



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

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Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

FREE

City Council presents proclamation to BHS football champs

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

Belleville High School football coach Jermain Crowell and Van Buren Public Schools Superintendent Pete Kudlak accepted a proclamation from Belleville Mayor Kerreen Conley at Monday's regular, in-person meeting of the Belleville City Council.

The framed proclamation was signed by all the city council members. It congratulated the BHS football team on its MHSAA Division 1 football state championship title.

Coach Crowell said this is just the first championship and they should get ready for more in the future.

"You'll just have to get used to it," he said with a smile. He then presented a box of special T-shirts to the council saying he didn't know their sizes, but there should be enough to fit them all.

Mayor Kerreen Conley announced later in the meeting that the football players will be getting individual trophies, paid for by donations through the city, that will be handled as a pass-through purchase.

Mayor Conley said there are strict rules about what you can give to students and they are following school regulations.

In other business at the 34-minute meeting, the council:

- Set a special meeting for 6 p.m., Monday, Jan. 31, for a council strategic planning session as it heads into budget discussions. The place would be the library, if available, or city hall. Also, there may be use of a facilitator;

- Set special budget study sessions for 6 p.m. Monday, March 14, and Monday, March 28, at city hall;

- Approved Resolution #22-001 that changed signatories on warrants for city business, dropping Tom Fielder who

(continued on page 3)



Belleville Area Museum

Independent photo by James Oztman

Belleville Area Museum still closed to public

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

As the new year unfolds, residents of the tri-community are questioning if their museum will reopen for use by students and the public any time soon.

It was closed in March 2020 when COVID-19 arrived and then reopened briefly on Sept. 7, 2021, with a Van Buren Township news release announcing the opening and all the scheduled activities. It closed again suddenly two days later and has been closed ever since.

Van Buren Township Supervisor Kevin McNamara invited the public to speak about the Belleville Area Museum during the board's Oct. 19 zoom meeting. That's the last time the museum was publicly discussed by the township board.

At that meeting he said the museum budget was on the agenda for the public budget hearing that night and so it was appropriate for the public to speak on the museum.

Diane Wilson, who retired as director of

the Belleville Area Museum in June 2011 after 15 years of service, said she has not heard the township's plans for the museum yet.

"Right now we don't know the direction we will take," Supervisor McNamara replied. He said he wants a townhall meeting and they won't decide anything without public input. He said it's closed because they will be having construction.

"When will the hearing be held?" Wilson asked and McNamara said it would be the end of the year, or January. He said there is a huge turnover of key employee positions.

Trustee Reggie Miller asked if it would be an agenda item where the public could speak and McNamara said it would be an open house where the township would show the public ideas and hear comments.

He said the comments would be taken to the board and then the board would present it to the public.

Clerk Leon Wright said the people can tell them what they would like to see.

McNamara said he has talked to the City of Belleville and Township of Sumpter and Sumpter pledged additional support.

"I don't see it going away," he said.

Wilson asked why it isn't open and McNamara said there was no attendance, no programming.

Wilson said she thought the museum was

closed because of COVID and that's why attendance was down. She asked about the status of Museum Director Katy Dallos and McNamara said she currently is laid off. [Later, Dallos reported on social media that she had been terminated.]

"If this historical building is lost to the community, it would be a huge loss," Wilson said. "And, not to be used is an abomination."

McNamara said the township is putting \$200,000 into the museum and they wouldn't be doing that if they weren't going to do something with it.

"I don't see why it has to be closed," she said. "The director had all kinds of activities planned" and she named off all the events that had been listed when it was reopened on Sept. 7 after being closed a year before it was abruptly closed again.

"It shouldn't be placed on her for lack of admission," Wilson said.

"We have to have a vision," McNamara said and Wilson said that was a good idea, but why has it been closed?

"We've got to have some hours it's open and we can't get this," McNamara said.

"People have to know when they can come," said Trustee Sherry Frazier.

"The board isn't letting that museum go away," McNamara said.

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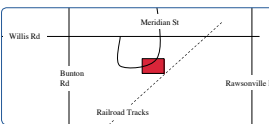
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SECOND FRONT PAGE

City Council

(continued from page 1)

no longer is on the council, and adding Councilman Steve Jones and Mayor Pro-Tem Ken Voigt. Also serving as signatories are Mayor Kerreen Conley, Clerk/Treasurer Briana Hootman, and Deputy Administrator Tim McLean;

- Heard Deputy Administrator McLean announce that City Manager/Police Chief Dave Robinson is sick and couldn't be present for the meeting. He said that Robinson told him to announce that the two bargaining agreements he was working on are ready to come to the council and he will bring the contracts to them at a future meeting for its consideration;

- Heard DPW Director Rick Rutherford say the city had a meeting with Wayne County Commissioner Al Haidous and gave him and his staff a walking tour of Victory Station. The city is seeking a grant from the county commission to upgrade Victory Station. Rutherford said Haidous added a few things he thought of. Rutherford said they have added a new fence for the park and the already planned bench upgrades. McLean said the project narrative for Victory Station was presented to the county at 9 a.m. Jan. 3. Now they have to wait for the commission's decision;

- Heard McLean announce that the city's Downtown Development Authority will meet at 6 p.m., Jan. 12, in the council chambers for a strategic planning session with facilitator Samantha Harkins, who is charging \$150 per hour. The public is invited to watch, but the discussions will be by DDA members only;

- Heard Councilman Jones ask about repairing the fence at the Denton Road bridge and Rutherford said they have a police report and will be checking the driver's insurance; and

- Heard Mayor Conley ask when the Christmas trees will be picked up and Rutherford said he would check with Republic Waste to find out. He said people shouldn't bring the trees to the recycling container at the DPW yard because Republic is being paid to pick up the trees.

Although in the past in-person meetings, only those who weren't vaccinated were asked to wear masks. At Monday's meeting a big new sign was on the front door of city hall requiring everyone entering to wear a mask. The chairs in the audience were set farther apart than usual, as well.

Mayor Pro-Tem Voigt was not present at the meeting but was there virtually. It was stated he could not be counted present and his vote would not count since he was not at the meeting in person. The state now requires municipal meetings to be in person again.



Independent photo by Rosemary K. Oztman

At Monday's regular city council meeting, Van Buren Public Schools Superintendent Pete Kudlak, left, and Belleville High School football coach Jermain Crowell, center, accepted a proclamation from Mayor Kerreen Conley signed by the Belleville City Council. The proclamation marks the team's state championship.

Van Buren Public Schools approve funds' audit, amendments

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

Laura Payne of Taylor & Morgan CPAs presented the financial audit of the Van Buren Public Schools' budgets for 2020-21 that ended June 30.

She started off her presentation at the beginning of the Nov. 22 in-person meeting by announcing the district received an "unmodified audit opinion," which is the best.

Payne said during the last school year there were 4,510 students and each was worth \$8,228 in state aid.

Revenues were way up and expenses were almost identical to the year before. She said there was \$3 million in federal revenue and "You had good use of ESSER and COVID Relief funds."

Fund balance for the general fund was \$12,868,601 on June 30, which is 24.58% of the total budget. This is up \$3,703,837 from the \$9,164,764 fund balance of the previous school year.

Food service funds were down, she said. That was because of COVID and the students not being in school. The food service fund balance decreased from \$650,189 the previous year to \$311,929 during the 2020-21 school year.

Athletic funds showed \$576,039

transferred from the general fund, up \$9,544 from the budgeted amount. Athletic revenue for the year was \$75,048.

After the audit report was complete and accepted by the board, school Finance Director Sarah Cortese presented general fund budget amendments for the current 2021-22, budget which the board also approved.

Cortese said she had to put the annual budget before the board in June based on guesses because of the difference in fiscal years between the school district and the state. She said the state doesn't give real numbers of how much the local district is getting until August or later.

She said the state aid, property tax, and grants increased by \$2.88 million. Total revenue was \$69 million.

The budget amendments included putting the athletic trainer in the budget instead of paying the trainer out of donations, as in the past. It also included changing the original setting aside of funds for a proposed loss of 75 students this fall and reduced that to 50 students.

A total of 4,321.50 students was expected in the fall and it had to be upgraded to 4,334.09. A projected staff of 550 was adjusted to the 566 figure on Nov. 1.

In other business at the 47-minute open

meeting, the board:

- Approved the termination of Transportation employee Balencia Jones as of Nov. 10 after zero years of service;

- Approved the resignations of Nicole Beckham, human relations specialist at the administration building for five years, as of Nov. 30 for a job opportunity; and Angela Mercer, student services administrative assistant at the administration building for five years, as of Dec. 14 for a job opportunity;

- Approved hiring Bobby Lindsey, Kayla Fisher, and Shalanda Chatmon as bus aides; Cheri Dehn and Theresa Harris as paraprofessionals in student services; Kyle Price in maintenance; and Dawn Boone as a bus driver;

- Heard Nila Hooper, a junior at BHS and student school board member, give a report on upcoming events at BHS;

- Heard Supt. Kudlak announce that of the 50 teams in the recent Air Rifle competition, the Belleville High School team placed 19th out of 50. BHS shooter Ashley Wang placed 38th overall out of 225 in the Individual 3x20; and

After the public meeting, the board went into closed-door session to begin the periodic personnel evaluation of Supt. Kudlak.

O P I N I O N S

Editorial

City of Belleville gearing up to make itself very special

On Jan. 12, at 6 p.m., the City of Belleville's Downtown Development Authority is holding a strategic planning session with a facilitator at city hall. The public is invited, but only the DDA members and the facilitator will be talking. They are making plans.

On Jan. 31, at 6 p.m., the Belleville City Council will hold its strategic planning session at city hall in preparation for budget talks in March. It is making plans.

Mayor Kerreen Conley said if the city is to be made into something like Disneyland, as the new city manager keeps saying, they will have to do something with the budget to make that happen.

City Manager/Police Chief Dave Robinson explains his Disneyland comments mean he wants the city to be clean and tidy and welcoming to those in the community and from out of town. He said broken things or dirty things turn people off. He wants the city to be pristine. He's working on it.

The DDA has been talking about funding summer employees to work on this and maybe even a full-time, full-year employee to keep it going. They are sure the empty storefronts will fill up when everything is clean and tidy. The DDA is looking at ways to bring new businesses to town. The city and DDA are getting serious about this and are working to make it happen. Let's help all we can.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

We received a letter signed only as "A person who cares about other people." It was concerning an item in last week's column about the 30 new license plate identification cameras erected by Van Buren Township.

It said: "To the person in last week's *Independent* who finds the new cameras along the roadside so annoying. A lot of drivers apparently don't notice the regular speed limit signs, even on the subdivisions' streets and school zones. If those flashing signs played a role in saving one person's or a child's life then they are worth it. I wish they would put some of the flashing speed limit signs in a few spots of Sumpter Township. As a senior citizen I had to quit taking my daily walks on my street because it became too dangerous. Just too many people in a hurry and going over the speed limit."

The man who was annoyed was talking about the new license plate identification cameras. These have no flashing anything and just take pictures of the license plates of vehicles that go by. It's a black square on a post with a small camera.

The flashing signs you are talking about are great and Van Buren Township and Sumpter Township police put them up in areas that residents report as high-speed zones. At a recent meeting, before those speed signs were approved by the township board, Sumpter Public Safety Director/Police Chief Eric Luke said people could call the police to report what they think are areas where people are driving too fast and they would bring the signs over to record the speeds. If the speeds are shown to be too high, they will send police cars out to enforce the speed limit in that area. Our writer could call the

...By Rosemary K. Otzman



police and point out the areas where he or she thinks the traffic is too fast.

VBT has had the speed limit signs for some time, but Sumpter just got them. Sumpter's are programmed to say "Thank you" to the driver if the driver is going the right speed limit. Kind of friendly.

On Sunday night, the temperature registered around 20 degrees, but at the Veterans Memorial in Belleville it felt a lot colder with the wind coming in off Belleville Lake. We only had ten people show up for the monthly Bugles Across America ceremony. I was very surprised that Geof Bush and Lori Day were there to sing the National Anthem a cappella, as they do each month. It was just so darn cold and they still were able to sing loud and clear.

The sidewalk in front of the memorial had frozen snow and ice on it, so when I walked down the inclined sidewalk to the street former Belleville Police Chief Gene Taylor gave me his arm to hold onto so I wouldn't fall. I was walking very slowly so the ice didn't catch my boot. Chief Taylor was a solid rock for me. Thanks, Chief.

A man said he saw a cougar behind his house on Denton Road near Hillside Cemetery. He said he was concerned about his little dog going out with the cougar on the loose there.

We were talking about that at the Bugles Across America event, and there was some

discussion about whether it was legal to shoot a cougar.

In the Dec. 30 issue of the paper, we reported on plans for an EV fuel station and restaurant at the northwest corner of Haggerty Road and the South I-94 Service Drive. The Van Buren Township Planning Commission wasn't enthusiastic about the plan, but one of our readers was.

He made a comment on the story on our website: "I live on the south service drive literally houses away and say yes to this. Anything to get that rotted abandoned motel demolished. Anyone who says no must clearly like looking at that eyesore." Another reader commented, "Agreed."

The planners were wondering what the neighbors thought about the plan and now two of them have spoken up. If it moves forward, there will have to be a public hearing because a rezoning is involved.

The Belleville Fire Department got a tour of the newly built Early Childhood Development Center at 10:30 p.m. New Year's Eve. The alarm went off in the new building signaling the sprinklers had gone off. They hadn't, but the firemen got a great tour of the beautiful, new building.





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**152 Main St., Suite 9,
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FAX 734-699-8962

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Editor: Rosemary K. Otzman
Home phone (NO ADS, PLEASE!): 697-1294

Advertising Manager: Bob Mytych

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Bookkeeper: James Otzman

Production Manager: James Otzman

Office Manager: Janet Millard

Editorial Cartoonist: Bob Mytych

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Letters

Luckey FUSRAP reports trips to Belleville

To the editor:

On Dec. 7, 2021, we resumed excavating contaminated soil from the Luckey Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP) Site under our second remediation contract to remove and dispose of soil contaminated with beryllium, lead, radium-226, thorium-230, uranium-234, and uranium-238.

To date the remediation is nearly 50% complete; the Corps of Engineers has safely removed and disposed of 118,400 tons of contaminated soil from the site, deconstructed seven buildings, and disposed of 16,183 tons of building debris at US Ecology in Belleville, MI.

Our highest priorities while we are cleaning up the site are the protection of human health and the environment, ensuring that work is conducted in a safe and efficient manner, and preventing the spread of contamination. Since Dec. 7, 2021, the contractor safely removed 1,305 cubic yards of contaminated soil from the Phase 4 area of the site and loaded 42 waste containers for transport to the disposal facility. Shipping of waste containers to US Ecology in Belleville, MI, is expected to begin in early January 2022 using the same designated routes that were used during the previous remediation contract.

We will continue to provide updates through posting weekly progress infographics to the project website at <https://www.lrb.usace.army.mil/Missions/HTRW/FUSRAP/Luckey-Site/>.

Groundwater entry into our deep remedial excavations required a great deal of water management and treatment during the work performed under our initial remediation contract. Over 3,811,515 gallons of water were treated and transported off site and 3,907,749 gallons of water were treated on site. We are exploring methods to prevent groundwater entry into the excavations by pumping groundwater adjacent to future excavation areas. To plan the system, we will be performing a pump test to understand groundwater responses (drawdown) using various pumping rates and have installed 16 groundwater wells near the Phase 4 area of the site for the tests.

If you are aware of someone that should be included on our email distribution list, please ask them to email us at: fusrap@usace.army.mil.

Happy holidays!

Arleen K. Kreusch, APR
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Friends of the Library set annual meeting for Saturday, Jan. 15

The Friends of the Belleville Area District Library will be holding their 2022 Annual Membership Meeting on at 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 15, in the Cozadd Room of the Library. Members of the Friends of the Library and the public are invited to attend.

Minutes from the virtual 2021 annual meeting will be available and presented by the secretary. The treasurer will present the annual financial report. Committee chairs will present annual reports for book sales/public relations, online sales, membership, and programs/digital communication.

Elections of officers for the 2022 Board of Directors will take place. The following slate of officers has been approved by the current board. The proposed officers are Katerina Tyner, president; Donna Gilkey-Lavin, vice president; Manny Lavin, secretary and Rika Regentin, treasurer. Any additional nominations will be taken from the floor. Each attending member of the Friends will have one vote.

Membership brochures may be picked up at the library or obtained on-line at the library website: www.belleville.lib.mi.us. For more information follow the links: Contact Us, About Us, Friends of the Library.

Donations to the Friends of the Library are greatly appreciated. It is a non-profit, 501c(3) organization; donations are tax deductible.

The Friends have signed up to accept donations through Amazon. After filling your shopping cart, sign on to Amazon Smile, choose Friends of the Belleville Area District Library and a percentage of your purchase will automatically go to the Friends of BADL.

Used book sales have become popular in the Friends' Nook in the library lobby. A long-awaited public book sale is being planned for May 6 and 7. More information on the first-ever, two-day sale will be forthcoming.

Revenue from the book sales and donations are used for Summer Reading Programs, participation in Lake Fest, Harvest Fest and Winter Fest and other library activities.

Birthdays

Jan. 7 -- Les Neinas

Jan. 10 -- Sandra Hightower, Kathy Mular

Jan. 11 -- Medina Atchinson

Jan. 12 -- Stephanie Smith

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Obituaries



Susan Marie Bakkila

SUSAN MARIE BAKKILA

(March 16, 1957 - December 31, 2021)

Susan Marie Bakkila (Cavill), loving wife, mother, daughter, aunt, niece, and friend, died Friday, December 31, surrounded by her family. She was 64 years old.

Sue was born on March 16, 1957 to her parents John Raymond Cavill and Anna Marie Cavill (Willemssen). She was the oldest of 4 children; being the "helper" to her younger siblings sparked her love for babysitting. Sue graduated from Belleville High School in 1975 and received her degree in dental assisting from Washtenaw Community College.

She met her husband, Steve, in 1983. They were married on December 29, 1984 and just celebrated 37 wonderful years of marriage. Together they have two children, Karin Landt (Michael) and Kurtis Bakkila, whom she loved dearly. Sue recently recommitted her life to Christ, and was baptized on September 26 as an outward profession of her faith. Her steadfast relationship with God was apparent during her acute illness, as her sense of hope and peace never wavered.

In addition to her husband and children, Sue is mourned by her mother, Anna Cavill, brothers John (Diane) Cavill and William (Belle) Cavill, in addition to numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, and friends. She was preceded in death by her father, sister, niece, and three nephews.

Sue was a giver at heart and donated to a number of organizations that were dear to her.

Sue gave in death as she gave in life; her final act of kindness was to give the gift of life through organ donation. Arrangements have been entrusted to the Higgerson & Neal Funeral Home, 209 Main St., Belleville (734) 697-9400. www.hnfhome.com

JOSEPH MICHAEL FINNIGAN

March 19, 1946 - December 29, 2021

Age 75, of Ypsilanti. FBI agent for 32 years. Survived by wife Janet, three children, three grandchildren, five siblings. Arrangements by David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville. Funeral mass at St. Anthony Catholic Church. www.davidcbrownfh.com

RALPH HENRY MOOREHEAD

(June 29, 1944 - January 1, 2022)

Age 77, of Belleville. Survived by his wife Elixsene, two daughters, three granddaughters, two great-grandchildren, a brother, two sisters. Memorial service by Zoom on Jan. 15. David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville.

www.davidcbrownfh.com

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Upcoming Meetings

• Tuesday, Jan. 11 – Van Buren Township Local Development Finance Authority, 2 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township meeting, 6 p.m. Also, Belleville Area District Library, 7:30 p.m.

• Wednesday, Jan. 12 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m.

• Thursday, Jan. 13 – Keystone Academy School Board, 6 p.m. Also, Belleville Planning Commission, 7 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township Planning Commission, 7 p.m.

• Tuesday, Jan. 18 – Van Buren Township Board of Trustees, 5 p.m. workshop, 6 p.m. regular meeting. Also, Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.

• Wednesday, Jan. 19 – Belleville Downtown Development Authority, 6 p.m.

Also, Van Buren Township Environmental Commission, 7 p.m.

• 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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Obituaries



Ricky Lee Paul

RICKY LEE PAUL

(December 16, 1961 – December 24, 2021)

Ricky Lee Paul, age 60, of Canton, MI, formerly of Belleville, MI, passed away Friday, December 24, 2021, of COVID-19, at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Ann Arbor, MI. He was born December 16, 1961, in Barbourville, Kentucky, son of Dewey & Joyce Paul. Ricky was a member of Metro Baptist Church, Belleville, MI. He worked at Ford Motor Company, Michigan Assembly plant in Wayne, MI, for over 25 years. He loved sports. Ricky's favorite team was University of Kentucky Wildcats. He also loved horse racing, Fantasy Football, and played baseball in his younger years.

Ricky is survived by his wife Sandra Lynn (Broughton) Paul, his high school sweetheart; two sons Michael Lee Paul of Canton, MI, and Mark Antony (Mary Rose) Paul of Brownstown, MI; daughter Tabitha Lynn Paul of Taylor, MI; 3 grandchildren: Michael Lee Paul, Jr., Mark Lee Paul, and Arya Paul; his father Dewey (Tina) Paul of Tennessee; mother Joyce (Robert) St. Amour of Addison, MI; 5 siblings: Charles (Christine) Paul of Tennessee, Diana (Andrew Matiska) Paul of Canton, MI, Craig (Paula) St. Amour of Belleville, MI, Cassandra St. Amour of Addison, MI, and Robert (Heather) St. Amour of Belleville, MI; also numerous nieces and nephews, extended family, and many friends. He was preceded in death by a sister Suzanne St. Amour.

Visitation was 4-8 PM Monday, January 3, 2022 and 11 AM until 1 PM on Tuesday, January 4, 2022 at Metro Baptist Church, 47100 N. I-94 Service Drive, Belleville, MI 48111 (734) 697-4065. Funeral service was Tuesday at 1 PM. Pastor John Vapreszan officiated. Interment followed in Hillside Cemetery, Belleville, MI. Arrangements by David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville, MI.

Memorial contributions may be made to the family for his children.

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Prima Rose Vesey

PRIMA ROSE VESEY

(July 25, 1951 – December 27, 2021)

Prima Rose Vesey, age 70, of Milan, MI, passed away peacefully Monday, December 27, 2021, surrounded by her husband and two children at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Ann Arbor, MI. She was born July 25, 1951, in Detroit, MI, daughter of Miguel Angel & Vivian Faye (Witt) Sotomayor. She graduated from Belleville High School, class of 1969. Prima then went on to become a music major at Eastern Michigan University, where she studied vocal and orchestral music. While there, she met her husband Tim in the department of music. Prima later went on to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree, specializing in Management and Organizational Development, from Spring Arbor College. She retired from General Motors as a Superintendent, after 32 years of loyal service. She enjoyed traveling with her husband, Tim. They were blessed to see Europe, Hawaii, Alaska, and Aruba to name a few. Prima's passion was music and she played the viola and piano. She was a member of Zion Lutheran Church, Ann Arbor, MI, where she sang in the choir. She loved, and preferred, to sing harmonization even though she had the voice of a soloist. While she loved music and traveling, her greatest joy by far was taking care of her family and spending time together.

Mrs. Vesey is survived by her devoted husband of 50 years, Timothy B. Vesey; son Scott Vesey of Ypsilanti, MI; daughter Michelle Vesey of Whitmore Lake, MI; four siblings: Diane (Daniel) Dzierbicki of Ypsilanti, MI, Valerie Moore of Willis, MI, Mike (Denise) Sotomayor of Ypsilanti, MI, and Sue (Gary) Altobello of Belleville, MI; also, numerous nieces, nephews, extended family, and many friends. She was preceded in death by her parents, also two sisters, Gloria Goike and Sandy Cox.

Visitation was 1-5 PM Sunday, January 2, 2022, at David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI (734) 697-4500. Funeral Service was Monday, January 3, 2022, at 11 AM, at First United Methodist Church, 417 Charles St., Belleville, MI, with Rev. Mary Loring officiating. The family greeted guests one hour prior to the funeral at church. For those who wish to attend, a Burial service will be held at Toledo Memorial Park, 6382 Monroe Street, in Sylvania, Ohio.

Memorial contributions may be made to the National Kidney Foundation of Michigan at <https://www.nkfm.org/get-involved/giving> and would be appreciated.

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MARGARET ANNIE PATTERSON

(December 12, 1924 - December 29, 2021)

Age 97, at Independence Village, Plymouth. Survived by son Michigan State Senator Bruce Patterson (wife Phyllis), three grandchildren, a great-grandchild, and a cousin. Arrangements by David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville.

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Obituaries



Lawrence Samuel Diehr



LAWRENCE S. DIEHR

(November 16, 1946 - December 28, 2021)

Lawrence Samuel Diehr, age 75, of Ypsilanti, MI, formerly of Belleville, MI, passed away Tuesday, December 28, 2021, at his home. He was born November 16, 1946, in Ypsilanti, MI, son of Harlan John Foster & Olive Jane (Teets) Diehr. He grew up on the family farm in Ypsilanti and learned many skills he would later teach various young people in his lifetime. He graduated from high school and was drafted into the U.S. Army, serving during the Vietnam conflict. He earned his master's degree of aquatic biology from Eastern Michigan University. He later went into computer software and became an engineer for Ford Motor Company for over 30 years. Larry enjoyed traveling and lived all over the world. He loved archery and was one of the top 150 people in the United States and was getting ready to compete in the senior Olympics. He was a lifetime member of Royal Oak Archery and enjoyed coaching many kids over the years. He was also a lifetime member of the Belleville VFW Post #4434, and a member of the Belleville Lighthouse Church. He enjoyed going to various Christian Concerts with his wife. Larry's passion was fishing, and deep-sea fishing as well. His happy place was being on the lake in Canada. Larry was a terrific storyteller who made friends easily and will be missed by all who knew him.

Mr. Diehr is survived by his loving wife of 22 years, June Kelly (Siow) Diehr, two brothers Peter (Della) Diehr of Oregon, and Herb (Deb) Diehr of Willis, MI, also numerous nieces and nephews, comrades, and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents.

A Memorial Service honoring his life will be held at 2 PM on Saturday, January 15, 2022, at Belleville Lighthouse Church, 870 Savage Road, Belleville, MI 48111 with Pastor Bob Lafferty officiating. Friends are welcome to visit from 12 Noon until the service begins at 2 PM. Full Military honors will be rendered as well. Memorial contributions may be made to Belleville Lighthouse Church or VFW Post #4434 and would be appreciated.

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Dolores Frances Rathwell

DOLORES FRANCES RATHWELL

(July 15, 1943 - December 24, 2021)

Dolores Frances Rathwell, age 78, of Romulus, MI, passed away late Friday, December 24, 2021, at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Ann Arbor, MI. She was born July 15, 1943, in Wayne County, MI, daughter of Earl Dayton & Cecelia Madeline (Drobot) Murphy. Dolores attended St. Stephen's Catholic Church, New Boston, MI. She retired from Ford Motor Company after 15 years of loyal service at the Wixom and Rawsonville Road plants. She was a social person who loved people and (church) festivals. She was also a member of the Belleville Moose Lodge #934 and Van Buren Eagles Aerie #3996. Ms. Rathwell is survived by her former husband Wayne J. Rathwell, niece Debbie Stewart of Adrian, MI, nephew Robert (Terri) Vettes of Milford, MI, several great-nieces and great-nephews, numerous extended family members and many friends, also her cat Pollyanna. She was preceded in death by her father Earl Murphy, mother Cecelia Broda, brother Thomas Patrick Murphy, also a sister Frances Marie Gray. Interment will be in South Lyon Cemetery, South Lyon, MI. Arrangements were by David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville, MI.

COVID-19 deaths in 48111 stays at 94, positive tests at 6,464

The number of people who have died from COVID-19 in the 48111 zip code remained at 94 as of Sunday, Jan. 2, according to figures from the Wayne County Health Department.

The positive tests for COVID-19 in 48111 totaled 6,464 on Sunday, Jan. 2, up from 5,982 on Monday, Dec. 27. The Health Department had not posted any figures for Monday, Jan. 3, as the Independent went to press on Tuesday.

On Sunday, Jan. 2, the separate totals released by the Wayne County Health Department for the tri-community were: Van Buren Township, 4,400 positive cases, 52 deaths; City of Belleville, 786 positive cases, 22 deaths; and Sumpter Township 1,278 positive cases, 20 deaths.



JACK CHARLES DeROSIER

(April 25, 1936 - December 29, 2021)

Age 85, of Belleville. Survived by daughter Susanne, son Jack, stepson Charles Davis, 6 grandchildren and 2 great-granddaughters. Visitation 12-8 on Saturday, with funeral at 7:30 p.m. at David C. Brown Funeral Home. www.davidcbrownfh.com

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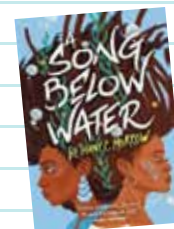
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February 8 - *A Blade So Black* by L. L. McKinney

March 8 - *I Hunt Killers* by Barry Lyga

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Former St. Anthony pastor Fr. Tom Cusick dies Jan. 2

On Sunday, Jan. 2, 2022, Fr. Tom Cusick, former pastor of St. Anthony's Parish, departed this life after a long battle with Parkinson's Disease. He was 83.

Fr. Tom heard the call to priesthood while a student at the University of Detroit High School. He entered Sacred Heart Seminary following graduation and was ordained a priest of the Archdiocese of Detroit on June 6, 1964.

After serving in a number of parishes in the Detroit area, Fr. Tom came to Belleville and was named pastor on Sept. 6, 1988. He celebrated his 50th Anniversary of Ordination on June 6, 2014, making St. Anthony's the longest assignment of Fr. Tom's priesthood. He remained here until his retirement in August, 2017.

I had occasion to ask him before he



Fr. Tom Cusick

entered Clergy Village for retirement why he stayed on as pastor here so long. His response was immediate: "Because I love the people here."

Fr. Tom is remembered as a quiet, private man, who was very proud of his Irish heritage. Although a devoted pastor, who would appear in hospital rooms as soon as he heard of a parishioner's admittance, Fr. Tom would have been equally content as a contemplative monk, left free of any administrative responsibilities to devote himself entirely to prayer.

As I conclude this article, I recall the words found in St. Paul's 2nd Letter to Timothy:

"... the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith."

Rest in Peace, Fr. Tom, until we meet again!

Fr. John Kiselica
Pastor, St. Anthony's Catholic Church

President signs bill that includes annual National Atomic Veterans Day

On Dec. 27, President Joe Biden signed into law legislation to recognize Atomic Veterans which was covered in an amendment to the 2022 *National Defense Authorization Act*.

Toni Clark of Sumpter Township has been working for years to get a national holiday to recognize Atomic Veterans like her late father, George L. Sanford.

On Friday she said she was very excited that the President has put this into law. In past years she has been successful in getting single days designated at the state level to recognize Atomic Veterans.

U.S. Rep. Abigail Spanberger's bipartisan amendment recognizes the service and sacrifice of Atomic Veterans.

Atomic Veterans participated in nuclear tests between 1945 and 1962, served with U.S. military forces in or around Hiroshima and Nagasaki before 1946, or were held as prisoners of war in or near Hiroshima or Nagasaki. Due to their exposure to unsafe levels of radiation during their service, many of these Atomic Veterans developed serious health complications. Additionally, as these veterans were sworn to secrecy, many of them were prevented from seeking medical care or disability compensation and were never fully recognized for their sacrifice.

The legislation requires the President to issue a proclamation every year calling on the United States to observe National Atomic Veterans Day. Earlier this year, Rep. Spanberger, D-Virginia, led the introduction of a bipartisan resolution that called on the President to issue a proclamation in observance of National Atomic Veterans Day — which he recognized.

"When I hear the stories of America's Atomic Veterans — who were sworn to secrecy for decades and never fully recognized for their contributions, I hear the stories of patriots. I hear the stories of brave Americans who served in dangerous and secret missions. And I hear the stories of how the United States of America — through the tireless commitment of our servicemembers



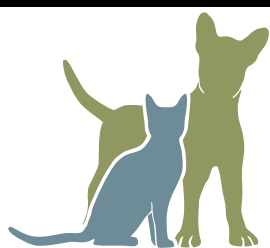
Toni Clark of Sumpter Township shows the Department of Defense Atomic Veteran Service Certificate signed by the Secretary of Defense honoring her late father, Corporal George L. Sanford. Clark has been working to get recognition for veterans who worked with and were injured by their proximity to atomic weapons.

— became the most powerful nation in the world," said Spanberger. "I am proud to see President Biden sign this legislation into law, so that we can recognize the service of our Atomic Veterans every year. Since arriving in the U.S. House, I have had the great honor of meeting with many of Central Virginia's Atomic Veterans, and I am grateful to the administration for working directly with me to make sure this day becomes an annual designation. Additionally, I am glad to have helped ensure our current servicemembers receive a much-deserved pay raise as they continue to protect our nation at home and abroad. I will keep working in Congress to provide the pay, support, and benefits they have earned through their selfless service."

In 1983, President Ronald Reagan designated July 16 as "National Atomic Veterans' Day." The day was "dedicated to those patriotic Americans who through their participation in these tests helped lead the United States to the forefront of technology in defense of our great Nation and the freedoms we as Americans hold so dear."

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Museum

(continued from page 1)

“That museum is very precious to the community,” Wilson said.

“It’s still a budget item,” Clerk Wright said. “We want to decide what direction to go. We’re putting a lot of money into it and we wouldn’t be wasting – putting money into it -- if it wasn’t going to continue.”

“I wish you the best of luck with your efforts,” Wilson concluded.

Claudia Roullier of Belleville also spoke on the subject via zoom.

“I used to work at the museum as a volunteer,” she said, noting the director got a \$25,000 grant to connect the museum to the former fire hall behind it. She said the township is kicking in another \$150,000.

McNamara said they just extended the grant and they have ordered the windows and steel. He said it is going to be fun to watch it progress.

“I hope you realize what value we have in the museum and in our director,” Roullier concluded.

In the 2022 budget, Van Buren Township had a \$50,000 salary allocation for museum director, plus \$22,654 in fringes. The museum budget is \$107,499. The City of Belleville and Sumpter Township have contributed \$10,000 a year for the tri-community museum which is located in the former Van Buren Township Hall located on township property in downtown Belleville.

In 1875, after 40 years of conducting Van Buren Township businesses in private homes, stores, and rented quarters, the voters of the township decided to erect a one-story, brick building as a town hall. They appropriated \$1,500 for the project.

After work had started the Belleville Grange #331 asked permission to add a second story to the building to provide a meeting place for their activities. The voters approved this measure as well and the grange donated all the materials.

In 1905, the Village of Belleville incorporated into a city and the township hall no longer was in the township. It served as a municipal facility until 1959 when new offices were built on Tyler Road within the township boundaries.

Since then, the Greek Revival building



has served many uses and became the Belleville Area Museum in 1996. Still owned by Van Buren Township, the 146-year-old former Township Hall is on the State of Michigan Registry of Historic Sites.

Van Buren Township has yet to announce the date of a public meeting to discuss the future of the museum.

JANUARY EVENTS

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Friday, Jan. 14th: 8pm-11pm

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Van Buren Twp. Police report Super 8 death looks like drug overdose

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

The death of a 40-year-old Romulus woman at the Super 8 by Wyndam Belleville, 45707 South I-94 Service Dr., appears to be caused by a drug overdose.

Police Lt. Charles Bazzy said police responded to a call at 8 a.m., Tuesday, Dec. 28, to room 222 of the motel and found a 60-year-old Lake Orion man and the deceased female.

Lt. Bazzy said the preliminary investigation indicates a drug overdose with no signs of foul play, but they will have to wait for the final report from the Wayne County Medical Examiner for the exact cause of death.



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Sumpter Twp. board outlaws alcoholic beverages in twp. parks

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

At its Dec. 14 zoom meeting, the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees unanimously approved modifying the Parks & Recreation Ordinance, Section 16-32, to new language that prohibits alcoholic beverages in the township parks.

In other business, the board:

- Approved the supervisor's reappointment of Helen Teall to the Board of Review effective Jan. 2, 2022 until Jan. 1, 2025;
- Approved paying all outstanding / processed warrants to the date of the Dec.

31, 2021 close of business with the clerk's office sending out a list of warrants being paid to the board members;

- Approved directing the clerk's office to take all necessary action for the purposes of BS&A accounts payable and ADP payroll activities until Jan. 12, 2022;
- Approved opening the township hall and the treasurer's office for residents to pay taxes on Thursday, Dec. 30, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.;
- Approved, on a 6-1 vote, moving the supervision of water billing clerk Anna Winter to the treasurer's office due to the

vacancy in the deputy supervisor position, with Trustee Morgan voting no;

- Noted the next township meeting is Tuesday, Jan. 11, at 6 p.m. unless a special meeting is necessary;
- Held a moment of silence in memory of Donald Swinson, known as Papa Fixit, who also kept the community in honey. He was the father of former Trustee Don Swinson;
- Discussed in its workshop session before the regular meeting whether to go back to in-person meetings in January. Attorney Rob Young said if the county doesn't extend zoom meetings past the

end of the year, the township will have to meet in open session or be in violation of the Open Meetings Act. Supervisor Tim Bowman said his wife is currently dealing with breast cancer and they are being very careful. "I will be absent until the doctor says it's OK. A live meeting is not worth my wife's life," Supervisor Bowman said; and

• Discussed in its workshop session having the human resources responsibilities be done in the clerk's office as it's been done in the past. Oddy said that was his intention in his motion at the last meeting.

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YEAR ROUND SERVICE BY PROFESSIONALS

Library sets special programs for month of January and beyond

Winter Storytimes:

Jan. 10-Feb. 17 and March 7-April 14

Family Storytime with Mrs. Nakenya - Mondays at 6:30 p.m.

Toddler Time with Ms. M - Tuesdays at 10 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Baby Storytime with Mrs. Karen - Thursdays at 11 a.m.

Teen Comic Book Club: First meeting is **Monday, Jan. 10, at 6:30 p.m.**

Do you enjoy reading comic books, graphic novels, and manga? Are you interested in creating your own comic books as well? Then this is the club for you. We will read and discuss a variety of comics and bring your own stories to life. Everyone has a story to tell. Meetings will take place the second Monday of the month from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Registration ends two days before the event. 7th grade - 12th grade.

Introduction to Computers:

Tuesday, Jan. 11 at 1 p.m.

Thursday, March 24 at 7 p.m.

Computer classes are back! Our Introductory class is designed for the absolute beginner. We start with teaching you how to turn the computer on! The class also includes an overview of desktop/laptop computer set-ups, basic functions, and lots of practice using the keyboard and mouse. Classes will take place at the Sumpter Media Center at 23465 Sumpter Rd. Registration is required.

Teen Book Club: Second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

Are you a teen that loves to read and talk about books? Come join us for this new

club where we will read and discuss books of all genres and types. This month we will be discussing "Six Crows" by Leigh Bardugo. You can pick up the book at the Youth Desk downstairs. Registration is required.

Homegrown Knowledge: League of Women Voters

Thursday, Jan. 13, at 7 p.m.

Homegrown Knowledge is a monthly lecture series sponsored by the Friends of the Library, featuring the knowledge and passions of your local community members. This month's series is sponsored by the League of Women Voters and will discuss an update on "Voting Rights, Voting Bills, and Initiatives."

Things to do in the Belleville area...

• **Saturday, Jan. 15** - Friends of Belleville Area District Library invites you to attend their 2022 annual meeting at 11 a.m. in the Cozadd room at the library.

• **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.

• **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.

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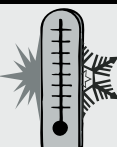
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Belleville DDA gives required report to tax-funding agencies

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

The City of Belleville Downtown Development Authority met at the Belleville Area District Library on Dec. 15 to present its semi-annual report to local tax-funding agencies as required by state law.

Deputy City Manager Tim McLean presented the report that showed 50% of the DDA income is going to streetscape bonds, but the DDA has a healthy fund balance. He said Paddle Belleville was a new business in the DDA district and the Goat Scaping at Horizon Park was very popular with the community.

He said they are working on new proposals for maintenance of parks.

Treasurer Sabrina Richardson-Williams said she would like to see public art added to the report, saying, "Art at least rates up there with the goats." McLean said he would add art to the report.

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

- Voted unanimously to have the city refinance the Streetscape Bonds, to get an anticipated savings of \$203,000, with the payment schedule unchanged. McLean said if the interest rates go up, the city can back off from the refinancing;

- Briefly discussed the 2022 Annual Calendar that McLean is preparing to mark all activities in the DDA district from all the different groups. McLean also is checking out the new Redevelopment Liquor Licenses for Scott Jones' development. These licenses would stay in the possession of the city;

- Heard McLean report on two programs he is looking into for redevelopment of existing buildings (RAPT) and new public gathering places, such as a new city hall (CDBG). He also said they will be putting out a call for bids for park maintenance before the end of the year;

- Heard Kelly McWilliams comment that it seems everyone now is heading in the same direction;

- Heard Richardson-Williams say the Winter Fest parade was very nice and the ice skating and Santa and other things made a "Rockwell Christmas." She said if the city keeps this going, Belleville will be a place people will want to have their businesses in and live in;

- Heard Jim Chudzinski say Winter Fest

was phenomenal and the city is going in a positive direction, compared to three or four years ago. He said the city has a lot of potential;

- Heard McLean report that he and his wife brought their four-month-old daughter to the parade and she smiled the whole time because she liked all the lights;

- Heard City Manager/Police Chief Dave Robinson report that his vision for the city is "pretty grand" and he has been putting in for grants for work on Victory Station and the Veterans' Memorial. He said he has been encouraged by people at Wayne County to "go big or go home" with his plans. He said redoing Victory Station could include building regular bathrooms inside and having rustic bathrooms outside. During the

day seniors could play cards and watch TV and in the evening the building could be used for Growth Works or other counseling. That would encourage development in the south end of town. After the first of the year, he said he will study building a new city hall, which would allow business development of the city property at the Five Points corner, which is a prime location. "Things are changing and we are ready," Chief Robinson said, noting there have been transitions in the city government and transitions in the DDA;

- Heard Tom Fielder say that as the president of the Historical Society he has heard no comment at all from Van Buren Township on the future of the Belleville Area Museum, which has been closed for a

long time. He said he plans to have an open meeting of the Historical Society to discuss the situation. Fielder also said the alleys in the north end of the city were enhanced, but the alleys in the south end are terrible;

- Heard Mayor Pro Tem Ken Voigt say he really enjoyed Winter Fest. He also thinks they should bring the goats back for a week yearly. He said people bring their children to see the goats and the city gets a million dollars worth of publicity for just \$5,000, or maybe you could get them for \$1,500. He proposed a Goat Day with a concert next summer; and

- Was reminded of the three-hour session on Dec. 18 for strategic planning and goal setting for 2022. The meeting was set at

(continued on page 13)

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— Ruth Bader Ginsburg

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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.



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Belleville DDA

(continued from page 12)

the Belleville Area District Library with facilitator Samantha Harkins of Hundred Place Consulting, LLC.

Strategic Planning Session

On Dec. 18, the three-hour strategic planning session was postponed until 5 p.m., Jan. 12, at the library because facilitator

Harkins was stranded in Lansing after a snowstorm made the roads dangerous to travel.

Chairperson McGovern led the DDA members in an informal discussion on what they would talk about at the Jan. 12 meeting, which is open to the public but only to observe. The session will be for discussion and goal-setting by the DDA members.

Dec. 18's get-together disbursed after one hour and 40 minutes of discussion.



City of Belleville Public Notice



CITY OF BELLEVILLE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, December 20, 2021 – 7:30 pm
VIA ZOOM TELECONFERENCE

The regular meeting of the City Council was held via a hybrid of in-person and virtual access through ZOOM. Those attending in-person were required to complete a Covid-19 health screening form. All persons who had not been vaccinated for Covid-19 were required to wear a mask while in City Hall.

The regular meeting of the Belleville City Council was called to order by Mayor Conley at 7:30 p.m.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE

2. ROLL CALL

Council Member Henry	Present
Council Member Jones	Present
Council Member Bates	Present via Zoom
Mayor Pro-Tem Voigt	Present
Mayor Conley	Present

3. APPOINTMENTS, PRESENTATIONS & CITIZEN COMMENTS

A. Presentations
- Promotion of Sergeants – Oath of Office
City Clerk administered Oath of Office to Officers Kristin Faull and Todd Schrecengost, who were both promoted from the rank of Corporal to Sergeant.

- Proclamation – Belleville High School Football Championship

Proclamation presentation moved to a future date, as representatives from the school could not be present.

- Holiday Light Contest 2021 Winners
Awards presented to the following winning addresses/businesses:

- 75 Menlo Park Dr.
- 77 Carnell
- 184 South Biggs
- 86 Bedell
- 461 Waterbury Ct.
- 410 Harbour Pointe Dr.
- 392 Light Tower Ct.
- Belleville Bariatric

B. Council Follow Up List

1) Council Member Jones inquired on the date of demolition for the building attached to City Hall.

2) Mayor Conley would like to see the repair of roads in Hillside Cemetery added to the list.

3) Council Member Jones would also like to see repair of the shoreline in Hillside Cemetery added.

C. Citizen Comments on Non-Agenda Items

1) Jeremiah Beebe announced that the Bethany Bible Church youth basketball developmental league is holding tryouts. Pamphlets with more information will be available at City Hall.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Motion by Voigt, supported by Jones to accept the agenda as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Mayor Pro-Tem Voigt	Aye
Council Member Henry	Aye
Council Member Bates	Aye
Council Member Jones	Aye
Mayor Conley	Aye

Motion Carried.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. December 6, 2021, Regular Meeting of the City Council

MOTION: Motion by Bates, supported by Jones to approve the Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting held on Monday, December 6, 2021, with the notation that the numbering and lettering of the minutes differed from the corresponding agenda.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Mayor Pro Tem Voigt	Aye
Council Member Bates	Aye
Council Member Jones	Aye
Council Member Henry	Aye
Mayor Conley	Aye

Motion Carried.

6. GENERAL BUSINESS DISCUSSION

A) Resolution # 21-090 – Recognizing Donation of John Deere Gator

MOTION: Motion by Jones, supported by Henry to approve Resolution #21-090 recognizing the donation of a John Deere Gator XUV with V-Plow donated to the city by the Belleville Yacht Club.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Council Member Bates	Aye
Council Member Jones	Aye
Council Member Henry	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Voigt	Aye
Mayor Conley	Aye

Motion Carried.

B) Resolution #21-091 – Donation Made to BHS Baseball Team

MOTION: Motion by Henry, supported by Jones to approve Resolution #21-091 recognizing the monetary donation of \$400 to the Belleville High School Baseball Team for the purpose of purchasing equipment, in appreciation of their volunteer efforts in preparation for the Winter Fest.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Council Member Bates	Aye
Council Member Jones	Aye
Council Member Henry	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Voigt	Aye
Mayor Conley	Aye

Motion Carried.

C) Resolution # 21-092 – City Council Meeting Dates 2022

MOTION: Motion by Jones, supported by Bates to approve Resolution #21-092 setting the City Council meeting schedule for 2022.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Council Member Bates	Aye
Council Member Jones	Aye
Council Member Henry	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Voigt	Aye
Mayor Conley	Aye

Motion Carried.

D) Discussion – Social Media Account for City

1. Council Member Jones noted that other communities have been utilizing social media.

2. Mayor Conley stated that a social media policy should be adopted by the city.

3. Mayor Conley also stated that the Fire and Police Departments should be included on the city's social media to remain cohesive.

7. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND DEPARTMENTAL EXPENDITURES

MOTION: Motion by Jones, supported by Voigt to approve Resolution #21-093 authorizing accounts Payable and Departmental Expenditures as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Mayor Pro Tem Voigt	Aye
Council Member Bates	Aye
Council Member Jones	Aye
Council Member Henry	Aye
Mayor Conley	Aye

Motion Carried.

8. CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

• City Manager Robinson informed City Council that the processing of the accounts payable will be delayed and presented to the Council on Monday, January 3rd, due to the closure of City Hall the week prior.

• Stated he is excited about the promotion of Sergeants Faull and Schrecengost.

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• Noted that the payroll clerk has been out on leave, and as a result staff members are pulling double duty.

9. CITY COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

• Council Member Jones
-- Congratulated the winners of the holiday light contest.

-- Wished everyone a safe and happy holiday.
-- Excited about the LUCAS device that has been acquired by the Fire Department.

• Mayor Pro-Tem Voigt
-- Thanked Cindy from Fast Signs in Lincoln Park for the donation of the banner for the BHS Football Team, as well as Council Member Jones and Chris Donnelly for installing the banner.

-- Excited about the promotions of Sergeants Faull and Schrecengost and noted that he was the Field Training Officer for both.

-- Wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

• Council Member Henry
-- Excited about the Sergeant promotions.
-- Wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

• Council Member Bates
-- Congratulated the newly promoted Sergeants.
-- Congratulated the BHS Football Team as well as the University of Michigan Football Team.

-- Congratulated the winners of the holiday light contest.

-- Thanked City Clerk Hootman for coordinating the 2022 City Council meeting dates.

-- Thanked the staff for adding more detailed notes to the accounts payable reports.

-- Thanked Rosemary Oztman of the Belleville Independent for taking photos of the holiday light contest winners.

-- Wished everyone a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

10. MAYOR'S COMMENTS

• Is very happy about the promotions of Sergeants Faull and Schrecengost.

• Thanked all the participants of the holiday light contest.

• Reminded everyone that City Hall would be closed beginning December 24th and would not reopen until January 3rd.

• Gave her condolences to the family of Mike Foley.

• Thanked everyone who helps make the community what it is, including Belleville's Public Safety members and employees, those who attend the Council meetings, volunteers, businesses, and Rosemary Oztman from the Belleville Independent.

• Wished everyone a Happy Holiday.

11. CITIZENS COMMENTS

• Jeremiah Beebe

-- Gave a shoutout to the McBride Middle School Robotics Team who are in the top 25 in the state.

• Fire Chief Brian Loranger

-- Thanked Council for approving the purchase of the LUCAS device.

-- Stated that he is in the process of applying for many grants.

-- Noted that the sculpture at Denton Rd. and Main St. is down and will need to be repaired.

12. ACTION ITEMS FOR NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING

• Re-scheduling of the Proclamation to be presented to the Belleville High School Football Team.

13. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Motion by Bates, supported by Jones to adjourn at 8:20 p.m.

No objections were noted.

Motion Carried.

Briana Hootman, City Clerk

Approved: January 3, 2022

Published: January 6, 2022

options. Air Temperature Control owner Chris Lewis and company offers sales and service of furnaces, A/Cs, water heaters, humidifiers, duct work and cleaning, and whole-house generator installation. They also carry indoor air quality products. Visit www.atheatingandcooling.com and call (734) 697-8288. See their ad in today's paper.

Ivy Rehab Physical Therapy in the brand-new commercial development on Main Street invites the public to a ribbon-cutting ceremony with the Belleville Chamber of Commerce on Tuesday, Jan. 11, at 8:30 a.m. at 540 Main St. Ivy Rehab's Richard Fruitman and staff offers sports rehabilitation, arthritis relief, leg, knee, back, neck, and headache treatment. They'll even consult with you on your running and exercise regimen. Visit www.ivyrehab.com and call (734) 489-6440.

Belleville Co-op, the affordable rental community for seniors in the hi-rise building on Sumpter Road and its management company, CSI Support & Development of Warren MI is celebrating their 76th year of operating senior communities in Michigan, Massachusetts, Maryland, and California. Amenities at the Belleville location include subsidized rent, individual heating and cooling, and on-site laundry. The facility is also smoke-free and transportation is available. To learn more, see their ad in today's paper, visit [www.csi-coop](http://www.csi-coop.com) or call (734) 699-8676.

Beltone on Sumpter Road is kicking off 2022 with a bang as the next 20 people that set up an appointment for a free hearing screening, will learn to imagine life differently with the aid of better hearing through the latest hearing instrument technology available. Appointment times are limited with CDC guidelines in place and curbside service is available. See their ad in today's paper and call (734) 256-4113. Visit www.beltonehearingaid.com.

Eagles' Jan. 29 fund raiser to benefit Ele's Place Ann Arbor

The Van Buren Eagles #3996 will present its 2022 President's Charity Fund Raiser from 5 p.m. to midnight on Saturday, Jan. 29, to benefit Ele's Place Ann Arbor.

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.

Dinner is from 6 to 8 p.m. and includes pulled pork and chicken, baked beans, mashed potatoes, salad, dinner rolls and butter, and assorted desserts.

Entertainment by Tequila Mockingbird begins at 8 p.m. There also will be bag raffles, 50/50 raffles, and a silent auction.

Tickets are \$20 each and the event is open to the public. Purchase tickets at foe3993.com/events or at the Van Buren Eagles, 9961 Beck Rd., Van Buren Township.

Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

There were 198 dispatch calls reported by Van Buren Township police last week including the following.

Sunday, Dec. 26:

0130 – suspicious person/vehicle, Kirkridge Park
0327 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
0837 – domestic, S. Prairiegrass Ct.
0911 –harassment call, Haggerty Rd.
1304 – domestic, Winchester St.
1415 – found property/child, Belleville Rd.
1433 – civil matter, Parkwood Dr.
1513 – vehicle lockout, Belleville Rd.
1535 – welfare check, S. Ponderosa Trl./Cherry Ln
1541 – domestic, Denton Rd.
1551 – welfare check, Haggerty Rd.
1603 – larceny, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1605 – intrusion alarm, Brookview Dr.
1733 – 911 welfare check, Sheldon Rd.
1807 – harassment call, Van Buren St.
1839 – civil matter, Belleville Rd.
1930 – property check, Belleville Rd.
2031 – vehicle lockout, N. I-94 Service Dr.
2032 – suspicious person/vehicle, S. I-94 Service
2108 – property check, Belleville Rd.
2346 – 911 welfare check, Peachtree Ln./N. Ponderosa Trl.
2352 – 911 welfare check, Meadows Ln.
2355 – noise complaint, Maple Dr.

Monday, Dec. 27:

0143 – civil matter, Water’s Edge Ln.
0744 – unattended death, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0822 – welfare check, N. I-275/Hannan
0937 – welfare check, Maple Dr.
1339 – property damage accident, Denton Rd. / Belleville Rd.
1451 – assist fire dept., Parkwood Dr.
1504 – larceny from auto, Parkwood Dr.
1614 – 911 welfare check, N. Ponderosa Trl.
1911 – assist other dept., Belle Pointe Dr.
1914 – suspicious person/vehicle, N. I-94 Service
1919 – suspicious person/vehicle, Village Green\
1931 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.
2041 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
2151 – suspicious person/vehicle, Main St.
2151 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.
2209 – personal injury accident, W. I-94/rest area
2227 – suicidal person, Jackson St.
2241 – disorderly, N. I-94 Service Dr.
2353 – motorist assist, S. I-94 Service Dr.

Tuesday, Dec. 28:

0153 – juvenile complaint, Westlake Cir.
0250 – assist other dept., Price Rd.
0317 – suspicious person/vehicle, Denton Rd.
0524 – 911 welfare check, Denton Rd.
0629 – domestic, Denton Rd.
0803 – overdose, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0816 – intrusion alarm, Leon Dr.
0948 – intrusion alarm, McBride
1145 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, Chandler Dr.
1337 – domestic, Lake Villa Dr.
1344 – juvenile complaint, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1409 – fight, Belleville Rd.
1439 – overdose, Rogers Ave.
1452 – threat, Riggs Rd.
1541 – civil matter, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1601 – property damage accident, Denton Rd./S. I-94 Service Dr.
1615 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / S. I-94 Service Dr.
1619 – property damage accident, Castell Blvd.
1629 – private property/property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1635 – disorderly, Belleville Rd.
1649 – property damage accident, Haggerty Rd.
1700 – personal injury accident, Ecorse/Belleville
1723 – private property/property damage accident, Samuel Barton Dr.
1833 – private property/property damage accident, Michigan Ave.
1834 – traffic offense, Martinsville Rd./Fret Rd.
1904 – civil matter, Tyler Rd.
2013 – property damage accident, N. I-94 Service Dr. / Beck Rd.
2031 – suspicious person/vehicle, Rolan Meadows
2057 – malicious destruction of property, Martinsville Rd.
2340 – motorist assist, E. I-94/Haggerty Rd.

Wednesday, Dec. 29:

0123 – property damage accident, WB I-94 ramp / Belleville Rd.
0451 – motorist assist, N. I-94 Service Dr./Oak Ln.
0939 – domestic, Estates
1013 – domestic, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1101 – domestic, Sadie Ln.
1211 – civil matter, Briarwood Dr.
1326 – lost property/child, Oak Ln.
1412 – welfare check, Filmore St.
1541 – threat, Belleville Rd.
1549 – suspicious person/vehicle, Sylvia Dr.
1550 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.
1612 – civil matter, Parkwood Dr.
1808 – noise complaint, Lighthouse Dr.
1819 – domestic, Oak Ln.
1826 –neighbor trouble, Berkdale Dr.
1853 – road hazard, Michigan Ave./Denton Rd.
1913 – 911 welfare check, Amanda Dr.
2129 – family trouble, Stamford Rd.
2155 – welfare check, Rawsonville Rd.
2216 – suspicious person/vehicle, Wildbrook Dr.
2236 – traffic offense, Rawsonville Rd.
2303 – parking complaint, McKinley/Wheeler
2309 – assist other dept., Ryznar Dr.

Thursday, Dec. 30:

0709 – assist fire dept., rest area
0727 – intrusion alarm, Van Born
0748 – intrusion alarm, E. Schooner Dr.
0859 – threat, Westlake Cir.
0917 – domestic, Denton Rd.
1054 – private property impound, Holly Ln.
1055 – unattended death, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1150 – larceny, Oak Ln.
1148 – harassment call, Lake Villa Dr.
1207 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.
1323 – trespassing, Belleville Rd.
1337 – unauthorized driving away of auto, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1341 – fraud, Westlake Cir.
1348 – private property/property damage accident, Westlake Cir.
1404 – property damage accident, Michigan / Michigan Ave.
1414 – mental subject, Fret Rd.
1430 – welfare check, Parkwood Dr.
1515 – found property/child, Belleville Rd.
1838 – Menards property check, Belleville Rd.
1849 – Meijer property check, Belleville Rd.
1853 – animal complaint, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1909 – Walmart property check, Belleville Rd.
2042 – suspicious person/vehicle, E. Sadie Ln.
2109 – civil matter, Pinewood Ln.
2142 – family trouble, Pinewood Ln.
2345 – civil matter, N. I-94 Service Dr.

Friday, Dec. 31:

0000 – road hazard, Belleville Rd./S. I-94 Service
0024 – assist citizen, Anna Dr.
0046 – suspicious person/vehicle, Stonebridge Dr.
0138 – assist fire dept., Parkwood Dr.
0308 – warrant arrest, Rawsonville/S. I-94 Service
0848 – welfare check, N. I-94 Service Dr.
0952 – larceny from auto, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1121 – domestic, Parkwood Dr.
1157 – assist other dept., Jackson St.
1415 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Belleville Rd.
1521 – suspicious person/vehicle, Van Buren St.
1538 – suspicious person/vehicle, Vernon St. / Winchester St.
1559 – assist other dept., Morton Taylor Rd.
1720 – civil matter, Tyler Rd.
1916 – suicidal person, Quirk Rd.
2013 – suicidal person, Riggs Rd.
2016 – suspicious person/vehicle, Denton Rd.
2028 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
2104 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
2116 – suicidal person, Parkwood Dr.
2215 – suspicious person/vehicle, Greenbriar Ct.
2252 – shooting, Kirkridge Park Dr.
2309 – suspicious person/vehicle, Lakeview Ct.
2318 – fireworks, Arthur St.

Saturday, Jan. 1:

0001 – disorderly, Belleville Rd.
0007 – shooting, Kirkridge Park Dr.
0007 – shooting, Walden Woods
0024 – intrusion alarm, Michigan
0039 – intrusion alarm, Fret Rd.
0051 – suspicious person/vehicle, N. Bellridge Dr.
0140 – disorderly, Bayshore Dr.
0221 – disorderly, Kirkridge Park Dr.
0244 – suspicious person/vehicle, N. Sunset Ln.
0410 – assist other dept., Haggerty Rd./Tyler Rd.
0729 – domestic, Bradley Dr.

1025 – assist other dept., EB I-94/Belleville Rd.
1047 – mental subject, Parkwood Dr.
1252 – hospice death, Solitude Ln.
1332 – larceny, Belleville Rd.
1430 – breaking & entering, Pinewood Ln.
1544 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1618 – mental subject, Castell Blvd.
1707 – domestic, Daniel Dr.
1737 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, Ecorse Rd.
1814 – assault & battery, Rawsonville Rd.
1819 – domestic, Westlake Cir.
1833 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1859 – larceny from auto, Ayres Ave.
2006 – suspicious person/vehicle, Huron River Dr.
2038 – shooting, Lighthouse Dr.
2106 – welfare check, Parkwood Dr.
2149 – suspicious person/vehicle, Parkwood Dr.
2207 – harassment call, Filmore St.
2241 – domestic, S. Ponderosa Trl.
2346 – domestic, S. Ponderosa Trl.

Also on this week’s log are 17 traffic stops, none of which were on the freeways.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Dec. 26:

0903 – intrusion alarm, S. Edgemont Ave.
1326 – neighbor trouble, N. Liberty St.
1537 – civil matter, N. Liberty St.
2215 – traffic stop, Main St./First St.
Monday, Dec. 27:
0625 – intrusion alarm, E. Columbia Ave.
1001 – juvenile complaint, Owen St.
1351 – property damage accident, Main/N. Liberty
1534 – traffic stop, Potter Dr./E. Huron River Dr.
1741 – traffic stop, Main St.
1802 – suspicious person/vehicle, Potter Dr. / E. Huron River Dr.
1846 – traffic stop, Main St.
2121 – suspicious person/vehicle, Main St.
2139 – assist other dept., Sumpter Rd.
2236 – traffic stop, E. Huron River Dr./Angola St.

Tuesday, Dec. 28:

0030 – malicious destruction of property, Denton Rd. / Main St.
0447 – motorist assist, Main St.
0858 – traffic stop, Main St.
0948 – traffic stop, Main St.
1019 – traffic stop, E. Wabash Ave./South St.
1102 – traffic stop, Main St.
1131 – traffic offense, Church St./Second St.
1135 – traffic stop, W. Columbia Ave./Edison
1200 – traffic stop, Main St.
1251 – traffic stop, Sam’s Place restaurant
1350 – traffic offense, Sumpter Rd.
1354 – intrusion alarm, E. Huron River Dr.
1600 – traffic stop, Main St.
1801 – assist citizen, W. Columbia Ave.
2123 – assist other dept., S. Biggs Ave.
2155 – traffic stop, Savage Rd./Village Park

Wednesday, Dec. 29:

0143 – traffic stop, N. Liberty St./Fifth St.
0224 – traffic stop, South St.
0937 – private property impound, South St.
1529 – warrant arrest, Main St.
1745 – suspicious person/vehicle, Sumpter Rd.
2054 – traffic stop, Savage Rd./Victorian Ln.
2149 – civil matter, N. Liberty St.
2300 – traffic stop, E. Columbia Ave./S. Liberty
Thursday, Dec. 30:
0217 – traffic stop, Main St./Fourth St.
1051 – fraud, Main St.
1421 – motorist assist, Main St./High St.
1655 – civil matter, N. Liberty St.
2007 – fraud, N. Liberty St.
2049 – assist fire dept., Victorian Ct.

Friday, Dec. 31:

1324 – welfare check, W. Columbia Ave.
1533 – harassment call, Anaheim St.
1557 – traffic stop, Anaheim St./Belle Villa Blvd.
2103 – traffic stop, E. Huron River Dr./N. Biggs
2140 – traffic stop, E. Huron River Dr./Wexford
2213 – intrusion alarm, W. Columbia Ave.
2355 – 911 welfare check, Belle Villa Blvd.
Saturday, Jan. 1:
0044 – traffic stop, Main St./Third St.
0121 – traffic stop, Main St./Denton Rd.
0755 – warrant arrest, Main St.

1027 – traffic stop, Main St.
1035 – traffic offense, Quirk Rd./Belleville Rd.
1051 – traffic offense, Main St./High St.
1340 – traffic stop, E. Huron River Dr./Loza Ln.
1405 – traffic stop, E. Columbia Ave./South St.
1409 – traffic offense, Madelon/Robbe
1514 – traffic stop, E. Columbia Ave.
1524 – traffic stop, E. Columbia Ave.
1658 – traffic stop, Main St./Fourth St.
1749 – traffic stop, Main St./Fourth St.
There were 31 traffic stops on this week’s log.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Dec. 26:

0009 – assault, 43000 bl. Harris Rd.
0218 – family trouble, 47000 bl. Willow Rd.
0704 – mental health call, 18000 bl. Martinsville
0827 – mental health call, 18000 bl. Martinsville
1635 – reckless driver, Sumpter Rd./Kozma Rd.
1841 – disorderly person, Greenmeadow Dr.

Monday, Dec. 27:

0312 – suspicious circumstance, 28000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
0725 – fire dept. assist, Carriage Ln.
0923 – civil matter, 48000 bl. Harris Rd.
1032 – civil matter, 18000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
1127 – fire dept. assist, 18000 bl. Savage Rd.
1304 – fire dept. assist, 22000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1343 – welfare check, 45000 bl. Willis Rd.
1409 – fire dept. assist, Nevada St.
1424 – citizen assist, Stonecrest Dr.
1439 – 911 hang up, 17000 bl. Lohr Rd.
1440 – fire dept. assist, 44000 bl. Dunn Rd.
1558 – mental health call, 47000 bl. Willis Rd.
1720 – civil matter, Rustic Ln.
1945 – assault, 48000 bl. Judd Rd.
2128 – traffic complaint/hazard, Sherwood/Willis
2132 – 911 hang up, 50000 bl. Judd Rd.

Tuesday, Dec. 28:

0945 – fire dept. assist, 26000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1128 – animal complaint, 42000 bl. Willis Rd.
1543 – property damage accident, Willis/Sumpter
1631 – traffic complaint/hazard, Karr Rd./Willow
1753 – family trouble, Wayside Dr.
1858 – fire dept. assist, Edgewood Dr.
1903 – family trouble, 18000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
1916 – fire dept. assist, 20000 bl. Wilmot Rd.
1936 – traffic complaint/hazard, Willis/Pendleton
2245 – death investigation, 40000 bl. Willis Rd.

Wednesday, Dec. 29:

0250 – fire dept. assist, 46000 bl. Arkona Rd.
0509 – fire dept. assist, 18000 bl. Elwell Rd.
0746 – suspicious person, 42000 bl. Harris Rd.
1125 – welfare check, Rustic Ln.
1138 – fire dept. assist, 46000 bl. Harris Rd.
1351 – death investigation, Stonecrest Dr.
1510 – suspicious vehicle, 22000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
2101 – 911 hang up, 23000 bl. Bohn Rd.

Thursday, Dec. 30:

0811 – citizen assist, 13000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
1148 – fire dept. assist, 48000 bl. Willis Rd.
1237 – fire dept. assist, 51000 bl. Willis Rd.
1447 – civil matter, 46000 bl. Reed Ave.
1533 – fire dept. assist, 48000 bl. Wear Rd.
1815 – property damage accident, Willow/Elwell
1817 – property damage accident, Willow/Sumpter
1912 – suspicious circumstance, 43000 bl. Bemis
2141 – 911 hang up, 49000 bl. Willis Rd.
2203 – operating while intoxicated arrest, Bemis Rd. / Lohr Rd.

Friday, Dec. 31:

0001 – fire dept. assist, 18000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
0954 – animal complaint, 23000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1039 – fire dept. assist, Nevada St.
1102 – animal complaint, 51000 bl. Arkona Rd.
1200 – death investigation, Rustic Ln.
1404 – alarm, 45000 bl. Harris Rd.
1411 – animal complaint, 20000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1608 – civil matter, 17000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
1635 – 911 hang up, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1813 – fire dept. assist, 49000 bl. Wear Rd.
1818 – animal complaint, Carriage Ln.
1842 – patrol check, 24000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1852 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1911 – civil matter, Rustic Ln.
2100 – alarm, 29000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2106 – welfare check, 44000 bl. Wear Rd.

(Continued on page 15)

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

(continued from page 14)

2352 – shots fired, Rawsonville Rd./Rustic Ln.

Saturday, Jan. 1:

0043 – shots fired, Carriage Ln.

0056 – 911 hang up, 40000 bl. Bemis Rd.

0141 – 911 hang up, 44000 bl. Wear Rd.

0144 – suspicious person, Brookview Dr.

0511 – noise complaint, Montana St.

0626 – noise complaint, 44000 bl. Willis Rd.

1218 – animal complaint, 26000 bl. Haggerty Rd.

1333 – fire dept. assist, Ohio St.

1707 – fire dept. assist, Rustic Ln.

1736 – fire dept. assist, 51000 bl. Arkona Rd.

1823 – fire dept. assist, Rustic Ln.

1845 – traffic complaint/hazard, Sumpter/Bemis

Also on this week's log are 108 patrol checks, 32 traffic stops, and five misc. details.

More Letters

We Sumpter seniors need help with taxes

To the editor:

Thank you, Mr. Robinson, for speaking out for the people of Sumpter Township that desperately need help now for the taxes. We seniors are hurting real bad. We really need help now. School taxes are so bad. Haven't had any children in school for 55 years. Give us a break, please.

We will be behind you or anyone that will step up for us old people and all the people of Sumpter. We will support any help.

Thank you, again.

Sumpter Senior

Editor's note: This letter was hand-carried to the *Independent* and the writer explained she was afraid to sign it, but really wanted it printed. She said she has never met Mr. Robinson, but she wanted to support him. She carried the newspaper page that held his letter.

**One Call Does It All...
...At The Independent
734-699-9020**



This year, three generations of the Morin family at 77 Carmell, Belleville, gathered to build the manger they put up in front of their home each Christmas. From left are John, Nicole, Johnny, and Josh. They won an award in the Mobile Home Park category in the city's Holiday Lighting Contest but couldn't attend the award ceremony at the Dec. 20 city council meeting. So, they got together and took their own picture to share.

INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTERS

Tuesday, January 11 @ 1 PM

OR

Thursday, March 24 @ 7 PM

Our introductory class is designed for the absolute beginner - we start by teaching you how to turn the computer on! The class also includes an overview of desktop/laptop computer set-ups, basic functions, and lots of practice using the keyboard and mouse.

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Sumpter Media Center at 23465 Sumpter Road



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5,920 SQUARE FOOT Belleville Lake Estate. 3Br, 3 1/2 Ba, 1st Fl Master, Library, Fireplace, Sunroom, Basement. 200 Ft Lakefront, 1 Acre. One of the Finest Parcels Available \$1,050,000.

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NEW LISTING



9000 OAKVILLE WALTZ, AUGUSTA TWP

LOTS TO SEE! Large 1,854 SqFt Ranch with New Carpet & Floor Coverings, Open Kitchen, Fireplace, Sun Room, 2 1/2 Car Attached Garage, Pole Barn, Paved Street & More. \$269,900

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ALLURINGLY AFFORDABLE 4 Bedroom home, 1 Bath, Newer Heating System, Whole House Generator, Vinyl Windows and Siding, 2 Car Detached Garage on One Half Acre Lot. \$173,000

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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 Neighborhood and Priced to Sell at \$210,000

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14081 LENMOORE, VAN BUREN TWP

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00000 SUMPTER 243X687 3.63 AC \$40,000

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VACANT VENETIAN 1/2 ACRE LOT \$60,000

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KARR RD 20 ACRES ZONED AG \$200,000

HAGGERTY 1.5 AC VAN BUREN \$70,000

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HURON TWP VAC CLARK 1.14 AC \$50,000

HURON TWP VAC CLARK .74 AC \$40,000

HURON TWP VAC ASH .87 ACRES \$55,000

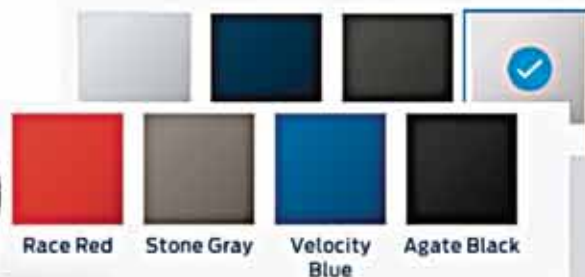
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