



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 21.47 Thursday, November 19, 2015 Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren **F R E E**

Did 'Palace Politics' lead to VBT paying \$650,000 in civil rights law suit?

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Some say it was Van Buren Township's "Palace Politics" that led to the six-month water shut off for residents of the Lakeview Motel in 2013.

And, that shut off led to the recent \$650,000 settlement by the township in a civil rights lawsuit in federal court.

Those splitting up the settlement were Paul Bevins, owner of Lakeview Motel; his ex-girlfriend Deborah Sutherland; and motel tenants Doreen Meyers Corp, Corey Budek, Kenneth James Pfeiffle, and Robert Bleeker.

Two of the tenants are using their money to go back to school and one is using the funds for medical treatment.

Their attorneys were DiPietro & Day of Belleville, co-counsel Hugh M. Davis and Cynthia Heenan, and Sutherland's attorney Robert S. Mullen.

Defendants, besides the Charter Township of Van Buren, were Director of Planning and Economic Development Arthur Mullen; Building, Plumbing and Electrical Inspector for the township Judy Fields; Director of Public Works James Taylor, who is responsible for oversight and operation of the township water system; and Lt. John Doe, a sworn VBT police officer, whose exact identity is unknown.

The plaintiffs were seeking damages for a violation of their civil rights, deprivation of property, and wrongful eviction.

VBT police evicted those who lived at the motel and the township shut off the water to the motel for six months without any previous notice, hearing, or court order of any kind.

Among the many sworn depositions taken for this case were more than a dozen by township employees who explained what happened from their points of view.

Looking back, people place most of the blame on Arthur Mullen, the former director of planning and economic development, who directed police to evict the residents,

which occurred around 7 p.m. on May 24, 2013, the Friday before Memorial Day.

Mullen had been hired in February 2013 to fill in for previous director Terry Carroll who had been fired after the new supervisor took over. Supervisor Linda Combs put out a call to the Michigan Association of Planners for someone to fill in on the job and a former township employee at MAP suggested Mullen. Mullen was also known by VBT DDA Director Susan Ireland because they were both on the MAP Board. Mullen had no experience in the position, but the board, by a unanimous vote, gave him the job permanently in early May.

(continued on page 13)

VBT Clerk Wright comments on law suit, \$650,000 settlement

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Van Buren Township Clerk Leon Wright is the township's representative to the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority (MMRMA), the insurance group covering VBT.

According to its website, MMRMA is a public entity self-insurance pool that provides liability and property coverage to municipal governmental entities across Michigan.

Clerk Wright said after the \$650,000 settlement was approved in the Civil Rights law suit brought by Paul Blevins and his tenants, the MMRMA is requiring some best-practices reports from those directors involved at the township.

Wright said he had a meeting with Public Safety Director Greg Laurain, DPW Director James Taylor, the new Planning and Economic Development Director Ron Akers, and his new Deputy Director

(continued on page 11)



Independent photo by Rosemary K. Otzman

Rhonda Dutton, left, and her granddaughter Jaylynn Dutton, 7, both of Sumpter Township, pose with Rhonda's digital artwork depicting a smiling dog during the recent Community Art Show at the BYC, put on by the Belleville Area Council for the Arts.



Belleville High School Productions will present "12 Angry Men" on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, Nov. 19, 20, and 21, at the BHS Auditorium. Curtain time is 7 p.m. on Thursday and Friday and 1:30 p.m. on Saturday. Tickets are available at the door at \$8 for adults and \$7 for students and seniors. The play is about a jury that is deliberating on a murder case in which a young man is accused of killing his father and faces the death penalty.

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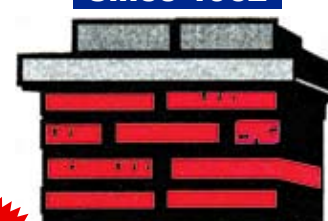
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SECOND FRONT PAGE

School Board gives 2% bonus to teachers, plus another half-step in pay

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

On Monday in a special board meeting the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education approved a 2% bonus for teachers, plus a half-step pay raise for them, taking a total of \$749,468 from the budget.

The 2% bonus is an off-schedule payment for last school year, 2014-15, and will be given in a lump sum on Dec. 4. Total budget implication is \$466,120.

The half-step pay raise for the 2015-16 school year has a budget implication of \$283,348.

Human Resources Director Shonta Langford-Green said this half-step payment is in addition to the half-step increase ratified on June 3 between the district and Van Buren Education Association, so they are getting a full step this year.

She said the payout is retroactive from Aug. 28, the first pay of the 2015-16 school year, and will continue on the remaining checks. The back payment will be on the Dec. 18 paycheck.

"We're still 2.6% down on their salary schedule," Green said.

Trustee Sherry Frazier said the board is happy to honor its word. After salary cuts, board members said when it had the money it would try to get them whole again.

Trustee Kathy Kovach said she was glad the board was able to do this for the teachers since they are the ones who have to do all the new things that keep having to be done.

"We think it's the right thing to do," said School Supt. Michael Van Tassel.

"And, just in time for Christmas," said board vice president Martha Toth.

"This is a lot more fun than that meeting where we had to take something from

everyone," Trustee Kovach said.

Green said once administrators got the budget amendments, they saw they could give the bonus right before Christmas. It won't increase the salaries.

The board first approved the 2015-16 budget amendments presented by Director of Finance Shareen Barker for the general fund and other school funds.

The general fund amendments included a loss in revenue of \$166,188 for the cut in state foundation allowance when there were 22 fewer students this fall than budgeted, at \$7,554 each.

The salaries/benefits adjustments for contract changes, teacher coaches, and elementary interventionists totalled \$617,000.

Carry overs from the 2014-15 budget were a \$408,763 boiler, \$132,127 BHS sound system, and \$524,805 warehouse fire claim that were started in the last fiscal year and completed this year.

Also, the district bought two buses at \$170,000.

The total additional expenses were \$1,508,652, so the fund balance was reduced from \$8,089,544 in June to an estimated \$6,580,892 on June 30, 2016, 13.17% of the total budget.

Barker said the auditors recommend a 15% fund balance and the state recommends from 10% to 15%.

Revenue in the amended budget is \$46,491,189, down from the actual \$47,687,305 in the audited 2014-15 budget.

On Monday, the board also heard reports from Director of Instruction Jeff Moore on math power standards and a vision of how the district supports students in overcoming obstacles to reaching academic achievement goals.

Belleville Area District Library sets special meeting for Tuesday, Nov. 24

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

The Belleville Area District Library Board has set a special board meeting for 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 24, to discuss what officials at the city of Belleville think of options for upgrading the present library or building a new library downtown.

At the board's regular meeting on Nov. 10, architect Dan Whisler said a meeting with city officials was set for Nov. 13. The library representatives were to be asking the city about the possibility of closing Fourth Street as part of the building plan. The Dec. 8 regular meeting will have

bond counsel discussing options for bonds, so the board decided a special meeting was necessary to keep plans moving along.

At the Nov. 10 meeting, architect Whisler presented three library options, A, B and C, all two-story plans. All required the plot of land next door at 360 Charles Street owned by Belynda Domas of H&B Bookkeeping & Tax Service.

Domas was present at the meeting and said the Kroger project, Shops at Belleville LLC, optioned to buy her property for \$215,000, and then in 2008 the whole thing fell through. She said in July 2013

(continued on page 17)



Independent photos by Rosemary K. Oztman

A large crowd turned out at the Belleville Moose Lodge on Nov. 7 to honor veterans. Kathie Steigerwald of the David C. Brown Funeral Home presented 10 plaques to those who helped with the special Thunder Rolls event on Memorial Day at the Veterans' Monument in Belleville. Then Steigerwald presented a \$1,000 check each to the Belleville VFW and PLAV veterans groups. This represented the money earned in the motorcycle ride that day. She also presented a \$500 check to Chapter G Goldwings Touring Association. Steigerwald said six members of Homeland Security and her husband did all the work in the kitchen for the spaghetti dinner served. From left are Kathie Steigerwald, Shelly Brown-Chudzinski, David C. Brown and Martha Brown. Steigerwald has been putting on the motorcycle ride as a benefit for veterans in Belleville for 11 years.



On Friday, Van Buren Township Clerk Leon Wright swore in new VBT Police Officer Gabriel Brandel, a resident of Novi who most recently served as a police officer for the Huron Clinton Metro Parks at Kensington Park. Brandel, 28, is a certified fire fighter and graduated from the police academy in 2014. He is a highly decorated member of the Michigan National Guard and served a tour of duty in Afghanistan, 2011-12. He holds a bachelor of science in Criminal Justice and has worked as an auxiliary police officer and dispatcher. At left is his wife Leandra.

OPINIONS

Editorial

VBT to get rid of fire dept. duty crew

At Tuesday's Van Buren Township Board meeting, Don Schoenberger read a Nov. 13 letter from Ethan Vinson, the township's insurance/contract attorney, to the fire department's union representative and others:

"As you may be aware, the Public Safety Millage Proposal was voted down in the recent election. As a result thereof, the township Board has decided to implement certain cost-reduction measures. One of which will be the elimination of the duty crew. However, before such a change is implemented, we recognize that we will have a duty to bargain about the effects such a change will have upon the bargaining unit. Accordingly, please provide me with dates you are available to meet as soon as possible."

Schoenberger said the elimination of the duty crew because voters turned down the 6.5-mill tax is a scare tactic. He said the present millage is effective through 2016.

Schoenberger said the fire chief wants a part-time administrative assistant so you can call a secretary to say there's a fire, but nobody will be available to go to the fire. He said the township board said it needs money, but in the new budget everybody gets a raise.

If the fire department goes back to only paid-per-call fire fighters, with nobody on duty at the fire halls, the response time will suffer, but the high blended-rate costs will be gone. Is that what needs to be done to get the budget under control? But, what about those who suffer in the process?

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

I received an email from Jay Scott last week: "Has anyone heard if there are plans of repairing McBride Road? It is in terrible shape for a school road. I feel like I could be driving on the moon."

Another parent, a mother, brought in pictures on her phone of McBride to show us how bad it is. There are huge holes covering the roadway and her car had damages last year and this year she's driving her husband's truck and it is getting damaged, too.

She said because of the shift she works, the time when she drives her child to McBride Middle School is the only time she gets to see him during the day.

A grandparent said she drives in to McBride school at the back of the school property, although it's prohibited. She said the McBride roadway in front is so bad she can't drive there.

Bob Mytych, who delivers our *Independents* to McBride, said he has to drive on "idle" to make it back and forth to the school to take the papers in. He agrees the road is horrible.

The mother said she has called Wayne County Roads to report it and was told that wasn't their road. She said she called the VBT Supervisor's office and they couldn't help her, either. She was pretty frustrated by the time she got to us, hoping we could get somebody to care.

Maya's restaurant was closed last Thursday and opened on Friday as Kabob Garden, under new ownership. The restaurant is located in the Davenport Center near the new Secretary of State office on East Columbia Avenue in Belleville.



I've been told that a Van Buren Township Police SUV hit a deer sometime last week. The car wasn't badly damaged, I'm told, and the police officer is fine.

We've got our boxes for Toys for Tots and the volunteer that delivered them said he was also taking Toys for Tots boxes to the library, Remax Crossroads III, St. Anthony's Catholic Church, Brown Funeral Home, and, possibly, the Moose Lodge.

He said he'd be back on Dec. 15 or so to pick up the donations, or sooner if our boxes are full. Every year people dig deep and buy toys for this project of the Marine Corps Reserves.

We have an obituary this week for Ed Sala, who was my friend as we attended Belleville High School together and participated in the Methodist church's youth group. He was our class president when our class of 1954 graduated. He was very smart and I admired that.

I remember once Ed and I skipped school to go out door to door for our church group to collect food for the hungry. We were very idealistic. We never were boyfriend-girlfriend, but just good friends.

I'm sorry he has passed on, but I remember him with great fondness. Our world was better for him being here.

Charles Tackett called the other day from

Florida to tell me he had called Wayne County Commissioner Al Haidous to ask him why he gave VBT Trustee Phil Hart an award from the county commission for retiring from Ford Motor Company. Charles has known Haidous since before he was elected commissioner.

Charles said Commissioner Haidous told him that he got a phone call from VBT Trustee Jeff Jahr, who he has known for a long time as an attorney. Charles said Haidous told him Jahr asked him to get a county award for Hart for retiring after 38 years at Ford, so Haidous complied.

Charles said he thinks Hart wants to run for VBT supervisor next fall and Jahr is supporting his efforts by getting Hart some publicity.

Others who have retired from their jobs have told me they didn't get any special award from the county for retiring and they wondered why Hart did. Now, you have the story.

If you want an award from the county for retiring, just get Trustee Jahr to call his friend Commissioner Haidous.

Talk about Palace Politics at VBT.



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BELLEVILLE - AREA

INDEPENDENT

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Letters

Food Closet sees more families in need

To the Editor:

The Belleville Food Closet is thankful for all our supporters in the Belleville area. During Meijer Simply Give Program last month, Meijer matched funds donated by customers. We raised \$15,480. We also thank Belleville Meijer for their portion of the contribution and their continued support.

Then, at the Harvest Fest on Oct. 10, those same supporters bought or sold or made sweet treats worth \$815.30 to support the hungry in our area.

The holidays are fast approaching and the Belleville Food Closet is in need of your help again. Each week we feed 35 families from Van Buren and Sumpter townships and the city of Belleville.

During Thanksgiving and Christmas we provide our clients with a special bag of food to celebrate the holidays. Last year we provided 1,445 families (or 5,820 persons) with food and extra for the holidays. The average cost of one bag is \$35. We are currently making 120 weekly bags and 120 holiday bags for Thanksgiving.

As the temperatures drop, we see more families in need. Just since Nov. 1, we have added eight families and 10 bags of food. This is just the beginning.

The Belleville Food Closet is located in the Belleville First United Methodist Church, 417 Charles Street, Belleville. The church office is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. to accept donations. The Belleville Food Closet distributes food on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., if you would like to donate or see the closet in operation. We accept all monetary donations, food or toiletries.

Thanking you in advance for your thoughtful prayers and giving.
 In Christ,
 Jan Renton, Director
 Belleville Food Closet

Tree of Remembrance ceremony is Monday

To the Editor:

The winter and holidays are fast approaching us. The holidays are often seen as a joyous occasion and a chance to come together with friends and family. But it can be a difficult time for anyone who is missing their deceased loved one. The prospect of facing the holidays without your loved one may cause anxiety and dread. Whether your loved one died recently or decades ago, the holidays bring forth powerful memories that may trigger your grief. We would like to

help you.

David C. Brown Funeral Home will be hosting a special remembrance memorial ceremony for the community. The "TREE OF REMEMBRANCE" is a time to reflect and give honor to our loved ones during this holiday season. We invite you all on **Monday, Nov. 23**, to the Brown Family Center for this heartwarming ceremony. There will be a time beforehand inside the Center for fellowship and refreshments starting at 6:30 p.m. The ceremony will begin at 7 p.m. just outside the Center.

Because it is outside please dress warmly. If you would like, please bring a weatherproof ornament in memory of your loved one. During the ceremony there will be a time in which you can decorate the tree with your ornament.

So, gather the family and come out Monday evening for a comforting ceremony to celebrate your loved one. The Brown Family Center is two blocks east of the funeral home at 678 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville (734) 697-4500.

Sincerely,

David C. Brown Funeral Home/ Brown Family Center

You're invited to Democratic Club party

To the Editor:

Our local Southwestern Wayne Democratic Club representing Belleville City, Sumpter, Huron, and Van Buren Townships invite the community to our annual Holiday Dinner on Friday, Dec. 4, at 6 p.m. to socialize and support charities in our communities.

The event will take place at UAW Local 898, 8975 Textile Road, Ypsilanti, and tickets cost \$25 for single or \$40 per couple which includes dinner, door-prize ticket, beer, and wine. Entertainment, dancing, 50/50, and raffle prizes are all part of the fun while raising money for local charities. Tickets are available at the door and we hope you can join us.

Kevin McNamara, President
 Southwestern Wayne Democratic Club
 Executive Board

Thank you to Country Pond, Country Walk

To the Editor:

Cub Scout Pack 924 who meet at Rawsonville Elementary School would like to thank the residents of Country Pond, Country Walk, and Lauren Court for their generosity in our annual Boy Scout "scouting for food" drive. Empty bags were distributed to door steps in these communities on Nov. 7 and full bags were picked up on the morning of Nov. 14.

Your support helped to produce 350 pounds of non-perishable items that were dropped off at Kirshner Chiropractic Life Center, a sponsor and drop point for Food Gatherers of Washtenaw County. A special thank you to Todd Kirshner, owner of the chiropractic center, for treating the scouts to a pizza party for all their hard work.

Thanks again,
 Cub Scout Pack 924

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More Letters

Thank you for passing school Sinking Fund

Dear Van Buren Public Schools Community:

I wanted to take a moment and express the sincere thanks and gratitude of not only myself, but the entire Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, staff and students for your recent renewal of the Sinking Fund.

In today's world of limited funding for public education, every dollar we can retain in our classrooms for student learning is critical. The passage of this Sinking Fund renewal brings over \$700,000 per year into the school district solely for the repair of our school buildings. With aging facilities (most over 30 years old) this funding is so important.

Again, thank you for your investment in your schools and your community. The return will benefit all of us as we move forward in the days to come.

Sincerely,

Brent Mikulski, president

Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education



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St. Jude's Novena answered my prayer

To the Editor:

If you say this prayer nine times a day, by the eighth day your prayer will be answered. It has never been known to fail. Publication must be promised when you receive what you've been asking for.

St. Jude's Novena

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

I have said this "St. Jude's Novena" many times. All my prayers have been always answered. Grateful for all my answered

prayers.

Linda Perry

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Obituaries



Karla Marie Clark

KARLA MARIE CLARK

(October 3, 1947 – November 12, 2015)

Karla Marie Clark, age 68, of Van Buren Township. Karla was the beloved partner of Thomas Budd for 25 wonderful years; loving mother of Jason (Heather) Clark and JoAnne Clark; loving daughter of Leland and Cora Vandecar; proud grandmother of Michael, Matthew, and Nathan. Karla is also survived by her siblings, Karen Struble, Kay (Bill) Villa, Richard (Julie) Vandecar and Daniel (Amy) Vandecar and many loving family and friends. Karla retired from Accounting and became involved in the Belleville Historical Society. She was very creative; enjoyed golfing and spending time with her grandchildren.

A Memorial Service will be held November 21 at the Willow United Methodist Church, 36925 Willow Rd., New Boston, MI. Visiting hours 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m., service is at 12 p.m. with lunch to follow. In lieu of flowers, the family asks to make a donation to the American Cancer Society.



Edward Sala

EDWARD SALA

(September 20, 1936 – November 10, 2015)

Edward Sala, 79, of Cocoa Beach, FL, and formerly of Belleville/Sumpter Township, died November 10, 2015.

He was born to Emil and Emma Sala of Sumpter Township, who preceded him in death. Also preceding him was his brother, Eugene, and his wife of 30 years, Diane. Also, Edward's first wife, Gail, of 12 years.

Edward graduated from Belleville High School in 1954 where he was senior class president and captain of the basketball team. Ed played 'way too much golf, if that's possible.

Mr. Sala graduated from Eastern Michigan University and was employed for 30 years as Vice President of Forecasting for Chevrolet Truck and Bus Division.

Mr. Sala is survived by two brothers, Elliot (Jean) Sala of Ypsilanti Township and David (Pam) Sala of South Lyon. Also surviving are two daughters Robin of Arizona and Sheryl of Minnesota and his son Edward of Shelby Township.

Cremation rites have been accorded.

JOAN CAROLYN STARR

(March 3, 1940 – August 21, 2015)

Joan Carolyn Starr, age 75, died at Botsford Hospital on August 21, 2015. She is survived by daughter Tiffany Starr of California. Fisher Funeral Home, Redford Township.



Donald "Don" James Navarre

DONALD 'DON' JAMES NAVARRE

(June 4, 1938 – November 15, 2015)

Donald "Don" James Navarre, age 77, of Van Buren Township, died suddenly Sunday, November 15, 2015.

He was born June 4, 1938, in Monroe, MI, the son of Walter and Margaret (Adler) Navarre. On December 7, 1968, he married Mary Tackett in Wayne, MI, and she survives. Don was employed as a Drill Specialist for Ford Motor Car Co., retiring after 30 years of service. He was a member of Regular Baptist Church in Canton, MI.

Don will always be remembered for his love of family, fishing, hunting, and camping. Survivors, besides his loving wife Mary, include five children: Rodney (Shawn) McDaniels, Alan (Jodi) Navarre, Duane (April) Navarre, Mona (Richard) Susack, and Shelly (Jerry) Keyser; many grandchildren and great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by two children, James Navarre and Gloria Spurling; his mother and father; one sister and three brothers.

Funeral service was held Wednesday, November 18, 2015 at 11 a.m. at Regular Baptist Church, 5668 Denton Rd., Canton, MI 48188 with Pastor Danny Adams officiating. Burial followed in Cherry Hill Cemetery, Canton, MI.

Contributions in Don's memory may be made to his family. Envelopes were available at Janowiak Funeral Home, Sumpter Chapel, 19865 Sumpter Rd., Belleville, where the family received friends Tuesday from 2-8 p.m. and at the Church on Wednesday from 10 a.m. until time of service at 11 a.m.

Upcoming Meetings

• Tuesday, Nov. 24 – Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority, 5:30 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township workshop at 6 p.m. and regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. Also, VBT Water and Sewer Commission, 7:30 p.m. Also, special meeting of Belleville Area District Library Board at 7:30 p.m. to discuss options for new library.

• Wednesday, Nov. 25 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m.

• Monday, Nov. 30 – Van Buren Township work/study session, 4 p.m.

• Tuesday, Dec. 1 – Van Buren Township regular board meeting, 7 p.m.

• Monday, Dec. 7 – Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m., BHS Commons. Also, Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.

• Tuesday, Dec. 8 – Van Buren Township Recreation Committee, 5:30 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township workshop at 6 p.m. and regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. Also, Belleville Area District Library meeting at 7:30 p.m.

• Wednesday, Dec. 9 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m.

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Things to do in the Belleville area...

• **Thursday, Nov. 19; Friday, Nov. 20; and Saturday, Nov. 21** – BHS Productions is presenting “12 Angry Men” at the BHS Auditorium. On Thursday and Friday curtain time is 7 p.m. on Saturday, it’s 1:30 p.m. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$7 for students and seniors – at the door or through www.showtix4u.com.

• **Friday, Nov. 20** – You’re invited to an 11 a.m. ribbon-cutting with the Chamber of Commerce at Mail Center One, 837 Sumpter Road, Belleville. Refreshments, giveaways.

• **Friday, Nov. 20** – Friends Family Theater FREE Movie Night, 7 p.m., with fun and food. Movies shown in the white-framed building at 7890 Tuttle Hill Road at Bemis Road in Ypsilanti Township. Featuring “321 Penguins-Wise Guys” and a young detective movie. Info at www.friendsfamilytheater.com.

• **Saturday, Nov. 21** – Fall Craft Show, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Belleville Moose Lodge, corner of Sumpter Road and Harris. Juried. Presented by Women of the Moose 1135. Table reservations (734) 699-0649 or (734) 904-7729.

• **Saturday, Nov. 21** – “Say Yes to Prom” expo is on at the Belleville High School Commons from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to help students prepare for their big night. Local businesses will be on hand. Admission is \$3 and proceeds go to benefit the BHS class of 2016 senior party.

• **Saturday, Nov. 21** – Help support Russell LaPalme and his family at a spaghetti dinner fund raiser from 2 to 7 p.m. at the Sumpter Community Center. Donation is \$10 per person, \$5 for children 10 and under, with children under three eating free. LaPalme was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in September.

• **Friday, Nov. 27, and Saturday, Nov. 28** – Police and fire fighters will be out on the streets of Belleville and Van Buren Township to collect donations for Goodfellows work to help the needy at Christmas time.

“Out of clutter, find simplicity.”
– Albert Einstein

More Letters

Soccer registration is now under way

To the Editor:

Registration is now open for the Spring 2016 Soccer Season. Please register at <http://clubs.bluesombrero.com/Default.aspx?tabid=260600>.

We are so excited to get another season going. We would like to thank the coaches, parents, families and players for all the support within our soccer community and helping us keep our soccer program running.

Spring 2016 games will start April 16.

Van Buren Community Soccer offers a Pride Development Program, which is coached by a volunteer with lots of soccer experience. This program is 1.5 hours every Saturday. It will consist of 45 minutes of fundamental drills, dribbling, and running, and then 45 minutes of the players scrimmaging. This is a great way to get your players familiar with kicking, running, and having fun. This development program starts as early as 3 years old.

We are always looking for volunteers to help with our soccer program. Board members, concession stand helpers, coaches, etc. Please reach out to us if you would like to help.

Please let us know if you have questions or concerns. We are here to help and always looking for suggestions. If you see a fellow VBCS player, family, or member around, just say Hello!

Email us at vanburensoccerbelleville@yahoo.com.

Soccer Rules! Thanks!
Angie McCluskey, President
Van Buren Community Soccer
And All Board Members

Power of the Purse event set for Nov. 20 at BYC

To the Editor:

I am again co-hosting the Southeastern Michigan Power of the Purse Charity Event – which is taking place from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 20, at the Belleville

Yacht Club. This charity event is held to raise money for several local non-profits and for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, a charity very close to my heart.

The Power of the Purse will feature an open bar, food stations and purses – lots and lots of purses! Last year we auctioned off over 300 purses. There will be a silent auction, live auction, raffles and door prizes. There will be purses of all varieties, sizes and colors. Name-brand purses, designer purses, one-of-a-kind purses made by artists, small purses and large purses – every purse will go home with a new owner!

Tickets for the event are available in advance for \$35 or at the door \$40 and can be purchased online at eventbrite.com event name Power of the Purse – SE Michigan.

Please consider making a donation, becoming a sponsor of the event or just coming to have a great time.

All donations are tax-deductible. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Kerreen Conley at (313) 969-5183 or Lauren Warren at 248-568-8483.

Kerreen Conley, Mayor of Belleville
Co-Chair

Lauren Warren, Co-Chair

Goodfellows need your donations to help kids

To the Editor:

As the holiday time of year draws ever near, we are reaching out to you as leaders of our community for donations to help the Belleville/Van Buren Goodfellows keep the promise of “No Child Without a Christmas.” Without your support, we would not be able to serve even half of the families who received assistance last year.

Ms. Marian (Caldwell) will be reading
“THE STORY OF THE CHRISTMAS TRUMPET”
Monday, November 30th
@ 4:30 p.m. at

SUGAR PLUM CANDY SHOPPE
on South Street, Belleville
Story about Grandpa delivering taffy candy to little children.
Event is for children ages 3-10.
Kids can also take part in a drawing.

We are a totally volunteer organization and spend countless hours putting together this endeavor. Every cent of your donation goes to the program, and without your generous help none of this would be possible.

Christmas is brighter for hundreds of families because we all care. We supply things such as food (non-perishable items), new children’s winter coats, and the nearest and dearest things are presents for each child from Santa. It is a great feeling to know that each and every one of us who are part of this is a Santa, not only to our families, but also to countless others as well.

Your continued support is most important to this huge yearly undertaking. If you haven’t made a donation to this community-wide effort before, we urge you to give serious consideration this year. Please, give ‘til it helps!

We thank you in advance for your contributions and also want to thank you for the hundreds of children who still believe in Santa because of you.

Please make your donation out to the Belleville/Van Buren Goodfellows. Mail to 46425 Tyler Road, Belleville 48111, Attn: Pam Fleming. You may also drop your donation off at the Van Buren Township Police Department, Attn: Pam Fleming, or at the Belleville Police Department, Attn: Sue Moore.

Pam Fleming, Goodfellow Coordinator
Director Greg Laurain, Co-Chair

Van Buren Township Police
Chief Hal Berriman, Co-Chair
City of Belleville Police

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\$10,000

Boy Scout Troop 793 has a large equipment trailer that we use to go to and from outings and campouts and it's time to upgrade our trailer to continue serving our needs. We currently have a trailer that is sixteen years old and has ten thousand miles on it and it would cost us \$3,000 dollars to upgrade it and that does not include the safety issues that come with a trailer that old. The cost for a new trailer and to reequip to what we have now will be \$10,000 dollars. Currently we have raised \$4,740 dollars. A new trailer will significantly upgrade our transportation services and will help us to continue to provide a quality program for the boys. Your donation will be greatly appreciated and we thank you for any support you can give us. Please mail all donations to:

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Boy Scout Troop 793*

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Robert and Kathleen Miller, 1965



Robert and Kathleen Miller, 2015

Robert, Kathleen Miller celebrate 50 years

Robert and Kathleen (Merecki) Miller celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Friday, Oct. 16, 2015 renewing their vows at 5 p.m. at St. Stephen's Catholic Church in New Boston with Father John Hedges (Kathy's cousin) officiating.

Kathy wore her shortened wedding gown with her headpiece made into a corsage.

A reception followed at the Belleville Moose Lodge with family and friends coming from as far as California for dinner and dancing.

They were married on Saturday, Oct. 16, 1965 at St. Anthony Catholic Church in Belleville and have remained area residents since then.

Bob and Kathy both graduated from Belleville high School – Bob in 1960 and Kathy in 1963.

They have been blessed with two children, Michelle (Nolan) Engelhardt and Jeffrey (Lisa) Miller, and two grandchildren, Sarah and Anthony Miller.

Bob retired from Ford Motor Co. after 33 years but still enjoys working at Polo Fields in Washtenaw Country Club in Ypsilanti. Kathy's time is spent quilting, reading, cooking, traveling, and spending time with family and friends. Prior to their

anniversary, they celebrated their 50th by going to Disney World for 12 days.



Welcome,

Zoeylee Francine Shevrovich

Jessica Lampinen and Bobby Shevrovich of Romulus announce the birth of their daughter Zoeylee Francine Shevrovich at 7:34 a.m., Nov. 1, 2015 at University of Michigan Hospital, Ann Arbor. She weighed 7 pounds, 14 ounces and measured 20.25 inches. She came home to join her big sister Shaylynn, age 6. Grandparents are Norman and Tracy Lampinen of Belleville and Chris and Bobbijo Shevrovich of Ypsilanti. Great-grandparents are Janet Lampinen and Joe Grant of Inkster, Bill Willis of Sumpter, and Rudy Baldini of Romulus.

Chamber of Commerce offers 8th-annual Main St. Decorating Contest

The Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce announces its eighth-annual Main Street Business Decorating Contest.

Executive Director Paul Henning said to qualify, businesses should decorate their main display windows or their entire buildings.

All entries will be judged after 6 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 3. Winners will be announced before the start of the Christmas Parade on Saturday, Dec. 5.

Prizes are \$100 for first place, \$50 for second, and \$25 for third.

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Five of the 20 original quilters who worked on the Belleville Centennial Quilt in 2005 gathered for a 10th-anniversary celebration at the Belleville Area District Library on Nov. 12. From left are Elaine Gutierrez, Bertha Vandercook, Marilyn Locke, Jackie Copeland, and Kathleen Miller. The program was part of the Homegrown Knowledge series sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

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Spaghetti dinner fund raiser for Russell LaPalme set for Nov. 21

A spaghetti dinner fund raiser to help support Russell LaPalme and his family will be held from 2 to 7 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 21, at the Sumpter Community Center.

Donation is \$10 per person for adults, \$5 each for children 10 and under, and children three and under free. There will be a silent auction, 50/50 raffles, and other events.

LaPalme was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in September. He has been a resident of Sumpter Township for the past 20 years and has volunteered many hours to the Sumpter Township Parks and Recreation Commission, as well as being a loving husband, father, and grandfather.

The public is asked to come to the dinner to help support him and his family during this difficult time.

"I fear the day that technology will surpass our human interaction. The world will have a generation of idiots."
— Albert Einstein



The Belleville Independent is now a drop off location for the U.S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots Program. Bring in your new, unwrapped toy to our office at: 152 Main St., Suite 9, Belleville, MI

We are located in the Professional Building (the old movie theater building) across from Mr. Goofy's Car Wash.

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Clerk Wright

(continued from page 1)

Matthew Best.

The directors will be submitting their best-practices initiatives to MMRMA and in January there will be a class on risk

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management practices to eliminate lawsuits and accidents.

Wright said the MMRMA has a Stop-Loss program and there is a total deductible of \$75,000 for the year included in VBT's annual rate.

He said the MMRMA insurance premium this year is \$486,000 and \$257,000 has been reimbursed – and \$157,000 of that is what was used for BS&A accounting software. He said the reimbursements come to members when the money MMRMA has invested makes a profit to share.

He said just like with car insurance, if you have an accident, your insurance cost goes up, so this settlement will affect the township's insurance rate.

Wright said with this law suit and others, the MMRMA adjuster sets the limits and when the court decides, the two sides go to mediation.

"Insurance companies don't like to go to trial," Wright said, noting originally the plaintiffs wanted \$1.2 million and then it was down to \$850,000 and a stalemate.

"Both sides wanted to solve the case and not go to trial," Wright said, adding the sides met and came to the \$650,000 figure, which is "the maximum the MMRMA would pay."

Attorney for the plaintiffs John Day said they decided to settle because going to trial is expensive and, while his clients could have received a bigger settlement, you always take a chance with a jury because you never know what they will do.

Wright said at the end there were five attorneys for the plaintiffs. He referred to

the two attorneys at DiPietro & Day, their co-counsel for federal court Hugh M. Davis and Cynthia Heenan, and the attorney for Blevins' ex-girlfriend, who withdrew from the original suit and sought her own counsel.

"We have to agree there were some issues that were not addressed," Wright said of the situation with Blevins.

"Some steps were dropped," Wright said. "He doesn't work here any more," he said of the former Director of Planning and Economic Development Arthur Mullen, who was fired.

"The board isn't happy and has initiated steps so it doesn't happen again," Wright said.

He said he believes Mullen made mistakes because of his newness in the position and not having experience.

"I think some feelings got involved," Wright said referring to the personal feelings of the supervisor's former assistant Karin LaMothe and Mullen about Blevins' alternative lifestyle.

"They didn't quite follow the guidelines," he said.

Wright said the board agreed to the settlement at its last meeting and the paperwork was signed Sept. 18 by the plaintiffs. The order of dismissal with prejudice and without costs, interest or attorney fees was signed Nov. 9 by U.S. District Court Judge Arthur J. Tarnow.

The settlement was signed by the township's MMRMA attorney Ethan Vinson on behalf of defendants Arthur Mullen, Judy Fields, James Taylor, VBT Police Lt. John Doe and the Charter Township of Van Buren, "denying the allegations of any wrongdoing or breach of duty."

Vinson also is the township's attorney for contract negotiations.

This settlement had no confidentiality agreement so both sides are free to discuss the case and settlement.

Wright said working on best practices is the only thing the township can do going forward.

When asked why the township took six months to turn on the water to the property, Wright said, "That baffles me. I wouldn't know."

He said Blevins and his attorney were meeting with the supervisor to get the

water turned on.

"If I had known, I think I would have stepped in," Wright said. "I had no awareness of that before it happened."

He said usually the supervisor handles issues and the board doesn't know about them until she sends out an update.

He said with Supervisor Linda Combs taking eight weeks off to be with her husband who is very ill, he and Treasurer Sharry Budd are taking on the supervisor's job.

"As long as she designates someone to do her duties, she can step back," Wright said. "She's not doing anything wrong."

He said the elected officials have no set hours and they are different than township employees. The elected officials are working for the people, he said, and if the people don't like how you're doing the job, they throw you out.

Wright said the building department is now 180 degrees different than it was in the past, with Akers and Best very experienced.

"And, the best thing is, they listen to us," Wright said.

Wright said when Blevins' new septic tank was approved by the county, "At that point the water should have been turned back on."

He said the police officers should not have evicted the people from the property without the proper paperwork. They evicted using a letter from Mullen as their direction.

He said Director Laurain is doing an investigation into how that happened. And, the Lt. John Doe in the lawsuit is named that because no one really knows who directed the police officers to follow directions of the building department.

"Before we do something that extreme, it should go through the top person," he said of the water cut-off.

Wright said there are two more pending lawsuits against the township: one by VBT Fire Fighter Anthony Karver, who was fired, and one by VBT Traffic Officer Carrie Traster, who suffered severe head injuries in an accident on duty when her airbag didn't deploy.

He said the township made an offer to settle with Karver, but that was turned down. And, the attorney in the Traster case is in the process of gathering information.

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Children's author Jan Brett to sign books at VBT Hall

Jan Brett, a world-renowned children's author/illustrator, will be at the Van Buren Township Hall from 5 to 7 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 3, to sign her new book "The Turnip" along with her other titles.

"Hedgie" the Hedgehog, who will actually be a local volunteer in a huge hedgehog costume, will be on hand for photos. Hedgie is Brett's favorite character.

Brett has written 36 books and has 40 million books in print combined.

Her tour bus is decorated with large drawings from her books and has a sign: "Reading takes you places ..." It will be parked in front of township hall starting at 4 p.m., also so families can take pictures.

Brett will give a 10-15-minute drawing demonstration of one of her characters in a location in the Recreation Department, yet to be determined.

Barnes and Noble of Ann Arbor will be on hand to sell copies of the book that will be released Nov. 3, as well as her other popular titles. "The Turnip" is a hardcover picture book for ages 3-5 at a cost of \$17.99.

Brett will sign the books purchased that day, along with books purchased earlier in the day at Barnes and Noble (with receipt). If time permits, Brett will sign Jan Brett books brought from home.

The first 100 families in line at the book signing will receive a free, signed Jan Brett poster.

Also, there will be Jan Brett story-themed crafts, games and story time. A fan and three friends can win lunch with Brett on her bus. Contest information is on her website www.janbrett.com and also on her Facebook Page.

Brett kicks off her 2015 U.S. book-signing tour of 23 stops in November in New Hampshire and gets to VBT on Dec. 3. Then she heads to Saginaw for only the second stop in Michigan.

This all started when Jennifer Zaenglein's sister, who teaches elementary school in northern Michigan, went to a Brett book-signing and bought a book for Zaenglein's daughter.

Zaenglein, deputy director of the VBT



Author/illustrator Jan Brett

Parks & Recreation Department, had other Brett books, but hadn't paid too much attention to the author.

She said her daughter liked the stories because they were fun and the illustrations were in great detail. Zaenglein signed up for Brett's email newsletter and that's where she heard about the book tour. If you wanted Brett to come to your town, you could write a proposal. So, Zaenglein wrote a proposal last spring and recently found out it was accepted. Van Buren Township was on the list of stops.

Zaenglein said the books will make great Christmas gifts and she already has several purchases planned.

For more information, call Zaenglein at VBT Parks & Recreation Department, (734) 699-8921.

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Palace Politics

(continued from page 1)

A few weeks later he ordered the water shutoff and eviction of people from the motel.

He admittedly was the “new kid on the block” and he said he was reacting to a single phoned-in complaint from a woman about a party with a lighted sign at the motel. [He did not give the woman’s name in his deposition.] Police checked it out and there were no parking or other violations. Mullen testified in his deposition that it was the only citizen complaint about the property he ever heard of.

Water Department Clerk Karen Smith produced 2008 and 2009 letters from Wayne County concerning the property’s septic tank that needed to be replaced. Somehow, one old letter was stamped “Received May 23, 2013.”

A meeting between Mullen, Building Official Judy Fields and the new DPW

Director James Taylor was held the afternoon before or the morning of the day they shut down the motel. The two directors decided to move forward and immediately acted.

Mullen stated a dispatcher found Bevins’ website telling about his S&M Rebel’s Realm group and soon police officers, the building department, and others were looking at it and discussing it as a running joke around township hall. This kind of communication is referred to by some as the Palace Rumor Mill.

During that time, he said Treasurer Sharry Budd may have voiced concern about the motel, as well. Mullen said Sgt. Bart DeVos talked to him about the motel several times and Lt. Charles Bazzy asked about it.

Although there were four locations in the township pointed out in 2012 as having failing septic systems, the motel was the only one singled out for immediate water shut down and eviction in 2013. It was targeted because they had had since 2008 to fix the septic system and hadn’t, Mullen testified. He could not explain the rush to suddenly shut off the water in May 2013 without any notice.

Mullen was fired about May 2014 during an executive session of the township board that he chose not to attend. The vote in the closed-door session to fire him was 5-2, with Supervisor Linda Combs and Clerk Leon Wright voting against the firing.

The termination was not announced to the public and he just was gone.

Mullen testified that he believed it was

Trustee Jeff Jahr who got him fired after taking offense at something he said at an ad hoc lake ordinance committee meeting. Mullen said he publicly apologized [in the May 6, 2014 township board meeting] “for unintentionally impugning the character” of Trustee Jahr and Jahr accepted the apology. Mullen didn’t expect the firing.

“Because of what I heard in the community, there’s a huge amount of Palace Politics in Van Buren Township,” Mullen testified. He said he heard Trustee Jahr “was on the warpath to get me canned.”

The next director of planning and economic development Jack Knowles publicly pointed out Trustee Jahr’s treatment of him as the reason he was resigning a few months after being hired. Now, a new director, Ron Akers, is in place and he has a deputy director and both have experience for the positions.

Attorney Tom DiPietro, who conducted the depositions of township employees over a three-year period, told Mullen that part of his clients’ allegations in this law suit is that “you guys cooked up these building violations and forced these inspections in an effort to put my client out of business because of his parties. And, one of the reasons we made that allegation was because of the police involvement in this case which we felt was a building case.”

Mullen testified that no officials ever told him to turn the water back on until six months later in November when insurance attorney Ethan Vinson advised turning the water on.

On Nov. 25, 2013, Mullen sent an email to Director of Public Safety Greg Laurain: “I’ve received a complaint from a resident that they are planning to have another party this weekend, Saturday, Nov. 30th. This is the old Lakeview Motel, and it is the site of the S&M training classes and dungeon for hire. Would you please have the patrol guys drive by and see if there is anything that they believe to be worth investigating from a police perspective?”

Director Laurain replied the next morning with: “I will pass this on.”

A few hours later, Mullen responded, “Thanks. If they see anything of interest that may pique their legal interest, great, if not, we’ll get them later. Arthur.”

Supervisor Linda Combs

In her deposition, Supervisor Combs said she tried to intervene with Trustee Jahr not to push for Mullen’s firing, but Jahr said he couldn’t work with Mullen. A vote was taken during closed session to fire Mullen and the motion passed 5-2.

Combs said she found out about the water

shut off and eviction when Mullen came into her office on the day it happened. She said she asked him if he was following procedure and he said he was, so she didn’t question it.

She said Mullen and Taylor mentioned Rebel’s Realm to her when they let her know about the water cut off.

She said she told her assistant Karin LaMothe to let Treasurer Sharry Budd know what was going on.

She said none of the board members ever complained about the motel to her.

DiPietro started to ask if she ever heard rumors and then, stated instead, “... of course, you’re probably the last one to hear scuttlebutt in the township, right?”

“Exactly,” she replied.

DiPietro went on, “Because half of it’s about you, right?”

Combs replied, “I’m sure.”

All those subpoenas for depositions were *duces tecum*, meaning they were commanded to bring with them all writings and all files that pertain in any way to any activity of any township agent or employee regarding 11605 Haggerty Road – under penalty of punishment.

Trustee Brenda McClanahan

VTB Trustee Brenda McClanahan was deposed on July 17, 2015 and didn’t follow the *duces tecum* demand, not doing a search of her computer as required for emails concerning this subject.

She told attorney DiPietro, who conducted the deposition, that she was a retired Detroit police officer and had done depositions “many times” and knew the “protocol.”

When she was specifically asked for an email important to the case, she replied, “You know what, I might have left it out there.”

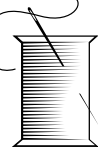
“It’s a slippery darn piece of paper, I’ll tell you,” DiPietro commented and then went off the record to discuss it with the MMRMA attorney Ethan Vinson. The email was produced.

It was the May 2015 email chain between McClanahan and Karin LaMothe, executive assistant to Township Supervisor Linda Combs.

A message from LaMothe to McClanahan is dated Friday, May 24, 2013 at 1:40 p.m. and reads: “Paul Bevins, Jr., 11605 Haggerty Road. Illegal commercial operations was reason for shut down; water was a separate issue (with Wayne County septic).” It is signed Karin LaMothe. The reply to LaMothe from McClanahan is dated Monday, May 27, 2013 at 1:40 p.m. and says: “Hi Karin, Thank you!”

(continued on page 16)

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The Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce has announced that its 8th-Annual Main Street Business Decorating Contest is now under way and you don't have to be a chamber member to enter. Simply decorate your Main Street display

windows or storefront by Thursday, Dec. 3, as judging will take place that evening after 6 p.m. The winners will be announced just prior to the start of the Christmas Parade that Saturday. The first place winner will receive \$100, \$50 for second place and \$25 for third. This year's theme for Winterfest is a **Norman Rockwell Christmas**. Call (734) 697-7151.

Unified Communities Credit Union on Main Street here in Downtown Belleville offers loan rates as low as 5.99 percent on loans up to \$3,000 for 12 months. See their ad in today's paper and call (734) 697-4800.

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St. Joseph Catholic Church in Ypsilanti is holding a craft show this Saturday, Nov.

21, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at their **Family Holy Center** at **9425 Whittaker Road**. A holiday luncheon will be served along with a bake sale, raffle, door prizes and refreshments. Children can visit with Santa from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Crafter **Susan Carpenter** will be holding a craft and vendor show this Saturday, Nov. 21, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the clubhouse at **Bellevilla Meadows** manufactured home community at **955 Sumpter Road**. The public is invited.

Today's paper features an insert from **Happy House Gifts**, a Hallmark Store, in the **Paint Creek Crossing Shopping Center** at **2052 Whittaker Road**. The store also sells gifts made in Michigan, keepsake ornaments, Yankee Candles, Life is Good clothing, child and newborn gifts and much more. They're open Monday through Friday, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday, from noon to 5 p.m.

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Braun & Helmer Auction Service will be holding a **Shop Auction** on Tuesday, Nov. 24, beginning at 10 a.m. at **863 Savage Road** in Belleville. There's four barns full of equipment and other items, including a 1976 Pontiac Firebird, a 1991 Ford Mustang, older motorcycles, and an IH Lo-Boy tractor with deck and lots of machine shop items.

See their ad in today's paper and visit www.braunandhelmer.com.

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

"If stupidity got us into this mess, then why can't it get us out?"

— Will Rogers

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Sumpter Township Public Notice



Sumpter Township Regular Board Meeting Minutes October 27, 2015

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm showing present: Supervisor J. Morgan, Clerk Hoffman, Treasurer Bates, Trustees Oddy, P. Morgan, & Swinson. Also present: Attorney Young, Deputy Clerk Hurst and approximately 24 residents.

3. Agenda: Motion by Hoffman supported by P. Morgan to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Public comments on agenda items only.

5. Minutes:

A. Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Hoffman to approve minutes of the regular board meeting October 13, 2015 with correction of warrants amount to be \$520,198.25. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Warrants: Motion by Bates, supported by P. Morgan to approve warrants totaling \$882,094.56. Roll call vote: Yes: J. Morgan, Hoffman, Bates, Oddy, P. Morgan, & Swinson. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Parks & Recreation/Chamber report: Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Oddy to approve the parks & recreation/chamber report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Planning/Zoning report: Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Bates to approve the planning/zoning report. Motion carried unanimously.

9. Board Response

10. New Business:

A. Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Bates to approve for Eric Christman & Sons to repair entrance steps & ramp at the police station for \$15,000.00. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Swinson

to approve for Gabe Akans, Jamie Krushlin, Ron Barnette, Dan Montecinos, Chris Walter-Hamm to attend firefighter 1 & 2 at a cost of \$3,250.00. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Motion by Hoffman, supported by Swinson to approve to use the community center gym for a fund raiser for Russel LaPalme November 21, 2015. Motion carried unanimously.

D. Motion by Hoffman, supported by Swinson to approve for Sumpter Seniors to use gym for craft show on November 6 & 7, 2015 to benefit Christmas party. Motion carried unanimously.

11. Announcements

12. Open Floor

13. Adjournment: Motion by Hoffman, supported by P. Morgan to adjourn at 7:26 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Clarence J. Hoffman Jr.

Clerk

CERTIFICATION

I, Clarence J. Hoffman Jr., Clerk of Sumpter Township, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of minutes taken at a Regular Board Meeting of the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees on October 27, 2015 at 6:30 pm at the Sumpter Township Hall, 23480 Sumpter Road, Belleville, MI 48111, County of Wayne, and that said meeting was conducted and public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in full compliance with the Open Meeting Act, being Act 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, and that the minutes of said meeting were kept and will be available as required by said act.

Clarence J. Hoffman Jr., Clerk

Publish: November 19, 2015



Sumpter Township Public Notice



Paid on Call Firefighters

The Township of Sumpter is currently seeking Paid on Call Firefighters.

Requirements:

Must be 18 years of age

High School Diploma (or GED equivalent)

Must have valid Michigan Driver's License

Ability to meet prescribed physical/medical standards

Must live in Sumpter Township or within a mile of its boundary

Contact Information:

For more information, or to file an application, contact Township of Sumpter, Clerks office, 23480 Sumpter Road, Belleville, MI 48111 @ 734-461-6201

Clarence Hoffman Jr., Township Clerk

Publish: 11-12-15; 11-19-15; 11-26-15

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Palace Politics

(continued from page 13)

The water was shut off at 7 p.m. on Friday, May 24, of Memorial Day weekend, and this email was sent to McClanahan on the afternoon just before the shutoff.

DiPietro questioned what was the underlying discourse that took place that resulted in this email and McClanahan replied: "To be perfectly honest, I don't remember because it's been so long."

When he asked if she searched her emails for any additional emails concerning contact with LaMothe or anyone else concerning 11605 Haggerty, McClanahan said no, despite the *duces tecum* on her subpoena.

McClanahan said she doesn't remember why she asked LaMothe for information.

DiPietro said Supervisor Linda Combs had testified that she was aware of this water turn-off on May 24, 2013 and that she instructed LaMothe to inform Treasurer Budd of that information.

When McClanahan insisted she couldn't remember why she asked for information on the subject, DiPietro asked if she made any effort at all to look for any information concerning this location for this deposition, and she responded, "No."

She said, "There was no reason to. I have to go on what I remember at this point..."

McClanahan did not produce this email for the deposition. DiPietro said he asked for this email six months earlier and he finally got it through the IT Administrator at the township, Steve Rankin.

The email shows that officials knew of the evictions before the fact and that the evictions were for Bevins' activities in his alternative lifestyle, not anything to do with a failing septic system.

Police Sgt. Bart DeVos

Police Sgt. Bart DeVos, who was the police night shift supervisor in 2013, testified in his deposition on April 25, 2014 that the water was first shut off to the motel on May 24, 2013, the date of the eviction, and that Officer Fred Sweet assisted VBT Building and Water Departments.

Someone turned the water back on so the water was shut off again and locked on June 4, 2013, with Sgt. Louis Keele standing by.

Sgt. DeVos said he pulled up all the information he could to find references to this incident he was being deposed

on. The records regarding every call to the address were produced.

He said at roll call on May 25, 2013 he read a letter from Director Mullen directing police to evict anyone on the motel property. When people were found on the property, Sgt. DeVos testified that he called Mullen at home to confirm the removal of the subjects from the property. And, Mullen confirmed they should be removed and police removed them.

Sgt. DeVos testified that he first was called to the address on May 11, 2013 following a complaint that a party was taking place. He checked it out and there were no parking violations and nothing else wrong.

That was the night Bevins rented his residence to a Wiccan group who put up a lighted sign for a "Passion Fest."

The next time Sgt. DeVos came to the address was for the evictions. After that he said he was driving by and saw people there. He stopped and talked to Bevins because they were occupying the place. He said Bevins said if the people didn't live there, they'd be homeless, so Sgt. DeVos told them to contact the building department and took no action.

He said a dispatcher found Bevins' site for Rebel's Realm on the internet and showed it to police officers.

Sgt. DeVos testified as far as he's aware, based on his review of the records and his own personal experience that there has not been any illegal activity going on at that location during the 20 years of his employment as a VBT police officer.

Karin LaMothe

LaMothe testified to working at Van Buren Township. She resigned from her job as Combs' assistant and then went back to work and then resigned again. That was in the second half of 2014.

She and her family moved from VBT and have lived in Grosse Ile since April 2015. She now works at Northridge Church in Plymouth.

LaMothe ran unsuccessfully for Clerk Leon Wright's job in the 2012 election. When Combs asked her to become the supervisor's executive assistant she was hesitant because she thought Wright might oppose her. He didn't, but she said Trustees Miller and McClanahan voted against her.

Combs promoted her to deputy supervisor in June 2013 and she was sworn in by 34th

District Court Judge David Parrott. Then because of board pressure she was put back to being an executive assistant.

She recalls she was shocked, but did not resign at that point.

"I've been faulted by being too pollyannaish and I'm an idealist and it was a constant contention with the board and I just felt like I was always in the middle ... and it would probably be better if I left," LaMothe said. "I felt like I was caught in the cross-fire."

She said she gave 30-days' notice and then found out her husband had Lyme disease and he could no longer work and she needed to be the one working. So, she withdrew her resignation.

She said some board members – Trustees Phil Hart and Reggie Miller – and the supervisor said they were really glad she decided to stay.

She said board members continually said they were frustrated because of what they felt was a lack of communication from the supervisor.

LaMothe said her husband returned to work and appeared stable with his health so she resigned as of November, 2014.

"I just wanted to not be there anymore," she testified. "I prayed and prayed and prayed and prayed about it and God said that is was okay for me to go."

DiPietro asked if Trustee Jahr was a problem for her and she said she didn't recall.

"Him and Sharry were a problem for Arthur Mullen, weren't they?" DiPietro asked and she replied that she didn't know if Mullen would say that was the case.

"Well, he already did," DiPietro said. "I'm asking you, if it was obvious that Palace Politics got him fired and that it was Jahr and Sharry that were behind it, yes or no?"

LaMothe said she didn't know.

DiPietro said, "... that's part of the cross-fire you were trying to get out from under, wasn't it?"

"I wanted to work in a job where I had peace every day," LaMothe said.

DiPietro noted that LaMothe didn't want to be critical of township officials.

"I want to take the high road and I want to forgive and I want to forget and I want to work in a church where I have peace every day," LaMothe concluded.

Birthdays

Nov. 12 – Bob Coppock

Nov. 23 – Cherie Wilson

Nov. 26 – Dean Springer, Rowena Cooper Zimmerman

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District Library

(continued from page 3)

she signed an option with the library to buy her building for \$275,000 and that fell through.

"I do want to sell my building," Domas said, adding she was told it was worth \$180,000 to \$200,000. She said she would sell it to the library for \$200,000.

She said there is a cost to relocate her business and she is reluctant to improve the building.

"I don't want to hold up the deal," she said. "I'd like the library to make a decision and go through with it."

She said the property is .32 acre, with 83.5' frontage and 165' deep. The building is 2,000 square feet.

In all three options, that property is used for

parking.

No comments were made on her offer.

Architect Whisler said the original library plans, when it was to be a new building on the DNR lakeside property, called for 48,000 square feet. It was reduced to 45,000 square feet for the election, but the plans never pared down. Now, it is being reduced to 30,000 square feet. In bringing the plans from 48,000 square feet to 30,000, they are cutting a third of the space out of the plans.

Board secretary Joy Cichewicz, who also is building committee chairperson, said the city's zoning ordinance requires a two-story building.

Whisler said a reference in the ordinance says you can expand an existing one-story building and they won't force you to do a two-story.

Cichewicz said the city wants greater density and a more active downtown.

Library Director Mary Jo Suchy and Deputy Director Hilary Savage have been working on cutting the building space down to 30,000 square feet and Whisler said the cutting has been painful. He said the 30,000 square feet is "where we go from here."

As for computers, there are 19 now at the library and in the new version there would be 36 computers – 6 in the teen area, 8 in the youth area, and 22 for adults.

Whisler said after a former meeting with the city he found there was "a mandate or preference" for a two-story building.

Option A grows the present library to the east with a two-story addition. This option would require the H&B property as well as Main Street Computers (the former post office) for parking. Staff parking would be at the current entrance. A new front door entrance would be on Charles Street.

Whisler said the shape would be a rectangle box 15' away from the existing building. He said the city wants downtown buildings to not have pitched roofs, so there has to be a way to handle the water. The city wants lots of glass on the ground floor and narrow, tall windows upstairs, possibly in a Victorian manner. He said the present library is Mid-Century Modern in design and was built in 1953 and 1992.

"We don't want it to look like we took a 19th century brick building and attached it to Mid-Century Modern building," Whisler said.

He said the library could continue to be in business while the new addition is being constructed, which would save money. Then they would gut the old building and transform it, put in new boilers, and otherwise "heavy remodel."

Option B is a two-story addition to the west, which would go all the way to the old Van Buren Township fire hall and require vacating a part of Fourth Street. He said they may need to reroute underground utilities.

Option C is a new building built on Fourth Street and the municipal parking lot with a new entry on an axis to greenspace, with possibly a fountain, on Fourth Street facing Main Street.

Whisler said the library board is going to visit the Dexter Library on Dec. 4 to see a good example of a 30,000 square foot library.

He said the Dexter Library is a block or so off Main Street. It is three stories tall, counting

the basement and 48-50 parking spaces. It is near a river.

In Options B and C the overhead power lines along the alley would need to be put underground, a cost of about \$211,000. He said it is "visually important."

He said they are being as mindful of the cost as they can. He said H&B is the only property that would come off the tax rolls in those options.

He said Option A is the simplest to build, a rectangular box. Option B would cost more to run because there is more skin.

"You might want to digest this," Whisler said to the board. "And then there's the meeting with the city."

He said the next step is to look at a more definite plan and zero in on a strategy. He said they can go east or west and have an addition or a new building. He said A is the least costly, B would cost more to operate, and C requires tearing down the present building, land acquisition, and utility considerations. He said it would be of robust construction and last 50 to 100 years.

He said Options A and B would still be robust, but they would be attached to a building from 1953 and 1992.

"We need to read the tea leaves and see what the community will think is acceptable," Whisler said.

"We have to move rather aggressively and need the extra meeting," Cichewicz said.

"We need to wrap it up by April or May for an educational campaign," Whisler said. The board has been aiming for a November 2016 bond vote.

Board member John Juriga said Councilman Tom Fielder likes Option B.

"This could be the first building to emulate the new downtown ordinance, so the city could say, 'That's kind of our vision for downtown,'" Whisler said, adding a new building is a chance to start with a clean slate.

Board member Mike Boelter, said he had a painting job in Dexter in the past and used to spend his lunch hours in the Dexter Library. He said the board should invite the city and two townships to look at the Dexter Library.

"It's a model, same size, downtown area, and will give people an idea of what we are considering," Whisler said.

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

POLICE VEHICLE AUCTION

On Wednesday November 25th, 2015, the Van Buren Township Police Department will conduct a public auction of impounded and abandoned vehicles. The auction will begin at 10:00 a.m. at **J&T Towing** and Storage, 287 Industrial Dr. Belleville MI, County of Wayne, where the following will be offered for sale to the highest bidder.

2002	Chevrolet	4D	2G1WW12EX29229004	15-22346
1984	Buick	PA	1G4AP69Y1EH913379	15-22502
1992	Mitsubishi	PA	JA3XE74C2NY032923	15-24431
1995	Ford	PU	1FTCR14X4SPB17753	
2000	Cadillac	4D	1G6KD54YXYU179049	15-21310
1997	Cadillac	4D	1G6KD54Y1VU238629	15-21278
2006	Chevrolet	SW	3GND423P96S655432	15-17759
2002	Pontiac	4D	1G2WP52K42F151767	15-16463
1966	Ford	PA	6Y87Z128466	15-23341
2000	Dodge	PU	1B7HF13Z9YJ11217	15-20493

At 11:00 a.m. the auction will move to **Great Lakes Towing** and storage, 42350 Van Born Rd. Belleville MI, County of Wayne, where the following vehicles will be offered for sale to the highest bidder.

2001	Honda	4D	1HGES16541L029740	15-23349
2008	Saturn	SW	3GSC133P88S568391	15-23292
1997	Toyota	4D	JT2BG22K9V0023713	15-23259
1997	Honda	MC	JH2PC2137VM401918	15-22680
1991	Chevrolet	PA	1G1FP33EXML165761	15-23469
1992	Mercury	2D	1MEPM31X3NK636082	15-23469
2005	Ford	PU	1FTRX12W15FA23656	15-23469
2001	Ford	SW	2FMZA51411BB20839	
2004	Mitsubishi	PA	4A4MN21S14E085401	15-22553
2001	KIA	PA	KNAGD126815029046	15-20618
1999	Volkswagen	4D	WVWMA63B5XE351210	15-21571A
2001	Ford	PU	1FTRX18L01NA45662	15-24625
2006	Ford	PU	1FTRW14W16KD50406	15-20522
2002	Jaguar	4D	SAJEA51C42WC15426	15-20450
1999	Chevrolet	4D	1G1JC5249X7288541	15-20254A
1995	Jeep	SW	1J4GZ58S2SC777234	15-19822
1998	Chevrolet	2D	2G1WW12M2W9114393	15-19645
2004	Mazda	4D	JM1BK12F841104567	15-19003
2007	Saturn	SW	5GZCZ33Z77S875314	15-18333E
2009	Chevrolet	4D	2CNDL13F396234227	15-18333B
2007	Jeep	SW	1J8GR48K27C588938	15-17158

All vehicles are sold in "as is condition." Bidding on all impounded vehicles will start at the amount due for towing and storage. Vehicles may be deleted from this list at any time prior to the start of the auction.

Leon Wright, CMC
Van Buren Township Clerk
Published: November 19, 2015

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Van Buren Township
Police Dispatch Log

Out of the 571 dispatch calls reported by Van Buren Township police this week, the following are selected for this column.

Sunday, Nov. 8:
0014 – motorist assist, Tyler Rd./Morton Taylor
0053 – suspicious person, Belleville Rd.
0929 – suspicious person, Lighthouse Dr.
1005 – larceny, Huron River Dr.
1046 – disorderly conduct, Jackson St.
1157 – suspicious person, Parkwood Dr.
1404 – juvenile complaint, Ash Dr.
1448 – suicide or attempt, Outer Dr.
1458 – private property accident, E. Sadie Ln.
1606 – breaking & entering, Anna Dr.
1654 – shots fired, Birch Dr.
1809 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / Van Born Rd.
1828 – private property accident, Belleville
1909 – property damage accident, Savage Rd. / Martinsville Rd.
1942 – fight, Rawsonville Rd.
2027 – property damage accident, Ecorse/I-275
2044 – harassment call, Maple Dr.
2148 – vehicle repossession, E. Archwood Dr.
2216 – sexual assault, Outer Dr.
2316 – overdose, Patty Ln.

Monday, Nov. 9:
0004 – breaking & entering, E. Huron River Dr.
0355 – breaking & entering, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0543 – larceny, Lighthouse Dr.
0720 – larceny, E. Huron River Dr.
0809 – suspicious situation, E. Huron River Dr.
1004 – private property accident, Parkwood Dr.
1200 – unauthorized driving away of auto, S. Woodbury Dr.
1224 – abandoned auto, Belleville Rd./N. I-94 Service Dr.
1525 – larceny, Park Estates
1634 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1737 – juvenile complaint, Parkwood Manor
1900 – suspicious situation, Anna Dr.
1942 – noise complaint, Kirkridge Park Dr.
1946 – disturbance, Denton Rd.
2028 – shots fired, Ironwood Dr.
2031 – fraud, Winding Pond Dr.
2310 – assault & battery, S. I-94 Service Dr.
2312 – malicious destruction of property, Richards Run

Tuesday, Nov. 10:
0046 – property damage accident, W. Huron River Dr. / Elwell Rd.
0528 – larceny from auto, N. I-94 Service Dr.
0953 – agency assist, Lake Villa Dr.
1403 – assault & battery, Hamilton St.
1748 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1911 – private property incident, J&T Towing
1939 – private property accident, Ecorse Rd.
1959 – mental, Belleville Rd.
2322 – shots fired, Van Born Rd./Morton Taylor

Wednesday, Nov. 11:
0444 – personal injury accident, NB I-275/Ecorse
0739 – agency assist, Van Born
0850 – noise complaint, Village Green Ln.
0903 – assault & battery, Morton Taylor Rd.
1041 – larceny from auto, Hannan Rd.
1219 – abandoned auto, Rawsonville Rd.
1229 – abandoned auto, Village Green Ln.
1405 – agency assist, Belleville Rd.
1620 – personal injury accident, WB I-94 / Haggerty
1702 – trespassing, Parkwood Dr..
1712 – larceny, Belleville Rd.
1802 – intimidation threat, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1806 – motorist assist, Beck Rd./Ecorse Rd.
1927 – fraud, Woodside Ct.
2128 – fraud, Belleville Rd.

Thursday, Nov. 12:
0058 – suspicious person, S. Woodbuy Dr.
0131 – assault & battery, Quirk Rd.
0617 – breaking & entering, Westlake
0626 – missing person, Van Buren St.
0940 – suicide or attempt, Bemis Rd.
1145 – suspicious situation, Maurice Dr.
1148 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1206 – fraud, Westlake Cir.
1224 – property damage accident, N. I-94 Service Dr. / Hannan Rd.

1256 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1335 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1424 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1606 – suspicious situation, Rose Blvd.
1615 – personal injury accident, Rawsonville / Bemis
1710 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / Tyler Rd.
1747 – suspicious person, Laguna Dr.
1951 – property damage accident, Belleville/I-94
2124 – breaking & entering, Village Green Ln.
2218 – suicide or attempt, Outer Dr.
2321 – intimidation threat, Tyler Rd.

Friday, Nov. 13:
0525 – suspicious vehicle, Tyler School
0639 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd. / Bog Rd.
0814 – fraud, Savage Rd.
0919 – suspicious situation, Ediston Lake Rd. / dead end
1026 – larceny, Express Tire
1134 – private property accident, Industrial
1151 – juvenile complaint, Belle Pointe Dr.
1533 – larceny, Westlake Cir.
1631 – malicious destruction of property, Pebblebrook Dr.
1758 – private property accident, Ecorse Rd.
1931 – disorderly conduct, Belleville Rd.
2154 – operating while intoxicated, Belleville Rd.
2242 – malicious destruction of property, S. I-94 Service Dr.
2256 – noise complaint, Cherry Ln.

Saturday, Nov. 14:
0113 – larceny, Michigan Ave.
0518 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Kirkridge Park Dr.
0623 – property damage accident, Harmony Ln.
1110 – assault & battery, Peachtree
1147 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / S. I-94 Service Dr.
1240 – personal injury accident, EB I-94/W. Haggerty
1442 – noise complaint, Lighthouse Dr., cancelled
1449 – private property accident, Willow Way
1452 – property damage accident, W. Huron River Dr. / Hoeft
1508 – larceny, Maple Dr.
1646 – shots fired, S. Ponderosa Trl.
1734 – personal injury accident, Michigan/Beck
1957 – disturbance, Westlake
2049 – suicide or attempt, Rogers Ave.
2157 – trespassing, N. I-94 Service Dr.
2241 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
2338 – property damage accident, Morton Taylor / Yost

Also on this week’s log are 142 traffic stops, 40 of which were on the I-94 and I-275 freeways.

Belleville Police
Dispatch Log

Sunday, Nov. 8:
0011 – intrusion alarm, E. Huron River Dr.
1155 – property damage accident, Menlo Park Dr.

Monday, Nov. 9:
0012 – warrant arrest, Huron/I-94
0841 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
0844 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
1301 – narcotics crime, W. Columbia Ave.
1302 – narcotics crime, W. Columbia Ave.
1450 – narcotics crime, W. Columbia Ave.
1451 – narcotics crime, W. Columbia Ave.
1625 – property damage accident, Five Points
1838 – welfare check, Menlo Park Dr.
2251 – suspicious situation, Breakwater Dr.

Tuesday, Nov. 10:
0737 – vehicle lockout, Estrada
1007 – assist citizen, W. Columbia Ave.
1118 – assist citizen, W. Wabash Ave.
1525 – intrusion alarm, Oxford Ct., cancelled
1600 – parking complaint, Owen Intermediate Schl
2111 – follow up, W. Columbia Ave.

Wednesday, Nov. 11:
0151 – property check, W. Columbia Ave.
0235 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
0746 – intrusion alarm, E. Huron River Dr.
0952 – agency assist, Sumpter
1245 – E-911 cellular, Henry St./South St.
1658 – property damage accident, N. Liberty St.
1819 – assist fire dept., Santa Clara St.

2255 – welfare check, W. Columbia Ave.

Thursday, Nov. 12:
0316 – suspicious vehicle, Third St./Main St.
1033 – parking complaint, N. Liberty St.
1449 – fraud, South St.

Friday, Nov. 13:
0555 – intrusion alarm, Main St.
1114 – property damage accident, Main St./High
1244 – suspicious situation, Oakwood Medical Clinic
1254 – found property, Main St.
1507 – assist fire dept., Sumpter Rd.
2349 – disorderly conduct, Five Points

Saturday, Nov. 14:
0224 – suspicious person, N. Liberty St./Third St.
0527 – intrusion alarm, Third St.
0702 – assist fire dept., Loza Ln.
0925 – assist fire dept., Menlo Park Dr.
1032 – assist fire dept., Sumpter Rd.
1235 – intrusion alarm, Belle Villa Blvd.
2235 – operating while intoxicated, Main St. / Denton Rd.

Also on this week’s log are 52 traffic stops.

Sumpter Township
Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Nov. 8:
0110 – noise complaint, 49000 bl. Willis Rd.
0123 – fight, 51000 bl. Willis Rd.
0332 – juvenile complaint, 40000 bl. Willis Rd.
0754 – assist other agency, out of township
1038 – animal complaint, 6000 bl. of Oakville Waltz Rd.
1231 – traffic hazard, Wear/Sherwood
1321 – larceny, 24000 bl. Clark Rd.
1351 – civil dispute, 25000 bl. Clark Rd.
1628 – civil dispute, 18000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1638 – well-being check, 43000 bl. Harris Rd.
1640 – alarm, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1746 – animal complaint, Sumpter/Clay
1950 – juvenile complaint, 40000 bl. Willis Rd.
2147 – alarm, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

Monday, Nov. 9:
0506 – fire dept. assist, Nevada
1348 – assault, 40000 bl. Willis Rd.
1453 – civil dispute, 47000 bl. Bemis Rd.
1556 – citizen assist, Rustic Ln.
1800 – fire dept. assist, 46000 bl. Bemis Rd.
1920 – well-being check, Oregon
2139 – alarm, 29000 bl. Karr Rd.
2149 – threats complaint, Oregon

Tuesday, Nov. 10:
0550 – fire dept. assist, 45000 bl. Judd Rd.
0824 – larceny, 23000 bl. Karr Rd.
0930 – animal complaint, Judd/Haggerty
0949 – citizen assist, Rustic Ln.
1136 – subpoena service, Wyoming
1321 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1422 – assist other agency, 9300 bl. Rawsonville
1504 – civil dispute, 25000 bl. Clark Rd.
1652 – shots fired, 46000 bl. Willow Rd.
1704 – property damage accident, Oakville Waltz / Sumpter
1753 – assist other agency, 42000 bl. Arkona Rd.
1902 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2039 – animal complaint, 21000 bl. Martinsville

Wednesday, Nov. 11:
0920 – assist other agency, 47000 bl. Wear Rd.
1315 – malicious destruction of property, Karr / Oakville Waltz
1330 – suspicious incident, 46000 bl. Harris Rd.
1442 – animal complaint, 43000 bl. Judd Rd.
1446 – suspicious person, Sumpter/Kozma
1614 – civil dispute, Greenmeadow
1616 – fire dept. assist, 42000 bl. Bemis Rd.
1741 – alarm, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1847 – malicious destruction of property, Second St.
2149 – warrant arrest pick up, out of township
2231 – warrant arrest pick up, Rawsonville/Bemis

Thursday, Nov. 12:
0717 – traffic hazard, Bemis/Odyssey
0811 – assist other agency, Savage/Harris
1025 – fire dept. assist, Carriage Ln.
1231 – suspicious incident, Colorado
1516 – well-being check, 44000 bl. Willow Rd.
1749 – citizen assist, Oakville Waltz/Carleton West
1928 – civil dispute, 40000 bl. Willis Rd.
1946 – suspicious vehicle, 26000 bl. Sherwood Rd.

2140 – fire dept. assist, New Mexico
2320 – property damage accident, Oakville Waltz / Karr
2333 – fire dept. assist, 45000 bl. Judd Rd.

Friday, Nov. 13:
0023 – alarm, 8300 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
0340 – suspicious person, Crandell/Willis
0400 – suspicious person, Texas
0921 – assist other agency, 39000 bl. Judd Rd.
1052 – assist other agency, Rawsonville/Willis
1141 – suspicious incident, Ohio
1150 – suspicious vehicle, Sumpter/Dunn
1220 – shots fired, 46000 bl. Arkona Rd.
1549 – civil dispute, 43000 bl. Harris Rd.
1612 – fire dept. assist, Second St.
1643 – suspicious incident, 24000 bl. Elwell Rd.
2020 – warrant arrest pick up, Sumpter/Judd

Saturday, Nov. 14:
0046 – assist other agency, out of township
0056 – citizen assist, Rawsonville/Judd
0314 – suspicious person, 23000 bl. Martinsville
0640 – citizen assist, 19000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
0656 – suspicious incident, 44000 bl. Judd Rd.
0821 – animal complaint, 43000 bl. Willow Rd.
0919 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1549 – fire dept. assist, Savage/Harris
1734 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1744 – subpoena service, 51000 bl. Willow Rd.
2114 – subpoena service, 51000 bl. Willow Rd.
2224 – suspicious incident, 10000 bl. Rawsonville
2254 – warrant arrest pick up, 9900 bl. Rawsonville Rd.

Also on this week’s log are 18 follow-up investigations, 19 miscellaneous details, 147 patrol checks, and 94 traffic stops.

Two Savage teachers
get \$100 grants to buy
books for their school

Classroom libraries are an important tool for educators working to instill a life-long love of reading in young students. Building and maintaining an effective library, with a diverse offering of genres and titles to appeal to a wide variety of students, can be an expensive undertaking and many teachers end up using their own money to purchase basic supplies for their classrooms, including books.

To help educators this year, the Meemic Foundation, a non-profit organization created by Meemic Insurance Company, teamed up with Scholastic Book Fairs® and Krumm Agency to give area teachers the opportunity to receive a \$100 grant for books.

Tonya Porzonek and Amy Reeves of Savage Elementary School both received Scholastic Book Fair grants for their school. The Scholarship Book Fair grants from the Meemic Foundation provide recipients \$100 additional dollars to spend at their in-school or online book fair event. They can also be used at Scholastic Book Fairs Warehouse sales, Scholastic Reading Club and the Scholastic Store online.

“We know that the teachers in this community give so much of themselves to help students,” said Bethann Krumm. “We are thankful to Meemic and Scholastic Book Fairs and excited to be able to work with them to offer financial support to the teachers in our community that are working to get students excited about reading.”

The Meemic Foundation has been offering financial assistance in the form of grants to schools and educators for more than 20 years.

Betty Byrd Parkinson celebrates 100th birthday with motorcycle ride

Betty Byrd Parkinson lives in her home on land in Van Buren Township that was a part of the 400-acre family farm on which she was born 100 years ago on Nov. 9.

As a girl living on that farm she recalls fun days of swimming with her friends the Bitnars and the Gardners. They, of course, were swimming in what at that time was known as the Huron River out of which Detroit Edison developed Belleville Lake.

She attended schools in Belleville and graduated from Belleville High School. Midge Artley was one of her very bright classmates and Midge often commented that Betty was the smartest student in the high school in all academic areas.

After graduating, she worked as a bookkeeper at the coal company in Belleville, earning \$7 a week, and worked six days a week from 8 to 6. She married and has three children, Bill, Kay, and Phil.

Later in life she worked at Jacobson's in Ann Arbor. Following that she was employed at the University of Michigan as secretary for the Dean of the School of Engineering and she retired from that position. One of her desires after retirement was to experience a ride in a hot air balloon and so up she went. Nothing can hold Betty down.

She has been an active person in her retirement as she swam many laps at the Belleville High School pool, took advantage of the treadmill at the gym, walked miles in Belleville, and at the age of 96 she raked

and bagged 140 large bags of leaves.

On one occasion when she was 86 her neighbor saw her on the roof leaning over the edge to clean her gutters. She had removed an extension ladder from her basement and by the time he got to the roof she had almost completed the job.

Betty was not all work and no play, as she enjoyed her bowling league with special friends. They called their bowling team the "Gutter Busters."

Betty was fearless and every fall she would head out all alone across the Mackinac Bridge to the Upper Peninsula to enjoy the color. She would go all the way up to spend the night at Copper Harbor. When she went on tours to Hawaii and Canada she did not require a companion, but confidently signed up for the trip and enjoyed every moment. At the age of 96 she bravely allowed her neighbor Mike to give her a ride on his motorcycle. She had another of those rides last week in honor of her coming 100th birthday.

Watch the streets, folks, because you never knew when Biker Betty will come riding through Belleville on her way to New Boston. A few years ago she had the privilege of being one of the grand marshals for the annual Strawberry Festival Parade along with her classmate Midge.

Betty became a member of the Belleville Methodist Church on Nov. 9, 1922. Yes, she has been committed to this same congregation for 93 years. She continues



Photo by Martha Conley

Betty Parkinson rides on the back of Michael O'Boyle's motorcycle to celebrate her 100th birthday. She stopped off to visit the Methodist Church's study group.

to remember and pray for a long list of folks. One friend recalls that a few years back they had started wearing name tags at church. Betty commented that she might wear hers upside down so that she could always be able to look down at it and tell who she was. You see, she is quite witty and has a good sense of humor. After her retirement, she found ways to be of help to others. She would gather together people who were alone for holidays and share meals with them. She bought and delivered groceries to folks who could no longer do their own shopping and provided rides for those who could no longer drive. Betty remembers going to lunch after church many times with Marian Kuchta, the mother of Rosemary Otzman who is the

Independent editor.

Betty is a creative person. She verbally shared with one of her friends the stories that she wrote during the nights when she was unable to sleep and when her eyesight no longer allowed her to write them on paper. They were of such quality and detail that they could have become books or movies. The friend only regrets that she did not have them recorded. This same friend also has beautiful knitted afghans created by her dear friend Betty Parkinson.

Yes, she is creative, caring, giving, and we would be remiss not to mention that she is fiercely independent. When you visit her, she always says, "Don't you worry about me. You take care of yourself because that is what is important." -- Mary Hoff

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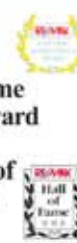
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43260 HURON RIVER DR, VAN BUREN
3 Bedroom, 2 Bath, 1600+ Square Foot Home Offers Enchanting Lake Views. 30 ft Deck, 75 ft Boat Dock on Belleville Lake. Natural Stone Fireplace with Built In Book Cases and Hardwood Floors, New Carpet, Partially Finished Basement, 2 1/2 Car Garage \$250,000.

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13001 LAKEVIEW, VAN BUREN
EXPERIENCE THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS! Complete 4 Bedroom, 3 Bath Home with Hardwood Floors, Granite, Fireplace, Vaulted Ceilings, Jacuzzi and Bubble Tub, Wet Bar, Sauneroom and More. Heated 2 1/2 Car Garage, Sprinkler, Updated Waterfront. \$399,900

BELLEVILLE LAKE



11716 JUNIPER, VAN BUREN
MILLION DOLLAR Lakefront Panorama Views in this Custom Built Full Brick 4 Bedroom, 3 Bath Home. More than 150 Feet of Lake Frontage. Home Professionally Designed for Optimum Lakefront Enjoyment and Constructed with an Unyielding Commitment to Quality. Carefully Placed One of Belleville Lake's Premiere Lake Lots \$495,000



26360 BELL ROAD HURON TWP
UNMATCHED BEAUTY! This gorgeous home sits on 2.38 Acres with countless high end finishes to please every want and need. 20 foot stone fireplace, Custom kitchen with granite countertops and Brazilian Hardwood floors Everywhere. 4 Full bedrooms 3 1/2 Baths, 3000+ Sq Feet, Full Finished Basement, 3 1/2 Car Garage. MUCH MORE \$449,000.



13634, VAN BUREN
ORIGINAL OWNER HOME with Brick and Vinyl Siding, Hardwood Floors, Fireplace, Open Living Room, Master Bedroom with 1/2 Bath, 2 Car Garage, Full Daylight Basement with bath prep. Landscaped to Perfection complete with Sprinklers, Deck and Patio. \$175,000



44940 BEMIS, VAN BUREN
LARGER Van Buren Township vinyl ranch featuring 4 Bedrooms, 2 Baths, Family Room with Fireplace, Dining Room, Open Living Room, Central Air and Walkout Deck. Huge 2 1/2 Car Garage on 1.4 Acre Double Lot. Paved Street and More. Astonishingly Affordable at. \$174,900



6315 DENTON, VAN BUREN
CLASSIC LINES AND TIMELESS DESIGN. Impressive and Updated 4 Bedroom Victorian Home with Wrap Porch Master Bedroom with Fireplace, Hardwood Floors, Basement, High Energy Efficient Furnace and Updating Everywhere. 2 1/2 Car Garage PLUS Bonus Second Home w 3 bedrooms, 2 baths. \$209,900



49903, VAN BUREN
GIANT SUBDIVISION BASEMENT! This home has many updates. Well planned for 9 occupants. Master Bedroom has a huge walk-in closet, master bathroom offers a large garden tub and private shower. Large pole barn on 1+ acres. \$175,000.



42715 PRESWICK CT, VAN BUREN
THIS ORIGINAL OWNER HOME has Been Pampered and Maintained since Birth. Gently Place on the Best and Preferred Court Location and Features 4 Bedrooms, 3 Full Baths, New Carpet, Fresh Paint, Many Updates, Walk-out Family Room with Bar Area to Entertainment BIG LOT, Oversized Garage. \$209,900



500 HURON RIVER DR, BELLEVILLE
HIGHEST QUALITY! Brick Commercial building in the City of Belleville. Former florist, coffee house, and bakery with potential for immediate franchise opportunity The quality, potential and design of this newer (2002) constructed building are beyond description. \$550,000 (or \$18.00 square ft - triple net lease)

BELLEVILLE
337 MAIN .32 ACRES 83X165 \$79,500
SUMPTER TOWNSHIP
WEAR ROAD 10 ACRES \$49,900
ELWES RD .1 AC (WAS \$150,000) \$95,000

25817 SUMPTER RD .97 ACRES \$20,000
26960 SHERWOOD 2.5 ACRES \$30,000
SUMPTER TOWNSHIP
45885 BEMIS PAVED RD BUIDABLE LOT \$27,500
24409 SHERWOOD 1.15 ACRES \$30,000

49317 ARKONA 40.28 ACRES \$180,000
VACANT SUMPTER 7.46 ACRES \$30,000
42060 (NEXT TO) WILLIS 3.7 ACRES \$45,000
WILLOW ROAD 1.36 ACRES \$25,000
BOHN NEAR DUNN 5 ACRES \$29,000

20731 GRIFFIN COURT 1.1 AC \$25,900
20743 GRIFFIN COURT 1.4 AC \$29,500
VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP
739 SAVAGE PAVED ST 1.02 ACRES \$35,000
15880 HAWK 10.53 ACRES \$95,000

VACANT BOG ROAD .55 ACRES \$29,750
VAN 6422 GILMORE 82X165 LOT WITH WATER AND SEWER PRICED RIGHT \$15,900
49809 BOG 2.74 ACRES \$49,500
5900 DELLOR 1.81 ACRES \$40,000



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\$34,630.00* MSRP before discounts
\$30,553.12* Friends and Neighbors Price
-\$1,500.00 Less Retail Customer Cash
-\$750.00** Less Ford Credit Customer Cash
\$28,303.12 Friends and Neighbors Net Price**
\$6,326.88 Total Value



2015 TAURUS AWD SHO

\$41,095.00* MSRP before discounts
\$38,753.33* Friends and Neighbors Price
-\$4,000.00 Less Retail Customer Cash
-\$750.00** Less Ford Credit Customer Cash
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\$7,091.67 Total Value

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\$28,525.00* MSRP before discounts
\$26,209.52* Friends and Neighbors Price
-\$1,000.00 Less Retail Customer Cash
-\$500.00** Less Ford Credit Customer Cash
\$24,709.52 Friends and Neighbors Net Price**
\$3,815.48 Total Value



2015 F-150 SUPERCAB XLT 4x4

\$47,900.00* MSRP before discounts
\$42,216.35* Friends and Neighbors Price
-\$1,500.00 Less Retail Customer Cash
-\$1,000.00 Less Retail Bonus Cash
-\$1,800.00 Less Bonus Cash
-\$750.00** Less Ford Credit Customer Cash
\$37,166.35 Friends and Neighbors Net Price**
\$10,733.65 Total Value



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