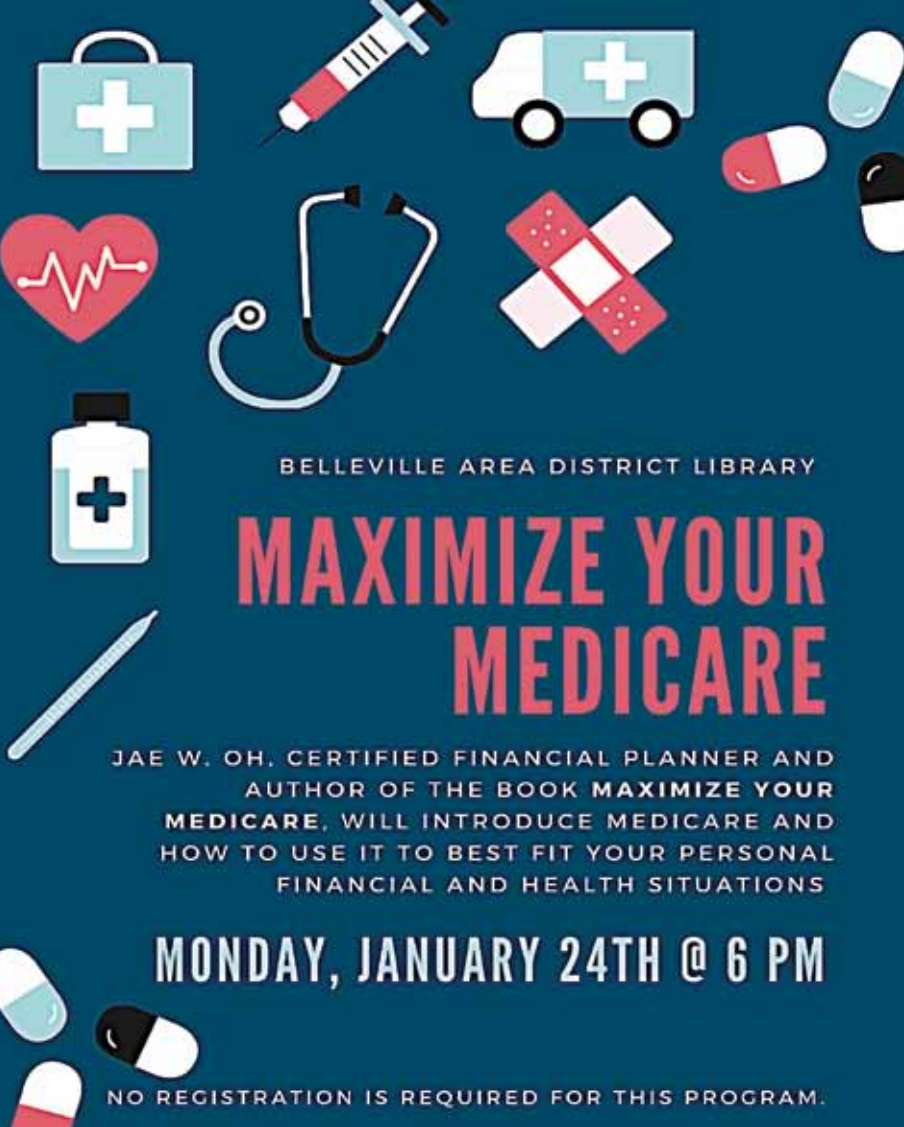
Thursday, Jan. 13:

0952 – fire dept. assist, 21000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1248 – civil matter, Redwood St.
1349 – alarm, 50000 bl. Willow Rd.
1439 – 911 hang up, 22000 bl. Bohn Rd.
1452 – follow-up investigation, Montana St.
1627 – suspicious person, 43000 bl. Clay Rd.
1647 – civil matter, 43000 bl. Clay Rd.
1650 – animal complaint, Arkona Rd./Clark Rd.
2000 – fire dept. assist, 48000 bl. Bemis Rd.
2020 – alarm, 28000 bl. Martinsville Rd.

Friday, Jan. 14:

0615 – family trouble, 42000 bl. Willow Rd.
0738 – juvenile complaint, Timberlane Dr.

(Continued on page 15)



BELLEVILLE AREA DISTRICT LIBRARY

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AUTHOR OF THE BOOK **MAXIMIZE YOUR
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HOW TO USE IT TO BEST FIT YOUR PERSONAL
FINANCIAL AND HEALTH SITUATIONS

MONDAY, JANUARY 24TH @ 6 PM

NO REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR THIS PROGRAM.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

(continued from page 14)

0920 – follow-up investigation, out of township
1030 – suspicious vehicle, 5600 bl. Oakville Waltz
1056 – fire dept. assist, 47000 bl. Wear Rd.
1104 – family trouble, Redwood St.
1248 – fire dept. assist, 43000 bl. Harris Rd.
1319 – fire dept. assist, Arizona
1349 – 911 hang up, 21000 bl. Bohn Rd.
1353 – follow-up investigation, 42000 bl. Willow
1410 – suspicious circumstance, 45000 bl. Willis
1516 – fire dept. assist, 8800 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
1529 – animal complaint, Country Club Blvd.
1753 – alarm, 44000 bl. Willow Rd.
1911 – fire dept. assist, Rustic Ln.

Saturday, Jan. 15:

0543 – mental health call, Rustic Ln.
0746 – property damage accident, Martinsville Rd./
Dunn Rd.
0953 – suspicious person, 44000 bl. Harris Rd.
1308 – alarm, 41000 bl. Wear Rd.
1434 – suspicious person, 5600 bl. Oakville Waltz
1441 – civil matter, Timberlane Dr.
1537 – citizen assist, 48000 bl. Roy Ct.
1613 – reckless driver, Willis Rd./California St.
1711 – shots fired, 20000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1826 – family trouble, Edgewood Dr.
1907 – welfare check, Rustic Ln.

Also on this week's log are 137 patrol checks, 51
traffic stops, and six misc. details.

Read The Newspaper On The Web!

**The Belleville-Area
Independent Website
is Online! Visit us @
bellevilleareaindependent.com**

Letter, donation to scammers caught just before being mailed

Thomas Clayton of Van Buren Township received a letter from the United States Deputy Sheriff's Association in Virginia. It said it represents Van Buren Township, MI and asked for a donation for body armor vests.

Clayton, a senior citizen who enthusiastically supports police officers, wrote a check for \$25 and placed in the return envelope, along with a Thank You card for a police officer that he signed. The card said: "May God protect you from harm."

He also filled out and tucked into the envelope a survey on whether he supports police and whether officers in small communities should have to buy their own safety vests.

Before he mailed the envelope, he found out from a police officer friend that this is a scam and Van Buren Police don't get money or anything else from this group.

If you search the group's name on the internet, it has a zero-star rating for being a place you can give to with confidence. Most of its income goes to fundraising.

Another place on the internet said this group is among the top five of the 50 worst charities in America.

Clayton destroyed his check and brought the rest of the information to the *Independent* for us to share with our readers.

-- Rosemary K. Otzman, editor

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JANUARY 22, 2022 (11:30A-1:30PM)

FEBRUARY 5, 2022 (12:30P-2:30P)
FEBRUARY 12, 2022 (12:30P-2:30P)
FEBRUARY 19, 2022 (12:30P-2:30P)

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EXPERIENCE UNDISTURBED LAKESIDE
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Floors, Full Basement 2 1/2 Car Garage \$349,900

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+32 acres Avail at \$725,000 for the Package.

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1,382 SQUARE FOOT RANCH with 3 Bed-
rooms, 2 Baths, Family Room, Living Room,
Breezeway and Large Garage on THREE lots! Flex-
ible Town Center Zoning w Many uses \$225,000

6 ACRES & 5 BEDROOMS



10479 BEMIS, YPSILANTI TOWNSHIP
LARGE HOME with Premium Lafada Kitchen,
Hardwood Floors, Granite, Ceramic and Quarry
Tile Baths, 5 Bedrooms, 3 1/2 Baths, New Roof-
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10955 BUCHANAN, VAN BUREN
LARGE 3 Bedroom 2 Bath Ranch in Van Buren
Estates. 1,527 Square Feet, Newer Central Air.
Huge 2 1/2 Car + Garage. Big Fenced Yard, Great
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9000 OAKVILLE WALTZ, AUGUSTA TWP
LOTS TO SEE! Large 1,854 SqFt Ranch with
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