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BELLEVILLE-AREA
INDEPENDENT

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Van Buren Township announces Tractor Supply store coming

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Van Buren Township Supervisor Kevin McNamara and Director of Planning and Economic Development announced that Tractor Supply has submitted an application to build at the corner of Sumpter and Hull roads.

The announcement was made at the Dec. 6 joint meeting of the planning commissions from Van Buren Township, city of Belleville, and Sumpter Township that brought about 30 people together at Belleville High School to discuss local planning issues.

Those attending also included elected officials and employees from Belleville and VBT. This is the first such joint meeting in six years.

Supervisor McNamara said the application from Tractor Supply first goes to staff review and then to the planning commission.

"This is the first company we ever went after," McNamara said of his administration. "Sharry wanted it," he said, referring to Township Treasurer Sharry Budd who is the board liaison to the planning commission.

Tractor Supply is known to local residents who visit the stores in Monroe, Trenton, and the newest one on Michigan Avenue in Canton. Tractor Supply has placed two advertising circulars in the *Independent* over the past year.

According to its website, one of Tractor Supply's main competitors is Ace Hardware and Ace Hardware has been located for many years just down Sumpter Road in Sumpter Township.

Other competitors are Home Depot, Harbour Freight, and Lowe's.

Founded in 1938, Tractor Supply is an American retail chain of stores that sells products for home improvement, agriculture, lawn and garden maintenance, livestock, equine and pet care for recreational farmers and ranchers, pet owners, and landowners.

The announcement that Tractor Supply is coming to Van Buren Township was made during discussion on going after businesses for each community.

McNamara said that he keeps hearing about redevelopment. He said when Ron Akers left the township (he has since returned), Elizabeth Renaud, an intern, became a star.

VBT Commissioner Medina Atchinson said Renaud became a super star, especially in community engagement. She said when surveys on what the community wanted came up short, Renaud went door to door knocking and people told her what they want.

(continued on page 3)

VB School Board again gives Supt. Kudlak top job evaluation

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

On Monday, after a second closed-door session to evaluate the work of School Supt. Pete Kudlak, the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education voted unanimously in open session to rate Supt. Kudlak as "Highly Effective," the top rating, for the calendar year January/December 2023.

The "Highly Effective" rating is at the top of the chart on the multi-page Michigan Association of School Boards' evaluation form. The board also gave him the top rating in its 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022 evaluations.

The five-year contract the board approved at this time last year is still in place and the raise he got last year, to $165,000, is still

(continued on page 17)

Photo courtesy of Scott Nichols
Accident at 111 Bedell at about noon on Monday, Dec. 11.

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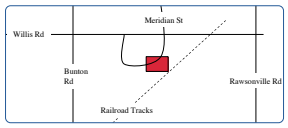

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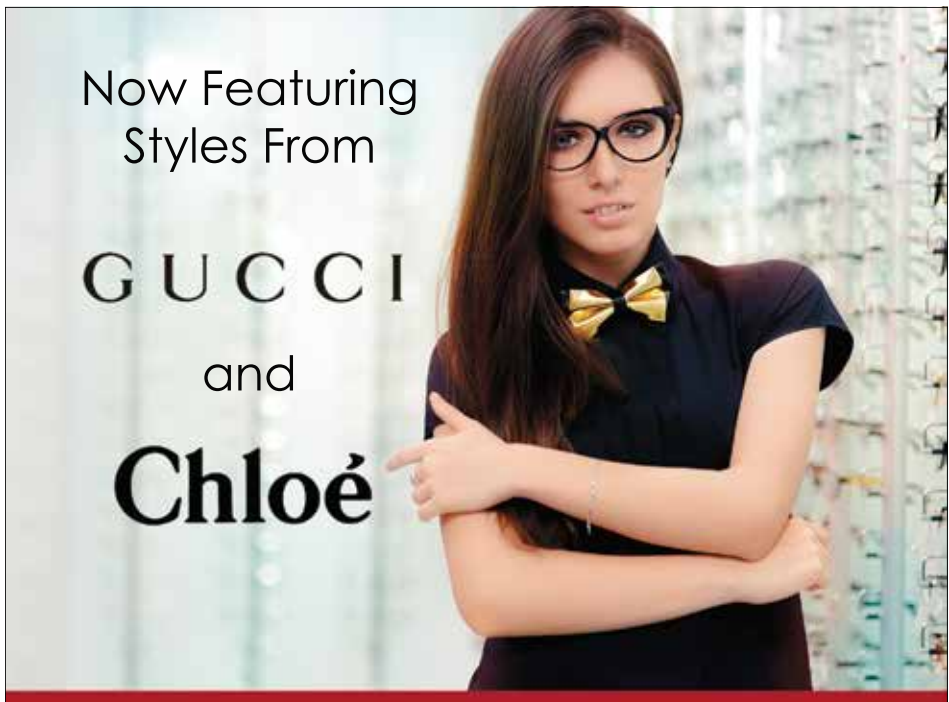

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SECOND FRONT PAGE

Planning

(continued from page 1)

McNamara said Van Buren Township doesn't have an economic development department, so "Ron [Akers] does it. I do it. Dan [Power] does it," referring to talking to businesses.

The tri-community meeting of planners was set up by Van Buren Township who invited the other two communities to come together to discuss local planning issues.

Those at the meeting indicated they wanted to continue to have these joint meetings in the future, so the next meeting was set for 5 p.m., May 1, at the Belleville Area District Library. VBT Trustee Donald Boynton suggested the format allow everyone to sit in a circle, so they all could see each other, and to have a microphone and speakers, so they could all hear each other.

The group voted unanimously to appoint VBT Planning Commission Chairman Jerry Cullin as chairman of the Dec. 6 meeting.

Over the two-hour meeting, the group discussed:

• **The vacant Kmart store in VBT.** McNamara said a developer will build luxury apartments in that area, which is lakeside, if the growing greenery that blocks travel in the lake can be cleaned up;

• **The jigsaw puzzle** on the east side of Sumpter Road, where Belleville and Van Buren Township parcels are located side by side;

• **How the city of Belleville is considered the downtown** area for both townships. John Juriga, who said he has spent 25 years on the Belleville Planning Commission and five years on the VBT commission before that, noted that all three want downtown Belleville as their downtowns. It has a great school, library, and shopping. Chairman Cullin said, "We all live in Belleville and the city of Belleville lives on the lake";

• **The three master plans**, with Belleville and Sumpter looking at updates. Belleville Mayor Ken Voigt said in the last four years the administration in the city changed almost 100%. He said the master plan will be on the front burner of his administration. He, too, said the three communities are connected and the political jurisdictions are apart from that;

• **The rebuilt gas station** at the corner of Bemis and Sumpter in Sumpter Township. Cullin complimented the building and he asked what is being built in Belleville. City project administrator Steve Jones said the city is pretty built out. Atchinson said business creates more business. She asked about a movie theater and parking structure downtown;

• **Parking in Belleville**. Jones said Belleville has limited square footage in the city and shuttle service from the north side of the bridge could be arranged, such as from Menards or Planet Fitness. He said in Florida one community encourages business employees to park in general parking lots and then they are transported by golf carts to their jobs, saving valuable parking spots for customers. Also the golf carts can take people for a tour around town and back to the parking area;

• **Property owned by the city** on Main Street behind the car wash and Frosty Boy. Juriga said that area is landlocked and could be a parking lot. Voigt said it has alley access to Second Street. He said the restaurants already opened in the city are causing stress on parking;

• **The huge parking lot on Sumpter Road** near Belle Villa. Atchinson said people could pay $5 to park there and be taken to Belleville and shown around. "Everyone wants to go on a golfcart ride," she said;

• **A round-about at Five Points**. McNamara said, when he was county commissioner, city officials told him they would have to take out the gas station owned by Ed Memering for a round-about because the county didn't want to acquire property. "Actually, I don't know if you'd want one there," McNamara said;

• **A grocery store in Belleville**. Atchinson said a grocery store might be a good way to fill vacancies on Main Street. Cullin said it was too bad the city lost the hardware store and the CVS next door. Jones said people have said they want a grocery store and a coffee shop. He said they have a coffee shop and the Butcher Shop that opened recently doubles as a grocery store. Voigt said Scott Jones, who developed the shopping center at the bridge, tried mightily to recruit a grocery store;

• **Shoppers on the south end**. Sumpter Planning Commissioner John Honey said he goes to Trenton and Monroe to shop. Belleville Commissioner Becky Hasen said a lot in her neighborhood, in the condos at Belle Villa, go to the dollar store nearby or the gas station/market at Willis Road, rather than go through Belleville and drive over the bridge and freeway;

• **How to get a grocery store**. VBT Commissioner Jeff Jahr said as planners they can't make grocery stores appear, but they can make it clear to developers that grocery stores would be welcomed. He said the VBT commission tried to put incentives in its Sumpter Road Overlay Plan;

• **State grants for redevelopment**. Akers said the Michigan Economic Development Corporation has a redevelopment process on its website with tons of resources available. He said VBT got a $15,000 grant. Voigt said Belleville had that in its plans and was going to ask VBT for help. He said it had been discussed for about three years and it didn't happen. "I've only been mayor for two days," Voigt said;

• **VBT's plan that changed Belleville developer's project**. Belleville Planning Commission Chairman Michael Hawkins said the "slip stream" on the east side of Sumpter Road that is in the VBT Sumpter Road Overlay District, caused one property owner to change his plans and cut his development in half. He referred to the apartments Davenport Brothers will build just north of the Senior Co-Op apartments on Belleville parcels that was first planned to wrap around the veterinarian clinic, where the parcels are in VBT. McNamara said he didn't know about any problem and Power said it was more a conceptual idea and they could work with the city;

• **Rural feel south of the city**. Cullin said people south of town wanted to retain a rural feel. Voigt said he liked the mixed uses in the Sumpter Road Overlay plan. "People don't want it sanitary. They like it all jumbled together," Voigt said, who has noted earlier that his college minor was in municipal planning;

• **Denton Road Bridge**. McNamara invited the communities to participate in the survey on how they want the rebuilt bridge to look. Hasan asked if a link could be put on the Belleville website to make it easier for city residents to participate in the survey. Atchinson said she learned in planning commission training that development from the top down is cumbersome and when it's done everyone hates it. She said development from the bottom up with everyone's ideas, works well. McNamara said the county has agreed to make the bridge one inch higher than the Belleville Road bridge and to have two-way passage. He said the county said work can't be done on the bridge until July, after the fish are done breeding. Plans were discussed for boardwalks from, possibly, the former DNR property north of the bridge to Doane's Landing and then on to the far end of Horizon Park;

• **Country living.** Sumpter Planning Commission Chairwoman Jane Stalmack said in Sumpter Township they want country living. Jahr said in southern VBT, they want country living, too;

• **Belleville Lake**. Cullin said the lake has been a draw for all of the communities. Since the early days people would come from other communities to enjoy Susterka Lake and Belleville Lake. Jones said the city finished lakeside Horizon Park amenities 13 years ago and it started with a grant from Wayne County through Commissioner McNamara. He said now they have added day slips and a kayak launch and the park is very well used. Jones

(continued on page 16)

Independent photo by Rosemary K. Otzman

Members of the planning commissions from Belleville, Van Buren Township, and Sumpter Township met together in a joint session at Belleville High School Commons on Dec. 6. Some elected officials from Belleville and Van Buren Township also were present.

OPINIONS

Editorial

Tri-community commissions compare plans

There were about 30 people present at the Dec. 6 cooperative meeting of the three planning commissions for the tri-communities of Van Buren Township, Sumpter Township, and the city of Belleville.

About half of that number were members of the three planning commissions, with the rest being elected and appointed officials and a planning consultant.

The members of the commissions talked about anything that they thought would be of the interest to the other communities.

There were a few things that hadn't been discussed in public before, like the plan for Tractor Supply to build a store on the corner of Sumpter and Hull roads. That's a big deal for the rural area on the south side of Van Buren Township. It also will no doubt bump heads with one of its national competitors, Ace Hardware, just down the road in Sumpter.

Belleville and Van Buren Township officials told of their hopes to build a boardwalk. It could start on the former DNR property on the water just north of the Belleville Bridge and then go to Doane's Landing and along the lakeside to the far end of Horizon Park.

And, other ideas that were new.

Those from the three communities agreed it was a good idea to share their plans and ideas and will do it again on May 1, if all goes well. It's always better to know.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

We thank Barbara Miller for now being able to hear at the school board meetings. She scolded the board at its last meeting in November and at its first meeting in December (on Monday) board members had new microphones and the few members of the audience could hear them.

I also was offered a small gadget that I could plug in my ear and for the first time ever I was able to hear comments from two board members who didn't talk into their microphones at past meetings. When I described the gadget to my son Jim, he said they had those 40 years ago at the Shrine of the Little Flower in Royal Oak.

Some people who used to go to the school board meetings told me they no longer go because they couldn't hear what was going on. Barbara told the board members it was their duty to communicate with the public they serve. I don't have trouble hearing at other meetings I attend, by the way.

***

The party store at the corner of Haggerty and E. Huron River Drive in Van Buren Township is making great strides in its plan to become a gas station, a project that has been under way for about five years.

The parking lot has a new, smooth surface and the canopy for the gas pumps is being put in place, a requirement before the pumps are added. The inside of the store was upgraded quite a while back. It's looking good.

But Andy at the store is very concerned about the wastewater situation. He said the store put in a $300,000 underground water detention system that cleans the water runoff before it heads into the county drain system, as required, and spent another $3,000 to get all the pipes cleaned out under the parking lot. This was all hooked up to the county drain pipes, but when we had the recent rain, the water backed up and flooded the new parking lot.

He said he called Wayne County and the county sent out a plumber, who worked for a long time, but couldn't poke through to the county pipe and told Andy the cement pipe under Haggerty Road was broken. He also told Andy the water would flow around the broken pipe and wash away the soil and the road will collapse. He showed him the crack across the road where it will happen.

Andy got a county case number and a county telephone number and has been regularly calling to ask for help before it collapses. He reports the person who answers is getting testy with him for all the calls, but he sees this as an emergency. His general contractor advises him to keep calling even if he gets yelled at. Andy said he hasn't called the township because he knows they will tell him that it's not the township's road.

It would be a shame if a nice, new gas station at that corner is cut off from business by a collapsed road, let alone cutting off motorists from their regular routes to and from the freeway.

***

Last Thursday, Dec. 7, we received an envelope containing a bill that we had sent out to an advertising insert customer, who bills out of Texas. It was marked by the post office as "Nixie. Return to Sender. Not deliverable as addressed. Unable to forward."

The bill was sent out through the U.S. Postal Service on Aug. 24, 2023 and we got it returned on Dec. 7. We checked the address and found it is correct and we've been using it for a long time. The customer also had asked to be billed by email and the customer paid this bill a long time ago. Makes you wonder where this envelope has been for 15 weeks.

***

Crain's Detroit Business announced on Sunday that Our Next Energy, which is putting together a $1.6 billion manufacturing plant on Ecorse Road in Van Buren Township, announced it is replacing founder and CEO Mujeeb Ijaz as top executive due to a failed funding round and a cash crunch. The new CEO is Paul Humphries.

ONE has about $200 million in state grants. Last month it announced it was laying off 128 people, about 25% of its staff, in response to market conditions and to focus on "core priorities."

The 3-year-old startup is developing batteries that use lithium-iron phosphate chemistry technology, which is less expensive and more stable than the nickel-based lithium-ion batteries popular in the West, *Crain's* said.

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Deadline for news & ads (see below) is Noon of every Monday. Deadline for ads smaller than 1/2 page is Noon Monday, and all advertising 1/2 page or larger is Noon Friday, with the exception of certain holiday weeks. Classified ad deadline is Noon of every Tuesday.

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Letters

Meijer Simply Give Double Day is Dec. 16

To the editor:

This Saturday, Dec. 16, will be Meijer Simply Give **Double Day** at the Belleville Meijer store located at 9701 Belleville Rd.

This is the Emergency Food Closet's biggest fundraiser. The Emergency Food Closet, housed at Belleville First United Methodist Church, 417 Charles St., has passed out 761 more bags from Jan. 1-Nov. 30, 2023 than during the same time period in 2022.

On Dec. 16, your $10 donation will be matched by Meijer with $20 for a total donation of $30! If we can raise $5,000 locally, Meijer will match up to $10,000 for a total donation of $15,000.

Thank you for your continued support to feed the hungry in our community.

Marilyn Wood, coordinator
Emergency Food Closet
Belleville

Join us on Christmas Eve for service, concert

Dear Neighbors:

In preparation for Christmas and "The Coming of the Messiah: The Birth of Jesus," join your neighbors and friends at Bethany Bible Church on Dec. 24, Sunday morning (11 a.m.) Worship Service.

On Christmas Eve, Sunday, Dec. 24, at 5 p.m., Bethany Bible Church is inviting you, your family and friends to attend their annual Christmas Choir Concert presenting "Wonder of Wonders."

(Mrs.) Ruth E. Bleeker
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Chamber of Commerce announces Winter Fest's Soup Crawl winners

The Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce announced the winners of the 2023 Winter Fest Soup Crawl. Eight restaurants participated and more than 130 "judges" participated in the event that Clement Insurance sponsored.

1st place: Chicken Enchilada Soup at Gloria Jean Café & Bakery;

2nd place and Fan Favorite: Tom Yum at Baan Phad Thai; and

3rd place: Stuffed Pepper Soup at Rusted Crow on the Lake.

Saundra Hightower, agency owner of Clement Insurance, drew the names of two participants who each won a gift card basket featuring the restaurants that participated in the Soup Crawl. Winners were Chuck Brock and Colleen Holder.

Volunteers needed to help place wreaths at Romulus cemetery

The Romulus Veterans of Foreign Wars announced volunteers are still needed for the annual Wreaths Across America project at noon this Saturday, Dec. 16, at Romulus Memorial Cemetery.

The City of Romulus once again is participating in the annual recognition of veterans which takes place throughout the country on Dec. 16.

The national event is a gathering of volunteers and patriots in local, state and national cemeteries in all 50 states -- most recently at 3,702 participating locations -- as part of National Wreaths Across America Day.

Each year, a new theme is chosen to help volunteers and supporters focus their outreach in their communities. The national nonprofit theme for 2023 is "Serve and Succeed."

The Dec. 16 event in Romulus is free and open to the public.

Dec. 15 – Gloria Dougherty
Dec. 16 – Nashlan Robinson
Dec. 18 – Rhonda Dutton
Dec. 21 – Judi Speir-Crawford

Do you have a birthday soon? Does someone you know have a birthday? Let us know and we will print the name as soon as possible. For more information, call (734) 699-9020.

Obituaries

Joann Mason

JOANN MASON

(June 18, 1940 – December 10, 2023)

Joann Mason, age 83, of Van Buren Township, Michigan passed away on Sunday, December 10, 2023 at her residence, with her daughters by her side.

Born on June 18, 1940 in Belleville, Michigan, she was the daughter of Martin and Celia (Tabaczynski) Glinski. On August 6, 1960 she married Ronald Mason in St. Anthony Catholic Church, Belleville, MI.

She was employed with Wayne County as a Human Resource Specialist before retiring.

Joann was a member of the Order of the Eastern Star. She was a very social person who enjoyed hosting events for family and friends with her husband, Ron. She loved to laugh and was young at heart, especially with her grandchildren. She was dedicated to her Polish heritage. In addition, she adored her many beloved furry friends.

Joann was preceded in death by her parents Martin and Celia, her husband Ron, her son Dan, her daughter Baby Girl Mason, and her siblings Cecilia, Eleanor, Delores and Raymond. She is survived by her daughters Mary Jo (Jeff) Orr, Sharon (Greg) Smith; grandchildren Stephanie Orr, Brad (Jori) Orr, Kelly (Brandon) Krivensky, Andrew Smith, Scott Smith, Morgan Smith, Joshua Mason, Jacob Mason; great-grandchild Naomi Orr; along with many loved family members and friends. Visitation will be held at Bobcean Funeral Home, Flat Rock Chapel on Friday, December 15, 2023 from 12:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Funeral Services will be held at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church on Saturday, December 16, 2023 at 11:00 am. Rev. John W. Schwartz will officiate the service.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in her memory may be made to Leader Dogs for the Blind or Penrickton Center for the Blind. Condolences @ www.bobceanfuneralhome.com .

Sumpter Twp. board meets in closed-door session on Dec. 6

The Sumpter Township Board of Trustees met in a special closed-door session on Dec. 6.

The only business item on the agenda was the closed session to consider the township attorney's opinion of a compliance conference conducted under Section 16231 of the public health code 1978PA 368, MCL 333.16231.

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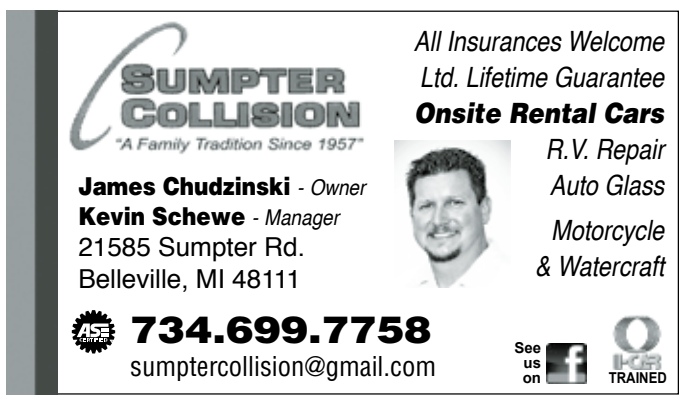
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Obituaries

Gregory Len Phillips

GREGORY LEN PHILLIPS
(May 8, 1965 – November 30, 2023)
Gregory Len "Porcupine" Phillips, age 58, long-time Van Buren Township resident, passed away Thursday, November 30, 2023, at St. Mary's Hospital, Livonia, MI, He was born May 8, 1965, in Wayne, MI, son of Leonard Phillips and Joanne Goupill. He graduated from Wayne Memorial High School, class of 1983. He enjoyed hunting, collecting guns, and going to the shooting range. Most of all, he loved riding his Harley, working on motorcycles, and cars, and going to the racetrack in Milan and Flat Rock, MI.
Porcupine, as his friends affectionately called him, is survived by his siblings: Robert and Barbara Goupill; and Bob and Shelby Dennis, who treated him like a son; his adopted son Robby Phillips; many cousins including Shirley Grieve of Belleville, MI; good friend and brother Steve Olchanski and his family; also numerous extended family and friends. He was preceded in death by his father.
To honor his wishes, cremation rites have been accorded. Arrangements by David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI (734) 697-4500.
A Celebration of Life is being planned for January 2024, and will be announced.
Memorial contributions may be made to the American Diabetes Association and would be appreciated.
www.davidcbrownfh.com

CHRISTINE FRANCIS
(February 7, 1943 – December 9, 2023)
Age 80 of Belleville. Survived by husband Thomas Francis; daughter Noreen; three siblings; five grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren. Service was Dec. 13 at David C. Brown Funeral Home.
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Mary Garbarino

MARY GARBARINO
(July 20, 1950 – December 11, 2023)
Mary Garbarino, of Belleville, MI, passed away in her home on December 11, 2023 at the age of 73 surrounded by family. Born in Detroit, MI to parents Raymond Garbarino & Clara Garbarino, she pursued a long-time career in teaching math within the Huron School District where she touched many lives with her large heart and passion for helping others. She will always be remembered for her ability to shop any bargain, making sure to spread joy to anyone she met along the way. Everyone that she met along the way could call her friend; there was no stranger in the world to her.
Mary is survived by her self-adopted daughter Sheila Stranyak; her inherited grandsons Joseph Stranyak & Thomas Stranyak; her siblings Judi (Michael) Willard, Linda Garbarino, Sandra (Louis) Shannon, & Raymond (Kimberly) Garbarino; her nieces Jessica Shannon, Megan Shannon, & Alyssa Garbarino; her nephews Ryan Shannon & Anthony Garbarino; her great-nieces Mia Shannon, Carmela Solarzano, Selma Solarzano, & Esperanza Solarzano; her great-nephew Theodore Garbarino; as well as many friends and neighbors.
She was preceded in death by her parents.
Arrangements by David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville. www.davidcbrownfh.com

HENRY LEE RIDNER, JR.
(December 26, 1968 – December 10, 2023)
Age 54, of Westland, formerly of Belleville. BHS graduate, 1987. Survived by father Henry, Sr.; sister Tonnie; brother Luke; nephew Cody Lee. Funeral at 1 p.m., Dec. 14, at David C. Brown Funeral Home.
www.davidcbrownfh.com

Upcoming Meetings

• Thursday, Dec. 14 – Belleville Planning Commission, 7 p.m.
• Monday, Dec. 18 – Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.
• Tuesday, Dec. 19 – Van Buren Township work/study at 5 p.m. and board meeting at 6 p.m.
• Wednesday, Dec. 20 – Van Buren Township Environmental Commission, 6 p.m. Also, Belleville Downtown Development Authority, 6 p.m.
• Tuesday, Jan. 2 – Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.
• Thursday, Jan. 11 – Keystone Academy school board, 5 p.m.
• Tuesday, Jan. 16 – Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.
• Wednesday, Jan. 17 – Van Buren Township Environmental Commission, 6 p.m.
• Tuesday, Jan. 23 – Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority, 3 p.m.
• Monday, Feb. 5 – Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.
• Thursday, Feb. 8 – Keystone Academy school board, 5 p.m.
• Tuesday, Feb. 20 – Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.

FIRST LEGO League Challenge invades McBride Middle School

Thirty-four elementary and middle school teams descended on McBride Middle School on Saturday, Dec. 2, to compete in the Belleville FIRST LEGO League (FLL) Challenge Qualifier Event.

The Belleville FLL event, hosted by the Tiger Robotics Booster Organization (TRBO) and Van Buren Public Schools, was held in the district for the first time.

The district has been host to four FIRST Robotics Competition District Events at Belleville High School for high school robotics teams since 2018.

FIRST, or For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology, is a US-based organization which creates and administers robotics competitions for students from elementary to high school ages all around the world.

FIRST LEGO League introduces science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) to children in the lower primary grades. FIRST LEGO League participants gain real-world problem-solving experiences through a guided, global robotics program, engaging in hands-on STEM experiences which build confidence, grow their knowledge, and develop habits of learning.

Friendly competition is at the heart of the Challenge division, as teams of students engage in research, problem-solving, software coding, and engineering – building and programming a LEGO robot that navigates the missions of a robot game. As part of Challenge, teams also participate in a research project to identify and solve a relevant real-world problem.

The 2023 Challenge game, entitled "Masterpiece," is an arts-themed activity which involves completing up to 15 separate missions with the robot during the two-and-a-half-minute match. Robots begin in one of two launch areas where teams can physically interact with the robot, preparing it for each mission as required.

Once the robot leaves the launch area, it's on its own to complete the mission without contact from the team, relying only on the robot design and the programming skills of the team.

Each team plays in four matches to compile their best score which includes robot performance as well as how the team interacts with each other during the competition, something which FIRST calls "Gracious Professionalism."

Teams also engage with a panel of judges who assess their knowledge of design, innovation, and FIRST core values, all of which factor into the final scores for the teams.

At the end of the day-long competition, two teams from Salem Elementary School in Salem Township, "Salem Coyotes 1 and 2," finished first and third, respectively, and "The Bobs" from Monroe Road Elementary School in Lambertville claimed the second spot.

These teams, as well as the fourth-through-eighth-place finishers, were all invited to compete in the state tournament at Saline on Dec. 16.

Five teams from Van Buren Public Schools competed in the event with the team from Owen Intermediate School as the top district finisher followed by teams from Savage, Edgemont, Tyler, and Rawsonville elementary schools.

TRBO hopes this will become an annual event to help promote STEM interest and education within the district at all levels.

-- Mark Laginess
Tiger Robotics Booster Organization

This is the McBride team: The TerrorBytes. Front row, from left, are Caleb Mootry, Kaiden Tanana, GooberPrime14670, Xavier Miah, Marko Dau. Second row, from left, Coach David McGirard, Jacob Kadwell, Issac House, Logan Marks, Malcolm Biggs, Justin Clark, Michael Stevenson, Logan Nitz, Coach Tim Miller, Caleb Carnahan.

Photo courtesy of Bill Wolters

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Independent photo by Rosemary K. Otzman

Knight Roberts and his little sister visit Santa at Saturday's Central Business Community event tucked into the Festival of Holiday Trees at the Belleville Area Museum on Saturday. They are the children of Jeyvune and Christina Roberts of Romulus. Santa also is scheduled to visit with children from noon to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 16, at the museum. Special needs visitors are invited or pictures from 11:30 a.m. Pictures with Santa are free, but donations are accepted.

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President Leonard Szweda, center, and Treasurer John Zaroff, at left, from the St. Anthony Men's Club present Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4434 Commander Bob Krouse with a check for $2,000 on Nov. 28. This represents what was collected from the Men's Club breakfast to benefit homeless veterans held on Nov. 5. Szweda said the St. Anthony Men's Club would like to thank all who participated in this event to make it successful.

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- Honor a current or alumni band member, director, or family member by purchasing either a 4×8 or 8×8 brick inscribed with your message.
- Clip art is also available to enhance your brick design!
- Bricks will be delivered and installed in Spring of 2024.
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Name:			
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Line 1	
Line 2	
Line 3	
Line 4	
Line 5	
Line 6	

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Photos courtesy of Tyler Ladouceur

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Man dies, 2 escape from Van Buren Township mobile home blaze

Christopher Clement, 51, of 50 Ponderosa Trail in Van Buren Township, died during a fire in his mobile home on Sunday morning.

His daughter and a caregiver who lived with him received minor injuries and were taken to a hospital but have been released.

Van Buren Township Fire Chief Dave McInally said the male caregiver tried to get him out of the home, but he collapsed and the caregiver couldn't get him up. Chief McInally said it appeared that he tried to go farther by himself.

Chief McInally said Clement had been released from a medical facility the day before and was not completely ambulatory.

The fire fighting was impeded somewhat by exploding ammunition that had been stored in a back bedroom, Chief McInally said. The explosions finally stopped, possibly because there was no more left to explode, he said.

Fire Marshal/Deputy Fire Chief Andy Lenaghan is investigating the cause of the blaze, along with the Michigan State Police. Chief McInally said the medical examiner is performing an autopsy.

He said there were no working fire alarms in the home.

The Van Buren Township Fire Department was assisted by fire departments from Romulus, Canton, and Belleville.

Tyler Ladouceur who lives nearby said he heard the ammunition exploding and it sounded like a shootout. He said he looked out the window and saw the flames and knew it was a fire. He said he had been friends with Clement's two late sons and knew the family well.

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Brittany and Anthony Porath of Van Buren Township brought their dog Ruby to have a picture taken with Santa at Saturday's Santa Paws event at the Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority office building at Harris Park.

Pausing for a photo are Santa and Mrs. Claus and, from left, Van Buren Township DDA Executive Director Merrie Coburn and VBT Communications Specialist Elena Manalp, who took the photos.

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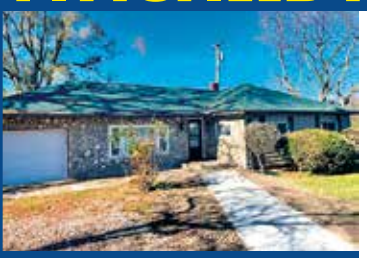
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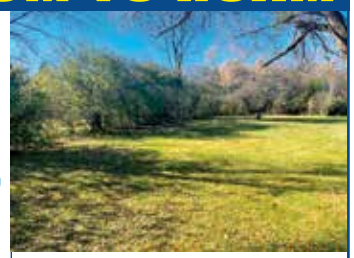
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VBT DDA Oks paying Wade Trim for Belleville Rd. Safety Plan services

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

The Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority voted unanimously to approve the $56,000 professional services agreement with Wade Trim engineers for completion of the Belleville Road Corridor Safety & Complete Streets Plan.

Action was taken at the 45-minute DDA meeting on Nov. 28.

Van Buren Township received a $40,000 Planning Assistance Grant from SEMCOG which will fund this project in part, said DDA Executive Director Merrie Coburn.

The agreement states Wade Trim will provide "traffic engineering and transportation planning services for studying Belleville Road related to traffic operations and safety, truck routes, and non-motorized access."

Director Coburn said the scope of the work is that VBT will conduct a corridor safety study and supplemental complete streets planning activities along Belleville Road, the primary north-south route through the township.

In other business at the Nov. 28 meeting, the DDA:

• After discussion informally agreed to keep taking orders for business banners until the end of the year. Coburn said so far she has 14 VBT businesses and four Belleville businesses interested, but those not in the district are in a holding pattern. She said there are 72 light poles and 70 businesses in the district alone. Cost is $150 per banner;

• Heard Coburn announce there have been 12 VBT DDA Small Business Resource Sessions over the last three months and 11 business owners attended the Nov. 16 small business panel discussion. DDA member Willis said the sessions have been great for her;

• Discussed the attempts to get easements along Belleville Road, with Coburn saying four out of 13 are showing hesitancy and haven't said yes or no. Supervisor Kevin McNamara said they gave 30 days to reply and that has passed, but the township is still working with them. He said Wade Trim engineers is staking out the area needed, so people can see it for themselves. Secretary Chris Brown asked if the easement will make the property less or more valuable. He said for commercial probably moreso, but not for residential. Coburn said a lot of the parcels have U-drives and that would go away. If the owners do not accept the township's offer for the easement, the township will go to court for condemnation, Supervisor McNamara said. "You're encroaching on their land," DDA member Victor Delibera said. McNamara said this board decided on widening Belleville Road to three lanes from Tyler to Ecorse but in the future there may be a need for four or five lanes. Brown said the sewer and water lines need to be replaced. When Delibera asked if there is a theme they are trying to focus on, DDA chairman Craig Atchinson said the theme is "walkability," to have a lot of people walking around. Coburn said she would keep the DDA posted on the issue;

• Heard Coburn ask if the DDA could get polos or vests with the logo on them to identify members at events. Atchinson said awhile back they had them, but they are getting old now. Coburn said she got a price of $600, for $50 each and will bring a proposal to the DDA;

• Heard DDA member Joyce Rochowiak ask if they could have social get-together in December, since no regular meeting is scheduled. She said they could go to a

(continued on page 15)

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Things to do in the Belleville area...

• **Thursday, Dec. 14 –** Winter Concert for Belleville High School Varsity and Symphony Bands, 7:30 p.m. in the BHS Auditorium. Free admission.

• **Friday and Saturday, Dec. 15 and 16 –** Sumpter Township Christmas Vendor Market, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Community Center, 23501 Sumpter Rd., $10 table rental. Crafts, treasures, bake sale, jewelry, crochet items, more. (734) 461-9373, maryannwatson@sumpter.org

• **Saturday, Dec. 16 –** Visit Santa at Bladez Hair Studio, 601 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. (734) 697-5600

• **Saturday, Dec. 16 –** Pictures with Santa, noon to 4 p.m. at the Belleville Area Museum, sponsored by the Belleville Central Business Community. Photos of special needs, 11:30 a.m. to noon. No charge, but donations accepted.

• **Saturday, Dec. 16 –** Holiday Ornament Workshop, 1-3 p.m. at the Belleville Area District Library. No fee. Registration required at vanburentwp.recdesk.com or call (734) 697-1944.

• **Saturday, Dec. 16 –** Hymn Fest-IV at 2 p.m. at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 19109 Craig St., New Boston. Recall through sacred scripture and song the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Fellowship to follow. Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share.

• **Saturday, Dec. 16 –** Wreaths Across America at noon at Romulus Memorial Cemetery, 10101 Shook Rd., Romulus. Volunteers are needed to help lay wreaths on veterans' graves during this event taking place nationwide on this date.

• **Sunday, Dec. 24 –** Christmas Eve Choir Concert, "Wonder of Wonders," at 5 p.m. at Bethany Bible Church, 810 E. Huron River Dr. Also, Sunday morning (11 a.m.) service.

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AKC GOLDEN RETRIEVER PUPPIES. 9 weeks old. UTD on all shots & deworming. 3 males & 4 females. $600/ea. (405) 698-8040 12/14

GLACIER BAY 30" tri-view, frameless, surface mount Medicine Cabinet. Never opened, $100. 4 Recessed Downlights, LED bright light, 300 k, 5-6". $15 for 4, new in box. 2 like-new copper colored Porch Lights. $20. (734) 865-8448 12/21

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4 GOODYEAR P235/60R18 TIRES. $100. 36,000 miles. (734) 748-2680 12/21

REMINGTON SENDERO 300 Win. Mag. with scope. Lots of expensive ammo. $1000. (734) 740-0277 12/28

VEHICLES FOR SALE

2010 FORD FUSION 4 door. Low miles. Very clean. Must see. Private owner. (734) 695-0819 12/14

CONDO FOR SALE

LAKEFRONT BAYSHORE CONDO. 1800 sq ft., includes dock and various updates. $245,000. Further details call Rodney (734) 320-2205. No Realtors please. Open houses Fri. 4:30-6:30 p.m. Sat. & Sun. 1-3 p.m. 48391 Bayshore Dr. 12/21

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WANTED – SMALL CONTAINERS of shampoo, toothpaste, etc. to take to homeless in Detroit. Drop off at Bladez's 601 E. Huron River Dr. (734) 697-5600 TFN

CASH FOR YOUR CAR TODAY. Must be in good condition. Don't trade it in, sell it to me. (734) 695-0819 12/14

LOOKING TO BUY: Video games & game systems, blu-rays, box sets, coins, books, Bibles, & any other media. Will pay cash. J & R Collectibles, videogamesandjunk.com (248) 870-1466 12/21

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TWO COOKS, 1 full-time, 1 part-time. 1 year experience preferred. Iron Mike's Eatery & Tavern, New Boston. (734) 765-9822 12/21

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.

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

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 Zax Auto Wash.

VBT DDA

(continued from page 13)

restaurant or get it catered to the DDA building. Members were interested in the idea;

• Heard Deputy Supervisor Dan Selman say the township is seeking input on the design of the Denton Road Bridge. McNamara said he likes the idea of a covered wooden bridge, but others don't agree;

• Was informed that more than 100 people attended the Light up the Park event at Harris Park on Nov. 15 and everyone had a candle. Also the Santa Paws already has six dogs signed up for the Dec. 9 event to get pictures with Santa; and

• Learned the DDA will host two informational meetings in December to meet PA 57 requirements. They will be held in person, as well as have a zoom option.

FEEDING FAMILIES IN VAN BUREN, BELLEVILLE & SUMPTER
EMERGENCY
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Stopping for a picture during the Dec. 1 VIP party at the Belleville Area Museum put on by Van Buren Township are, from left, Brad Barbaza, Network System Administrator; Deanna Murphy, Account Clerk; Jason Locke, Parks Director; Marylnn Balewski, Senior Programmer; Tammy Dohring, Assistant Community Services Director; Elizabeth Renaud, Community Services Director; Jennifer Zaenglein, Recreation Director; Mary Utz, Museum Docent; and Matt Dohring.

City of Belleville Public Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

BELLEVILLE DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
NOTICE OF ANNUAL INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS

Notice is hereby given that the city of Belleville Downtown Development Authority will hold informational meetings in accordance with Public Act 57 of 2018, otherwise know as the Recodified Tax Increment Financing Act. At that time, an updated annual synopsis of activities of the authority will be shared. These meetings will be held at Belleville City Hall, located at 6 Main, Belleville, MI 48111. Remote participation links are provided below as well.

December 20, 2023 at 5:00 pm to 5:40 pm

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84448354601?pwd=MjdvbmVFT0VhNU44aW4vcGVKMHNiUT09

Meeting ID: 844 4835 4601 Passcode: 899646

AND/OR

December 21, 2023 at 9:00 am to 9:40 am

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83001440812?pwd=S1A4Z0RYUDJhbWpIOE5jak9UMk83UT09

Meeting ID: 830 0144 0812 Passcode: 227484

If you have any questions, please contact Steve Jones, Project Administrator, at 734-697-9323 x. 7037 or sjones@bellevilleonthelake.com

Publish: December 14, 2023, December 21, 2023

Planning

(continued from page 3)

said Doane's Landing is being looked at for better access to the lake with the possibility of docks there;

• **Park for handicapped children**. Stalmack said she would like to see a park for handicapped children and Sumpter Commissioner Richard Pokerwinski reminded her they put up handicapped swings in Sumpter. McNamara said when he was commissioner he helped do such a park in the city of Wayne and they could look at it. Jones said Village Park in the city is where they have the most room;

• **Development portal**. Power said VBT has a place on its website where people can track developments, with different colors indicating the status of where it is in its development. McNamara said the new community center will be done at the end of January and then it will have stuff put in it and not be ready for occupancy until the end of next year; and

• **Empty CVS store downtown**. Voigt said the city has talked to CVS and they have a five-year lease on the property and will only lease it for a dollar store. Voigt said the city may be able to talk them into sub-leasing it to the city for use as a place where small businesses can grow before moving into their own brick and mortar locations. He said all CVS wants is no pharmacy in there. "We're not going to do things half-baked," Voigt said of the city. "We're small, but …" He noted that all three communities are connected and, "We all love each other and we're one community."

Court Watching

Clyde Martin

Clyde Martin, formerly of Flint and now serving time with the Michigan Department of Corrections, was present for his zoom hearing on Dec. 6 at 34th District Court. He is charged with possession of controlled substance/analogues on May 10, 2016 in Van Buren Township. His attorney said he is trying to settle the case. The probable cause conference was adjourned to Dec. 20 for a zoom hearing.

Tiana Marie Lewis

Tiana Marie Lewis of Van Buren Township was due for her remote pretrial on Dec. 6 on a charge of operating with a blood alcohol content of .17 or more and operating while intoxicated with an occupant less than 16 years of age on Feb. 15, 2023 in the city of Belleville. Her remote pretrial was reset for Dec. 27. Personal bond is $10,000.

Ayden Tyeler Clark

Ayden Tyeler Clark, 29, of Van Buren Township was charged with possession of Methamphetamine/Ecstasy on Dec. 30, 2021 in the city of Belleville. His probable cause conference was Dec. 6. Personal bond is $2,000. His preliminary exam was set for Feb. 21, 2024.

They're reading the Independent everywhere

Susan Horling and Darrell Pode of Belleville, at left, Keith Bruder, Carol Zimnie and Kim Gonczy of Augusta Township read the *Independent* at the Parthenon in Athens Greece. They stopped for a photo while on a recent Mediterranean cruise with their travel group, the Party Animals of Westland. They also visited the pyramids in Cairo, Egypt, many Grecian islands and the ancient city of Ephesus in Kusadasi, Turkey. Ginger Bruder also was with the group, but not in the photo.

You, too, are invited to submit a photo of you reading the *Independent* in an exotic location. Please include the name and address of the person you wish to get the free subscription when it is printed. Include your phone number if you want us to let you know just before goes in the paper. A person may use this offer to get a total of two free subscriptions – and no more.

If you aren't going to an exotic location, just send us $35 for postage to an address inside Michigan or $40 out of state, and we'll provide mail delivery of the *Independent* so you won't miss a single, exciting issue.

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***Or, give us a call at* (734)699-9020** *(Credit or Debit cards only)*

City of Belleville Public Notice

CITY OF BELLEVILLE

Request for Proposals

General Description

The City of Belleville is looking to select a qualified firm to repair the roof at City Hall, 6 Main Street, Belleville, MI 48111. The City Manager will be the contact point and will coordinate all work and services with the chosen contractor.

Principal Contact
Jason Smith, City Manager
6 Main St
Belleville, Mi. 48111
734-252-4307
jsmith@Belleville.mi.us

Bid Information

Bids are due at 4:00pm, Friday, December 15, 2023, and will be opened at 7:30pm on December 18, 2023, during the City Council meeting.

Direct any questions regarding this RFP to the principal contact listed above.

Please submit your sealed proposals to:

City of Belleville
c/o Jason Smith, City Manager
6 Main St
Belleville, MI. 48111

The City Council will, along with staff, review submitted proposals and deliberate towards a decision at the same City Council meeting.

The City reserves the right to accept or reject any proposal for any or no reason and to waive any minor irregularity if determined to be in the best interest of the City of Belleville.

Publish: December 7, 2023, December 14, 2023

School Board

(continued from page 1)

in place.

Also during Monday's meeting, the board:

• Recognized the accomplishments of the high school varsity football team coming in second in the state this year and winning the title the two years before that. Coach Calvin Norman said team members had a 3.0 grade point average and for the first time, this season, they monitored the players each week and if they were failing two or more classes they could not play that Friday. He said Adidas gave the team three full sets of uniforms: one all white, one all black, and one all orange. They looked good and played responsibly, he said. It was noted in the last eight years, 40 players won scholarships;

• Approved Bond Series III for $13,841,849 for Bid Packages #9 and #10 and Granger Constructions costs and fees;

• Approved the sale of Bond Series III for $13,490,000 to get the funds for the bid packages just approved. On Nov. 5, 2019, the voters approved a total of $35,490,000 in bonding and Series III is the last bonds in that package. They are expected to be sold in January and the money start flowing in during February;

• Was given information on Bond Series III Move Management for McBride, Tyler, and Savage schools during this summer's construction. The moving company will store existing furniture from the school to get it out of the way during construction and then move it back in once the work is done in the winter of 2024. Recommended is University Moving and Storage for a total of $132,620 including contingency. A vote will be taken in January;

• Discussed the Continuity of Service Plan that spells out what the procedure is in case another COVID situation comes up. As long as the district is still using ESSER funds, it is required to have a plan and report it every six months;

• Approved a total project award of $310,958 for the asbestos abatement services at McBride Middle School, Savage Elementary School and Tyler Elementary School for the 2019 Bond Program;

• Appproved a contract with Security 101 for $57,821.10 for exterior security camera upgrades at Belleville High School;

• Approved Schools of Choice for the second semester with unlimited openings. It was noted 9% of the school population are Schools of Choice students. Resident Reg Ion, who had spoken earlier in the meeting asking the board to turn down Schools of Choice, called out after the vote saying that if they didn't have Choice they would have to eliminate the shady recruiting. "Keep it open so you can have a winning team," Ion shouted and the board ignored him;

• Set the board's annual organizational meeting for 7 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 16, at the BHS Commons. Another meeting could be set for Jan. 29, so there are two meetings in January;

• Approved hiring Sarah Tompkins as a paraprofessional at Edgemont Elementary School as of Nov. 28 and Rachel Dobbins as a paraprofessional at Rawsonville Elementary School as of Nov. 27;

• Unanimously approved Emergency Operations Procedures after a discussion in closed-door session;

• Heard Board President Amy Pearce say besides BHS graduate Jeremiah Beasley playing with the University of Michigan team at the Rose Bowl, another BHS graduate, a freshman at the U of M, Rachel Riley has qualified to play trumpet in the Michigan Marching Band at the Rose Bowl;

• Heard Aaron Lang thank the board for coming to the LEGO League competition which was a fundraiser. He said they made $3,000. He said the robotics group lost its grant from Ford because of cutbacks; and

• Heard Director of Instruction Jeff Moore announce that teacher Erica Boulas and her students have put together the first BHS digital newspaper which can be seen at: beneaththestripes.com .

City of Belleville Public Notice

POLICE VEHICLE AUCTION

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN BY THE UNDERSIGNED THAT ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2023 at **10AM,** at J&T Towing, 287 Industrial Park Drive, Belleville, County of Wayne, Michigan, a public sale of the following vehicle(s) will be held:

2011 Chevrolet Equinox VIN# 2CNFLEE50B6334571

BELLEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT
6 MAIN STREET
BELLEVILLE, MICHIGAN 48111

PUBLISH: December 14, 2023

BY KRISTY DOE
BELLEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT
RECORDS CLERK

Charter Township of Van Buren Downtown Development Authority Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
NOTICE OF ANNUAL INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS

Notice is hereby given that the Charter Township of Van Buren Downtown Development Authority will hold informational meetings in accordance with Public Act 57 of 2018, otherwise known as the Recodified Tax Increment Financing Act. At that time, an updated annual synopsis of activities of the authority will be shared. These meetings will be held at the office of the DOA, located at 10151 Belleville Road, Van Buren Township, Ml 48111 . A remote participation link is provided below as well.

December 19, 2023 at 3:00 pm to 3:40 pm

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87910939708?pwd=nBzTvvNBwyfGxL7pAuASw9xFLeOBXu.1

Meeting ID: 879 l 093 9708 Passcode: 771965

AND/OR

December 21, 2023 at 10:00 am to 10:40am

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82671748859?pwd=V0hJjZPPplhLJMjBesP7nFvSDCuplW.1

Meeting ID: 826 7174 8859 Passcode: 452474

If you have questions, please contact the Van Buren DDA Executive Director Merrie Coburn at (734) 699-8941 or mcoburn-dda@vanburen-mi.org .

Sincerely,

Merrie Coburn, VBT DDA
Executive Director

Publish: December 7, 2023, December 14, 2023

Court Watching:

Ryan Patrick Sarna

Ryan Patrick Sarna of Whitmore Lake had his remote pretrial in 34th District Court on Dec. 6 for a charge of domestic violence on Nov. 23 in Sumpter Township. Personal bond is $20,000 and he is to have no contact with the victim. The final pretrial is Jan. 3, 2024.

Ajayu Tramaine Stovall

Ajay Tramaine Stovall, 30, of Ypsilanti was scheduled for his probable cause conference on Dec. 6 for possession of narcotics and child abuse on Nov. 24 in Van Buren Township.

His preliminary exam was set for Jan. 17. Personal bond is $20,000.

To build a better world, start in your own community

Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

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

Sunday, Dec. 3:

0014 – threat, Belleville Rd.
0322 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
0602 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Park Estates
1159 – welfare check, W. Huron River Dr.
1151 – disorderly, Belleville Rd.
1536 – parking complaint, Ecorse Rd.
1609 – shooting, Morton Taylor Rd./Ecorse Rd.
1638 – fight, Rawsonville Rd.
XXXX – misc. complaint, Daisy Blvd.
1821 – welfare check, Outer Dr.
1853 – 911 welfare check, N. Ponderosa Trl.
2041 – assist fire dept., Denton Rd.
2120 – domestic, Denton Rd.
2130 – intrusion alarm, Martinsville Rd.
2337 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Denton Rd.

Monday, Dec. 4:

0210 – welfare check, Lighthouse Dr.
0458 – threat, Parkwood Dr.
0812 – juvenile complaint, Rose Blvd.
0921 – holdup alarm, Haggerty Rd.
XXXX – welfare check, Berkdale Dr.
0949 – 911 welfare check, Water's Edge Ln.
1031 – threat, Spruce Ln.
1113 – larceny, Lake Point Pass
1258 – intrusion alarm, Parkwood Dr.
1316 – property damage accident, N. I-94 Service Dr. / Belleville Rd.
1449 – private property/property damage accident, N. I-94 Service Dr./Belleville Rd.
1449 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, S. Bellridge Dr.
1511 – welfare check, Senate St.
1511 – 911 welfare check, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1540 – vehicle lockout, Belleville Rd.
1617 – property damage accident, Ecorse Rd.
1638 – 911 welfare check, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1645 – welfare check, Bradley Dr.
1659 – private property impound, S. Ponderosa Trl.
XXXX – private property impound, S. Ponderosa Trl.
1727 – larceny, Oak Ln.
1853 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Village Center Dr.
2043 – assist other dept., Lake Crest Dr.
2216 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Denton Rd.

Tuesday, Dec. 5:

0726 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Jeremy Rd.
0906 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Belleville Rd./S. I-94 Service Dr.
0924 – vehicle lockout, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1016 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1106 – disorderly, Lighthouse Dr.
1141 – fraud, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1321 – animal complaint, Village Center Dr.
1355 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1506 – misc. complaint, Vernon St.
1507 – animal complaint, Haggerty Rd.
1536 – vehicle lockout, Belleville Rd.
1536 – harassment call, Ash Dr.
1704 – property damage accident, Ecorse I-275 ramp N./N. I-275
1726 – property damage accident, Haggerty Rd./S. I-94 Service Dr.
1819 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1824 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Lighthouse Dr.
2105 – missing person, E. Huron River Dr.
2218 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Parkwood Dr.
2239 – noise complaint, Greenbriar Dr.
2247 – welfare check, Parkside Dr.
XXXX – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Parkside Dr.

Wednesday, Dec. 6:

0110 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
0215 – intrusion alarm, Haggerty Rd.
0236 – intrusion alarm, N. I-94 Service Dr.
0624 – property damage accident, Belleville/Tyler
0758 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Brandi Dr.
0913 – vehicle lockout, Independence Ln.
0957 – neighbor trouble, Huron River Dr.
1115 – follow-up by officer, Van Born Rd.
1132 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Belleville Rd.
1211 – property damage accident, N. I-94 Service Dr./Belleville Rd.
1253 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1303 – felony assault, Lake Villa Dr.
XXXX – repossession, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1536 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Denton Rd./Beck Rd.
1551 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, County Walk Blvd.
XXXX – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Martz Rd.
1656 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Hannan Rd.
1740 – property damage accident, Ecorse/I-275
1725 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1830 – intrusion alarm, Berkdale Dr.
1819 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
1816 – property damage accident, Ecorse/Denton
1917 – welfare check, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1952 – assist fire dept., Parkside Dr.
2040 – civil matter, Rolan Meadows Dr.
2103 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Belleville Rd./E. I-94
2216 – assist other dept., Ecorse Rd.
2218 – assist other dept., S. I-275/Ecorse
2256 – suspicious activity rept., Martz/Lohr Rd.
2312 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Belleville Rd.
2327 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Quirk Rd.
2340 – threat, Bradley Dr.

Thursday, Dec. 7:

0028 – family trouble, Outer Dr.
0029 – 911 welfare check, Laguna Dr.
0133 – disorderly, Haggerty Rd.
0425 – intrusion alarm, Van Born Rd.
0435 – disorderly, Haggerty Rd.
1009 – parking complaint, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1018 – private property impound, Independence
1025 – larceny, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1105 – motorist assist, Huron River Dr.
1302 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, McBride Ave.
1334 – motorist assist, Savage Rd./Lenmoore Ave.
1351 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Van Buren St.
1431 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1459 – civil matter, Belleville Rd.
1522 – ordinance violation – all 7300 MICR codes, Borgman Ave.
1543 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1642 – malicious destruction of property, Hull Rd.
1642 – vehicle lockout, Ecorse Rd.
1813 – private property impound, Birch Dr.
1814 – assist other dept., Third/Church
1826 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd.
1852 – neighbor trouble, Parkside Dr.
1933 – civil matter, Ecorse Rd./Denton Rd.
XXXX – repossession, Parkwood Dr.
XXXX – repossession, N. Bellridge Dr.

Friday, Dec. 8:

0614 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, E. Huron River Dr.
0747 – welfare check, N. Woodbury Green
0746 – assist other dept., Van Buren St.
0902 – property damage accident, E. Huron River Dr./Haggerty Rd.
1057 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Bemis Rd.
1249 – property damage accident, Denton Rd. / Van Born Rd.
1338 – road hazard, Rawsonville Rd.
1344 – juvenile complaint, Quirk Rd.
1424 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1447 – property damage accident, Belleville/Tyler
1452 – neighbor trouble, Lauren Ct.
1600 – welfare check, Bemis Rd.
1513 – assist other dept., Fourth St.
1646 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1657 – family trouble, Outer Dr.
1658 – larceny from auto, Oak Ln.
1701 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, Tyler Rd./Belleville Rd.
XXXX – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Oak Ln.
1821 – welfare check, Rawsonville Rd.
1950 – juvenile complaint, N. I-94 Service Dr.
2141 – assault & battery, N. Woodbury Dr.
2142 – assist fire dept., Belleville Rd.
2209 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Richard Run Dr.
2315 – juvenile complaint, Quirk Rd.
2323 – assist fire dept., Lake Point Pass

Saturday, Dec. 9:

0049 – disorderly, Belleville Rd.
0115 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Holly Ln.
0150 – noise complaint, Sumpter Rd.
0351 – intrusion alarm, Van Born
0404 – assist fire dept., Aspen Ln.
0437 – parking complaint, Lake Point Pass
1146 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Lake Point Pass
XXXX – threat, E. Main St.
1304 – private property impound, Ecorse Rd.
1259 – private property impound, Rawsonville Rd.
1328 – malicious destruction of property, N. Ponderosa Trl.
1838 – disorderly, Rawsonville Rd.
1948 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Oak Ln.
2040 – welfare check, Belleville/S. I-94 Service
2051 – motorist assist, Tyler Rd./Belleville Rd.
2107 – domestic, S. I-94 Service Dr.
2128 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Revere Dr.
2134 – civil matter, Bemis Rd.
2240 – threat, Westlake
2330 – road hazard, W. Huron River Dr. / Rawsonville Rd.

Also on this week's log are 32 traffic stops, eight of which are on the I-94 and I-275 freeways.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Dec. 3:

0129 – misc. complaint, Second St.
0933 – welfare check, Carmell St.
1313 – assist citizen, W. Columbia Ave.
1332 – road hazard, Third St./N. Liberty St.
1716 – traffic stop, Main St.
1724 – traffic stop, Main St./N. Liberty St.
1750 – traffic offense, Main St./High St.
2005 – traffic stop, Main St./Fifth St.
2005 – traffic stop, Main St./Fifth St.
2131 – threat, Main St.
2330 – traffic stop, Main St./Fifth St.

Monday, Dec. 4:

0744 – noise complaint, Henry St.
1017 – threat, Main St.
1227 – misc. complaint, W. Columbia Ave.
1620 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Victorian Ct.

Tuesday, Dec. 5:

0816 – traffic stop, Main St./High St.
0835 – traffic stop, Belleville Rd./Quirk Rd.
1118 – civil matter, E. Columbia Ave.
1310 – traffic stop, N. Liberty St./Second St.
1429 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Owen St.
2007 – civil matter, Main St.

Wednesday, Dec. 6:

0804 – traffic stop, High St./W. Columbia Ave.
1046 – welfare check, High St.
1133 – traffic stop, Madelon/E. Huron River Dr.
1201 – traffic stop, Main St./High St.
1424 – welfare check, Santa Clara St.
1454 – misc. complaint, Main St.
1720 – traffic stop, Main St.
1730 – traffic stop, Main St./Fourth St.
1751 – traffic stop, Main St./High St.
1814 – traffic stop, Angola/E. Huron River Dr.
1831 – traffic stop, Main St.
1849 – traffic stop, Main St./Fifth St.
2046 – traffic stop, South St./Henry St.

Thursday, Dec. 7:

0130 – traffic stop, Main St./N. Liberty St.
0145 – traffic stop, Main St./First St.
0952 – juvenile complaint, S. Edgemont Ave.
1304 – traffic stop, Madelon St./E. Columbia Ave.
1326 – traffic stop, Robbe St./Madelon St.
1630 – traffic stop, Sumpter Rd./Industrial Pk. Dr.
1655 – traffic stop, Madelon St./E. Columbia Ave.
1727 – traffic stop, W. Huron River Dr./Elwell Rd.
1741 – traffic stop, Third St./Church St.
1809 – traffic stop, Third St./Church St.
1828 – traffic stop, Charles St./Third St.
1842 – traffic stop, Church St./Second St.
1850 – traffic stop, Charles St./Third St.

Friday, Dec. 8:

0013 – intrusion alarm, Owen St.
0113 – intrusion alarm, W. Columbia Ave.
0255 – traffic stop, Belleville Rd./Harmony Ln.
0554 – traffic stop, Wexford/E. Huron River Dr.
0607 – assist other dept., Huron River Dr.
1244 – property damage accident, Main St. / W. Columbia Ave.
1511 – fight, Fourth St.
XXXX – assist other dept., Fourth St.
1709 – assist other dept., Fret Rd.
2031 – welfare check, Henry St.

Saturday, Dec. 9:

1057 – welfare check, W. Columbia Ave.
1204 – threat, Harbou Pointe Dr./W. Huron River
1542 – property damage accident, Main St.
1944 – traffic stop, Fifth St./Main St.
2302 – juvenile complaint, Main St.

There were 33 traffic stops on this week's log.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Dec. 3:

0055 – traffic complaint/hazard, 24000 bl. Carleton West Rd.
0331 – family trouble, 48000 bl. Willis Rd.
0411 – fire dept. assist, 42000 bl. Willis Rd.
0847 – fire dept. assist, 46000 bl. Bemis Rd.
0924 – assist other agency, 26000 bl. Sherwood
1022 – 911 hang up, 27000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1314 – suspicious person, 50000 bl. Willis Rd.
1324 – possess/receive stolen property, 50000 bl. Willis Rd.
1600 – traffic complaint/hazard, 17000 bl. Lohr
1748 – fire dept. assist, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2004 – motorist assist, Bemis Rd./Martha's Dr.

Monday, Dec. 4:

0152 – fire dept. assist, 43000 bl. Willow Rd.
0409 – 911 hang up, 23000 bl. Elwell Rd.
0744 – damage to property, 28000 bl. Clark Rd.
0840 – fire dept. assist, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1249 – welfare check, 47000 bl. Judd Rd.
1308 – animal complaint, 42000 bl. Willis Rd.
1518 – welfare check, 46000 bl. Bemis Rd.
1532 – 911 hang up, Reedwood St.
1836 – welfare check, Sumpter Rd./Willow Rd.
2339 – fire dept. assist, 19000 bl. Elwell Rd.

Tuesday, Dec. 5:

0628 – fire dept. assist, Country Club Blvd.
0813 – fire dept. assist, 26000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
0925 – assault, 44000 bl. Willis Rd.
1013 – 911 hang up, 23000 bl. Karr Rd.
1102 – animal complaint, Sumpter Rd./Judd Rd.
1348 – mental health call, Mulberry Dr.
1434 – juvenile matter, 19000 bl. Crandell Ave.
1919 – 911 hang up, Timberlane Dr.
2004 – civil matter, Magnolia Dr.

Wednesday, Dec. 6:

0041 – flee & elude, Rawsonville Rd./Judd Rd.
0221 – fire dept. assist, 40000 bl. Willis Rd.
0555 – public relations, 51000 bl. Willis Rd.
0608 – fire dept. assist, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
0826 – follow-up investigation, Magnolia Dr.
0947 – alarm, 19000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
1337 – fire dept. assist, Wayside Dr.
1358 – 911 hang up, Virginia St.
1500 – fraud complaint, 49000 bl. Judd Rd.
1615 – fire dept. assist, 27000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1622 – welfare check, Rustic Ln.
1709 – fire dept. assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1737 – suspicious circumstance, 46000 bl. Willow
1955 – animal complaint, Bohn Rd./Bontekoe Ave.
2237 – disorderly person, 23000 bl. Karr Rd.
2247 – family trouble, 47000 bl. Willow Rd.

Thursday, Dec. 7:

0601 – civil matter, Arizona St.
0926 – traffic complaint/hazard, Arkona/Sumpter
1024 – family trouble, Rustic Ln.
1049 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1051 – welfare check, 25000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1534 – 911 hangup, 47000 bl. Bemis Rd.
1634 – fraud complaint, Timberlane Dr.
1755 – fire dept. assist, 48000 bl. Judd Rd.
1802 – fire dept. assist, Huron Twp. PD
1916 – follow-up investigation, 49000 bl. Arkona
2007 – neighbor dispute, Washington St.
2313 – 911 hang up, 9100 bl. Rawsonville Rd.

(Continued on page 19)

VAN BUREN
CHARTER TOWNSHIP

Denton Road Bridge Aesthetic
SURVEY

As the design phase of the Denton Road Bridge replacement progresses, Van Buren Township is seeking public input in selecting the aesthetic for the bridge. Take the survey below to choose your favorite aesthetic design.

We want to hear from YOU!

Scan the QR code to pick your favorite aesthetic for the Denton Road Bridge.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

(continued from page 18)

Friday, Dec. 8:
0619 – citizen assist, 20000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
0708 – harassment complaint, Mulberry Dr.
0811 – citizen assist, 17000 bl. Odyssey Dr.
0911 – citizen assist, 50000 bl. Willis Rd.
0954 – 911 hang up, Washington St.
1309 – follow-up investigation, out of township
1426 – traffic complaint/hazard, 8200 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
1705 – fire dept. assist, 51000 bl. Judd Rd.
1719 – family trouble, 22000 bl. Bohn Rd.
1719 – suspicious circumstance, Willis/Wilmot
2237 – fire dept. assist, Delaware St.
2303 – death investigation, 44000 bl. Harris Rd.
2349 – traffic complaint/hazard, California Blvd. / Idaho St.

Saturday, Dec. 9:
0031 – welfare check, 46000 bl. Reed Ave.
0105 – family trouble, 46000 bl. Willis Rd.
0129 – welfare check, Judd Rd./Rawsonville Rd.
1045 – civil matter, 46000 bl. Willis Rd.
1241 – civil matter, 47000 bl. Willow Rd.
1250 – alarm, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1343 – suspicious circumstance, Arizona St.
1751 – 911 hang up, 46000 bl. Willis Rd.
1919 – suspicious circumstance, New Mexico St.
1959 – animal complaint, Rustic Ln.

Also on this week's log are 206 patrol checks, 115 traffic stops, and 15 misc. details.

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

Independent photo by Rosemary K. Otzman

Belleville High School Head Football Coach Calvin Norman addressed the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education at Monday's Fall Athletic Recognition. With Norman are Assistant Coach Will McMichael and Jeremiah Beasley, a BHS graduate who will be going to the Rose Bowl as part of the University of Michigan team.

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The meijer Simply Give Campaign

Runs
October 1 -
December 30, 2023

The **Belleville Meijer** store is partnering with the Emergency Food Closet housed at the First United Methodist Church to provide food for area families. You can be part of this effort by purchasing food cards at the store check outs. For each $10 you donate, Meijer will issue a $10 food card to the food closet. **Double Match Day – On Saturday, December 16**, Meijer will **double match** your donation. A $10 purchase on that day results in $30 of food cards for the Emergency Food Closet.

Please help feed the hungry in Van Buren and Sumpter Townships and the City of Belleville

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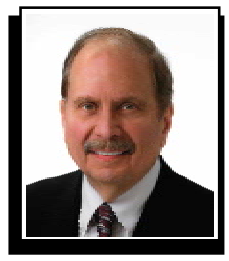
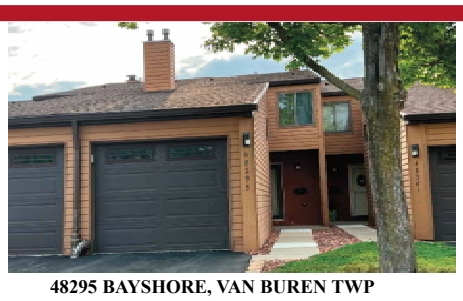
Mayor City of Belleville 1987-1995

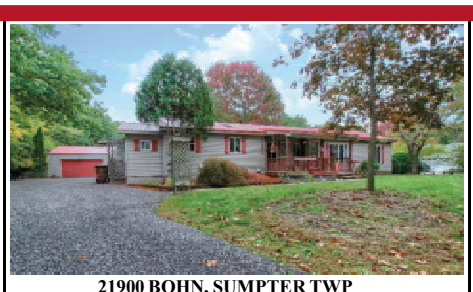


WE DON'T CHARGE WHAT THE OTHER BROKERS CHARGE - NO DOCUMENT STORAGE FEES NO COMPLIANCE FEES NO JUNK FEES



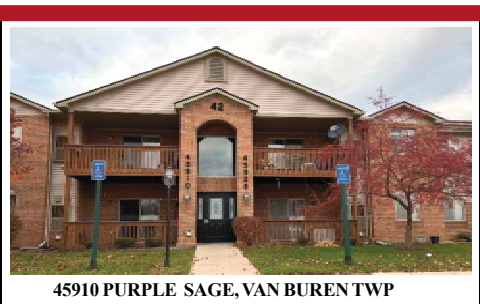
48295 BAYSHORE, VAN BUREN TWP

BELLEVILLE LAKE $$$$ in Improvements. 2 Bedrooms, 2 1/2 Baths, Smart Designed Kitchen with Cabinets and Granite, Fireplace,Hardwood,Covered Patio $299,900



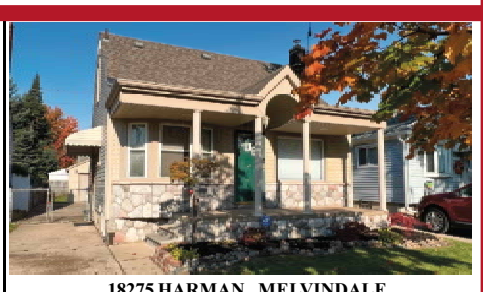
21900 BOHN, SUMPTER TWP

THREE BEDROOM 2 1/2 Bath Ranch featuring Hardwood Floors, 3 Seasons Sunroom plus walkout to Huge Deck. Newer Metal Roof, 2 1/2 Car Garage $285,000



45910 PURPLE SAGE, VAN BUREN TWP

IMMACULATE First floor condo with 2 bedrooms and 2 full baths.Some Newer Carpet & Wood flooring, newer refrigerator. Living area, doorwall leading to deck $159,900



18275 HARMAN., MELVINDALE

STORYBOOK LOOK! Beautiful 3 Bedroom home with Hardwood floors everywhere, Full Basement, 4 Seasons room, Large Yard and big Garage plus More. $164,900

3136 MILDRED, WAYNE

IMPRESSIVE BRICK RANCH 3 Bedrooms, 2 1/2 Baths, Living Room w Fireplace, Family Room, Kitchen with Corian, Full Basement, 2 1/2 Car Garage & more. $225,000

27900 ROMINE, HURON TOWNSHIP

BRICK AND VINYL COUNTRY RANCH Featuring 3 bedrooms, Huge family room, hardwood floors. 1 1/2 car garage PLUS 40x30 Pole Barn. A Clean Dream.$240,000

42482 N CUMBERLAND, VAN BUREN

CUSTOM 4 Bedroom Colonial, 1st Flr Mstr, Quartz Counters in Kitchen & Baths. Open Living - Dining, Family Rm Full Basement 96% Furnace, Garage w/EV Circuit $405,000

458 MAIN & 25 FIFTH STREET, BELLEVILLE

2 KEY BUILDINGS WITH OVER 10,000 SQ FEET. Owner retiring after 37 Years. Traffic count 12,000 cars per day. $995,000 NOTE: **458 Main could be purchased separately.**

BELLEVILLE 3 RESIDENTIAL LOTS ONE PRICE. TOTALING .41 ACRES WITH CITY WATER AND SEWER AT STREET ACROSS FROM BELLEVILLE LAKE NOW $49,000

3 ACRES - COMMERCIAL CORNER AT SUMPTER AND WILLOW NOW $150,000

GRANT & WAHRMAN 4 ACRES LT IND BY METRO AIRPORT $250,000

SUMPTER RD EXETER TWP 8 AC $80,000
VACANT JUDD SUMPTER 2.1 AC $45,000
VACANT JUDD 8.7 AC. PAVED RD $85,000
HAGGERTY 1.5 AC VAN BUREN $70,000

WILLIS RD 1 AC SEWER & WATER $60,000
HURON TWP VAC CLARK .74 AC $40,000
HURON TWP VAC ASH .87 ACRES $55,000
WILLIS & MARTINSVILLE 1.64AC $65,000
COLE ROAD EXETER TWP 10 AC $100,000
50540 BOG RD ONE HALF ACRE $55,000

7 PARCELS ON THE CORNER OF BEMIS AND MARTINSVILLE. PRICED $40,000

BUILDER SPECIAL 3 LOTS for $100,000

SUMPTER TWP CLARK 17+AC $199,500
BROWNSTOWN 27102 DEBIASI $85,000
VACANT MARIO ANN ROMULUS $38,000

6551 BUNTON, YPSILANTI TWP 427 X 1019
10 ACRES PAVED STREET NOW $200,000

19+ ACRES BREST RD, TAYLOR RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT PROPERTY - PAVED STREET NEAR INKSTER ROAD. $550,000

VACANT LOUISA "DREAM LOT" $55,000

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