



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 21.50 Thursday, December 10, 2015 Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren **F R E E**

VB Schools seek fast 'Turnaround'

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Van Buren Public Schools Supt. Michael Van Tassel has committed the school district to a "Turnaround" mode and at Monday's school board meeting Dr. Grant Chandler spoke for more than an hour explaining the project.

Dr. Chandler is project director of MIExcel and Van Buren is one of the 12 Early Adopter school districts in the state that is undertaking a new system to improve their districts. There is no direct cost to the district since he is funded by the State of Michigan.

Dr. Chandler said he expects the district to show great improvement in from 18 to 24 months, as shown on tests of any kind. He said the countdown started a month ago when they began work on this district.

Van Tassel said the state is not taking the Van Buren district over, but the scores are not good and there is a sense of urgency because, "These kids can't wait."

"If a child comes to us in Kindergarten and can't identify letters of the alphabet, that's unfortunate, but what are we going to do about it?" Van Tassel said in his introductory remarks before Dr. Chandler's presentation.

"I am deeply concerned because schools are bureaucratic in nature and don't think in terms of urgency," Van Tassel said.

He rapidly introduced the District Turnaround Team that included Russ Robinson, a consultant from Wayne RESA who is not being paid by the district for this, as well as Mrs. Ross, Laura Maher, Aleisha Pitt, Diane Kullis, John Leroy, Abdul Madun, board vice president Martha Toth, and "some teachers."

"I've been moved by Dr. Chandler," Van

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The 34th District Court may be remodeled and expanded if a proposed \$11 million bond issue works its way successfully through the pathways at the City of Romulus. The entrance to the court would be returned to the front of the building, which would be remodeled and enlarged to meet the needs of the busy court staff. This is a preliminary rendering by OHM.

Romulus OKs first step to upgrade 34th Dist. Court

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

At its Nov. 23 regular meeting, the Romulus City Council voted unanimously to pass a notice of intention that it will be going out for up to \$11 million in capital improvement bonds to upgrade and expand the 34th District Court complex.

And, the court will make the bond payments.

The courthouse, owned by the city of Romulus, is next door to city hall and the Romulus library on the municipal campus.

Among renovations is addition of another courtroom, so the magistrate can use one of present courtrooms and won't have to continue to hold court in his office, and a new public hallway down the south side of the building to the three courtrooms (two

new and one refurbished), with the present hallway to be used for interoffice traffic. Also, the parking area will be improved for the entire municipal campus.

The entry would be at the front of the building and people coming in to the probation department or to pay fees would have easy access to that area, while those heading to the courtrooms would go through the metal detectors and down the new hall.

Chief Judge Tina Brooks Green said the proposed project would add 15,000 square feet to the building and that space is much needed.

She said there is a 45-day window after publication of the Romulus council's notice for the bonds during which time taxpayers can petition the council for a referendum. Judge Green said she was waiting until after the 45 days was up to go to the five communities to explain what it is the court wants to do.

Court Administrator/Magistrate Al Hindman said they have been planning to improve the court for eight years and this is

the fifth attempt with the council. He said it was the first time they got past the first step – a notice of intention.

"This is a huge thing," Judge Brian Oakley said in his courtroom last week, adding staff in the courthouse is using former store rooms for offices and they are working in very crowded conditions. He said the building hasn't been upgraded since the early 1990s.

Judge Green said they looked at the possibility of a new building, but it would cost twice as much as the renovations and the court might not be making enough money monthly for a larger payment.

The proposed project was explained to the Romulus City Council in a study session earlier in the day Nov. 23. Court Administrator Hindman compared the 34th District Court to other courts in this area and pointed out the 34th District Court handles twice as many cases in half as much space.

Judge Oakley said the expansion of the court is needed to serve the five communities

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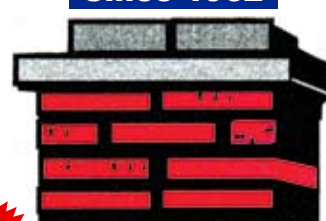
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SECOND FRONT PAGE

Detroit Police Officer LeAnn Dean honored with Medal of Valor

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

Detroit Police Officer LeAnn Dean, a 1987 graduate of Belleville High School, was honored with a Medal of Valor at the Dec. 2 "Above & Beyond Awards Ceremony" at Cobo Hall.

The ceremony was put on by the Detroit Public Safety Foundation with major contributions from PVS Chemicals Inc. and Quicken Loans.

Officer Dean was honored along with Officers Lloyd Allen, Cyd Bright, and Thomas Cooper for an incident that started at about 9:40 a.m. Feb. 16.

Officers Dean and Cooper, both assigned to the Fourth Precinct, were working as Scout 0404. While on patrol, they observed smoke coming from the roof of an occupied apartment building at 5900 Michigan.

Believing the building was on fire, Officer Dean notified dispatch and requested fire to respond. The officers exited their patrol vehicle and immediately entered the apartment building.

Once inside, they found the hallways and stairs filled with smoke. They began pounding on apartment doors and shouting, "Fire! Fire! You have to leave the building!"

People inside, many of them small children, began leaving the smoke-filled building. After several minutes, the officers left the building to get fresh air. At that point, additional police and fire units were arriving on the scene.



Officer Dean

Officers Dean and Cooper reentered the building along with Officers Allen and Bright. The officers continued to warn the occupants and managed to clear the entire building, including freeing a man who was locked in a storage room in the basement.

After exiting the building the second time, Officers Dean and Cooper were treated for smoke inhalation.

"The actions of Officers Dean, Cooper, Allen and Bright were heroic and selfless and helped to save many lives," the information in the printed program said.

Each person being honored that evening in the huge event were permitted to bring four guests. Officer Dean brought her father Harry Dean of Belleville, her sister Sue Gadjia of Van Buren Township and her brother and his wife Edward and Lisa Fleming of Dearborn.

Her son Matthew Ruiz, 19, a senior at a Dearborn High School, had to play on his hockey team that night in order to qualify for the finals a few days later so he was unable to attend the event.

Officer Dean is celebrating her 21st year with the Detroit Police Department. She is the daughter of Harry and the late Dorothy Dean of Belleville.

Among those making remarks at the event was Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan who said, "I want to congratulate the recipients of the Medal of Valor, Purple Heart, Public Safety Partnership, and City Change Maker Awards. I applaud the efforts of tonight's honored guests, volunteers, and sponsors for making a positive impact in our community, and going above and beyond the normal demands of service."

District Court

(continued from page 1)

covered by the court: the cities of Belleville and Romulus and townships of Huron, Van Buren, and Sumpster. The court covers a total of 13 police departments, including those at Metro Airport, Metroparks, Wayne County Sheriff, Michigan State Police, and Department of Natural Resources.

A representative from Miller Canfield explained the procedure for the bonds at the city council meeting.

He said the notice of intention will be published and there is no requirement to go for a vote of the people, unless the city is petitioned. Then, there will be a referendum and, if the bonds are approved, they will be sold next summer. But the bonds will not be sold until after bid prices are available, so the bonds are expected to be finalized next August or September.

He said the funds to pay the bonds will be generated by the court. But, since the city is the issuer of the bonds, the city needs to pledge its full faith and credit to pay off the bonds if the court can't.

He said the city is not allowed to use taxes to pay off the bonds.

In other business at the Nov 23 meeting, the Romulus City Council also approved putting on the March 8 presidential primary ballot a request for Neighborhood Street Improvement Bonds of not to exceed \$25 million. This is estimated to need a levy of 3.55 mills per year for 12 years.

The paving, repaving and reconstruction of residential streets is expected to take four construction seasons. Over the past year the city has been holding visioning sessions and one of the top priorities was the upgrading of residential streets.

The vote was 5-2 with Councilwomen Linda Choate and Sylvia Makowski voting no.

VBT Board hears comments on proposed layoffs

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

More than 50 people were in the audience of the Dec. 1 meeting of the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees – and many wanted to talk about the proposed dissolving of the fire department duty crews and layoffs in the police department.

Speakers had to wait until the end of the meeting for the Non-Agenda Items spot on the agenda before they could speak.

Township resident Kathleen Walsh stood up at her front-row seat and stated, "There's a big elephant in the room" that isn't being talked about.

She said she has gone on the Bellevilleareaindependent.com web site where they are talking about it.

She asked if a letter was sent to the fire department? Is there a big misunderstanding?

"Do we talk about things here? Does the fire chief teach at Schoolcraft College?" she asked.

Clerk Leon Wright said the fire department letter wasn't sent by the board but by the negotiating committee to set up a meeting. He said it wasn't to shut down a fire station or lay anyone off.

"The board didn't send the letter?" Walsh asked.

Clerk Wright replied, "The board didn't send the letter and if the board didn't initiate it, 'It's just a letter floating around...'"

Treasurer Sharry Budd said the fire chief had approval from Supervisor Linda Combs and Public Safety Director Greg Laurain to teach at Schoolcraft.

"He handles what he has to," she said of Fire Chief Dan Besson.

"He's on call, but he had necessary approval," Clerk Wright said, adding,

the fire chief salary and benefit package includes paid time off.

Police Officer Chris Valinski said Clerk Wright said there was "a misunderstanding" and there was no directive from the board on layoffs. Officer Valinski said the union has been accused of scare tactics and there is friction and hostility in the department.

"There's a huge white elephant in this room," Officer Valinski agreed with Walsh.

He said the budget has just been approved and there is funding in place to maintain the staff of the whole Public Safety Department. He asked if somebody fabricated the layoffs.

"It has been discussed," Clerk Wright said, adding there was a millage for 6.5 mills that failed at the polls. "I was asked to come to the fire department by my chief to discuss finances."

An emergency fire staff meeting was held on the subject at Fire Station #1 on Nov. 25, in anticipation of the *Independent* reporting on layoffs.

Clerk Wright produced a chart on finances that he made for that fire department meeting and told the large audience on Dec. 1 that he had run off 50 copies to share with them. Few were interested.

Clerk Wright said from the time the voters passed 4 mills for public safety until now there has been a duty crew to staff the fire halls 24/7, while the value of the township dropped 30%.

"It's going to take us 15 years at 2% increase a year to recoup," he said.

In 2012, 4 mills brought in \$2.2 million, Clerk Wright said. He said over the years the board has subsidized the decrease in funds and, "What the board is saying now is we can't continue..."

"If you keep paying your bills from your savings account, you're going to run out," Clerk Wright said.

Lt. Mark Buckberry, president of the POLC Command Officers union, reported on an incident that happened on Nov. 23 when he and Sgt. Louis Keele were talking. He said Director Laurain said the offer of employment for a new officer is now rescinded.

Lt. Buckberry said Director Laurain then said 5-10 patrol officers will be laid off, "Depending on how deep the board wants to go." He said those were the only employees getting laid off. Laurain said he had to call POLC Patrol/Dispatch union president Adam Byrd to tell him to alert the patrol officers of the layoff.

"I am Officer Byrd's supervisor and ... I have never questioned his integrity," Lt. Buckberry said, referring to Officer Byrd's report that he got such a notice from the "employer."

"The board is using scare tactics. Where is the leadership? Instead of discussing what happened ... they talk about who to blame."

Officer Byrd noted the board is not making cuts from this current budget to the next budget. He asked why they said he was confused at the work/study session.

He noted four weeks ago the board was talking about giving themselves raises.

Officer Byrd said with the last millage everybody made promises and that millage income runs through the end of 2017. The Visteon bond won't be due until about 2019. The Public Safety Department is funded at the exact same rate it has been, he said.

Sgt. Marc Abdilla, president of the
(continued on page 15)

OPINIONS

Editorial

Library Board opts for all-new building

Rather than cobbling a new expansion onto an old building, the Belleville Area District Library Board voted on Tuesday to build a new, two-story, 30,000-square-foot, energy-efficient library building and tear the old one down.

Several board members said they were impressed by the comments of retired architect George Craven who spoke at a recent meeting. Craven had designed the new addition to the old library building years back and he said now the community deserves an all-new building. Both Craven and the present architect Dan Whisler used the term "cobble" when referring to new construction on old.

Three board members were absent from Tuesday's vote, but they all said they were in favor of Option C – the all-new building.

There was a report from the Nov. 25 meeting with city officials who discussed details of the library placement. The board wants to build the new library in the middle of Fourth Street and the city was OK with that, as long as Fourth Street was left open from Main Street to the alley.

Paul Stauder, financial advisor, showed preliminary figures to help plan a bond vote for November 2016. And, architect Whisler said he could start drawing up what the library would look like. The front door would likely be visible from Main Street – or, maybe not.

Design is the next step and then selling the project to the public. The library board has reduced the size of the building and kept it downtown. Maybe this will work.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

We received a letter for last week's paper from Barbara Harris who reported that Baby Jesus, Mary, Joseph, some animals and the kings were missing from her daughter's manger scene in Harbour Pointe subdivision in Belleville.

She since has informed me that all the pieces of the manger scene have been returned. She said police found them at the high school.

In court on Dec. 2, 34th District Court Judge Brian Oakley got upset over how the court's set bonds for defendants are being changed into release with tethers by the Wayne County Jail.

"The people down there have got to stop changing our bond," Judge Oakley said as yet another case was before him with the bond reduced and tether in place.

In a plea deal the original felony charge was dropped and turned into a misdemeanor so she didn't need the tether any more. Judge Oakley refused to order it removed.

The suspect's court-appointed attorney Jeff Bowdich explained to his client that he, the judge, "didn't order the tether so he can't take it off." Judge Oakley interrupted him to say he "won't" take it off.

The defendant was directed to go back downtown to the jail to get the order for tether removal.

Later, Judge Oakley said, "They are making administrative decisions and leaving us to clean up the mess."

Bill Pagel brought in an email from UnknownSender@UnknownDomain that didn't look right to him. He's sure it's a scam. It asks him to help the sender in the



safe-keeping of two valuable military trunk boxes that will be "of great benefit to both of us." He wants an urgent response. He says he is a U.S. Army officer currently serving in Afghanistan and includes another email address to Capt. Casey Thoreen. Interesting story, but it sure doesn't sound right.

On Saturday morning, at about 9:15, I heard a call on the police scanner from Ypsilanti Township that said an automatic recording indicated a possible failure of Ford Lake Dam. Emergency crews from Van Buren Township, with its ladder truck, and City of Ypsilanti were called as mutual aid. Then, six minutes later, the mutual aid call to Van Buren Township was cancelled.

Close call. When I think of what could have happened with water rushing down the Huron River into Belleville Lake and down to French Landing Dam, into the Metro Park (we can hear their flood siren on occasion) and then into low-lying New Boston.

It must have been an alarm glitch.

I've heard about a defense of *computer fiction* being used in court cases these days. You can't always trust computers.

When Belleville has its fireworks over the lake after the Winterfest parade, usually residents along the lakeside can see the show and enjoy the colorful reflections in the lake. This year, I'm told, the fog

obscured the fireworks for that part of the audience and all they could see was a red colored fog area and then an orange colored fog area.

Michigan Department of Corrections prisoner Thomas White of Belleville has been moved from his former location at Chippewa Correctional Facility in the Upper Peninsula to Kinross Corrections, just down the road in what was the closed Hiawatha Correctional Facility in Kincheloe. Kinross opened at the new location in October.

The fellow who pointed this out to me said the new place sounds like "camp cup cake."

The eight housing units can accommodate up to 1,280 level II prisoners (White's level). Another unit houses 320 level 1 prisoners. The 50-acre prison has 10 buildings.

Prisoners can work on a Master Gardener certification, join the Jaycees, help build Habitat for Humanity homes and take part in religious activities for a wide range of active religions.

You may remember White. He was sentenced on April 10 after pleading no contest to 20 felonies. His earliest release date is April 8, 2021. He practiced in Belleville and fleeced many of his clients.



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Established Dec. 3, 1994

First Edition Jan. 5, 1995

The Belleville-Area Independent is a free, weekly newspaper published each Thursday in Belleville, MI.

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Letters

Elected, appointed leaders need to lead

To the Editor:

Last week at the Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2015 Township Board Meeting I indicated that the township supervisor is the principal employer in the township, and that all township employees work for the supervisor.

I asked a very simple question, in very plain-spoken words. I asked, "Who made the decision to give the police union, official notification of imminent police layoffs, and why? No answer was offered by Township Board Members; however, the township supervisor was absent from the meeting.

The board room was full of concerned public safety employees who deserve an answer to that simple question. Also present at that meeting were puzzled police and fire department union representatives, the public safety director, the fire chief, and the deputy director of police. Everyone sat with blank, inquisitive looks on their faces, but not one of the township leaders (elected or appointed) stepped up to offer an answer to that very simple question.

Van Buren Township is suffering and hungry for leadership. Leadership is the capacity to translate vision into action. A leader's primary function is to provide order and stability to the organization they serve. There is an obvious, and recently visible, leadership void in our township government. All of the leadership seats are filled, but it appears that our leaders have chosen not to accept difficult leadership tasks. This is how it works, board members: Swallow hard, take a deep breath, and tell the TRUTH. I know it's hard but it's very simple and necessary.

Our public safety employees are public servants who have a positive vision for the future of our community. They see the very best in all of us. These dedicated employees place themselves in harm's way, and risk their personal safety to ensure a positive future for our community, and its citizens. These employees deserve fair treatment, honest leadership, and support from their employer. That does not appear to be the current situation around township hall these days.

On Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2015 the public safety millage failed to receive enough votes for passage. On Monday, November 23, 2015 the public safety director gave the official seven-day notification of layoffs to the Patrol and Dispatcher Union President Adam Byrd, as required by the POLC Collective Bargaining Agreement. This notification places police officers

and dispatcher on notice that layoffs are imminent. Union President Adam Byrd, indicated to me he then notified the POLC union membership, as required by his position, and at the request of Public Safety Director Greg Laurain.

The next day there was a tremendous air of confusion concerning whether layoffs were going to happen, or not happen. This confusion created much instability among our public safety employees. My question remains unanswered, "Who made the decision to give the police union, official notification of imminent police layoffs, and why? Van Buren Township tax payers deserve to know, and why am I so concerned? Noted English philosopher John Locke (1632-1704) said, "The actions of men are the best interpreters of their thoughts." Regardless of today's uncertain rhetoric in township hall it is my firm belief that management actually planned to lay off police officers and dispatchers.

The morale among public safety employees is at an all-time low as a result of these recent and past public safety management blunders. Employees are in a state of confusion concerning possible layoffs. They were notified a month before Christmas that they may soon lose their jobs, now everyone is unsure. (How would you feel?)

Management is not providing order and stability to the organization, and they are not being fair and honest with their employees. It is time for those elected and appointed leaders to step up and perform their leadership function in a fashion that is fair, and equitable to everyone involved; including we the people who pay the bills.

Carl McClanahan, M.S., B.S.

Former Van Buren Township
 Public Safety Director



Steven Scarborough, 12, of Brownstown Township played "Taps" at Sunday's Bugles Across America event at the Veterans' Memorial at Horizon Park in Belleville. Steven also is in the honor guard for the Brownstown Township Fire Department where his father is a fire fighter.

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More Letters

Seminar on Dec. 15 to feature free breakfast

To the Editor:

There is a feeling of accomplishment in creating a plan to ensure that a task will go smoothly; a comfort that comes with knowing that you've considered and taken care of as many of the details as you can...

I will be holding a free breakfast seminar on making your final arrangements on Tuesday, Dec. 15, at 9 a.m. Location will be Sam's Place on Main Street.

This event will be by reservation only. Please call today to reserve your attendance; space will be limited.

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Obituaries

Harry "Nick" Walker

HARRY 'NICK' WALKER
(September 7, 1960 - December 3, 2015)
Harry Nicholas "Nick" Walker, age 55, of Belleville, MI, passed away Thursday, December 3, 2015 at Parkview Regional Hospital, Fort Wayne, Indiana. He was born September 7, 1960 in Garden City, son of Buford Junior & Carolyn Jane (Bowers) Walker. Nick owned Nick's Paint & Wallpaper business out of Belleville for many years. He was a member of Alcoholics Anonymous. Nick enjoyed camping, hunting, fishing, snowmobiling and riding his Harley. Most of all, he loved spending time with his grandbabies. Mr. Walker is survived by his wife of 11 years, Catherine Grace (Whichello) Walker of Coldwater, MI; four children Crystal (Shane) Fuller, Shawn Walker and Jeremy Walker, all of Belleville, Samantha Smith of Indiana; his children's mother Amy Walker of Belleville; five grandchildren Taylor, Riley, Kinleigh, Austin and Chase; sister Linda (David) Radcliffe of Canton, MI; brother Mark (Debbie) Walker of Rochester Hills, MI; 14 nieces & nephews, numerous great-nieces and great-nephews, cousins, and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, brother David Walker, also a sister Shirley Walker. Visitation was 2-8 PM Monday, December 7, 2015 at David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI 48111 (734) 697-4500. Funeral Service was Tuesday 11:00 AM at Garden City Presbyterian Church, 1841 Middlebelt Road, Garden City, MI 48135. There was an hour gathering at church prior to the service. Interment was in Mt. Hope Memorial Gardens, Livonia, MI.

Memorial contributions to the family would be greatly appreciated. Please sign his on-line guest book and share a story for his family to treasure at www.davidcbrownfh.com.

MARTINIS THOMPkins
Martinis Thompkins, age 55, originally from Sumpter Township, passed away November 26, 2015 in Denver, Colorado. He is the son of James and Florine Thompkins and brother of JT and Jeff Thompkins. A memorial service is set for 1-4 p.m. Dec. 18 at Cobo Hall in Detroit.



JERRY POKORNY
(August 24, 1936 - December 7, 2015)
Age 79, of Romulus, formerly of Westland. He proudly served his country in the U.S. Army. He is survived by son Frank (Theresa) Pokorny of Romulus. Memorials to American Red Cross. David C. Brown Funeral Home.



Ronald Paul Gunia

RONALD PAUL GUNIA
(July 16, 1950 - December 5, 2015)
Ronald Paul Gunia, age 65, of Ypsilanti, died Saturday, December 5, 2015 at his home with his loving family by his side. He was born July 16, 1950, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, the son of Francis and Gabriela Louise (Roubaje) Gunia. On June 22, 1970, he married Barbara Boos in Dearborn, Michigan, and she survives. Ron was honorably discharged from the U.S. Marines where he served his country from 1969-1971. He worked as a millwright with General Motors (Powertrain, Willow Run) retiring in 2006, after 38 years of employment.

Family was his top priority, as well as giving back to his community by helping anyone who needed a helping hand. Ron was a Third Degree Black Belt in Choi Kwang-Do through Martial Arts International and was inspirational in assisting and mentoring the youth in our community through Martial Arts for over 20 years.

Surviving besides his loving wife Barbara are two children Dawn (Jeff) Iacofano and Gregory (Megan) Gunia; his beloved grandchildren Emily, Megan, Brendan and Piper; his mother Gabriela Gunia; one sister Kimberly (Mark) Valencik; many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by two siblings Christopher Gunia and Patricia Reimer.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated Thursday, December 10, 2015, at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 9425 Whittaker Rd., Ypsilanti, with Fr. Terry Dumas as celebrant. Cremation will follow.

Contributions in his memory may be made to Black Out Cancer, University of Michigan C.S.. Mott Children's Hospital (<http://friends.umich.edu/goto/BrendanBirthdayWish>). Envelopes are available at Janowiak Funeral Home, 320 N. Washington St., Ypsilanti, where the family received friends on Wednesday from 3-8 p.m. with a Scripture service at 7 p.m., and at the Church on Thursday from 10 a.m. until time of Mass.

Van Buren Eagles plan Mardi Gras 2016 for Saturday, Feb. 20

The Van Buren Eagles are suggesting you mark Saturday, Feb. 20, on your calendar for their "Mardi Gras 2016" party.

The event will feature an all-you-can-eat buffet dinner served from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Music will be by Monsieur Guillame and His Zydeco Hepcats. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door, if available.

The Van Buren Eagles is located at 9961 Beck Road, Van Buren Township. For information and reservations, call Keith and Ginger Bruder at (734) 461-2498.

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Obituaries



Dorothy May Mason

DOROTHY MAY MASON

(September 18, 1919 - December 8, 2015)

Dorothy May Mason, age 96, a life-long resident of Belleville, MI, passed away peacefully at the Saline Evangelical Home, Saline, MI on Tuesday, December 8, 2015. She was born in Belleville on September 18, 1919, daughter of Frederick C. and Kitty Mae (Calkins) Artley.

She is survived by four children, John R. (Daisie) Mason of Ypsilanti, MI, James C. (Barbara) Mason of Traverse City, MI, Jerry L. (Naomi) Mason of Higgins Lake, MI and Patricia L. (Jerome) Bies of Van Buren Township, MI. Also surviving are 11 grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren and 3 great-great-grandchildren. Mrs. Mason was a member of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Belleville, and a member of Van Buren Township September Days Seniors. She enjoyed quilting, sewing, garage sales and going to the casino.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Harry J. Mason, who passed in 1969, a son, Ronald H. Mason who passed in 2004, 7 sisters and 3 brothers, of whom she was the youngest. Visitation will be on held on Thursday, December 10, 2015 from 12 Noon-8 PM and 10-11 AM Friday, December 11, 2015 with an 11:00 AM Funeral service at David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Drive, Belleville, MI. 48111. Phone (734) 697-4500. Rev. Dr. Robert J. Schultz officiating.

Interment following in Hillside Cemetery, Belleville. Memorial contributions may be made to Saline Evangelical Home or Arbor Hospice & Home Care. Please sign her online guest book and share a memory for her family to keep at www.davidcbrownfh.com.



More Letters

VBT POLC union demands answers

To the Editor:

I am the POLC, Van Buren Township Patrol and Dispatcher's union president. On Nov. 23, 2015, I was notified by Van Buren Township Director of Public Safety Gregory Laurain that there are going to be layoffs, and that I need to notify my membership.

Minutes after my discussion with Director Laurain I sent an e-mail to my union membership officially notifying them that there are going to be layoffs. After notifying my membership, I again spoke with Director Laurain who indicated that he had received the e-mail, and that it was sufficient notification.

Myself and other police union members attended the Dec. 1, 2015, Van Buren Township Board of Trustees meeting, chaired by Clerk Leon Wright. At that meeting none of the elected board members would give a direct answer to the questions concerning police layoffs, or if the fire department duty crews are going to be eliminated.

Our elected union members spoke while Public Safety Director Gregory Laurain sat in the audience without speaking up to address these issues that are highly sensitive, and disturbing to our membership.

After the board meeting it was my impression that certain township board members, and/or Director Laurain appeared to be using their employees as political pawns, because the public safety millage failed. Certain board members came to the public safety unions as a last-ditch effort to gain our support for the millage. However, it is our belief that the millage language misrepresented public safety funding, and that certain members of the millage committee did not represent the moral standards of public safety first responders.

Our community must be aware that a 2012 millage renewal of 4 mills would fund the public safety department, as it has in the past, until 2017. In 2012 the majority of the members of the Board of Trustees promised to maintain our current level of

public safety services if the community voted to renew the then 4-mill public safety millage.

Certain township board members (Treasurer Sharry Budd, Trustees Phil Hart and Jeff Jahr) voted in favor of cosigning for the bankrupt Visteon Corporation, in the amount of approximately \$55 million without sufficient benefit to our community. It seemed like a good idea at the time; however, in 2019 cosigning for the bankrupt Visteon Corporation will cause a significant shortfall in township revenues.

As in most communities the public safety department has the largest revenue allocation. Therefore, it is very important that the millage is passed. However, Van Buren Township's public safety employees will only endorse a millage if the board of trustees is honest with our citizens about the need to raise their taxes, and does not attempt to use its public safety employees as political pawns.

Going forward, the township's public safety employees would be happy to support a millage. They would need time to assemble a millage committee that represents the standards of our union membership. Most members of the past committee would be good representatives, however there others who do not meet the criteria of the high moral standards that we require.

Additionally, to date we have not received an answer from our township board of trustees, who gave the Public Safety Director the confidence to notify our union members that layoffs are in their uncertain future. Nor has the board expressed the reason to threaten union employees with layoffs when the public safety department is funded through the end of 2017. Our union members and this community demand answers to these pressing questions.

VBT Officer Adam Byrd, president
POLC VBT Patrol and Dispatchers union

Your quote on page 16 really agitates me

To the Editor:

I'm not angry but I am really agitated!

That little snippet found half-way down

on page 16 [of the Dec. 3 issue], to wit: "History has shown us that strength may be useless when faced with terrorism." - Capt. Jean-Luc Picard, Star Trek: The Next Generation, (The High Ground-1990)"

I do NOT consider those words (statements) made by producers, publicity-seekers, etc., etc. appropriate or wise; especially considering the dangerous times in which we are living presently.

Such a statement, whether PR or whatever, should be deleted and prohibited -- we are no longer living in a "see no evil, hear no evil" environment! IF we did have STRENGTH in the White House and among our elected officials, it is most certainly true that we would NOT be experiencing the terrorism we are seeing now.

We have had strong, truly American, Christian leaders in the past, but not now -- we draw "red lines" and our enemies laugh at us! We are vulnerable and targeted, thanks to NO strength. Bottom line: Stay alert -- DON'T let anyone tell us, either verbally or in print, that we should NOT exhibit strength -- now or ever again.

GOD BLESS AMERICA and may she ever be STRONG and FREE!

Thank you.

(Mrs.) Ruth E. Bleeker

Belleville

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— Albert Einstein

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More Letters

'Elephant in the room' is VBT's deficit budget

To the Editor:

VBT Public Safety Department: police, firefighters and 911 Dispatch, what is your future?

The "elephant in the room" isn't your collective bargaining agreement, it's the deficit budget that clearly threatens your livelihood ... just as it threatens Van Buren Township taxpayers.

The Visteon Corporation spin off from Ford Motor Company in June of 200 created the second-largest auto parts supplier in the world.

Shortly after this corporate divestiture, Visteon began a search for an immediate headquarters complex that would accommodate the consolidation of all 13 existing facilities located in Michigan at that time.

The Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) provided the database for Visteon executives to search for available properties suitable to their needs. As it turned out, Van Buren Township had the preferred site that would best serve the future needs of the new corporation.

Soon afterwards, the company settled into strategic negotiations with the township to help define the needed incentives that would assure the project being built.

The total state and township incentive

package was estimated to be nearly \$74 million and with the reports submitted by McKenna Associates, the final development projected costs would top out around \$300 million. As the initial construction continued on the 150-acre parcel of commercial development a clear vision opportunity and pride began to take shape in Van Buren Township.

Likewise, throughout Michigan this was considered a major accomplishment for the region. A stagnant property that was previously an empty rock quarry, and paid a meager \$3,500 per year in taxes, was transformed into a premier land development that would initially generate more than \$200,000 per year in tax revenue to the township.

Who couldn't see the tremendous growth opportunities this would create in Van Buren Township? Governor Granholm had already stated her goal to make Michigan a "come-back state" with an emphasis on high-tech jobs with a clean and safe environment, and this new facility would showcase her vision for the future.

For all that Visteon Village was, Visteon Corporation wasn't. The projected 800 new jobs never materialized and the estimated \$50 million per year in state tax revenues vanished completely. Overnight the "dream project" had become an economic nightmare!

Visteon was insolvent with the company filing for immediate court-directed relief just as the entire nation was facing a deep recession during the final year of the Bush administration's economic collapse.

On May 28, 2009 Visteon filed voluntary petitions to reorganize under Chapter 11 rules of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code in Delaware and on May 29, the case was heard before Judge Christopher Sontchi granting Visteon Chapter 11 protection.

At this time Visteon shares had dropped from a worthless 7 cents to a mere 2 cents after the corporation had been delisted from the New York Stock Exchange in early March of the same year.

In other words, the company was ordered to reorganize and produce a viable business spread sheet, thus leaving suppliers and creditors scrambling to recover some mere pittance of their investment. Therefore, everything that had been promised, including all of the future job proposals and tax revenues for the township and the state, was now a blemish on those individuals who had negotiated the original grand scheme to bring this business to Van Buren Township.

Of course, to simply place the blame will do nothing to resolve the tremendous financial burden that now faces our community. So, where do we go from here?

Well, unlike the former supervisor, Paul D. White, "who sold the cow for a few magic beans," \$10 million in distressed Visteon notes were sold at a 40% loss for \$6 million resulting in \$5.7 million after fees; the current Board of Trustees will need a comprehensive strategic plan to lessen the burden on our taxpayers.

Please, get on board.

CeJay Marshall

Van Buren Township

they never ever say anything bad about us.

But as the employer we have a responsibility to them as any employee expects from their employer. We have a responsibility to make sure they have resources and materials they need to do their job safely, to serve and protect us.

We need to make sure that our departments are staffed with the correct levels of employees to be able to do the job we expect them to do. We have a responsibility to make sure we have a management team in place (the entire Board of Trustees) that we the citizens give the responsibility to manage the people who work for us, not them but us.

The Board of Trustees also works for us; we elect them and we pay them. They answer to us and I really think they sometimes forget that. The other night we demanded answers and did we get them, NO, we got we don't know who sent this and we don't know who said this. We are their bosses and we demand answers not I DON'T KNOWS.

We have a duty to all our employees to make sure there is a good working relationship between the management and the staff below them. If not, then we have the right, in public not in a closed office, to get answers on how to solve the problems. If not then maybe it is time for a new management team? We cannot afford meetings to be canceled for no agendas because right now we have an open agenda for every meeting. It is what happened and how do you plan on fixing this? That is just a tip of the iceberg.

I asked a few meetings ago if township has a plan to come up with an idea to fund Public Safety. They said they can't have anything to do with a committee to come up with a staff and funding options. But back in 2012 the Clinton Township Supervisor set up two Citizens Committees. The Supervisor decided to set up one for Fire and the other for Police. He asked for applications to be sent to township hall and set up the way the committees were selected. He set the rules and discussion points. They were only allowed to talk about staffing needs and financial support. The Fire Chief and Police Chief sat on each committee as well as police officers and firefighters, dispatchers, etc. They were volunteers, all of them. The meetings were posted and were at the township hall and open to the public. Business leaders, civic leaders, union representation, everyday citizens were all involved. After a few months two separate reports were given to the Board of Trustees with a millage request. They were approved by the board and went to the voters and they both passed.

I believe everyone supports an increase funding to Public Safety but I also believe the trust factor in our elected leadership is low and needs to be repaired before one is passed.

As the employers it is our responsibility to our employees to make sure our management team is doing the job we elected them to do. We asked questions and we demand answers NOW not later. We

(continued on page 10)

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In Van Buren Twp.: Who works for Whom?

To the Editor:

Have you ever asked yourself who do our Police and Firefighters work for? These are people who choose to do what they do because the love to serve and help others.

They are also one of the few employees in this world who you will never ever hear criticize their employer. They will do whatever their employer asks them to do. Their main job is to protect and serve their employer.

Our Safety Department as well as any person who works at Township Hall, works for us, the citizens of Van Buren Township and no one else. They never complain or say anything bad about us. What other employee / employer relationship is like that, think about it, they work for us and

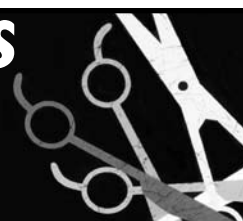
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More Letters

(continued from page 9)

need to see a change in the atmosphere now and we need bi-monthly reports on what changes are discussed and what solutions are planned. We the citizens are the stock holders for Van Buren Township and we all have equal shares. It is time for the Board of Trustees to remember who they work for and who they have to answer TO. We expect prompt answers to our questions when they are asked and made public. I am tired of hearing to a public question, "Please come and see me in my office." We need to make sure every Board of Trustees meeting happens because there is a lot to discuss and solutions to problems need to be made. We need the Board of Trustees' meetings to become stock holder meetings again where we have the right at any time to question comments, ideas as they are said not before anything is said. They need to do the business of the township that we elected them do and they need to answer our questions (us the stock holders and their supervisors) at the time they are asked.

We need to make sure our management team we elected, gives the people who work for us the respect they deserve and have earned. If not as the employers then we need to make changes and I don't mean just people. I mean changes in the way meetings are conducted, more time for open dialog with everyone listening and commenting. More input in the open and not behind doors. In open discussion ideas can grow and expand. In closed-door session that is exactly as it sounds closed-doors discussions.

We need fresh new ideas and new solutions to problems that have been around for a long time. So next time you see any of our township employees please make sure they know we support them.

Thank you
Allen Babosh
Van Buren Township resident

Community Band invites you to concert

To the Editor:

As Christmas Day approaches, the city of Belleville has already offered our residents many joyous events to bring in the Holiday spirit.

With that spirit in mind, the Belleville Community Band is pleased to announce

their Christmas concert under the direction of Mr. Tim Miller: Friday, Dec. 18 at 7:30 p.m., First United Methodist Church.

The board and members of the band would like to extend the residents and the businesses of our community our best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and say thank you for supporting us over the years.

Jack Keelan, president
Belleville Community Band

Sumpter Township loses police officer, fire fighter as employees move on

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

Donald LaPorte, Jr., a Sumpter Township fire fighter, has been hired by the City of Farmington as a public safety officer.

He is certified as an Emergency Medical Technician and fire fighter and was to graduate from the police academy on Nov. 17. He was to start his first 12-hour shift as a public safety officer on Nov. 18.

At the Nov. 10 meeting of the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees, the board approved a leave of absence from the fire department for LaPorte.

His father, Donald LaPorte, gave the fire department report at the meeting and explained that Farmington wants his son to concentrate on his public safety officer duties now. Maybe, in the future, it will be possible for him to return to being a paid-per-call fire fighter in Sumpter.

And, the board also approved, with regrets, the resignation of Police Officer Joshua Scaglione, who has been hired as a full-time officer in the Westland Police Department.

In other business at the Nov. 10 meeting, the board:

- Heard LaPorte say he is public safety officer for the fire department and he wanted to give a report. He said the fire department appreciates the help of the police department and just the previous week a couple officers helped fire fighters put out a grass fire. He said recently three trainers from the Saginaw tri-township fire department gave two, four-hour fire fighter safety classes, "Everyone Goes Home." One of the recommendations was to carry baby wipes in the fire truck so the carcinogens in the air from fires can be wiped off the fire fighters' arms and necks which decreases the cancer risk by 51%;

- Heard a presentation from Scott Virgo on the new Kiwanis Club being organized for the tri-community. The organizational meeting was set for 6:30 p.m., Nov. 18, at the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce office. Virgo said the club's focus is working with children and they "change the world by working with children, one child at a time";

- Unanimously approved Clerk Clarence Hoffman's request to keep his daughter, Janet Hoffman, on as an employee for training as deputy clerk since Deputy Clerk Esther Hurst is going to retire in February and he plans to appoint Janet to the position. Janet has been filling in for Hurst during her absences following several surgeries, starting last December;

- Approved meeting dates for the township board and planning commission for 2016;

- Was informed the annual, free Christmas Party for children will be held at 6 p.m., Dec. 16, at the Community Center. Parents should register children at the supervisor's office by Dec. 4, so they will know how many gifts to get;

- Heard former Trustee Tim Rush volunteer to be on the committee being formed by Trustee Don Swinson to get solar power for the police department and community center. He said he has solar power at his house and he cut his electric bill from \$250 to \$30 a month. Trustee Swinson said, "Welcome aboard"; and

- Heard Mary Ban say that the furnace was out at the community center and although it is fixed now, she asked if they could replace the boiler which is old. Clerk Hoffman said the solar committee is working on getting energy for the community center and police department. Ban also said when she went to vote at the Moose Lodge she noticed that the doorway work was a big improvement,

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but the floor needs washing. She said when the township owned the PNA Hall it kept the floor spotless and waxed. She said if the Moose doesn't pay the balloon payment on the mortgage in the future, the township will get the building back and, "We want it in tip-top shape."

VBT Planners give final site plan approval for Trilogy clubhouse, pool

At a 14-minute special meeting on Dec. 2 the Van Buren Township Planning Commission granted final site plan approval to Trilogy Residences for the demolition of its existing tennis courts and construction of a clubhouse and swimming pool in the same area.

The proposed clubhouse and swimming pool, which are accessory to the existing apartment houses, are special land uses in the RM-Multiple Family Residential zoning district. A special land use permit for this project was approved by the township board on Oct. 20.

The site, known as 41500 Bellridge Boulevard, is located on the west side of Independence Lane, north of the I-94 North Service Drive.

Representatives of Trilogy said they propose adding a 7,785-square-foot clubhouse for residents only, with a 64'x20' pool, fireplace, fire pit, and hot tub. They added four parking spaces, to make a total of 466, and revised their landscaping plan as requested by the planners.

Since it is a non-sprinkled building, it will be monitored by an outside alarm company.

At a previous meeting, Trilogy representatives said they are upgrading the apartment complex to increase occupancy.

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EIGHTH ANNUAL COMMUNITY OLD FASHIONED CHRISTMAS SERVICE

The Belleville Presbyterian Church will be holding the Eighth Annual Community Old Fashioned Christmas Service in the historic Martha-Mary Chapel on Sunday, December 13th at 5:00 in the evening and Christmas Eve Service Thursday, December 24th at 5:00 in the evening. You are cordially invited to join us for a service of Lessons and Carols, and for a time of fellowship afterwards.

Special music will be offered by Seek to Be Ministries, a singing group that regularly graces worship at Belleville Presbyterian Church, along with other gifted musicians, instrumentalists and singers.

Take a step back in time and come enjoy a simple, moving worship service in an historic setting as you finalize your holiday preparations. A freewill offering will be taken to support those in our community who are experiencing need during the holidays.

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Independent photo by Bob Mytych

Parade Grand Marshal James Richendollar gives the Key to the City to Santa, with Mayor Kerreen Conley in the back. At left, Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce President Randy Brown announces. Santa arrived in a sleigh (on wheels) this year.

Chamber announces winners at Winter Fest

The Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce announces the winners in last week end's Winter Fest competitions.

Main Street Decoration Contest:

- Barber Bob's, first place
- Belleville Bariatric, second place
- Photography by Shannon, third place

Soup Crawl Winners:

- Egan's Pub, first place, Butternut Squash Soup
- JT's Pub & Grub, second place, Cheddar

Soup

- JT's Pub & Grub, third place, Chicken Tortilla Soup

Parade Winners:

- Best Business – Radio Flyer Wagon, Bryan Suliman, PLIC
 - Best School – BHS Productions, "Willy Wonka"
 - Best Community Organization – Van Buren Soccer Association
 - Grand Marshal Award – Wayne County Fair
 - Best Municipality – Belleville Area District Library
 - Best Non-Profit – BYC
- Grand Marshals of the Parade:**
James and Sharon Richendollar

Photos with Santa



Presenting Sponsor



Saturday, December 12
12 Noon to 4 pm
and

Saturday, December 19
12 Noon to 4 pm



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**Belleville Area Museum
405 Main Street**

**Belleville Community Band
Christmas Concert**
Friday, December 18th
7:30 p.m.
**Belleville First United
Methodist Church**
417 Charles Street
Belleville

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– Abraham Lincoln

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Independent photo by Bob Mytych

The BYC float won the trophy for the Best Non-Profit float in Saturday's parade. The theme of the parade was "A Norman Rockwell Christmas" and the BYC float showed Rockwell painting one scene, a Saturday Evening Post cover of "Santa at the Map," with "Mama Kissing Santa Claus" around the corner and another scene on the other side.

Come and rejoice with us!

Open Arms Lutheran Church

Christmas Eve Service

7:00pm



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Orphan of the Week

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Animals Rescue

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In our opinion there's nothing better than doggie kisses to brighten your day and our **Mishka** gives the best ones in town! She's a 7 1/2 year old Australian Cattle dog mix with a fun-loving, energetic and engaging personality who enjoys spending time with people and giving away her awesome doggie kisses. Middle age hasn't slowed this girl down either; she's jam-packed with energy and would love being with an active family able to keep up with her. Her two favorite pastimes are playing a good game of fetch in the yard and taking an exciting walk with her people friends. **Mishka** is a very social girl and loves being in the company of people so it will be important she get lots of quality time with her humans in her fur-ever home. Some basic training once in a home will also benefit her by reinforcing good behaviors and forming strong bonds with her new family. **Mishka** can be a real take charge type of gal and often lets her natural herding tendency take over with other dogs. She will need caretakers that are experienced and comfortable correcting her when the need arises. She does very well with kids although she can let her excitement lead her to jump up a bit and chase any runners so a home with older kids might be a better fit for her. She's spayed, vaccinated and micro-chipped. Call **Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue** at **734-461-9458** or visit our website **fmar1.org** for more information.



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(no cash value with this add and free small hot beverage with your order only until January 02, 2016)

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Sumpter Planners set Dec. 10 public hearing on requested rezoning

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

At its regular meeting Nov. 12, the Sumpter Township Planning Commission set a public hearing for Dec. 10 on the requested rezoning of 21620 Sumpter Road from Local Commercial (LC) to Two-Family & Multiple Family Residential (R/MR).

The property is at the southwest corner of Sumpter and Judd Roads. The owners wish to turn the former commercial areas into residential spaces.

At the Nov. 12 meeting, the commission held a public hearing and then unanimously recommended denial of the requested rezoning of 51100 Willis Road from Light Industrial to Rural Small Farm. The request now goes to the township board for final action.

The applicant for rezoning of the 1.03-acre parcel on the north side of Willis Road and east of Rawsonville, the former Bokon property, was not present.

The township's zoning administrator Matthew Lonnerstater of Carlisle Wortman, said the Future Land Use Master Plan calls for Industrial use in that area, but the owner wants the house there to be zoned Residential so he can rebuild it if it burns and expand it.

He said everything on the south side of Willis is zoned Residential and Commercial and the future land use is to promote residential development consistent with adjacent land uses on Willis.

Lonnerstater said RF is consistent with present uses and not many Industrial or Commercial uses can be put on one acre.

Trustee Matthew Oddy, who sits on the planning commission, said there was a foreclosure and in July 2013 the new owner bought the property. He said the 35-acre parcel to the east was purchased six months ago for possible use as a Provisionary Center.

Commissioner Joy Cichewicz said the owner could tear down the house and convert the property to Industrial or Commercial use.

Oddy said there is a strip of properties along Willis in that area that are Rural Small Farm in the front and Industrial in the back.

Oddy said an owner couldn't get a residential mortgage on the property the way it is and if they wanted to sell it the terms would have to be cash.

A man in the audience, who did not identify himself, said when he bought his property on Rawsonville Road, across from Country Farms market, it was zoned AG and now he's being sent tax bills saying it is zoned Residential. He got a tax bill for \$300-\$400 and made him pay for three years back. He said the commission re-zoned his property without his approval and the commission insisted it did not rezone his property.

Oddy suggested when he gets his next tax bill he should go to the Board of Review and then to the State Tax Tribunal

if necessary.

"The property is up for sale and I'll be so glad to get rid of it," the man said.

The commission got back to discussing the requested rezoning.

"We were considering rezoning all those dual-zoned properties" along Willis, Oddy said.

"I'm not comfortable with rezoning this property," Cichewicz said.

The commission then voted to recommend to the township board that there be no change in zoning.

The commission also held a public hearing on the revised draft of the zoning ordinance on Detached Accessory Buildings.

Lonnerstater will fine-tune the accessory

buildings wording and bring back a clear copy to the commission.

The setbacks will be determined by a chart and are dependant upon how big the pole barn is to be.

When Bob Coppock asked for clarification on the setbacks, Lonnerstater said they are reducing the setback that now is 50' from the house to 10' from the house. Coppock asked about the heights allowed.

Shiloh Beaton of Belleville to perform at Detroit Opera House

On Sunday, Dec. 13, at 3 p.m. the Michigan Opera Theatre Children's Chorus (MOTCC) will present *A Winter Fantasy*, the chorus' first concert of the season on the main stage of the Detroit Opera House.

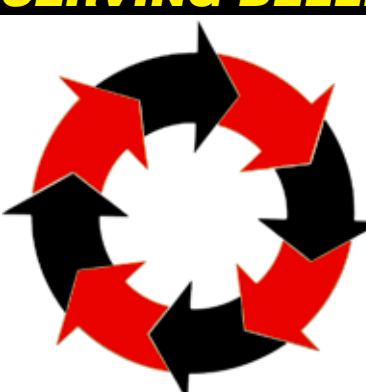
The MOTCC is an elite program of Michigan Opera Theatre which teaches advanced technique and theory to children while exposing young performers to a professional performance environment.

Of the 76 children in the 2015-16

chorus, Shiloh Beaton of Belleville will be performing on the main stage.

Tickets are \$30 for adults, \$15 for ages 17 and under, and free for children 4 and younger. Tickets include the concert, strolling hors d'oeuvres, and dessert, and may be purchased in advance at www.michiganopera.org, or by calling (313) 237-7464. Tickets will also be available at the door.

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VBT Board hears

(continued from page 3)

Michigan Association of Fire Fighters union local that also covers the “blended rate” officers, got up to speak although he was in pain after having major back surgery a couple of weeks ago.

He read part of the email to the fire department negotiators from the township’s attorney Ethan Vinson where Vinson said the township board is eliminating the duty crew.

Sgt. Abdilla said he has worked at VBT for a long time and before duty crews were put in place it took the fire fighters 25-30 minutes to come from their homes to the fire hall and then out to the scene. He said he has watched people die in freeway wreckage waiting for help.

“Mr. Hart, it could be your children in there,” Sgt. Abdilla said. “It’s absurd we’re even talking about it.”

He said he remembers when, in a recent letter in the *Independent*, the board told police officers to resign if they didn’t like their jobs.

“Nobody wants to discuss these lies,” Abdilla said. He said he remembers when Trustees Hart and Jahr shook hands with the police officers when they got sworn in as fire fighters [at blended rates].

Jack Ridenour, who said he was new in the community, said figures on Clerk Wright’s chart show the Public Safety millage has been going up for the last three years, not down.

He said 4 mills never covered all of Public Safety and the township is still paying about half, so he doesn’t see the problem. He asked why Public Safety expenditures jumped 10% in 2015.

Clerk Wright said they added the ordinance

department to the police department and put aside \$100,000. He disputed Ridenour’s interpretation of his chart and said he would be happy to sit down with Ridenour to discuss the finances.

CeJay Marshall said he was there to support the millage committee and stated, “You cannot operate on a deficit budget.” He said people in this community don’t want a tax increase, but when the landfill closes in the near future they will have to pay a lot more. He said the millage committee didn’t have the support of the Public Safety Department.

Abdilla said the budget problems are blamed on a classification of employees, which were called blended rate, but now are called “dual-role employees.”

He referred to the closed door session that the board held the day before to discuss MAFF negotiations.

He said according to SEMCOG (the Southeastern Michigan Council of Governments) the VBT Fire Department is the most fiscally efficient in SE Michigan. “Citizens of this community don’t deserve to go backward,” Abdilla said.

Officer Byrd said he and his family moved here from the City of Detroit for a safe atmosphere. He asked if he has to tell his daughter that they are going to have to move again because, “This board is going to make this area less safe.”

Officer Byrd said he never worked with the speaker “two back,” referring to Marshall, because he is extremely rude. He said police do intend to support the next millage.

Lt. Buckberry said the Public Safety employees think the scare tactics of layoff is not the way to get support and it gets exactly the opposite. He asked the board to choose and decide.

Former Township Supervisor Paul White said he has been in the township since the sheriff was patrolling. He said the reason the millage failed was because the 2.5 mills was added on and 2.5 mills would go into a segregated fund for Visteon.

“That is the reason the millage failed,” White said. “See the truth.” He said there is a \$10 million balance in the landfill fund and the landfill, in his opinion, will be open until 2026, and a limited time after that.

“Somewhere, someone gave our fire chief and public safety director directions

on what to say,” White said. “It had to come from above. Those two gentlemen wouldn’t do it on their own.”

Abdilla said it’s time to move forward and not be talking about laying off employees. He said all three unions will support a millage question.

“You got us,” Abdilla said. “It’s up to you what you do with us.”

Trustee Hart said property assessments fell 30% and Public Safety never has been properly funded – ever.

“I think the board is doing the right thing,” Trustee Hart said. “We hit a little blip ... but we have to move forward. Taking in 4 mills doesn’t do it. I don’t want you to think we don’t support public safety. We do.”

Clerk Wright said he tries to tell the truth and, “No decision is going to be made to shut down a fire station, so eliminate that from your mind.

“Someone obviously dropped the gun and moved forward. I’m sure the treasurer didn’t do it and I didn’t do it,” he said, noting the *Independent* called him when he was 900 miles away over the Thanksgiving holiday to ask him about police layoffs.

“We met yesterday and had a good discussion,” he said of the closed-door session with MAFF negotiators.

He said 2.5 mills in the millage question that failed was dedicated to public safety and, “We can’t take it and use it for anything else.”

[At a public meeting, Supervisor Linda Combs explained that the plan was to get 2.5 mills more for Public Safety so that the board could take the 2.5 mills it currently appropriates for Public Safety and instead put it into a dedicated fund to pay off the Visteon bonds.]

Former VBT Public Safety Director Carl McClanahan said the township supervisor is the principal employer at the township. He said the police union was given an official notice that layoffs were eminent.

“Who made a decision to do it and why?” McClanahan asked and the room broke out in applause.

White thanked McClanahan for his question and then turned to the board: “The elimination of the duty crew and lay off of officers – If it is the desire of the board not to do that, all of you should say so.” There was no response.

“The dual role employees show up for

work, work their shifts ... the biggest issue is management of this budget ... There’s \$10 million in the landfill fund for us to use.”

“It is my hope the board will work with the union,” said Trustee Brenda McClanahan. “Do we want layoffs? No. I lived in a community where there were cut backs – and crime encroached. People could move away.”

Six-week, free class to teach how to research family history

A free, 6-week class of basic family history research is beginning Jan. 7 at 6:30 p.m. It will be at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 941 South Grove, Ypsilanti.

This class will help with the research process as well as to provide step-by-step instruction on using online resources.

The class will help with the organization of family information and with locating records worldwide. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints has been involved in the preservation of world records since 1938.

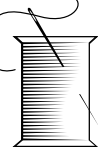
Participants will receive individualized help in finding answers to questions of family ancestry. They will learn of technologies for the preservation and sharing of family history.

The teacher, Kathy Bailey is a local, retired, second-grade teacher who taught a similar class for the community between 1977 and 1987. While the technology has changed the principles are the same, Bailey said.

To learn more and/or reserve a place call or text Kathy Bailey at 734 660-1971 or email kbailey@gmail.com.



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1997 GMC SONOMA PICK-UP. Lady owner, new trans lines, brake lines, fuel lines, fuel filter, new tires. \$1,500 OBO. Shelby (734) 693-5336. 12/17

1974 LINCOLN CONTINENTAL Coupe. Needs minor restoration. \$900. (734) 697-2250 12/24

2002 F-150, XLT super crew, 5.4 triton. Well maintained, runs perfect & mechanically excellent. New tires & battery. \$3,500 OBO. (734) 218-5670 12/24

LOST

Lost on 11/4 off S. Service Drive. White, male Chihuahua. Crooked tail, blue eyes & blue color. Answers to Pipiechulu. (734) 299-1612. 12/10

FOUND

GRAY & WHITE tiger cat. Very friendly. Found on Hoeft Road. (734) 674-4425. 12/17

GLASSES LEFT behind after the Christmas Parade. (734) 699-9020. 12/24

FOR RENT

FARMHOUSE, 4 bedrooms, 2 baths. Belleville Area. \$1,200/mo, \$1,300 security deposit. (734) 461-1362, 12/24

COUNTRY SETTING in Belleville area. 1,120 square feet, 2 bedrooms, 2 full baths. Large kitchen & living room. Single car attached garage & separate garage behind house. No pets/smoking. \$1,080/mo + utilities. (734) 260-1134 12/17

TOYS FOR TOTS

The Belleville Independent is 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.

MANUFACTURED HOMES FOR SALE

Celebrate the Holidays with a new home from Franklin!

Security deposit waived when you purchase a Franklin Home! Call one of our associates before December 31!*

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Belleville Road just 1 mile north of I-94
Van Buren Estates
734-697-6159
3 miles south of I-94 at the Rawsonville Exit
Mohawk
734-513-4108
Joy Road between Middlebelt and Inkster

*WAC. Restrictions apply. No cash value. See a Franklin Homes associate for details.

THREE NEWLY REMODELED doublewides, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths. Priced to sell. Swan Creek in New Boston. Call Nancy (734) 753-5333 or (734) 790-5750. 12/24

Notice to Advertisers:

The *Belleville-Area Independent* will not be liable for failure to publish an ad as requested or for more than one incorrect insertion of an advertisement. In the event of any error or omission in printing or publication of an advertisement, you must notify us within five days of publication or on the date of insertion, if an ad is scheduled as part of a package, so there is time to correct subsequent publications. The *Independent's* liability shall be limited to an adjustment for the cost of the space occupied by the error with a maximum liability being cancellation of the cost of the first incorrect advertisement or republication of the corrected advertisement. Under no circumstances shall the *Independent* be liable for consequential damages of any kind.

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:

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

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



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Refrigerators • Washers
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CARPET HEADQUARTERS

CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

- Free Padding with purchase of Carpet and Installation.
- Free Estimates & Consultation
- 50% Off Furniture Removal
- 50% Off Take Up Old Carpet & Disposal
- Repairs and Restretching.
- All Major Credit Cards Accepted.

Phil @ 734-612-7570

LOCAL HANDYMAN - SOME Jobs too LARGE - NO JOB too SMALL. Residential Power Washing. LICENSED & REFERENCES. (734) 765-9224 TFN

DEPENDABLE LAWN SERVICE. Fall lawn & leaf clean-up. (734) 587-2410 or (734) 693-4712 12/10

CARPET HEADQUARTERS Holiday Special. Free padding w/purchase of carpet & installation. Free estimates, fast friendly service, repairs, restretching, since 1979. Phil (734) 612-7570 8/18/16

The Belleville-Area Independent New Website is Now Online! Visit us @ bellevilleareaindependent.com Read The Newspaper On The Web!

"The right word may be effective, but no word was ever as effective as a rightly timed pause."

- Mark Twain

INDEPENDENT CLASSIFIED ADS

HELP WANTED

Looking for a Job? We have position for you. Local CDL Divers in Belleville, MI Wanted.

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2 years of experience needed.

More information, Please Call 956.568.8649 or 956.857.1590 Visit us on www.sti-laredo.com



Open Arms Lutheran Church & Day Care are looking for a loving, caring, qualified lead teacher in our preschool who loves working with children and sharing Jesus. Please contact Michelle Mahaffey 734-699-5000 mmahaffey@Openarmscenter.com

Hiring Reliable & Dedicated Bus Drivers for Van Buren Public Schools. Starting Pay: \$11.50/hour. Training Available. Call 734-699-5100

AREA TRAINEE for local Real Estate Firm. For appointment call (734) 697-1800 TFN

PART-TIME on-site Maintenance. Own tools required. \$12-\$15/hour. Prior experience desirable. Inquires to: Carrie Martin (734) 459-5440 or cmartin@herriman.net. 12/17

“Government’s view of the economy could be summed up in a few short phrases: If it moves, tax it. If it keeps moving, regulate it. And if it stops moving, subsidize it.”
— Ronald Reagan

More Letters

It’s been a difficult year with all the lies, gossip

To the Editor:

Let me introduce myself. I am Jennifer Besson, wife of Fire Chief Besson. It has been a difficult year for us with all of the lies and gossip that have been put out there. I have remained quiet and have spent a great deal of time praying.

However, I can no longer remain quiet. I had hoped that, eventually, the rumor mill would quiet down, but, instead, it gets more outrageous by the day. I am not sure why you allow gossip in a newspaper, but you are the editor and you can do as you please.

In light of the fact that you seem to like gossip so much, I am going to straighten a few things out. You may choose to believe whatever you like, but, at least, I will know that you’ve been told the truth.

The first issue is the rumor that I am driving or have driven a township owned

vehicle. NEVER! I have never and will never drive a vehicle owned by the township. There is not a single person out there who has seen me drive a township vehicle and whomever it was that passed this along to Diane Madigan (assuming Diane didn’t make it up herself) is a liar. That is it. You can choose to believe it or not.

The second issue: Fire Chief Besson is a 24/7 employee. Who do you know that works 24 hours a day, 7 days a week? That is unrealistic in any profession. What you are insinuating is that this man should never be allowed to leave the township. He can never take a vacation. He can never see his children participate in sporting events or school activities. He can never go to dinner or visit friends because he’s always to be in the area and ready to respond. That is utter nonsense. His contract makes him an 80-hour employee (80 hours every two weeks) with the provision that he responds after hours to major incidents, not every call that comes in, major incidents. Because the fire business is not a Monday-Friday business, he also does work after normal business hours and on weekends. Although there are

many of your readers who believe that he doesn’t work his 80 hours, this is not even close to the truth. Most of the time he works much more than this.

The third issue: Fire Chief Besson is teaching at Schoolcraft College 4 days/week. I can’t even begin to imagine who thought up this rumor. Does Dan teach at Schoolcraft? Yes, he does with permission from the Township Supervisor after Schoolcraft pursued him. He was not out soliciting for other gigs. He is a highly credentialed instructor and they were in need. Last winter he taught one class. Let me repeat that ONE CLASS, one day per week for 3 hours. He reported back to the township after he was done teaching in the morning and worked the rest of the day. Many of those days he would stay until he worked his 8 hours, so he would be there until 8 or 9 at night. Other times, the hours were made up by working late on other days or one of the many evening meetings he attends, or incidents he responded to after regular business hours. If he does not work his 40 hours each week while teaching then he uses his paid-time-off and, yes, he should be allowed to have paid-time-off. It is no one’s business how he uses his PTO. Once in a while he does teach a one-day course, again those hours are either made up or he uses PTO.

The fourth issue: Fire Chief Besson has 3 township vehicles. The truth is he has one. There is and has always only been one township vehicle in our driveway. He did have an issue with the old K9 Tahoe breaking down frequently. He was given one of the Chargers from the Police Department. He used that one most of the time unless the weather was bad in the winter and then he would take the Tahoe if it was running. He now has an Explorer. Since he was issued that vehicle, it is the only one he has used. The Charger and the Tahoe sit at the fire department to be used for other employees when they are doing business for the department or going to training. Feel free to stop by the fire department to check up on that because you will find that I am not lying.

The fifth issue and this is a big one: The rumor that Fire Chief Besson is the one who decided to do away with the duty crew. Let me just say to you that he was as surprised as the firefighters were about that. The day the firefighters received the email from the township attorney is the same day that Dan was informed of the plan and he was directed to come up with a contingency plan for when this rolled out in January. It was absolutely not Dan’s idea. This was a Board decision. I cannot be more clear about that.

I can say all these things knowing that I speak the truth. I cannot make you or anyone else believe me. I cannot change anyone’s perceptions of my husband or me, but the fact that he even speaks to you or Diane Madigan respectfully and calmly is a true testimony of his integrity and good character. You owe us an apology and you should be absolutely ashamed of yourself. If you continue to print slanderous comments in your paper, I will seek legal advice. I have had enough!
Respectfully,
Jennifer Besson
Van Buren Township

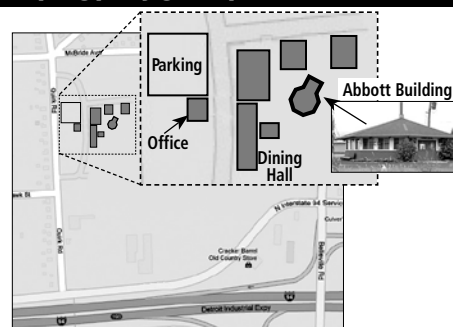


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Abbott Building
10871 Quirk Rd
Belleville, MI 48111
Off I-94 at Belleville Rd exit near I-275**



**All Pugs & Pug Owners are Welcome!!
One Sunday EVERY Month – 2:00pm**

2015 Dates:

**January 18
February 22
March 22
April 19**

**May 17
June 7
July 19
August 16**

**September 13
October 18
November 15
December 13**

VBT Board approves budgets, ordinance against coal tar

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

The Van Buren Township Board of Trustees approved the amended 2015 and proposed 2016 general fund budgets on a 5-1 vote at its regular meeting Dec. 1.

Voting against the approvals was Trustee Reggie Miller, who did not explain her vote. Supervisor Linda Combs was absent and excused.

The 2015 amended budget was \$13,861,427 and the 2016 proposed budget is \$14,358,372.

When president of the dispatch/patrol officers union Adam Byrd asked if there were any cuts from this year's budget to next year's budget, Clerk Leon Wright said the budget has no cuts at all.

Treasurer Sharry Budd said the secretary proposed for the fire department was removed and that's the only item removed from those budgets.

Speaking earlier in the meeting, former Supervisor Paul White said the budgets for 2012, 2013, and 2014 averaged \$12.6 million and the 2016 budget is over \$14 million. White said the 2015 budget was \$1.7 million more than the average and it is still to be audited.

"Why is \$1.7 million more necessary?" he asked, noting this area is slowly recovering. He said the 2.5 mill tax increase sought would have been hard on seniors since they get no raises in their income.

"Who is going to manage that budget on a day-to-day basis?" White asked. "If we save, there would be zero need for a raise in the budget. The budget needs to be maintained on a daily, weekly, monthly, and annual basis."

He said if the three full-time elected officials aren't interested in watching the budget, trustees can get a copy of spending through the clerk's office.

The township board passed the following budgets unanimously (with Supervisor Combs absent):

- The 2015 amended and 2016 proposed Special Revenue Fund Budgets for Community Development Block Grant, Downtown Development Authority, Federal Forfeiture Fund, State Forfeiture Fund, E-911 Service Fund, Landfill Fund, and Belleville Area Museum; and
- The 2015 amended and 2016 proposed Water and Sewer budget and a resolution approving the 2016 rate/fee schedule. Director James Taylor said this includes a 3% rate increase to water and sewer customers, a \$225,000 additional capture in revenue to cover \$220,000 in rate increases to basically break even in the operational budget. He said an \$189,207 operational net gain is expected.

Treasurer Budd said the proposed K-9 dog and handler had been pulled out of the budget of the state forfeiture fund.

She said there's a difference in the building and planning department, since

they have a director and he has a deputy.

"Public Safety is pretty much where they've been," Budd said.

Coal tar sealant ban

The board also unanimously approved the first reading of a new ordinance to ban the use of coal tar-based pavement sealants within the township.

Matthew Best, Deputy Director of Planning and Economic Development, said the Environmental Commission is recommending the adoption of this ordinance to protect the health, safety, and welfare of township residents.

He said coal tar-based sealants are a source of PAH, a known carcinogen.

"These PAHs impact our residents, as well as our lakes and streams, with storm water carrying these carcinogens into our waterways," he said. "Asphalt-based sealers are a safe and effective alternative to coal tar-based sealants."

He said the objectives are to prevent cancer, especially to children; citizen education rather than enforcement; a clause that the sealants may later require licensing; and that coal tar sealants are not sold in Van Buren Township.

Trustee Brenda McClanahan asked how the township would enforce this.

Best said it's not the residents who do their own sealing that are the problem, since Lowe's or Home Depot don't sell coal tar sealants.

He said the township compiled a list of sealant businesses that do business in VBT and the township will seek compliance through education.

Trustee Jeff Jahr said he is the board's representative to the Environmental Commission and he publicly wanted to thank Dr. Dave Wilson for all his hard work on this issue.

Dr. Wilson said Rebecca Esselman of the Huron River Watershed Council first called this issue to his attention. He thanked the *Independent* for the support it gave in reporting on coal tar.

The second reading and final vote on the ordinance is scheduled for the Dec. 15 meeting.

In other business, the board:

- Approved revisions to the Planning Commission's Rules of Procedure, as requested by the commission;
- Heard Pam Fleming give a promotion for the Belleville/Van Buren Goodfellows program. She said seniors who sign up can write "food only" on their application;
- Heard Trustee Phil Hart announce that Raymond Bailey, a community activist and former member of the Public Safety Citizens' Committee, died Thanksgiving Day; and
- Heard comments from the of the audience of 52 on proposed layoffs to the police department and shut down of the duty crew at the fire department.

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN BOARD MEETING MINUTES DECEMBER 1, 2015

Treasurer Budd called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room. Present: Treasurer Budd, Clerk Wright, Trustee Hart, Trustee Jahr, Trustee McClanahan and Trustee Miller. Absent/Excused: Supervisor Combs. Others in attendance: Secretary Montgomery, Planning and Economic Development Director Akers, Planning and Economic Development Deputy Director Best, Public Safety Deputy Director (Police) Wright, Public Safety Director Laurain, Public Safety Deputy Director (Fire) Besson, Assessing Coordinator Stevenson, Department of Public Services Director Taylor, and an audience of fifty-two (52).

Budd moved, Hart seconded to appoint Clerk Wright as Chairperson for the meeting. Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA Budd moved, Hart seconded to approve the revised agenda. Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: McClanahan moved, Hart seconded to approve the Consent Agenda. [Work Study Session Minutes of November 16, 2015; Board Meeting Minutes of November 17, 2015; Prepaid List of November 19, 2015; Voucher List of December 1, 2015; revisions to the Planning Commission Rules of Procedure]. Motion Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING: None.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT: POLC Union representative questioned if the budget being presented had any cuts in the Public Safety Department. Resident questioned why there is a 1.7 million dollar increase in the budget from the budget averaged from previous years and encouraged budget oversight by Elected Officials.

Clerk Wright stated the 2016 Public Safety Budget being presented for approval did not contain any cuts.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Jahr moved, Miller seconded to approve the first reading of General Code of Ordinance 12-1-15 prohibiting the use of coal tar products. Motion Carried.

Budd moved, McClanahan seconded to approve Resolution 2015-40 the 2016 Water and Sewer Rates and Fee Schedule. Motion Carried.

Budd moved, McClanahan seconded to approve Resolution 2015-41 the 2015 amended and 2016 proposed General Fund Budgets with the removal of the fire department secretary line item and the following directives: Revenue in excess of those noted shall be dedicated to fund balance, Fiscal year line items which are not expensed shall revert to net income, approval of appendices noted (Balance sheet modification statement and Salaried Employee Wage Schedule) as part of the General Fund Budget, Revenues as "Tax Administrative Fee" is to continue as is past practice. The allocated millage for township operation 4.9144, represents .9144 for Township Operations and 4.000 mills for Public Safety, adoption by department total and approval of the final General Fund Amended Budget supersedes any prior resolution. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: Budd, Wright, Hart, Jahr and McClanahan. Nays: Miller. Absent/Excused: Combs. Motion Carried.

Hart moved, McClanahan seconded to approve

Resolution 2015-41 the 2015 amended and 2016 proposed Special Revenue Budgets which will not include a canine, revenue in excess of those noted shall be dedicated to fund balance and items not expensed shall revert to net income. Motion Carried.

Budd moved, McClanahan seconded to approve the 2015 amended and 2016 proposed water and sewer budget. Motion Carried.

REPORTS: September 2015 Budgetary Report was received. Copies are available at the Clerk's Office 46425 Tyler Rd., Belleville, MI 48111.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Treasurer Budd announced the winter tax bills are in the mail. The deadline for payment will be extended until the end of February 2016. City of Belleville/Van Buren Township Goodfellows Coordinator Pam Fleming announced the last day to file an application for holiday assistance is December 4, 2015 at 3:00 p.m. Seniors interested in receiving food assistance may apply and should indicate "food only" on the application. Applications are available at the Public Safety Department or may be downloaded from the Township website www.vanburen-mi.org. Monetary donations are still being accepted, checks made payable to Belleville/Van Buren Goodfellows. Donation boxes are located at the Township Hall, Leo's Coney Island and at the City of Belleville. Trustee Hart announced the passing of senior resident, former Public Safety Committee member and community advocate Raymond Bailey.

NON AGENDA: Resident comments included: request for clarification regarding whether police layoffs have been directed, if the fire stations were going to be shut down, concern regarding classes being taught by Deputy Director (Fire) Besson, levels of funding for Public Safety, Township revenue over the past three years, acknowledgement of the efforts of the Public Safety Millage Committee, request for clarification of POLC union membership notification of layoffs. On behalf of the POLC and MAFF unions representatives comments included: reading of a recent comment posted by a resident to an article in the Belleville Area Independent, questioned if there had been discussions about layoffs in the police department, requested clarification of funding to maintain current police staffing levels, described conversations with Public Safety Director Laurain referencing budget cuts, layoffs and union notification, and a portion of an email sent to the MAFF union negotiation team by attorney Vinson regarding the duty crew was read.

Clerk Wright commented that a letter was sent to the MAFF union negotiation team requesting a meeting to discuss possible elimination of the duty crew, the Board has not sent any letter of notification regarding closure of the fire stations or directed anyone to notify personnel of layoffs, the Deputy of Director (Fire) received appropriate approval to utilize flex or PTO time to teach classes and provided a brief overview of Public Safety millage funding for the past 7 years.

ADJOURNMENT: Jahr moved, McClanahan seconded to adjourn at 8:40 p.m. Motion Carried.

Leon Wright, Township Clerk
Sharry Budd, Township Treasurer
Published: December 10, 2015

Minding Your Business

with Bob Mytych



Perspective Eyecare on Belleville Road is offering 50% off the price of frames when you purchase a complete pair of glasses. See store for details and visit www.perspectiveeyecare.com . Call (734) 699-1010.

Doug Dalton Auctioneer is holding his monthly **EstateAntiqueAuction** tomorrow night, Dec. 11, 6 p.m., at the Romulus Progressive Hall on Ozga Road. See his ad in today's paper for some photos and lots more info at www.dougdaltonauctioneer.com .

The **Belleville Community Band** will be performing a **Christmas Concert** on Dec. 18, at 7:30 p.m. at the **Belleville First**

United Methodist Church on Charles Street. The concert is free.

Air Temperature Control Heating & Cooling has been serving the tri-community for more than 35 years, servicing all makes and models in the industry. Service calls are just \$49.95 and owner **Chris Lewis** offers special discounts to seniors, military, and public safety employees. He's licensed and insured, too. See his ad in today's paper and call (734) 697-8288 or visit www.atcheatingandcooling.com .

Be sure to get your free, professional, framed photo with Santa on Dec. 12 and Dec. 19, from noon to 4 p.m. each day at the **Belleville Area Museum** on Main Street. The **Belleville Central Business Community, Genisys Credit Union** and **Tucker Insurance Agency** are sponsoring the event.

Tim Horton's of Belleville invites you to **Build Your Own Holiday Basket** and

choose from a selection of coffees, teas, gift cards, mugs, and other items in time for holiday gift giving. Simply stop in to either the Belleville Road location or the Timmy's on Rawsonville Road and place your basket order and they'll have it ready for pick up the next day. While you're there, bring in their ad in today's paper and get a free small hot beverage with your basket purchase. The offer is good thru Jan. 2, 2016.

Bethany Bible Church on East Huron River Drive in Belleville will be holding a two-day chorus program titled **Christmas is Coming, Sing for Joy**, featuring the 40-voice **Bethany Bible Choir** on Saturday, Dec. 12 at 7 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 13 at 11 a.m. The event is free. Call (734) 697-7456.

Tickets for the **2016 Thunder Over Michigan Air Show** next summer at Willow Run Airport will be available any day now in time for the holidays and air show organizers will be offering the best ticket sale discounts ever. The show will feature France's Breitling Jet Team, a seven-member unit that flies Albatross jets. Also watch for further announcements regarding a one-day **Yankee Air Museum** event on June 22, featuring a performance by the **Canadian Snow Birds** jet team and a **CF-18 Hornet Demo**. The Thunder Over Michigan air show is Aug. 20-21. Visit www.yankeeairmuseum.org .

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

Things to do in the Belleville area...

• **Through December** – 20th-annual Festival of Holiday Trees at the Belleville Area Museum. Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, 3-7 p.m., and Thursday and Saturday, noon-4 p.m. Museum closed Dec. 23-28 and Dec. 30-Jan. 4.

• **Friday, Dec. 11** – Friends Free Friday Family Movie Night at 7 p.m. featuring Veggies in the House "Ready for Action" (2015, 10 minutes) and "Redemption of the Heart" (2015, 86 minutes). Held in white Youth building, 7890 Tuttle Hill Road at Bemis. Free popcorn, beverages, anything else brought along, also a seat for your friends.

• **Saturday, Dec. 12, and Sunday, Dec. 13** – Bethany Bible Church Choir presents "Christmas is Coming – Sing for Joy" at 7 p.m. on Saturday and 11 a.m. on Sunday at Bethany Bible Church, 810 E. Huron River Drive, Belleville, (734) 697-7456. bethanybiblechurch.com Admission Free. Infant and toddler nursery available.

• **Saturday, Dec. 12** – Christmas photos with Santa at the museum, noon-4 p.m., sponsored by Belleville Central Business Community. Also Museum Children's Christmas Ornament Workshops at noon,

1 and 2 p.m.

• **Saturday, Dec. 12** – Country Christmas Celebration, 1-3 p.m. at New Boston's St. Paul Lutheran Church, 19109 Craig, one block off Sibley. Free family fun for all ages: crafts, games and prizes, food, story-telling and photos with St. Nick. Goodfellows Toy Drive. Chili Cook-off. Info: (7344) 753-9048

• **Saturday, Dec. 12** – Belleville Community Chorus presents its winter concert, "Celebrate with Music," at 7 p.m. at Belleville First United Methodist Church, 417 Charles Street. Free admission. Children's Chorus and Teen Ensemble will perform.

• **Sunday, Dec. 13** – Off-leash playtime at 2 p.m. with other friendly Pugs and Pug owners in the Abbott Building at the Wayne County Fairgrounds, 10871 Quirk Road, Van Buren Township. FREE, but donations accepted to help. Your Pugs will love you for their new social life! www.meetup.com/semichiganpugs

• **Tuesday, Dec. 15** – You're invited to a ribbon-cutting celebration for Starbucks on Belleville Road at 4 p.m., courtesy of the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce. Refreshments and giveaways.

• **Wednesday, Dec. 16** – Belleville High School German Club students are hosting a Donation Night at Metzger's in Ann Arbor from 4-9 pm. 20% of evening sales will be donated to the foreign exchange program students' June 2016 Trip to Berlin.

Upcoming Meetings

• Thursday, Dec. 10 – Keystone Academy School Board, 6 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township Planning Commission, 7 p.m. Also, City of Belleville Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m.

• Monday, Dec. 14 – Van Buren Township work/study session, 4 p.m.

• Tuesday, Dec. 15 – Van Buren Township regular board meeting, 7 p.m.

• Wednesday, Dec. 16 – Belleville Downtown Development Authority, 6 p.m. Also, Van Buren Township Environmental Commission, 7 p.m.

Birthdays

Dec. 7 – Kim Ryan
Dec. 12 – Todd Atchinson
Dec. 13 – Jeanne Bukis, Jeff Barnett
Dec. 16 – Bruce Merritt
Dec. 17 – Richie Ryan
Dec. 18 – Rhonda Dutton, Paul Smith
Dec. 19 – Cheryl Toms
Dec. 20 – Jenny Hawkins
Dec. 21 – Craig Moody
Dec. 23 – Shelly Papeneau
Dec. 24 – Susan Richardson
Dec. 28 – Chelsea DuPeron
Dec. 30 – Mark Littleton, Pam Mendis
Dec. 31 – Josee Lee

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

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN PROHIBITION OF THE USE OF COAL TAR PRODUCTS ORDINANCE NO. 12-01-15

A first reading of General Code Ordinance 12-1-15 to protect the public health, safety, welfare and preservation of natural resources and wildlife in the township by prohibiting the use of coal tar products. Second reading for adoption will be held at the 7:00 p.m. regular Board of Trustees meeting to be held on December 15th, 2015 in the Board Room, Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, Michigan 48111.

AN ORDINANCE TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE AND PRESERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND WILDLIFE WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP BY PROHIBITING THE USE OF COAL TAR PRODUCTS.

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN ("Township"), COUNTY OF WAYNE, MICHIGAN ORDAINS:

Section 42-151 PURPOSE.

Section 42-152 DEFINITIONS.

Section 42-153 PROHIBITIONS ON USE OF COAL TAR PRODUCTS.

Section 42-154 ASPHALT BASE D SEALCOAT PRODUCTS.

Section 42-155 PENALTIES AND ENFORC EMENT.

Section 42-157 CONFLICTS.

Section 42-158 EFFECTIVE DATE.

The provisions of this Ordinance shall take effect upon publication in a newspaper of general circulation within the Township.

AYES: Members: Miller, Jahr, Hart, McClanahan, Budd and Wright.

NAYS: Members: _____

ABSTAIN/ABSENT: Members: Combs. _____

Linda Combs,
Supervisor, Charter Township of Van Buren

Leon Wright,
Clerk, Charter Township of Van Buren

Adopted:
Published: 12/10/15
Effective:

Turnaround

(continued from page 1)

Tassel said. “I thought I was good with urgency and passion, but I can’t touch this guy.”

Dr. Chandler said he has 12 Early Adopter districts who will install the Blueprint for Turnaround he has created.

“Saving children’s lives. That’s the only prize,” Dr. Chandler said.

He said that public schools are fundamentally flawed and don’t save the children. He said he doesn’t want to prolong the problem and so there is urgency.

“Michigan is very close to the bottom of the game, with Massachusetts at the top,” he said. “The current system is designed to teach 5% as leaders and the rest as followers.”

He said Michigan applied for a waiver to No Child Left Behind and in 2012 he left his position and his new charge at Michigan State University was to bring about rapid turnarounds. He referred to a 300-page study on the issue.

He said he has been in districts where they improve in 12 months. He said districts try to fix one classroom at a time and never get done. It has to be attacked systemically. He said districts spend too little time on things that really matter.

He said fads come and go and the districts take on so much that they don’t know what to do next.

“I looked at your MSTEPs [scores] and you’re a ways away from having students all the way to the finish line,” Chandler said.

He said there are many steps, but an important one is ensuring appropriate rewards for good teachers. He said often the district promotes teachers to be administrators “or someone steals them.” He said every time you lose a really good employee, your system goes backward.

“More money and strong will are not enough,” he said. “Districts need to change the game.

“They have to quit crying ‘we need more money’ ... It doesn’t cost more money to think differently,” Chandler said.

He said one of the biggest problems cited in reform literature is the common approach for districts to put Band Aids on problems. No one at the board table wished to comment on his question if they have put Band Aids on problems.

“Mike has decided as superintendent to install the Blueprint for Turnaround,” he said, noting you have to publicly say you’re a failure before moving forward.

“I think you’re a courageous district because you’re willing to go out on a limb,” he said.

“When a heroic school principal leaves, the school goes backward,” Chandler said, adding the turnaround has to be led by the superintendent.

He said when students fail, studies show they live shorter lives, eat a lower quality of food, have poorer health and have higher stress throughout their lives.

(continued on page 21)

Public Notice

LEGAL NOTICE NEXUS Gas Transmission, LLC Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Docket No. CP16-22-000

Notice is hereby given that on November 20, 2015, NEXUS Gas Transmission, LLC (“NEXUS”) filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (“FERC”) an application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity regarding its proposed NEXUS Gas Transmission Project (“Project”) in FERC Docket No. CP16-22-000 (“Application”).

NEXUS Gas Transmission, LLC, (“NEXUS”) is developing a natural gas pipeline for the seamless transportation of Appalachian Basin shale gas, including Utica and Marcellus shale gas, production to meet the growing demand for natural gas by the electric generation, distribution and end use markets in Ohio, Michigan, and Ontario. The Application seeks FERC’s approval for NEXUS to construct, install, own, operate and maintain approximately 255 miles of new 36-inch diameter pipeline and related facilities designed to deliver 1.5 million dekatherms of natural gas per day beginning in November 2017.

Specifically, NEXUS proposes to perform the following activities:

- Construct approximately 208 miles of new 36-inch diameter pipeline and related above-ground facilities in Columbiana, Stark, Summit, Wayne, Medina, Lorain, Huron, Erie, Sandusky, Wood, Lucas, Henry, and Fulton Counties, Ohio;
- Construct approximately 47 miles of new 36-inch diameter pipeline and related above-ground facilities in Lenawee, Monroe, Washtenaw, and Wayne Counties, Michigan;
- Construct and operate four (4) new compressor stations in Columbiana, Medina, Sandusky and Lucas Counties, Ohio;
- Construct five (5) new meter stations; three (3) of which will be located in Columbiana County, Ohio; one (1) in Erie County, Ohio and one (1) in Washtenaw County, Michigan; and
- Additional above ground facilities including pig launchers and receivers, mainline valves, communications towers and customer delivery connections.

Notice of the Application will be mailed to affected landowners, and municipal, state and federal governments and agencies involved in the Project. A copy of the Application and related resource reports are on file in the following public libraries and/or municipal and county offices.

NEXUS Community Library List - Ohio

Carroll County
Carroll County District Library
70 NE 2nd Street
Carrollton, OH 44615

Columbiana County
Columbiana Public Library
332 N Middle St
Columbiana, OH 44408

Henry County
Napoleon Public Library
310 W Clinton Street
Napoleon, OH 43545

Huron County
Norwalk Public Library
46 W Main Street
Norwalk, OH 44857

Lorain County
Lorain Public Library - Main Library
351 6th St
Lorain, OH 44052

Erie County
Berlin Township Public Library
4 E Main St
Berlin Heights, OH 44814

Fulton County
Evergreen Community Library
253 Maple St
Metamora, OH 43540

Summit County
Akron Summit County Public Library - Green Branch
4046 Massillon Rd
Uniontown, OH 44685

Wayne County
Wayne County Public Library
169 N Portage St
Doylestown, OH 44230

Wood County
Pemberville Public Library
375 E Front St
Pemberville, OH 43450

(Continued on page 21)

Public Notice

(Continued from page 20)

Lucas County
Lucas County Public Library – Maumee
501 River Rd
Maumee, OH 43537

Medina County
The Ella M Everhard Public Library
132 Broad Street
Wadsworth, OH 44281

Sandusky County
Birchard Public Library
423 Croghan St
Fremont, OH 43420

Stark County
Rodman Public Library
215 E Broadway St
Alliance, OH 44601

NEXUS Community Library List - Michigan

Lenawee County
Blissfield Library
407 S Lane St
Blissfield, MI 49228

Monroe County
Monroe County Library
3700 S Custer Rd
Monroe, MI 48161

Washtenaw County
Ypsilanti District Library
229 W Michigan Ave
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Wayne County
Canton Public Library
1200 S Canton Center Rd
Canton, MI 48188

For further information on becoming an intervenor in the FERC process and/or to obtain FERC's pamphlet entitled "An Interstate Natural Gas Pipeline on My Land? What Do I Need to Know?" visit FERC's website (www.ferc.gov) or contact FERC's Office of External Affairs at (202) 502-6088 or the toll free NEXUS landowner hotline at 1 (844) 589-3655.

For more information, please contact:

Walton Johnson
Right-of-Way Manager
NEXUS Gas Transmission, LLC
P.O. Box 490
Sharon Center, OH 44274
www.nexusgastransmission.com

Publish: December 3, 2015; December 10, 2015

Turnaround

(continued from page 20)

"Are you a good district for everybody?" he asked. "Do you have children who come to this district that you don't take care of? I know the answer.

"We must meet the needs of any child who comes to you ... there's an urgency. Who's going to save them if we don't?"

He said there are Tiers programs that are a fad and PLC (Professional Learning Communities) that make teachers frustrated because systems are not in place to support that. Van Buren schools use both of those.

"You don't increase teachers skills by asking them to do *more*," he said.

He then said the first part of the new system to be installed is Talent Management, which is "not comfortable." He said the district is in the process of inventorying all the talent in the district. Then they decide how to keep the people in the jobs they're good at and to get some into a different line of work.

Board Trustee Sherry Frazier said that kind of scrutiny produces an anxious workforce always looking over their shoulder, not a cooperative, professional group.

"This is not aimed at removing people," Chandler replied, adding there is a level of discomfort "if we are aimed at saving children's lives."

He said the Blueprint requires principals to spend 80% of their time in the classrooms and the superintendent and central office staff have to spend 50% in the buildings partnering with principals.

Chandler said he knows that "Mike spends an exorbitant amount of time in the classrooms."

"There's uncomfortableness because of that," Trustee Frazier said.

"I have to disagree," Chandler said, pointing out that Van Tassel is the board's

(continued on page 23)

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Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

DECEMBER BOARD OF REVIEW CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN

NOTICE TO THE TAXPAYERS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF VAN BUREN CHARTER TOWNSHIP

The BOARD OF REVIEW of the Charter Township of Van Buren will meet at the Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Road on Tuesday, December 15, 2015 at 3:00 p.m.

The purpose of this meeting will be:

- 1) To correct clerical errors or mutual mistakes of fact;
- 2) Homestead exemption status; and
- 3) Poverty exemptions.

Any property owner who believes they qualify should call Van Buren Township Assessing Department at 734.699.8946 prior to December 11, 2015.

Leon Wright
Van Buren Charter Township

Publish: December 3, 2015
December 10, 2015

Post: December 1, 2015

Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

Out of the 591 dispatch calls reported by Van Buren Township police this week, the following are selected for this column.

Sunday, Nov. 29:
0043 – disorderly conduct, Hannan Rd.
0055 – disturbance, N. I-94 Service Dr.
0646 – vehicle repossession, Lighthouse Dr.
0758 – larceny from auto, Linda Vista Ct.
1042 – hospice, Hoeft Rd.
1128 – private property accident, Belleville Rd.
1536 – neighbor trouble, Bemis Rd.
1642 – breaking & entering motor vehicle, Bentley
1849 – noise complaint, Westlake
2031 – family trouble, Bradley Dr.

Monday, Nov. 30:
0216 – property damage accident, S. I-94 Service Dr. / Quirk Rd.
0307 – breaking & entering motor vehicle, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0324 – unauthorized driving away of auto, E. Archwood Dr.
0552 – personal injury accident, WB I-94 / Haggerty
0609 – personal injury accident, Haggerty/I-94
0618 – personal injury accident, I-94/Haggerty
0719 – larceny from auto, Beckley
0732 – property damage accident, Hannan Rd. / I-94 S. Service Dr.
0749 – larceny from auto, N. I-94 Service Dr.
0757 – larceny from auto, Beckley
0818 – larceny from auto, Marina Dr.
0820 – larceny from auto, Beckley Rd.
1033 – assault & battery, Haggerty Rd.
1114 – private property accident, Belle Tire
1234 – holdup alarm, Belleville Rd.
1236 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1300 – fraud, Evelyn Ct.
1312 – intimidation threat, S. Woodbury
1332 – fraud, Lake Crest Dr.
1603 – fight, Haggerty Rd./Ecorse Rd.
1806 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1828 – disorderly conduct, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1848 – family trouble, Village Green Ln.
1906 – disturbance, Belleville Rd.
2331 – narcotics crime, Spruce Ln.

Tuesday, Dec. 1:
0319 – vehicle repossession, S. Bellridge Dr.
0436 – property damage accident, Michigan Ave. / Denton Rd.
0759 – abandoned auto, Belleville Rd.
1048 – assault & battery, Peachtree
1141 – private property accident, Van Born Rd.
1159 – vehicle repossession, Village Green Ln.
1357 – ordinance violation, W. Huron River Dr.
1453 – malicious destruction of property, Van Born
1538 – property damage accident, Ecorse/Haggerty
1607 – fraud, Victoria St.
1622 – disorderly conduct, Belleville Rd.
1654 – assault & battery, Hamlin St.
1654 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / Lake Villa Dr.
1816 – agency assist, Karr
1818 – breaking & entering, Alba Ct.
1837 – agency assist, Bemis Rd.
1908 – larceny from auto, Kirkridge Park Dr.
1923 – noise complaint, Sugarbush
1930 – retail fraud, Rawsonville Rd.
2149 – larceny, Quirk Rd.
2226 – shots fired, Sumpter Rd.

Wednesday, Dec. 2:
0008 – noise complaint, S. Ponderosa Trl.
0552 – larceny from auto, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0827 – larceny, Robbe Rd.
0956 – private property accident, Lighthouse Dr.
1004 – ordinance violation, N. Timberview Dr.
1027 – private property accident, S. Ponderosa Trl.
1123 – assault & battery, Landmark
1126 – animal complaint, Van Buren Park
1129 – malicious destruction of property, Kirkridge Park Dr.
1226 – property damage accident, Beck/Tyler
1317 – weapons violation, Haggerty Rd.
1341 – ordinance violation, Rawsonville
1438 – dumping complaint, Morton Taylor / Timberview
1519 – abandoned auto, E. Huron River Dr.
1522 – assault & battery, Hull Rd.

1553 – larceny, Denton Rd.
1605 – hunting complaint, Country Walk Sub.
1607 – malicious destruction of property, Beckley
1610 – neighbor trouble, Haggerty Rd.
1631 – unauthorized driving away of auto, E. Archwood Dr.
2154 – trespassing, Bak Rd.
2254 – property damage accident, Price Rd.
2315 – property damage accident, Haggerty Rd. / E. Huron River Dr.

Thursday, Dec. 3:
0422 – breaking & entering, Wheeler St.
0754 – assault & battery, W. Archwood Dr.
0821 – fight, Parkwood Manor
0949 – larceny from auto, Wheeler St.
1141 – personal injury accident, Denton/Beckley
1153 – disorderly conduct, Meijer
1155 – vehicle repossession, Village Center Dr.
1210 – missing person, Quirk Rd.
1410 – ordinance violation, Jackson
1452 – intimidation threat, Basswood Cir.
1500 – juvenile complaint, McBride Ave. / Chatsworth Dr.
1500 – private property accident, Bayshore Dr.
1534 – larceny, Rawsonville
1541 – noise complaint, Victoria St./Winchester St
1607 – unattended death, Ecorse Rd.
1614 – larceny from auto, Barkley St.
1726 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / S. I-94 Service Dr.
1734 – overdose, Jackson Ct.
1830 – private property accident, Belleville Rd./Westlake Cir.
1942 – larceny, Arthur St.
2130 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.

Friday, Dec. 4:
0025 – disturbance, Meadows Cir.
0612 – vehicle repossession, Fairbanks St.
1211 – malicious destruction of property, Beck Rd.
1406 – assault & battery, Parkwood Dr.
1555 – property damage accident, Belleville / Ecorse
1714 – narcotics crime, Maple Dr.
1854 – property damage accident, Hull Rd.
1903 – disturbance, Sumpter Rd.
1914 – welfare check, W. I-94 rest area

Saturday, Dec. 5:
0151 – property damage accident, Milton Dr.
0215 – operating while intoxicated, Ecorse / Lindsey
0320 – unattended death, Parkwood Dr.
0932 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd. / W. Huron River Dr.
1047 – malicious destruction of property, Lake Villa Dr.
1058 – personal injury accident, Rawsonville / Grove

Also on this week’s log are 166 traffic stops, with eight of those on the I-94 and I-275 freeways, nine on High and Main streets in the city of Belleville and two at Hayward’s in the city of Belleville.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Nov. 29:
0003 – disturbance, Egan’s
0715 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
1536 – animal complaint, Huron River
1954 – warrant arrest, Sumpter/Bemis
2024 – civil matter, Carmell St.

Monday, Nov. 30:
0200 – warrant arrest, Huron/I-94
0535 – intrusion alarm, Sumpter Rd.
0635 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
0728 – water leak found, Sumpter Rd.
1522 – assist fire dept., Sumpter Rd.
1723 – malicious destruction of property, Victory Park
1822 – juvenile complaint, N. Aberdeen Ct.
2011 – larceny, Harbour Pointe Dr.
2049 – assist fire dept., E. Huron River Dr.
2305 – assist fire dept., Roland St.

Tuesday, Dec. 1:
1252 – larceny, Main St.
1309 – miscellaneous complaint, Main St.
1513 – assist fire dept., N. Liberty St.
1553 – civil matter, Main St.
1606 – civil matter, Carmell St.
1701 – assault & battery, Astor Pl.

1815 – agency assist, Karr
1852 – agency assist, Bemis
1934 – assist fire dept., N. Liberty St.
2022 – suspicious vehicle, N. Liberty/Fifth St.
2108 – assist fire dept., Robbe St.
2223 – shots fired, Sumpter Rd.

Wednesday, Dec. 2:
0201 – vehicle repossession, Belle Villa
0918 – found property, Main St.
1007 – assist fire dept., Belle Villa Blvd.
1639 – assist fire dept., Third St.
1755 – suspicious person, Astor
1930 – fraud, South St.

Thursday, Dec. 3:
0540 – vehicle lockout, Church St.
1036 – fight, Belle Villa Blvd.
1105 – abandoned auto, Second St.

Friday, Dec. 4:
0125 – suspicious vehicle, Family Dollar
0722 – suspicious situation, High St./Main St.
0727 – assist fire dept., Santa Clara St.
1119 – E-911 hang up/investigation, W. Columbia
1220 – follow up, Westlake
1401 – assault & battery, W. Columbia Ave.
1632 – domestic assault, Loza Ln.
1804 – vehicle lockout, E. Columbia Ave.
1908 – disturbance, Belle Villa
2249 – assist fire dept., Belle Villa Blvd.

Saturday, Dec. 5:
0350 – suspicious person, Belle Plaza
0719 – intrusion alarm, E. Columbia Ave.
0847 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
1407 – property damage accident, Fifth/Roys
1834 – intrusion alarm, Robbe St.
1848 – trespassing, Carmell St.
1942 – intimidation threat, South St.
2145 – suspicious situation, Carmell St.

Also on this week’s log are 44 traffic stops.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Nov. 29:
1032 – warrant arrest pick up, out of township
2351 – suspicious vehicle, 28000 bl. Haggerty Rd.

Monday, Nov. 30:
0658 – weapons offense, Martinsville/Willis
0801 – fire dept. assist, Rustic Ln.
1043 – suspicious person, 49000 bl. Arkona Rd.
1144 – civil dispute, 25000 bl. Clark Rd.
1420 – fire dept. assist, Martinsville/Willow
1601 – suspicious incident, 44000 bl. Harris Rd.
1704 – reckless driver, Rawsonville/Bemis
1750 – suspicious incident, 50000 bl. Willis Rd.
1912 – suspicious incident, Wear/Sumpter
1920 – warrant arrest pick up, out of township
2319 – property damage accident, Savage/Bemis

Tuesday, Dec. 1:
1709 – suspicious person, Wayside
1725 – breaking & entering report, Timberlane
2041 – fire dept. assist, 49000 bl. Sherwood Ct.

Wednesday, Dec. 2:
1423 – fraud complaint, 21000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1513 – fire dept. assist, 28000 bl. Clark Rd.
1525 – larceny, Carriage Ln.
1806 – civil dispute, 25000 bl. Clark Rd.
2007 – mental health commitment, 44000 bl. Paris
2055 – suspicious vehicle, 50000 bl. Bemis Rd.
2129 – warrant arrest pick up, 13000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.

Thursday, Dec. 3:
0943 – juvenile complaint, 23000 bl. Sherwood Rd
1016 – suspicious incident, 22000 bl. Bohn Rd.
1020 – fire dept. assist, 46000 bl. Traskos
1114 – warrant arrest pick up, 23000 bl. Sumpter
1340 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1455 – warrant arrest pick up, 8100 bl. Rawsonville Rd.

1523 – subpoena service, 25000 bl. Martinsville
1834 – subpoena service, 25000 bl. Martinsville
1850 – subpoena service, Third St.
1918 – well-being check, Redwood
2013 – warrant arrest pick up, out of township
2118 – subpoena service, out of township
2220 – fire dept. assist, 28000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

Friday, Dec. 4:
0741 – property damage accident, Bemis/Bak
0851 – warrant arrest pick up, 50000 bl. Bemis Rd
1030 – suspicious incident, 45000 bl. Harris Rd.
1154 – suspicious person, 25000 bl. Clark Rd.

1224 – death investigation, 46000 bl. Kozma Rd.
1254 – civil dispute, 47000 bl. Judd Rd.
1424 – fire dept. assist, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1716 – fire dept. assist, 24000 bl. Karr Rd.
1853 – civil dispute, 47000 bl. Judd Rd.

Saturday, Dec. 5:
0010 – suspicious vehicle, 45000 bl. Harris Rd.
0042 – suspicious person, 27000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
0901 – assist other agency, 42000 bl. Willow Rd.
1040 – fire dept. assist, 42000 bl. Bemis Rd.
1220 – animal bite, 27000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
1508 – civil dispute, Pecan
1655 – suspicious incident, 46000 bl. Wear Rd.
2039 – well-being check, 43000 bl. Judd Rd.
2331 – open-burning complaint, 46000 bl. Reed

Also on this week’s log are 14 follow-up investigations, 33 miscellaneous details, 152 patrol checks, and 89 traffic stops.

Court Watching: VBT murder suspect set for preliminary exam on Dec. 9 at 34th District Ct.

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Frederick Dewitt Lamphier, 78, was scheduled to appear before 34th District Court Chief Judge Tina Brooks Green on Dec. 9 to face a charge of second-degree murder.

Van Buren Township Police Lt. Charles Bazzy said the suspect got into a fight with the victim at Cedar Woods Assisted Living on Dec. 4, 2013 and the victim died later from the injury sustained in the fight. Lamphier lives in an assisted living facility.

If Judge Green finds there is reason to believe he may have done the crime, she will bind him over to the higher court and he will go on to the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice on Dec. 16 for an arraignment on the information.

Lamphier was brought from the Wayne County Jail for his Dec. 2 probable cause conference, but did not appear in Judge Brian Oakley’s courtroom. His court-appointed attorney demanded holding Lamphier’s preliminary exam on Dec. 9.

The recommendation for a warrant was approved on Aug. 22, 2014. He is being held on \$10,000/10% bond. VBT Detective Ken Toney is the officer in charge of the case.

Anthony Curtis Riley, Jr.

Anthony Curtis Riley, Jr., 33, waived his upcoming preliminary exam and Judge Oakley bound him over to circuit court for an arraignment on the information Dec. 16.

Riley is charged with using a computer to commit a crime, identity theft, and four counts of stealing with a financial transaction device, all on Oct. 20, 2014 in Van Buren Township.

He posted his \$25,000/10% bond. VBT Det. Donovan McCarthy is the officer in charge of the case.

Steven Tyler Schmittling

Steven Tyler Schmittling, 26, had his probable cause conferences set for Dec. 2 on charges out of Sumpter Township and Belleville and his court-appointment attorney demanded his preliminary exams on Dec. 9.

He is charged by Sumpter Township with breaking and entering of a building with intent on Oct. 18, 2014. Sumpter Detective John Toth is the officer in charge.

He also is charged by the city of Belleville with possession of narcotics, less than 25 grams, on Dec. 15, 2014. He was named a habitual offender on June 29 when his warrant for this offense was approved by the Wayne County Prosecutor’s office. Belleville officer in charge is K. Nickrand.

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13TH 11AM

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Turnaround

(continued from page 21)

only employee and he cannot possibly do his work in his office because children are in the classrooms.

He said "Mike and Jeff" [Curriculum Director Jeff Moore] have rated all the employees. Van Tassel rated his principals and his principals rated their teachers.

"If he doesn't take charge, we don't get the results we want," Chandler said of Van Tassel.

"We're ripping the Band Aids off, layer after layer," he said. "If you can do this in Van Buren, you provide stories and you can save students across the country - names you'll never know."

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

- Accepted \$23,000 in grants for teachers from the Van Buren Public School Education Foundation;

- Approved the annual tax collection resolution that calls for 100% of the school taxes to be collected in the summer;

- Approved the Schools of Choice program declaration for "a limited number of openings" for the second semester. When asked for details, none were available;

- Approved setting the annual organizational meeting for 7 p.m., Jan. 11, in the Commons area at Belleville High School;

- Approved accepting the Nov. 25 resignation of Athletic Director/BHS Assistant Principal Jon Zajac after two

years of service "to take another position closer to home";

- Approved hiring Bonnie Lopez as counselor at McBride as of Nov. 23, Meghann Ginstet as teacher at Owen as of Nov. 30, and Jessica Roberts as teacher at McBride as of Dec. 14;

- Approved the resignation of Kathryn Zalewski from Transportation after one year as of Dec. 3, and the retirement of Lorraine Kennedy from Transportation after 17 years as of Jan. 4; and

- Approved hiring Brandi Dalton as custodian at McBride as of Dec. 2.

Santa coming to library at 6:30 p.m. Dec. 21

Santa is coming to the Belleville Library on Monday, Dec. 21, 6:30-8 p.m. He will have a short story time before hearing individual wishes.

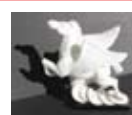
If children are too shy to approach Santa, they can always write down their wish list or even whisper in his ear. It's a great photo opportunity for parents so they are invited to bring their cameras.



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BELLEVILLE LAKE



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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 Premier 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.



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



40085 ROBBE, VAN BUREN
STORY BOOK LOOK Country Home on Quiet Street Buckingand Backs Up To Metroparks. Upgraded with Thermal Windows, Oak Kitchen, Remodeled Bath, First Floor Master Bedroom and Large Laundry Room, Berber Carpeting and more. Impressive Yard and Qualified Buyers Only. \$134,900.



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



22005 KARR SUMPTER TWP
A most Restful Country Address offering 4 bedrooms, Large Country Kitchen, First Floor Study with built in Book Shelves, Updated Bath and Charm only Improved with Age. A Mini-Farm that Provides Maximum Pleasure on more than 2 Acres Complete with A Large Red Barn. Approved Buyers Only. \$134,900

23+ ACRES!



10744 WILLIS, WILLIS
UPDATED AND BEAUTIFULLY MAINTAINED Custom Built 3 Bedroom 2 1/2 Bath 1,650 square Foot Ranch on 23+ Acres. Large Country Kitchen with Hardwood Floors, Granite Countertops, and Doorwall to your Deck overlooking Lush Farmlands plus Extra Large Second Garage. Shows like New. \$350,000



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

PRICE IMPROVED!



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
ELWIS 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
VINE AND SIBLEY 21+ ACRES \$450,000
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 HAWKINS RD 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



2015 F-150 SUPERCAB XLT

4x4

24 month lease for

\$221/mo.*

REBATES UP TO \$6,000.

BUY AS LOW AS \$32,498.



2016 FUSION SE

24 month lease for

\$109/mo.*

REBATES UP TO \$4,000

BUY AS LOW AS \$18,845.



2015 FOCUS SE

24 month lease for

\$111/mo.*

REBATES UP TO \$3,500. BUY AS LOW AS \$15,289

**New
DETAIL SHOP
NOW OPEN!**



2016 ESCAPE SE

24 month lease for

\$128/mo.*

REBATES UP TO \$4,000. BUY AS LOW AS \$20,758.



2015 EDGE SE AWD

24 month lease for

\$212/mo.*

REBATES UP TO \$2,500.

BUY AS LOW AS \$25,757.

USED CAR SPECIAL



2013 MKZ AWD

Loaded. 30,000 miles.

\$22,388



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*A/Z Plan Pricing. 10,500 miles per year. Includes Factory and Renewal Rebate. Requires \$2000 due at signing plus taxes and plates. With Approved Credit. **A/Z Plan Pricing. All rebates to Dealer. May require Ford Credit Financing. Plus taxes and fees. May require trade-in.