



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

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Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

FREE

VBPS considers selling property for pot shop

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

As soon as the zoning for marijuana facilities in the city of Belleville was announced, two to three people called the Van Buren Public Schools right away.

School Supt. Pete Kudlak explained the situation at Monday's regular school board meeting in which he asked the board to consider putting the nine acres of the former Career Technical Center on Sumpter Road back on the market.

The property is one of those within the zoning district for marijuana businesses.

After a lively discussion Monday, the board agreed to not take action yet and to wait until its next meeting on Feb. 8 to take a vote on putting the property back on the market.

Meanwhile, they will check with their friends and relatives on how they feel about a school district selling property for a "drug store." Supt. Kudlak agreed to put out a parent survey for input from parents throughout the whole district, not just the city of Belleville.

Supt. Kudlak said a person in California used Google Earth to check out the property and saw the for sale sign with the school district's real estate agent and his number. They called Paul Armstrong and the property has been shown three times recently. But the property had been taken off the market by a school board vote.

Kudlak said the CTC had been put up for sale and there was hardly any interest. The district had planned to build a new warehouse on the property where the Early Childhood Center is being built next to the high school. But, for various reasons the childhood center building was moved north to Davis Street there was no longer room for a warehouse.

(continued on page 3)



This is the proposed placement for Van Buren Township's new Recreation Center. This drawing was presented to the VBT Board of Trustees at its Jan. 19 meeting by architect Bert Koseck, one of the team members hired by the township to look into what should be built. The budget is \$7,256,765 and will not require a tax.

VBT moves forward on plans for new rec center

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

A large community feasibility study, that was OKed in March 2019 to find out what the public wanted in a recreation center, was appreciatively received by the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees at its Jan. 19 Zoom meeting.

After a short discussion, the board members each gave a thumbs-up to end discussion on the project and to send the proposal for a recreation center to the Recreation Committee for an indepth study and comments and then put specifications

together, go out for bids, hire a project manager who would hire contractors and present a guaranteed contract price.

The board would vote on the details before sending the specs out for bids.

The bids are expected to go out this fall and the building, estimated to cost \$7,256,765, would be constructed in 2022.

Director of Public Service Matthew Best presented the completed study to the board, saying after a year and a half of work and significant input from people and staff, it is ready to consider.

He asked for discussion only but the board pressed to move forward.

Director Best said the feasibility study and the details for the proposed recreation center would be put on the township website the next day for residents to study.

The feasibility study and proposed building was put together by the team of

architect Bert Koseck, Plante Moran Cresa representative Robert Stempien, and Marc Russell of Russell Design, who were hired as a team by the township.

The building would be a south wing attached to the senior center that would include a large gym with a running/walking track above the gym on a second level, locker rooms, a workout/weight room, meeting rooms that could be rented out for birthday parties, a child-care room and outdoor plaza.

The existing building would be renovated.

The wing would sever the loop around the present building that leaves the parking area at the police department open to the public. A gate would keep the police parking lot secure for safety purposes.

The gym would be double the size of the current gym and taller for soccer play.

(continued on page 10)

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SECOND FRONT PAGE

School Board

(continued from page 1)

The board decided to take the CTC property off the market and keep the warehouse where it is. They also voted to demolish the building adjoining Sumpter Road.

Kudlak said in November Belleville voters passed an ordinance allowing dispensaries for marijuana in certain areas and, “Our property sits right in the middle of it.”

He said the property had first been listed for \$750,000, on Armstrong’s recommendation. The price had been reduced to \$725,000 and finally to \$650,000, when there was little interest.

Recently, he was offered cash for the most recent land price and then, it went up to \$1.5 million to \$1.6 million.

Kudlak said if the district sold it now, “It would be a facility that sells marijuana.”

In the board’s packet was the front page of the Dec. 17 Belleville Area Independent with a map of the area approved for marijuana shops, with the district’s property in the middle area.

“We’re the southern-most property,” Kudlak said.

“If we’re choosing to list it at that price, the top bidder would be a marijuana facility,” Kudlak said.

He said they would have to figure out where to move the warehouse and there is space on the school property at Owen, Elwell, and Haggerty. The location wouldn’t be as good as what they have now, he said.

Kudlak said the negatives would be the district has to move the warehouse and that they would be selling it to someone who sells marijuana.

Board president Amy Pearce said the school district didn’t make the decision on the zoning and that decision was made by the city.

“My concern is how you feel about having to move the warehouse,” president Pearce said. “If our school district can bring \$1 million for that property, I’m in favor.”

Treasurer Simone Pinter said the district has signs on every one of its properties saying “this is a drug-free facility” and if the district sells the property they are going to put in a drug store and with that comes the riff raff.

“I’m representing 25,000 people and their students and am I telling them it’s OK to sell drugs outside the school door?” treasurer Pinter asked.

Secretary Darlene Gerick asked if the board is being fiscally responsible if it can get \$1 million for the district. If the district turns down the money, the car wash could get it, she said.

Pinter said being fiscally responsible is good, but her concern is the children. “We are selling it as a school,” she said.

Secretary Gerick said if the school still had the property listed, it could have been sold without the district knowing what it would be used for.

Pinter said they would be putting drugs right outside the doors to three schools.

Pearce said this is not within 1,000 feet of the schools.

“I can tell them you can’t use drugs in school, but I’m going to sell drugs” close by, Pinter said.

Pearce said the decision was made outside the board’s level and the Belleville City Council made the decision.

“It’s legal,” said Kelly Owen. “We’re not selling anything illegal ... We took it off the market and they approached us. It’s not illegal and I don’t see an issue with it.”

Calvin Hawkins said he thinks about the revenue for the school. He said he’d like to get a view of the residents of the community.

“We do not have to vote on this tonight,” agreed Pearce, adding they can go out and talk to people in the community.

Dionne Falconer asked how the district would spend the money besides building a new warehouse.

Kudlak said the district would decide on how they want to spend it and they can spend it anyway they want. They would have to build a warehouse.

James Williams said for an 8,000-square-foot building it would be about \$750,000, “but it would be brand-new, up to date, and

Keystone Academy teachers, administrators list present salaries

These are the teachers, administrators, and other staff members and their annual salaries as of Jan. 1, 2021 as reported by National Heritage Academies which operates Keystone Charter Academy located on Bemis Road in Sumpter Township.

Teachers and administrators in the State of Michigan are required to be named and their wages listed for the state registry.

These teachers and administrators working at Keystone Academy are hired and paid by National Heritage Academies in Grand Rapids. Under the law, NHA is not required to give out any more information than what is in the state registry listing.

Keystone is a free, public school academy serving a current enrollment of 768 students in grades Y5-8 and operating under a charter contract issued by an authorizing body – Bay Mills Community College.

The Keystone Academy Board has entered into a services agreement with NHA, an educational service provider.

Through this services agreement, NHA is responsible to provide for the day-to-day operations and staffing at the school including the school’s leadership team and teachers. Consequently, Keystone does not have any employees.

Also, NHA, a private company, does not have to reveal individual benefits nor give any information on how much employees may or may not pay for benefits. NHA has sent along 38 pages of listings of benefits it offers.

Rosemary K. Otzman, Editor

the maintenance would be down for a long time.” He said they could find a building already constructed and do renovations to it.

Board members speculated on how long it would take for someone to get a license.

Board vice president Susan Featheringill said it has been mentioned that a split of the property could be considered to keep the part where the warehouse is.

After more discussion, and agreement to put off a decision until after more information is gathered, Kudlak said, “How lucky I am to have this board.”

In other business at Monday’s meeting, the board:

- Heard an update on construction of the early childhood center and a report on the bond funds from Rod Kakoczki of Plante Moran Cresa. He said they are looking for an October finish. He said structural steel is starting to arrive and he expects the roof to be on in the middle to the end of February. In March the roofing and windows will be installed to get it weather tight for inside work;

- Approved the resignation of Laverne Ellis,

a district-wide floater paraprofessional, after less than a year of service as of Jan. 11 for personal reasons;

- Approved general fund budget amendments;

- Approved naming the new building now under construction next to the high school as “The Early Childhood Center of Van Buren Public Schools,” as recommended by the Naming Committee. The committee worked through a list of 50 proposed names and got a more manageable list after a staff survey before coming to a consensus on this name; and

- Tabled the proposed signing of the IRS Closing Agreement Form 2848 relating to the 3% retiree healthcare contributions the ORS started collecting years ago and the taxability of those deductions. Van Buren has been treating the 3% as tax exempt all along, so this issue does not impact this district, according to Sara Cortese, Director of Finance. But after discussion, the board set a special meeting for Feb. 4. There is a deadline they are hoping will be extended so they will have more time. If not, they will make a decision at the special meeting.

Keystone Charter Academy Salaries as of January 2021

Administration			
Drain, Jorvonna	\$79,953.74	Patton, Diane	\$49,851.15
Hollar, Ashley	\$38,766.21	Poole, Ellen	\$51,012.00
Davies, Stephanie	\$16.44 per hour	Poulin, Sarah	\$43,401.07
Jackson, Kimberly	\$10.20 per hour	Quinn, Tully	\$45,797.44
Deans		Reaume, Megan	\$46,688.72
Steeb, Jamie	\$72,330.75	Terrell-Fletcher, Monique	\$47,160.26
Reed, Stacey	\$68,933.28	Turk, Brian	\$47,113.66
Mallari, Robyn	\$66,571.44	Turner, Teri	\$50,258.62
Instructors and Tutors		Zajac, Sarah	\$54,658.45
Ancrile, Ashley	\$47,955.02	Social Worker	
Borowiak, Kari	\$43,078.05	Calcaterra, Amelia	\$43,401.28
Brewer, Ashley	\$40,353.04	Calcaterra, Amelia	\$43,401.28
Cheng, Stephen	\$43,078.05	Library Tech	
Chuang, Cindy	\$48,879.17	Davenport, Sarah	\$46,263.98
Conti, Cynthia	\$54,805.92	Substitute Teachers and Aides	
Corbin, Jena	\$40,699.36	Campbell, Sandra	\$14.35 per hour
Cryder, Jenaca	\$48,375.18	Walters, Johanne	\$90 per day
Dalton, Anne	\$45,797.44	Walters, Johanne	\$11.25 per hour
Demolen, Jennifer	\$44,370.56	Dean, Laura	\$14.96 per hour
Draine-Dale, LaQuanda	\$39,901.26	Heringhausen, Lisa	\$14.20 per hour
Edwards, Angela	\$49,289.14	Isaacs, Jeanne	\$14.97 per hour
Gibson, Jessica	\$39,724.46	Goodman, Tifanie	\$14.42 per hour
Grifka, Nicole	\$43,078.05	McQuillin, Tricia	\$15.89 per hour
Hegna, Julianne	\$49,403.74	Khalil, Linda	\$90 per day
Horner, Jennifer	\$43,043.94	Walters, Johanne	
Hutcherson, Nakeisha	\$44,711.89	Thornberry, Angela	\$90 per day
Jordan, Christina	\$43,078.05	Joye, Danielle	\$90 per day
Kaminski, Tracy	\$47,369.92	Mitchell, Theresa	\$11.25 per hour
Karpinski, Emma	\$39,051.17	Mitchell, Theresa	\$13.91 per hour
Kwolk, Kayla	\$43,078.05	Vlademar, Andrea	\$15.97 per hour
Lauren, Mechelle	\$46,392.11	Vlademar, Andrea	\$11.25 per hour
Layton, Amanda	\$61,478.14	Williams, Tabitha	\$13.87 per hour
Leppen, Sloane	\$45,797.44	Bradley, Kimberly	\$14.69 per hour
Lumbardo, Andria	\$52,961.58	Lunch Aides	
Mason, Sarah	\$42,339.44	Jackson, Kimberly	\$10.51 per hour
McNulty, Michelle	\$59,533.97	Abrehart, Melanie	\$9.94 per hour
McNulty, Michelle	\$30.00 per hour	Long, Crista	\$9.87 per hour
Montri, Sheila	\$72,813.31		

Compiled by Diane Madigan.

OPINIONS

Editorial

School Board seeks input on sale of its land for pot shop

The Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education held a very lively discussion at its regular meeting Monday, and it was held via Zoom.

At issue is the nine acres on Sumpter Road that houses a school district warehouse, along with the former classrooms for the career technical center.

The board voted to put the property on the market when it thought the warehouse was going to be moved next to the early childhood development center near the high school. When those plans changed, the board took the property off the market so the warehouse could stay there. It also bid out the demolishing of the tech center, which is due to begin shortly.

Meanwhile, voters in the city of Belleville approved an ordinance and change in city charter that welcomed the marijuana industry to town. The zoning overlay for the marijuana businesses are for properties south of the tracks and the school district's property is right in the middle. Now, it's worth a million dollars, at least.

The board has to decide whether to put the property back on the market and sell it to the marijuana industry – or not. Board members decided to give themselves another two weeks before deciding what to do and to seek out more information on the subject before then.

Tell your board members what you think. It's your property.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

During the Jan. 11 meeting of the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, a parent asked about a book being read at the high school. School Supt. Pete Kudlak said he would check into it and get back to her.

We asked Supt. Kudlak what was the book that caused the concern.

He said, "The book is 'I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings' by Maya Angelou. It is an autobiography and includes rape scenes when she was young.

"We send out information to the parents about it before it is read by the students. Parents can come in and get a copy ahead of time and, if they so choose, have their child read an alternative text in place of this book."

Before last week's regular meeting of the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees via Zoom, Treasurer Sharry Budd was talking with others waiting for the meeting to convene. She said the township got a package sent back with the face masks the township sent out with the VBT logo on it. She said the man who sent it back wrote on the package that he "didn't want to be our billboard."

Other board members said people have complimented the board for mailing out the face masks to all the township residents. Supervisor Kevin McNamara said the man who designed the township logo and now lives out of state contacted the township and asked if they could send a mask to him with his logo on it.

Supervisor McNamara said another man, who now lives in Florida, asked the township to send him its special face mask.



Before and during the VBT Zoom meeting, board members noticed the loud sound of water gushing and it seemed to be coming from Trustee Don Boynton's hookup. Water Department Director Jim Taylor sent in a tongue-in-cheek message that the sound was not a water main leak. During the roll call attendance, when Trustee Boynton replied, we heard the water gush. Later, it was gone. Who knows what that was?

On Monday morning, shortly after 9:30, the City of Belleville sent out a Nixle alert that there was a road/lane closure on West Columbia Avenue between Edison Avenue and High Street for repairs to a broken water main. Later that afternoon, another Nixle alert said it all was fixed.

Soon, yet another Nixle alerted city residents to an upcoming snow storm.

At the city council meeting in the evening, Rutherford reminded people that if the city gets four inches of snow, the mayor will declare a snow emergency and people will have to get their vehicles off the streets so the DPW can plow.

He said they have to move their vehicles so the people don't get plowed in.

At the end of Monday's regular meeting of the Belleville City Council, via Zoom, Mayor Pro Tem Jesse Marcotte proudly held up his new son, Ace, born 01-21-21. The little boy was so tiny that everyone commented on that little bit of child wrapped

in a blanket. Marcotte said the birthday will be easy to remember.

This is the second son for Marcotte and his wife Melly. Their first son started to come to council meetings before he was born and continued coming to meetings to watch his father – until COVID.

Also, at the Belleville Council's work/study session that didn't happen on Monday, Councilman Ken Voigt was asked how his corona virus vaccine went and he said his arm is a little sore after the vaccination – "but, not as sore as the shingles shot."

Also, before that Zoom session that was cancelled, Kelly Howey from Plante Moran told the city council that the building department's fund balance grew from \$60,842 on July 1, 2015 to \$169,000 on June 30, 2020, with most of that from building permits.

She said the big spike in revenues in 2018-19 related to the library construction, which brought \$70,000 in additional revenue right to the bottom line, because the expenditures did not increase. She also reported the sanitation fund balance was \$32,601 on July 1, 2015 and that has grown to \$101,660 on June 30, 2020.



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Letters

VBT closing door after horse is out of the barn

To the editor:

Just got the paper saying that VBT is spending \$270,000 on masks and postage to send three masks to every household in the township.

This is January 2021. The pandemic was declared in March 2020. Seems like the township is spending a lot of money to close the barn door after the horse is already out of the barn.

I wear my mask every time I go in public. What a waste of money this is.

Fred Priebe

Apalachicola, FL

(former Van Buren Township resident)

Editor's Note: The \$270,000 figure in the story was the total for hazard payouts for everyone who works for the township, some more than others, and includes the \$10,000 to put the logos on the masks they got from the county, put the masks in envelopes, and pay postage to mail them to everyone. The township expected to get this done by the middle of January.

Friends of Library hold annual meeting on Sat.

To the editor:

The Friends of the Belleville Area District Library will be holding their Annual Membership Meeting on Jan. 30 at 10 a.m. Members of the Friends of the Library and the public are invited via Zoom.

Registration for the event is required. The following link can be used: <http://belleville.evanced.info/signup/EventDetails?EventId=1246>, or go to Events on the library website: www.belleville.lib.mi.us to register.

Annual reports and elections of officers for the 2021 Board of Directors will take place. The following slate of officers for 2021 has been approved by the current board: Katerina Tyner, president; Donna Gilkey-Lavin, vice president; Rika Regentin, secretary; and Manny Lavin, treasurer. Any additional nominations will be taken from the floor.

Each attending member of the Friends of the Library will have one vote. 2020 memberships have been extended until Dec. 31, 2021. New members can find membership brochures in the library or on the library website. The library phone number is (734) 699-3291 for assistance.

Donna Gilkey Lavin, president

Friends of the Belleville Area District Library

One Call Does It All . . .

. . . At the Independent

699-9020

'Winter's Song' presents words of hope

To the editor:

There have been many changes in our world over the last year. Now it is time to have an encouraging word of hope. We bow our heads to all who have lost loved ones during this pandemic.

"Winter's Song" written by MarJean in 2013: "Wintery, cold morning. Winds snapping at my face. Cheeks red with blistering stings. Ah, it is the morning of the November Dance. The cold breeze lifts the body to a new life ... a life awakened by Mother Nature. Wake up my Soul and let me be me TODAY! Let me change the ATTITUDE of the World. For I am one of God's creatures.

JOY COMETH IN THE MORNING
Psalms 30:5"

This writing has the permission of author MarJean to spread a little hope and light in a dreary world.

Note: MarJean is a local author of children and adult books [and she also is known as Marian Caldwell].

Submitted by Marian Caldwell
Ypsilanti/Belleville

Van Buren Township offices remain open, but it's by appointment only

Due to COVID-19, all Van Buren Township administrative offices are now by appointment only. This began Monday, Jan. 25, and runs until March 31, according to a news release from the township.

Appointment hours are from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Same-day appointments are available.

"We're encouraging residents to use the drop-box in front of township hall or in the police lobby, to pay bills online, or do business over the phone," said VBT Supervisor Kevin McNamara.

If residents need to come into township hall, they are asked to call ahead to the appropriate office and schedule an appointment. Once they have arrived at township hall, they are asked to wait in their vehicles until their appointment times. At the appointment time, they may enter the front door and a screener will greet them and direct them to the corresponding offices.

Masks and social distancing are required at all times in township hall.

"We're still in a pandemic and with a new COVID-19 variant now in Washtenaw County we want to continue to make sure we're keeping everyone as safe as possible while still completing all business," said Clerk Leon Wright.

For a department list of all township office phone numbers or more information on how to schedule an appointment visit vanburen-mi.org.

Alysha Albrecht
Communication Specialist
Van Buren Township

Belleville to seek new city manager

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

Interim Belleville City Manager Tracey Schultz Kobylarz will be leaving the city and the city will be looking for a new city manager. Mayor Kerreen Conley announced this at the Jan. 20 Zoom meeting of the Downtown Development Authority.

"She's looking forward to retirement and she'll be gone before the next DDA meeting" on Feb. 17, Mayor Conley said. Kobylarz said she was sorry she never had the opportunity to meet DDA members face to face. She started almost a year ago and the DDA meetings have all been Zoom. She said when she came the city was working on the budget, facing the general election, had a clerk with one foot out the door, and didn't have a police chief. "The one person who was consistent was Carol [Thompson] of the DDA," Kobylarz said to the DDA. "I appreciate her friendship and direction ... You have a lot of challenges. Good luck to all of you and thank you again."

Kobylarz was longtime supervisor of Redford Township and was serving her 12th year in that position when she was hired Feb. 10, 2020 for a six-month interim position as Belleville City Manager at an annual salary of \$80,000. Later, her position was extended for another six months.

On Monday, Kobylarz said she believes she is leaving Feb. 13. "I committed to six months and stayed a year," she said.

At Monday's Belleville City Council meeting, Mayor Conley said the position was posted on Jan. 15 and resumes have started to come in. She said the position will be posted until filled.



Jan. 27 – Elaine Stabnau
Jan. 29 – Jim Shrove
Jan. 30 – Cathy Bandy
Jan. 31 – Karen Mida

Feb. 1 – Joy Cichewicz, Kathie Steigerwald
Feb. 2 – Denise Bukis
Feb. 4 – Keith Johnston
Feb. 5 – John Losen, Jr.
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Obituaries



William E. Sheldon, Jr.

WILLIAM E. SHELDON, JR.

(April 5, 1927 – January 18, 2021)

William E. Sheldon, Jr., 93, of Arizona City, AZ, formerly of Belleville, Mi, and Red Level, AL, passed away quietly at home on Monday, January 18, 2021.

William (Bill) was born to William Sr. and Marion Sheldon on April 5, 1927 in Ann Arbor, MI.

He served in the U.S. Navy and retired in 1977 after more than 30 years with Michigan Bell Telephone Company. He loved to fish and do woodworking.

He is survived by children Gary (Janet) Sheldon of North Carolina, Steven Sheldon of Michigan, Robert Sheldon of Florida, Alice (Jack) Drake of California, Wendy (Tom) Penhallegon of California, Pamela Benguan (Jim) Doemer of Michigan, Amber (Kirk) Redmond of Kansas, Jeremy Sheldon of Michigan; 13 grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren; sister Shirley (Dick) Seeburger of Michigan; sisters-in-law Jacqueline and Marva McCoy of Michigan; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife Wilma M. Sheldon, daughter Roberta Jordan, and daughter-in-law Anne Marshall Sheldon.

Michigan Memorial Funeral Home in Flat Rock will handle funeral services and burial.

For the last few years Bill had been cared for by his granddaughter Amy Sylvia, her husband Matt, and their children Jaydon, Madison, and Ryan and also Grandma Loretta Brack. He was so happy there and really came back to life with their love and tenderness.

Special thank you to Richard Collier of Belleville, MI, for being such a great friend and neighbor for many years.



Kenneth Ray
Summers, Jr.

KENNETH R. SUMMERS, JR.

(October 21, 1962 – January 21, 2021)

Kenneth Ray Summers, Jr., age 58, life-long Belleville area resident, passed away suddenly Thursday, January 21, 2021 at Henry Ford Hospital, Detroit, MI. He was born October 21, 1962 in Belleville, MI, son of Kenneth Ray & Alice Amanda (Taylor) Summers, Sr. He graduated from Belleville High School, class of 1980. He enjoyed working, time outdoors, and being the second generation to own and operate Summers Ranch on Willow Road in Sumpter Township, MI. He loved to teach: how to work hard, how to be a man, how to process animals, etc. Most of all, he loved time spent with family, especially his grandchildren.

Ken is survived by five children: Jessica (Kyle) Harris of Southgate, MI, Mary Summers of Detroit, MI, Kenny (Chelsae) Summers of Allen Park, MI, Addyson Summers of New Boston, MI, and Michael (Katie) Hill of Flat Rock, MI; four grandchildren: Isaac, Kinsley, Colton and Alice; his mother Alice Summers of Belleville, MI; 5 siblings: Kathy Corey of Taylor, MI, Deborah (Kevin) Mullins of Belleville, MI, Raymond (Janet) Summers of Livonia, MI, Barbara Bechtel of New Boston, MI and Julie Summers of Belleville, MI; also numerous nieces, nephews, extended family and many friends.

He was preceded in death by his father Ken Sr., brother Kenneth Rodney Summers, brother-in-law Mark Corey, aunt Vondia "Bonnie" Summers, also a cousin Wanda Arquette.

Visitation will be Thursday 12-8 p.m. and Friday 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. with a 2 p.m. Funeral Friday, January 29, 2021 at David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI 48111-2764 (734) 697-4500. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, face coverings are required and there is a maximum of 25 people in the building at one time. Interment will be in Michigan Memorial Park, Flat Rock, MI. Memorial contributions may be made to the wishes of the family and would be appreciated. www.davidcbrownfh.com

COVID-19 death total in 48111 rises to 56, positive tests at 2,035

The number of people who have died from COVID-19 in the 48111 zip code grew to 56 over the week ending Monday, Jan. 25.

The positive tests for COVID-19 in 48111 were 2,035 on Monday, Jan. 25, up from 1,991 the previous Monday, Jan. 18.

On Monday, Jan. 25, the separate numbers released by the Wayne County Health Department for the tri-community were: Van Buren Township, 1,319 positive cases, 30 deaths; City of Belleville, 367 positive cases, 19 deaths; and Sumpter Township 349 positive cases, 7 deaths.

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Same Day Service	\$6,630.00

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Ceremonial Rental Casket	\$1,095.00
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Crematory	\$180.00
Cremation Authorization	\$75.00
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Same Day Service	\$5,885.00

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Things to do in the Belleville area...

• **Monday, Feb. 1** – Virtual Coffee Hour with State Rep. Rajeev Puri, at noon. Live streamed via YouTube Channel: Rep. Ranjeev Puri and social media. Any questions or comments during the coffee hour can be put in the comment or chat feature and will be addressed during the live stream. If you would like to pre-submit any questions, email RanjeevPuri@house.mi.gov.

• **Tuesday, Feb. 2** – Forgotten Harvest Free Food Give Away runs from 2 to 4:30 p.m., or while supplies last, every Tuesday at Van Buren Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Rd. Volunteers will load fresh groceries into the vehicle of anyone in need.

• **Tuesday, Feb. 2** – Forgotten Harvest Food Give Away at noon every Tuesday until further notice at Romulus High School, 9650 S. Wayne Rd. Sponsored by Wayne County Executive Warren C. Evans and hosted by Romulus Community School District. Information: Virginia Williams, (734) 673-8396

Obituaries



John Wasilenski, Jr.



JOHN WASILENSKI, JR.

(September 25, 1942 – January 21, 2021)

John Wasilenski, Jr., age 78, of Belleville, MI passed away Thursday, January 21, 2021. John was a graduate of Huron High School, served 4 years in the Army and retired as a Corporal from the Wayne County Sheriff's Department. He was a faithful parishioner of St. Stephen's Catholic Church in New Boston, MI. In his spare time John enjoyed volunteering for Meals on Wheels and helping family and neighbors with lawn work and various household and community projects. He truly was a servant to God and his community.

He was the father of Jeff (Pamela) Wasilenski and Jacqueline (Jeff) Raboczky, the grandfather of Anthony, Lukas and Logan and the great-grandfather of Macey.

John was preceded in death by his parents John and Pauline (Bem); sisters Elizabeth, Marceline, Barbara (of the late Larry Rutkowski); brother Thomas and nephew Kevin Rutkowski. He is survived by sisters Jean (of the late Ben) Abdulla, Jane (Joe) LaDuke, Kathy (Bruce) Byers; brothers David (Judy), Daniel (Karen); sister-in-law Margo (of the late Thomas) Wasilenski, and 21 nieces and nephews.

Due to the Covid pandemic, memorial service for John will be scheduled at a later date this summer at St. Stephen's in New Boston, MI.



Marcy Ann Wafer

MARCY ANN WAFER

(July 23, 1955 – January 20, 2021)

Marcy Ann Wafer, age 65, of Livonia, MI, passed away Wednesday, January 20, 2021 at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Ann Arbor, MI, after a short battle with COVID-19. She was born July 23, 1955, in Morgantown, West Virginia, daughter of Fred J. & Bonnie J. (Wolfe) Borgman. She was raised in Belleville, MI, and graduated from Lincoln High School, class of 1973. She retired from Ford Motor Company in 2006 after 30 years of loyal service. She was a member of the U.A.W. Local 849. She had a knack for returning lost dogs to their owners. She loved animals, flowers, and gardening. Her biggest passion was her family.

Marcy is survived by her loving husband of over 20 years, Timothy Lee Wafer; 4 siblings: Jerry (Karen) Borgman of Ypsilanti, MI, Dawn (Doug) Huff of Westland, MI, Jodie (Lenn) Cornett and Scott Borgman, both of Belleville, MI; niece Kelly (Mark) Minthorn and nephew Brian Huff, both of Westland, MI; mother-in-law Colleen Wafer of Livonia, MI; sister-in-law Terri Wafer of Commerce, MI; also numerous extended family and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents, also a nephew Jeremy Borgman of Ypsilanti, MI.

Dignified cremation rites have been accorded. Arrangements were by David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville, MI. A memorial celebration will be planned and announced at a later date. Memorial contributions may be made to Friends of Michigan Animal Rescue and would be greatly appreciated.

www.davidcbrownfh.com

Upcoming Meetings

- Monday, Feb. 1 – Van Buren Township work/study session at 4 p.m. Also, Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, Feb. 2 – Van Buren Township regular meeting at 6 p.m.
- Monday, Feb. 8 – Keystone Academy school board, 6 p.m. Also, Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, Feb. 9 – Sumpter Township workshop and regular meeting, 6 p.m. Also, Belleville Area District Library Board, 7:30 p.m.

- Wednesday, Feb. 10 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m.
- Thursday, Feb. 11 – Sumpter Township Planning Commission, 7 p.m. Also, Belleville Planning Commission, 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, Feb. 16 – Van Buren Township work/study session at 4 p.m. and regular meeting at 6 p.m. Also, Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.

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Sumpter attorney to review non-payment of deputy supervisor salary

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

Sumpter Township Trustee Peggy Morgan asked fellow board members to look into why new Deputy Supervisor Ken Bednark is not getting paid.

She asked the question during the regular township board meeting held Jan. 12 via Zoom. After much discussion the board voted unanimously to have township

attorney Rob Young look at the situation and how the money paid to Bednark at first, later was taken away.

Trustee Morgan said the pay authorized by Supervisor Tim Bowman was paid up to Dec. 15, when the board cut the deputy supervisor's pay. Then, after Dec. 15 there were deductions and no paycheck.

Supervisor Bowman was not at the Jan. 12 meeting because of a death in the family.

Morgan said Bowman called her and asked her to speak about the problem. He said he sent an email asking why the township did it and then got advice from the Michigan Township Association asking if the deputy supervisor's pay can be determined by the board.

Morgan said Bowman told her the MTA told him the compensation is based on the position, not the person, and the pay would stay until the board changed it.

"He was being paid the same as Karen Armatis," Morgan said, referring to the last deputy supervisor.

She said Bowman told her he went in and talked to Human Resources Director Michelle Bellingham, who reportedly told him, "We're going to make him pay that

back."

Morgan said she wondered who "we" was and she would rather pay attorney Young to look at the issue than have Bednark file a lawsuit to get the money returned to him.

Trustee Matthew Oddy said Bellingham, Young, and Finance Director Michelle Cole talked to the MTA and were told there is no pay to any deputy until the board approves it. He said emails were going around and the trustees got together to call a special meeting.

"No one in the township can approve pay but the board," Trustee Oddy said.

Morgan said Bowman looked into this on Nov. 17 and he said the MTA said the next deputy that comes into this position is paid what the last one was. She said Bowman is new to the job and got the MTA opinion so he'd know what to do.

"It has nothing to do with Ken Bednark," Morgan continued. "The very first check was \$1,200 and then there was nothing since and no information from Michelle [Bellingham] on what's happening.

"This ain't Peggy Morgan saying it. It's the MTA opinion," she said.

"Ken is working for no pay," said Morgan,

adding this is taking bread from his table. "He's getting no pay and no explanation."

Young said he had no conversation with the MTA, as Oddy had reported. Young said he spoke to Michelle Cole.

"My opinion would be to continue the last pay," Young said. Morgan had said Bowman sent out an email earlier that day on the subject and Young said he didn't find it on his computer.

Trustee Don LaPorte asked why this is being brought up now instead of in November when it happened.

"He should have let us know there was a problem," Trustee LaPorte said.

"This needs to be researched," said Oddy. "It's not required by law to have a deputy," he said, referring to the supervisor.

"The MTA said the law is very clear: Until the board approves, there is no deputy pay," Oddy said. "Did he legally get the pay?"

"On Dec. 15 when this came up, I said Ken was paid what the last deputy had," Morgan said, adding from Dec. 15 Bednark's pay rate was set by the board.

LaPorte said the November memo should have been shared.

Oddy proposed adding this issue to the agenda, to review the deputy supervisor's pay and if the supervisor had legal authority to pay him.

"I will send the email to Rob after this meeting," Morgan said of Bowman's email that day.

Morgan insisted on resolving the issue that evening.

Oddy said "Michelle" has contrary information and, "We need to go back to the MTA."

Young asked why Bowman didn't send a copy of the MTA email in November. He said he could take a look at the issue again.

"Any other issues?" Young asked.

"Michelle Bellingham is now making him pay back Karen's pay at the Dec. 15 rate," Morgan said. "He has not received a dime since."

Oddy said Bednark had received pay and benefits and the benefits had to be paid back because the board took away his benefits Dec. 15.

(continued on page 11)

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VBT rec center

(continued from page 1)

Windows would be carved into the building to bring daylight inside.

The new extension would have a door with an entrance cover in the shape of waves to tie in with the township's lake theme.

Supervisor Kevin McNamara said the new area would generate revenue and it would only cost \$200,000 more a year than now to run the buildings.

"This covers all we can afford," Supervisor McNamara said. He said the booklets on the building were sent to the board first and then to the Recreation Committee.

The plan was to have a Phase 2 that would mean more community engagement to fine-tune the plan, but the board said the feasibility study got lots of input from the community and now it is time to let the Recreation Committee members fine-tune it.

Clerk Leon Wright said he likes the concept and doesn't see any reason for more community engagement.

"We had that ... and we haven't had anything negative in comments," Clerk Wright said.

"We're not going to have a community up in arms because they don't want it," Supervisor McNamara said, adding if there were more community engagement they might come up with ideas "we haven't thought of."

Wright said ideas come with a price. "If we are sticking with the goal of paying for this with township funds ... We know what we can pay for ... We're not looking for a Taj Mahal," Wright said.

McNamara said this can be sent to the Recreation Committee and it will take three to four months to get everything done. Then send it to the architects and go out for bids for a spring build.

Wright said he was OK with that and he doesn't want to wait until 2023 to build it.

Trustee Reggie Miller asked do they want to go out again to the public and spend more money?

"Utilize the Recreation Committee," she agreed. She said the township already did a survey and she doesn't know why they did it by telephone because it could have been done by email.

"It's a pretty comprehensive study,"

said Trustee Kevin Martin. "I agree with Trustee Miller and Clerk Wright and I agree with Trustee Miller that this is what we can afford. I think we have a pretty good plan here."

Treasurer Sharry Budd agreed she'd like the Recreation Committee to study this. She said there is enough time and new ideas could come to the Recreation Committee.

"We've been hearing the same thing for 12 years," Wright said, referring to the residents' desire for a recreation center and his 12 years in office.

"I think we should rely on the people we've appointed to do this," said Miller, referring to the Recreation Committee.

Architect Koseck said as a designer he believes he got good information and he has had meetings with the Recreation Committee.

"The public already bought into it," said McNamara. "We don't have to sell them on what do we build."

Director Best said after using the Recreation Committee they could bid it out before the end of the year and they would get a better price at that time.

"There's going to be lots of changes to that plan," Best predicted, adding the goal would be to break ground the beginning of 2022 and open in 2023.

Wright said the Recreation Committee knows the township and the people.

Trustee Donald Boynton said his concern is public safety and where people would go if a storm rolls through and the gym folds like a deck of cards.

"Where are folks going to go if a storm comes along?" Trustee Boynton asked, questioning if it will have a fallout shelter.

Koseck said, "You made some good points ... We'll make sure it's safe... Duly noted and should be discussed... Knock on wood, we've never had a problem."

McNamara said they would announce the Recreation Committee meetings in the paper and social media so the public can take part.

"I expect two, three, four meetings out of them," McNamara said.

Wright said they could meet each month.

"There are some big holes in that plan that I would like changed," McNamara said.

The recreation center was first discussed at length publicly after being brought to

the March 4, 2019 work/study session of the board by Wright and Miller to see if the other board members were interested in the project.

Wright said the fire station bonds will come off the rolls in 2022, which free up about 6.5 mills.

"It's time for us to do something for the residents who have to put up with two landfills – one hazardous and one not hazardous," Wright said.

"We have to have some type of vision," Wright said, adding he doesn't think Waste Management is going to close down its landfill so the township won't get tipping fees. He said Woodland is one of the most lucrative landfills for Waste Management.

"I wouldn't bring this forward if I didn't think we could do it ... I think it's time," Wright said.

"We're not asking residents to pay for it," Wright said, explaining it will be done with budgeting.

During that discussion in 2019, two women in the audience supported senior citizen walking areas and just a basic community center without a pool.

McNamara had said the cost of maintaining a pool would be more than they could afford and he was against charging residents to use something built with their tax money.

Trustee Sherry Frazier said she would also like it to be a cultural center, and everyone seemed to agree.

Jacqueline Smith of VBT named to Dean's List at Dean College

Jacqueline Smith of Van Buren Township has earned a place on the Dean's List for the Fall 2020 semester at Dean College in Franklin, Massachusetts.

Students named to the Dean's List have demonstrated a serious commitment to their studies while at Dean College.

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(continued from page 9)

Morgan said the board voted to take any and all benefits the previous deputy had away from the new deputy. She suggested they check with Bednark.

Morgan said she was told Bellingham said the board members told her to do this.

A motion was made by Morgan, seconded by Oddy, to have the attorney look at the pay scale and what was taken away as recorded in the Dec. 15 minutes which were just approved.

Oddy said that included any money the supervisor had legally authorized to pay not taken away until Dec. 15.

The motion passed unanimously.

Oddy said the board needs better communication and he received no emails from Bednark or the supervisor.

"They're keeping the rest of the board in the dark," Oddy said.

Morgan said it goes both ways and the supervisor was not alerted board members were going to cut his deputy to half-time.

She said there were a lot of emails going around and, "We should always be CC'd. We all work for the residents and I hope that happens."

In other business at the Jan. 12 meeting, the board:

- Approved updated virtual meetings policies and procedures;
- Approved the annual resolution on Wayne County permit A-21044;
- Approved entering into a memorandum of understanding with the Western Wayne County Mobile Field Force. Public Safety Director Eric Luke said the township has belonged for 10 years but now they are setting up a budget and it will cost between \$700 and \$1,000;
- Tabled, as requested by Oddy, the requested termination of fire fighter Daniel Frost;
- Approved outfitting two new Ford Police Interceptor Utilities through Herkimer Radio at a total cost of \$13,576.84, with Morgan voting no. Director Luke said they got the new vehicles a month ago and they are a different size inside and the old equipment can't be transferred;
- Removed from the agenda a resolution on poverty exemption because the law has changed and there will be revisions;
- Approved dates for the 2021 planning commission meetings;
- Tabled the supervisor's appointment of

Eric Partridge to the planning commission with a term to expire Jan. 11, 2024;

• Tabled the supervisor's appointment of Sherry Olds to the Zoning Board of Appeals as an alternate with a term to expire Jan. 13, 2024;

• Tabled the supervisor's reappointment of Karen Woodington as an alternate to the Board of Review starting Jan. 1, 2021 and ending Jan. 1, 2024;

• Tabled the supervisor's reappointment of Katrina Guisgand to the Board of Review with a term to expire Jan. 1, 2024;

• Tabled the supervisor's reappointment of Kathie Steigerwald to the ZBA with a term to expire Dec. 17, 2023;

• Approved the Health Care Committee's recommendation to approve the Blue Cross Network and Delta Dental renewals through Burnham and Flower at a total annual cost of \$393,010.44;

• Approved the annual exemption from Contribution Act 152 of 2011 allowing employees to contribute 10% to their health costs, rather than requiring 20% under the Act;

• Approved removing prior Treasurer John Morgan and prior Deputy Treasurer Karen Armatis names from the Public Services Credit Union and renaming the account administrators as Treasurer James Clark and Deputy Treasurer Toni Clark. Verification is to be given to the board when this is completed to show the bonds are no longer in the former names;

• Approved extending virtual meetings through March 30 in keeping with the governor's extension to the Open Meetings Act under the MDDHS Order for "Gatherings and Face Masks";

• Approved on a 5-1 vote extension for 36 months of the agreement with Constellation Energy Services at \$2.93/dth, with Morgan voting no. The contract resulted in about \$8,500 in savings in 2020, according to information provided to the board;

• Approved MIOSHA's Remote Work Policies that require any workers that can work from home to work remotely, as determined by each person's direct supervisor. The motion was to include acknowledging the Sumpter Township Work at Home policy already in effect;

• Approved going out for quotes to replace the current township bulletin board at the community center to provide updated information electronically as recommended by the treasurer and deputy treasurer. Deputy Clark said she tried to clean the letters to announce the treasurers office was open to pay taxes and found the plastic letters on the current sign are brittle and

hard to clean. Also, there are not enough letters to put up complete messages;

• Turned down a motion, on a 3-2 vote, to change Anna Winter's title from Water Billing Clerk to Utility Billing Specialist, with Morgan and Clark in favor. Young said he believed this would be a collective-bargaining issue; and

• Agreed to have the treasurer or deputy treasurer consult with the Belleville Area District Library on a suggestion to add a coffee shop type of service for those who use the Library Media Center in Sumpter. Young reminded the board that the township has leased the building to the library and the library determines the use. Clerk Hurst said if they're going to put up a coffee shop, "I want it a drive-through."

Since Supervisor Bowman was absent from the meeting, Clerk Hurst served as chairperson.

State Rep. Joe Bellino named House Energy chair for a second term

State Rep. Joe Bellino, R-Monroe, has been named chair of the House Energy Committee for a second consecutive term, according to House Speaker Jason Wentworth.

The House Energy Policy Committee deliberates on all issues related to Michigan's energy situation. This includes the generation of energy transmission throughout the grid and delivery to end users such as schools, businesses, and residences.

"It's an honor to again lead the House Energy Committee," Bellino said. "We were able to get a lot accomplished together last term, but there's still always more to be done on behalf of Michigan's families. I'm looking forward to continuing to advocate for common-sense solutions going into this new term that protect ratepayers across our state."

Last term, Rep. Bellino worked with community and utility leaders on policies to reduce costly and unnecessary bureaucracy, fight fraud, and provide tax relief to Michigan families.

"I'm looking forward to working together with other legislators to deliver solutions to better serve Michigan's families," Bellino said.

Bellino will also serve for the next two years as a member of the House Regulatory Reform, Agriculture, and Local Government and Municipal Finance committees.

Bellino's represents the 17th District which includes Sumpter Township.

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

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



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

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Center in the old HealthSmart Pharmacy location. Visit www.truwellnessrx.com. Dr. Sleiman was also recently appointed to the State of Michigan Board of Pharmacy to represent pharmacists by Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer with a term to expire June 30, 2024. Congratulations, Michael!

The Bake Shoppe near the corner of Savage and Bemis roads is gearing up for Paczki Day coming up on Feb. 16, with paczki made from scratch with flavors including apple, apricot, blueberry, custard, lemon, prune, raspberry, and strawberry. Paczki prices are \$2 each, \$10.50 for a half dozen, and \$20 per dozen and will be

available for pickup starting Feb. 15, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on Feb. 16, from 5 a.m. until 6 p.m. See their ad in today's paper and call (734) 699-2236.

Johnny's Grill on High Street will be reopening for indoor dining on Monday, Feb. 1, from noon until 10 p.m. seven days a week. More State of Michigan restrictions are being lifted with contingencies in place such as 25% capacity, tables 6 feet apart at a minimum, and a limit of 6 people per table. Masks are also still required until you are seated at your table and contact tracing info will be asked of the patrons. These latest indoor dining regulations will be in place through Feb. 15. Call (734) 699-1777.

Congratulations once again to Belleville Football for a great season and special congratulations to Head Coach Jermain Crowell, Christian Dhue-Reid, Deion Burks, Damon Payne, and Jamari Buddin for being selected to the 2020 *Detroit Free Press* All-West Team.

I came across this while surfing the Van Buren Public Schools website. While viewing the home page for McBride Middle School, first up was a photo of a brown-haired girl wearing a mask with a sign that read "Be a pineapple, stand tall, wear a crown, and be sweet on the inside." The other pics in the slideshow featured various students taking part in activities such as painting, young adult coloring, an electrical project of some kind, and a card

game. Made me smile. The world could use more pineapples during these challenging times.

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



E. James Barnowsky of Town and Country mobile home park in Van Buren Township put up 46 American flags around his home on Jan. 20 to celebrate the inauguration of the country's 46th President. Barnowsky, 82, worked in the music and auto sales business and raises the flag every morning, along with the MIA flag. Every Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, and Veterans Day he displays flags in front of his home and for the last four years he displayed 45 flags.

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Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 19, 2021 ELECTRONICALLY VIA ZOOM

Supervisor McNamara called the meeting to order electronically via Zoom meeting ID 970 0969 3624 at 6:00 p.m. Present: Supervisor McNamara, Treasurer Budd, Clerk Wright, Trustee Boynton, Trustee Frazier, Trustee Martin, and Trustee Miller. Others participating, facilitating and monitoring the meeting: Secretary Montgomery, Planning and Economic Development Director Power, Public Services Director Best, Representatives from Plante Moran Cresa, Public Services Executive Assistant Renaud, Communication Specialists Albrecht and Nichols and a maximum audience of Twenty (20).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE AGENDA: Supervisor McNamara outlined the items appearing on the agenda.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA: Frazier moved; Martin seconded to approve the agenda. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: McNamara, Budd, Wright, Boynton, Frazier, Martin, and Miller. Motion Carried.

ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA: Martin moved, Budd seconded to approve the Consent Agenda: (Board Meeting Minutes of December 15, 2020, Prepaid List of December 17, 2020, Prepaid List of January 7, 2021, Prepaid List of January 14, 2021, Voucher List of January 5, 2021, Voucher List of January 19, 2021, Approval of the re-appointment of Tammy Wall, Kimberly Nofz, Charles Coleman, Daniel Belanger, Denise Willoughby, and Todd O'Neill, Morgan Stuckey (Student Rep.) and Kennedy Plummer (Student Rep.) to the Recreation Committee with terms to expire February 01, 2022, Approval of Resolution 2021-04 the annual MDOT Maintenance Permit, Approval of Resolution 2021-01 the SHVUA Rules & Regulations Amendment). Roll Call Vote. Yeas: McNamara, Budd, Wright, Boynton, Frazier, Martin, and Miller. Motion Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING: None.

C O R R E S P O N D E N C E / ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS:

The State of Michigan has allocated \$55 million to implement the Michigan Small Business Survival Grant Program to support the needs of Michigan businesses that have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 virus and the Gatherings and Mask Order. The application to apply opened, January 19, and will close on Friday, January 22 at noon. For more information on how to apply visit

michiganbusiness.org/survival and there is a link on our website pop-up menu at vanburen-mi.org; read a statement honoring Martin Luther King Jr. and his civil rights movement and efforts towards equality and unity; Forgotten Harvest will provide food assistance from 2-4 p.m. (or while supplies last) Tuesdays at the Township Hall; thanked the Belleville High School Football Team/Coaches/Teachers and Community for a successful year.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Unfinished and New Business): None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Budd moved, Miller seconded to approve Resolution 2021-03 the Amended and Re-stated Urban County Cooperative Agreement for the Federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: McNamara, Budd, Wright, Boynton, Frazier, Martin, Miller. Motion Carried.

Miller moved, Wright seconded to approve Resolution 2021-02 to relax certain administrative review processes and fees regarding temporary land uses for outdoor food and beverage. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: McNamara, Budd, Wright, Boynton, Frazier, Martin, Miller. Motion Carried.

Miller moved, Frazier seconded to approve the final presentation for improvements to French Landing Park. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: McNamara, Budd, Wright, Boynton, Frazier, Martin, Miller. Motion Carried.

Presentation and Discussion regarding the Community Center Feasibility Study.

Martin moved, Boynton seconded to change the current Township Administrative office business hours to by appointment only until March 31, 2021 with exceptions made on a per case basis. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: Budd, Wright, Boynton, Frazier, Martin and Miller. Nays: McNamara. Motion Carried.

REPORTS: The following budgetary reports were received by the Board:

Budgetary Report-September 2020

Budgetary Report-October 2020.

Budgetary Report-November 2020.

PUBLIC COMMENT NON-AGENDA ITEMS: None.

BOARD COMMENT NON-AGENDA ITEMS: Recommendation to provide a Martin Luther King Jr. celebration annually in Van Buren Township going forward.

ADJOURNMENT: Boynton moved, Miller seconded to adjourn at 8:18 p.m. Motion Carried.

Leon Wright, Township Clerk

Kevin McNamara, Supervisor

Published: January 28, 2021

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Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

There were 217 dispatch calls reported by Van Buren Township police for last week, including the following.

Sunday, Jan. 17:

0013 – noise complaint, Timberview Ct.
0036 – 911 welfare check, Andover Dr.
0046 – disorderly, w. Archwood Dr.
0314 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.
0513 – weapons violation, McKinley St.
0527 – suspicious person/vehicle, McBride Ave.
0626 – suspicious person/vehicle, McKinley St.
0805 – intrusion alarm, Winding Pond Dr.
1000 – intrusion alarm, Ecorse Rd.
1124 – 911 welfare check, Oak Ln.
1341 – welfare check, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1403 – private property/property damage accident, Denton Rd.
1406 – property damage accident, N. I-94 Service Dr./Belleville Rd.
1429 – domestic, Landmark
1444 – lake complaint, E. Huron River Dr.
1526 – property damage accident, Haggerty
1624 – welfare check, Belleville Rd.
1645 – disorderly, Westlake Cir.
1818 – fraud, Fret Rd.
1821 – road hazard, Haggerty Rd./S. I-94 Service
1856 – suspicious person/vehicle, Filmore St.
1920 – welfare check, Robson Rd.
2001 – 911 welfare check, McKinley St.
2025 – disorderly, S. I-94 Service Dr.
2140 – traffic stop, Belleville/Quirk Rd.
2259 – suicidal person, Hanover Dr.
2303 – traffic stop, N. I-94 Service Dr./Dewitt
2340 – noise complaint, Meadows Ct.

Monday, Jan. 18:

0025 – suspicious person/vehicle, Montague Ave.
0046 – assist fire dept., Beckley Rd.
0113 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
0206 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.
0505 – suspicious person/vehicle, Beckley Rd.
0735 – private property/property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
0741 – misc. complaint, Alden Ave.
0814 – private property/property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
0842 – larceny from auto, Lighthouse Dr.
0859 – intrusion alarm, Kirkridge Park Dr.
0901 – malicious destruction, W. Archwood Dr.
0915 – larceny from auto, Archwood Apts.
0930 – larceny from auto, Archwood Apts.
1028 – suicidal person, Sheldon Rd.
1154 – intrusion alarm, Colony Ln.
1154 – suspicious person/vehicle, Beck/Ecorse
1233 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Rawsonville Rd.
1257 – private property impound, Ecorse Rd.
1551 – domestic, Andover Dr.
1636 – suspicious person/vehicle, s. Bellridge Dr.
1742 – vehicle lockout, Belleville Rd.
1857 – vehicle lockout, Belleville Rd.
1924 – suspicious person/vehicle, Oak Ln.
1932 – assist other dept., Sheldon Rd.
1936 – family trouble, Madison Dr.
2010 – domestic, Parkwood Dr.
2120 – disorderly, N. I-94 Service Dr.
2152 – domestic, N. Bellridge Dr.

Tuesday, Jan. 19:

0005 – domestic, Harbour Pointe Ct.
0049 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
0230 – 911 welfare check, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0329 – traffic stop, Haggerty Rd./E. Huron River
0642 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Victoria
0900 – traffic stop, Charter Club Dr./Tyler Rd.
0909 – intrusion alarm, Fay Dr.
0951 – traffic stop, Ecorse Rd./Haggerty Rd.
1042 – property check, Hull Rd.
1100 – domestic, Westlake Cir.
1115 – private property impound, E. Huron River
1125 – traffic stop, Elwell Rd./W. Huron River Dr.
1150 – assist other dept., Menlo
1200 – traffic offense, Belleville Rd./Westlake Cir.
1250 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1458 – traffic stop, Belleville Rd./Westlake Cir.
1529 – traffic stop, Belleville Plaza
1535 – welfare check, Holly Ln.
1547 – fraud, Belleville
1545 – operating while intoxicated, Sumpter Rd. /
Bemis Rd.
1554 – traffic stop, Savage Rd./Mansfield Ct.

1617 – traffic offense, Michigan Ave./Denton Rd.
1618 – vehicle lockout, Dewitt Rd.
1648 – hospice death, Parkwood Dr.
1700 – welfare check, Bemis Rd./Sully Dr.
1704 – traffic stop, Tyler
1715 – fraud, W. Huron River Dr.
1758 – intrusion alarm, Van Born Rd.
1818 – larceny from auto, Denton Rd.
1835 – disorderly, Belleville Rd.
1841 – civil matter, Kirkridge Park Dr.
1943 – vehicle lockout, Lakeview Ct.
2025 – harassment call, Tyler Rd.
2035 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
2128 – suspicious person/vehicle, Stamford Rd.
2152 – property check, Rawsonville Rd.
2157 – personal injury accident, W. I-94/Belleville
2201 – personal injury accident, W. I-94/Haggerty
2226 – suspicious person/vehicle, McBride Ave.

Wednesday, Jan. 20:

0025 – property check, Rawsonville Rd.
0034 – property damage accident, Hannan/Tyler
0051 – personal injury accident, Hannan/Tyler
0113 – animal complaint, N. I-94 Service Dr./Beck
0254 – property check, Rawsonville Rd.
0732 – intrusion alarm, Huron River Dr.
0756 – animal complaint, Quirk Rd./McBride Ave.
1018 – 911 welfare check, Haggerty Rd.
1046 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.
1113 – animal complaint, Quirk Rd.
1239 – juvenile complaint, McBride
1254 – juvenile complaint, McBride
1312 – abandoned auto, Winding Pond Dr.
1313 – domestic, Arthur St.
1410 – property damage accident, Bemis Rd./Lohr
1440 – mental subject, McBride Ave.
1454 – hospice death, Michigan Ave.
1544 – suspicious person/vehicle, S. I-94 Service

Dr. / Denton Rd.
1557 – intrusion alarm, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1611 – welfare check, Kirkridge Park Dr.
1711 – mental subject, McBride Ave.
1908 – traffic stop, Belleville Rd./E. I-94
1935 – property damage accident, Laguna Dr.
1940 – traffic stop, Revere Dr./Madison Dr.
2004 – malicious destruction of property, Van Born
Rd./Morton Taylor Rd.
2027 – traffic stop, Belleville Rd./Stephanie Dr.
2055 – 911 welfare check, Parkwood Dr.
2058 – missing person, Coolidge St.
2156 – 911 welfare check, Basswood Cir.
2248 – traffic stop, Belleville Rd.

Thursday, Jan. 21:

0029 – suspicious person/vehicle, Beckley
0039 – traffic stop, Belleville Rd.
0132 – traffic stop, Ecorse Rd./Beck Rd.
0145 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
0542 – property damage accident, Haggerty/Tyler
0721 – family trouble, Birch Dr.
0905 – 911 welfare check, Belleville Rd.
1200 – traffic stop, Savage Rd./Colonial Rd.
1208 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.
1301 – follow up by officer, Holly Ln.
1308 – larceny, Hamilton St.
1308 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1317 – neighbor trouble, Stamford Rd.
1318 – intrusion alarm, Dover Ct.
1348 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.
1417 – vehicle lockout, Belleville Rd.
1423 – traffic stop, Tyler Rd./Beck Rd.
1500 – property damage accident, Ecorse Rd.
1506 – fight, Belleville Rd.
1634 – intrusion alarm, Bramblewood Ct.
1709 – suspicious person/vehicle, Timberview Ct.
1746 – animal complaint, Lancaster Dr.
1858 – motorist assist, Belleville Rd.
1902 – traffic stop, Belleville/Quirk Rd.
2030 – motorist assist, Sumpter Rd./Hull Rd.
2108 – 911 welfare check, Bemis Rd.
2146 – abandoned auto, Stamford Rd.
2150 – traffic stop, Tyler Rd./Beck Rd.
2209 – threat, Kirkridge Park Dr.
2246 – intrusion alarm, Ecorse Rd.
2338 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.

Friday, Jan. 22:

0049 – traffic stop, E. I-94/Belleville Rd.
0117 – traffic stop, S. I-94 Service Dr./Village Green
Ln.
0146 – traffic stop, Belleville
0352 – welfare check, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0410 – suspicious person/vehicle, Denton Rd.
0439 – traffic stop, Tyler Rd./Belleville Rd.
0830 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.
0843 – suspicious person/vehicle, Hamilton Ct.

0935 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
0950 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
0954 – motorist assist, E. Huron River/Haggerty
1004 – suspicious person/vehicle, Country Ln.
1022 – malicious destruction of property, Milton
1049 – suspicious person/vehicle, Winding Pond
1224 – private property impound, S. I-94 Service
1315 – ordinance violation, Brookside Dr.
1410 – fraud, Bradley Dr.
1424 – civil matter, Parkwood Dr.
1436 – property damage accident, Haggerty/Bemis
1456 – disorderly, Belleville Rd.
1529 – vehicle lockout, Belleville Rd.
1641 – traffic stop, Milton/Country Walk Blvd.
1711 – larceny from auto, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1831 – family trouble, Winchester St.
1924 – property check, Rawsonville Rd.
2022 – larceny, Daisy Blvd.
2116 – traffic stop, Belleville Rd./Ecorse Rd.
2307 – fraud, Belleville Rd.

Saturday, Jan. 23:

0115 – intrusion alarm, Ecorse Rd.
0238 – property check, Rawsonville Rd.
0434 – property check, Rawsonville Rd.
0439 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
0559 – noise complaint, Park Estates Dr.
1108 – traffic stop, Bemis Rd./Martinsville Rd.
1132 – personal injury accident, Alden Ave.
1140 – 911 welfare check, Van Born Rd.
1155 – traffic stop, Hamilton St./Van Buren St.
1229 – missing person, Victoria St.
1255 – personal injury accident, Belleville
1323 – intrusion alarm, Lake Villa Dr.
1529 – intrusion alarm, Ventura Dr.
1619 – suspicious person/vehicle, Lincoln St.
1645 – traffic stop, S. I-94 Service dr.
1659 – assist other dept., Denton Rd.

1822 – suspicious person/vehicle, EB Michigan
Ave. / bypass
1851 – assist other dept., Huron River Dr.
1903 – juvenile complaint, Andover/Tyler
1923 – welfare check, Van Buren St.
1944 – suspicious person/vehicle, Rawsonville
2200 – noise complaint, E. Huron River Dr.
2218 – disorderly, Lighthouse Dr.
2305 – noise complaint, Meadows Ct.
2317 – suspicious person/vehicle, Beckley
There were 29 traffic stops on this week's log
including one on I-94.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Jan. 17:

0010 – traffic stop, Main St./First St.
0042 – assist fire dept., San Carlos St.
0147 – assist citizen, Harbour Pointe Dr.
1033 – traffic stop, Sumpter Rd./Industrial Pk.
1054 – traffic stop, Sumpter Rd./Industrial Pk.
1116 – traffic stop, Sumpter Rd./Industrial Pk.
1429 – assist other dept., N. Liberty St.
2150 – traffic stop, E. Columbia/Madelon St.
2350 – 911 welfare check, Belle Villa Blvd.

Monday, Jan. 18:

1157 – assault & battery, South St.
2151 – traffic stop, Belle Park Plaza
Tuesday, Jan. 19:
0008 – traffic stop, Main St./High St.
0156 – assist citizen, Loza Ln./E. Huron River
1100 – assist fire dept., Loza Ln.
1323 – civil matter, Carmell St.
1421 – welfare check, W. Columbia Ave.
1712 – civil matter, Carmell St.
2312 – welfare check, Carmell St.

Wednesday, Jan. 20:

1113 – traffic stop, Main St./High St.
1143 – traffic stop, High St./Main St.
1348 – welfare check, Carmell St.
1452 – suspicious person/vehicle, Sumpter Rd.
1606 – family trouble, Carmell St.
1917 – assist fire dept., Menlo Park Dr.
2102 – property damage accident, Main St.

Thursday, Jan. 21:

0627 – domestic, Henry St.
1010 – welfare check, Robbe St.
1026 – traffic stop, E. Columbia Ave./S. Liberty
1126 – motorist assist, Main St.
1228 – neighbor trouble, Loza Ln.
1422 – suspicious person/vehicle, Loza Ln.
1755 – intrusion alarm, E. Huron River Dr.
2110 – traffic stop, Main St./Roys St.

Friday, Jan. 22:

0903 – suspicious person/vehicle, Owen St.
1200 – traffic stop, W. Columbia Ave.
1303 – traffic stop, Main St.
1321 – traffic stop, Fifth St./Main St.
1350 – fraud, S. Edgemont Ave.
2055 – traffic offense, Main St./Second St.
Saturday, Jan. 23:
0048 – traffic offense, W. Columbia Ave.
1031 – misc. complaint, Carmell St.
1117 – misc. complaint, W. Columbia/Edison
1158 – harassment call, Loza Ln.
1427 – suicidal person, S. Liberty St.
1600 – civil matter, Sumpter Rd.
1943 – assist fire dept., Main St.
2054 – traffic stop, Madelon St./Robbe St.
2139 – traffic stop, E. Huron River Dr./N. Edgemont
Ave.
2202 – traffic stop, Savage Rd./Victorian Ln.
There were 17 traffic stops on this week's log.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Jan. 17:

1243 – reckless driver, Sumpter Rd./Judd Rd.
1541 – suspicious vehicle, 28000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1745 – fire dept. assist, 21000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1803 – misc. detail, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1839 – mental health call, Rustic Ln.
1851 – 911 hang up, 6900 bl. Oakville Waltz Rd.
1938 – harassment complaint, 21000 bl. Haggerty
1949 – traffic stop, Sumpter Rd./Willis Rd.

Monday, Jan. 18:

0014 – follow-up investigation, Carriage Ln.
0553 – fire dept. assist, 50000 bl. Judd Rd.
1352 – welfare check, Mulberry Dr.
1449 – animal complaint, 51000 bl. Arkona Rd.
1544 – welfare check, Country Club Blvd.
1707 – mental health call, Birch Dr.
1908 – misc. detail, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1943 – family trouble, Rustic Ln.
2042 – fire dept. assist, 46000 bl. Bemis Rd.
2056 – mental health call, Rustic Ln.
2142 – follow-up investigation, Rustic Ln.
2223 – assist other agency, 18000 bl. Savage Rd.

Tuesday, Jan. 19:

0135 – follow-up investigation, Rustic Ln.
0656 – alarm, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1024 – fire dept. assist, 45000 bl. Bemis Rd.
1042 – traffic stop, 8100 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
1047 – malicious destruction of property, 45000 bl.
Willis Rd.

1229 – alarm, 20000 bl. Griffin Ct.
1430 – traffic stop, Rawsonville Rd./Judd Rd.
1538 – 911 hang up, 43000 bl. Dunn Rd.
1754 – welfare check, 44000 bl. Wear Rd.
1841 – misc. detail, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2003 – suspicious circumstance, 23000 bl. Sumpter
Rd.

2040 – 911 hang up, 18000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
Wednesday, Jan. 20:
0242 – mental health call, Rustic Ln.
0329 – suspicious circumstance, 8200 bl.
Rawsonville Rd.

0647 – suspicious circumstance, 46000 bl. Judd Rd
0749 – 911 hang up, 47000 bl. Bemis Rd.
1137 – family trouble, Bemis Rd./Sumpter Rd.
1305 – civil matter, 46000 bl. Bontekoe St.
1334 – animal complaint, 46000 bl. Willis Rd.
1652 – fraud complaint, Rustic Ln.
1702 – civil matter, 24000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
1745 – fire dept. assist, Knollwood Dr.
1827 – assist other agency, Kansas St.
2004 – misc. detail, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

Thursday, Jan. 21:

0023 – mental health call, Rustic Ln.
0131 – welfare check, 19000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
0710 – traffic stop, Rawsonville Rd./Rustic Ln.
0734 – misc. detail, 47000 bl. Bemis Rd.
1052 – fire dept. assist, 48000 bl. Willis Rd.
1221 – malicious destruction of property, Carriage
Ln.
1226 – traffic stop, Sumpter Rd./Willow Rd.
1311 – larceny complaint, Wayside Dr.
1514 – follow-up investigation, Wayside Dr.
1712 – civil matter, 20000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1810 – misc. detail, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1851 – suspicious circumstance, 18000 bl.
Martinsville Rd.

(Continued on page 15)

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

(continued on page 14)

2202 – violation of public health code, Willis Rd.
/ Wilmod Rd.

Friday, Jan. 22:

0310 – fire dept. assist, 22000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
0345 – fire dept. assist, 51000 bl. Judd Rd.
0501 – traffic complaint, Sumpter Rd./Willis Rd.
0807 – found property, 20000 bl. Karr Rd.
1521 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1803 – civil matter, Rustic Ln.
1854 – misc. detail, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2213 – family trouble, Edgewood Dr.

Saturday, Jan. 23:

0007 – fire dept. assist, 45000 bl. Bemis Rd.
0048 – fire dept. assist, 22000 bl. Clark Rd.
0121 – 911 hang up, 18000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
0854 – welfare check, 26000 bl. Karr Rd.
0905 – suspicious circumstance, 22000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
0933 – traffic complaint, 23000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1348 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1515 – assist other agency, 27000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
1847 – assist other agency, Willow Golf Course LHWI
1848 – misc. detail, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1935 – citizen assist, 47000 bl. Judd Rd.
1941 – 911 hang up, 20000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2000 – mental health call, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2036 – fire dept. assist, Creekside Dr.
2105 – 911 hang up, 21000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2214 – neighbor trouble, Rustic Ln.
Also on this week's log are 68 patrol checks. There were five traffic stops this week.



Rotary District 6400 has recognized two leaders of Trinity Episcopal Church - Friday Fill Up for their work in weekly providing food and other support to families of children in food-insecure households. Both Martha Hanoian and Gabby Burton received the district's Peace Chain Award for their effort in this work for families in need and helping make this community healthier, safer and more stable. Above, Rotary Club of Belleville President Debra Green (right) presents the certificate to Hanoian. The local club donated \$500 to Friday Fill Up in December and has supported Friday Fill Up with sorting, organizing and delivery in recent years.

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– Steven Wright

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