



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 25.52 Thursday, December 26, 2019

Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

FREE



Belleville Bariatrics at 159 Main Street won top honors for the best Business category lighting in Belleville's annual decorating contest.



William and Beth Ann Hutter, 392 Light Tower Ct., are co-winners of the award in the Harbour Pointe subdivision category.



Lacey Marcotte at 138 Clarence St., is co-winner of the award for home lighting in the Balance of the City category.



Ronald and Donna Atkins, 461 Waterbury, are co-winners in the Victoria Commons subdivision category.



The Morin Family at 77 Carmell St., won the award for best lighting in the city's Mobile Home Parks.



The Eric Luke Family at 234 Harbour Pointe Dr. are co-winners of the Harbour Pointe subdivision category.



Walter Dziedzic, 184 S. Biggs St., is co-winner in the Balance of the City category.



Elliot-Kera Jokinen, 336 Victorian Ln., are co-winners in the Victoria Commons subdivision category.

Belleville Decorating Contest Winners

EARLY DEADLINES

Due to the upcoming
 New Years Day Holiday,
ALL ads must be submitted
 by 4 p.m Thursday, 12/26/19.
 Classified advertising
 deadline is Noon Friday,
 12/27/19.

Independent photos by Bob Mytych

*Postal Regulations Require
 This Space On The Front Page.*





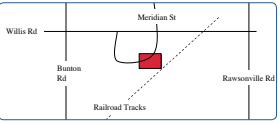
WILLIS FEED MILL

WHHAAATTT!?!?! We Now Deliver!!!

- Dog and Cat Food
- Wild Bird and Squirrel Food
- Certified Organic Products
- Hay and Straw • Poultry Food
- Horse and Livestock Feed

10200 Railroad Street, Willis, Michigan
(South end of Meridian St, off Willis Rd, Between Rawsonville and Bunton)
We look forward to seeing you soon. **(734) 461-1111** willisfeed@att.net

Live Us On  **HOURS:**
MON-FRI 9AM-6PM • SAT 9AM-5PM
SUN 12PM-4PM



Quality Homes & Maintenance Services

Belleville, MI 48111



**Kitchens & Baths • Interior & Exterior Painting • Siding
Windows • Basements • Decks • Concrete
FLOORING! Tile, Ceramic, Carpet, Laminate, Hardwood**

31 YEARS EXPERIENCE

 **10% OFF KITCHENS & BATHROOMS**

Licensed Insured **www.AQHMS.com** **734-968-4509**

Rick Smith
Electrician
Builder



Marlene

Denny's Barber Shop & Hott Hair Salon
(734) 697-4485

Hair

HOLIDAY SALE
FREE HAIR CUT WITH COLOR
With Ad.
Expires 12/31/19
36 Main St. Belleville

FEEDING FAMILIES IN VAN BUREN, BELLEVILLE & SUMPTER

EMERGENCY

First United Methodist Church



Food Closet

417 Charles Street
Belleville, MI.
734-697-9288

Food distribution on Tuesdays & Wednesdays from 10AM – 1PM

Affordable Rental Communities for Seniors
BELLEVILLE CO-OP

For over 73 years as a mission-driven non-profit, we exist solely to provide the highest quality, affordable housing communities possible for seniors.

575 Sumpter Rd, Belleville

Call leasing today to schedule a tour
734-699-8676
M-W-F 9am-Noon

- 100% Smoke free campus
- Individual heating & cooling
- Emergency in-unit pull cords



- Subsidized rent
- On-site laundry
- Transportation available

Interested? Call: **(800) 593-3052**
TDD (800) 348-7011

 **CSI SUPPORT & DEVELOPMENT**
Affordable Rental Communities for Seniors

 **www.csi.coop**  

HOLIDAY GIFTS, COLLECTIBLES & MORE!

DAVE'S TREASURE TROVE

Private Sale

Hunting Gear
Guns, Bows
Knives
Fishing Poles
Fishing Lures
Lionel Trains

Cash or local checks

**Sports Memorabilia
Tools and Collectibles
Boating Accessories**

(734) 699-4438

**Tuesday - Saturday
Noon to 5 PM**

668 E. Huron River Drive, Belleville, MI 48111

ADVERTISE TODAY!
Buy 3 Ads, Get 1 FREE!
Call our Advertising Manager
Bob Mytych Today! 734-699-9020

10% OFF TREE REMOVAL OVER \$300 w/AD*



TREE SERVICE, INC.

Tree Removal • Tree Trimming
Tree Pruning • Brush Removal
Stump Grinding

**OVER 20 YEARS EXPERIENCE
FULLY INSURED**

Free Estimates • Senior Discounts
No Tree Too Big, No Tree Too Small
734-753-5800
TNTTREE.COM
*ONLY VALID AT TIME OF ESTIMATE.



SUMPTER COLLISION

"A Family Tradition Since 1957"

James Chudzinski - Owner
Kevin Schewe - Manager
21585 Sumpter Rd.
Belleville, MI 48111



734.699.7758
jim@sumptercollision.com
www.sumptercollision.com

All Insurances Welcome
Ltd. Lifetime Guarantee
Onsite Rental Cars



R.V. Repair
Auto Glass
Motorcycle & Watercraft

See us on



SECOND FRONT PAGE



Independent photo by Rosemary K. Oztman

The Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority met Nov. 26 for the first time in its newly completed \$3 million Placemaking location at 10151 Belleville Rd., just south of Aldi's. From left are visitor Marcia Hollins, VBT Supervisor Kevin McNamara, DDA Secretary Chris Brown (hidden), DDA Executive Director Susan Ireland, DDA Vice Chairperson Carol Bird, DDA Assistant Director Lisa Lothringer, and DDA Directors Helen Foster and Jim Chudzinski.

Van Buren DDA meets for first time at new \$3 million headquarters

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

The Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority board met at its new headquarters for the first time on Nov. 26 -- but it didn't have a quorum and no votes could be taken.

The board decided to only discuss matters and turn the item that needed a vote over to the three full-time township officials to sign off on.

The request was to approve an expenditure not to exceed \$7,500 for advertising in the 2020-2022 Ann Arbor Area Guest Guide. It will be pages 2 and 3, which, Assistant Director Lisa Lothringer said, "will allow us to get the full attention of the reader through the use of vibrant photographs, along with the strategic use of white space."

She said the guest guide is published every two years and is placed in all of the hotel rooms in the Greater Ann Arbor area. The last ad the DDA placed was one page.

Supervisor Kevin McNamara suggested the board take a straw vote, thumbs up or thumbs down, and everyone voted thumbs up. Supervisor McNamara said the township board does that all the time.

Lothringer also announced completed publicity pieces: four pages for the *Van*

Buren Township Today publication, full page in the winter edition of the *Ann Arbor Community Observer*, two full-page ads and one full page "top spot" for Hour media's *Detroit Area Guest Guide*, and welcome maps were completed and will be distributed to the local hotels during the next few weeks.

When board members arrived for the meeting, Executive Director Susan Ireland took them for a tour around the new building, pointing out the kitchen, the lounge with a flickering fireplace, two private offices, a bathroom with a shower, and the meeting room with a especially constructed 14-foot wooden table surrounded by padded chairs.

This is where the DDA will hold its monthly meetings.

In her update to the board, Ireland said in May 2018 the DDA approved the Placemaking Initiative Project for a guaranteed maximum price of \$2,832,094 (with about 54% for site improvements) and a contingency of \$200,000 and \$125,720.47 of the contingency has been spent, leaving about \$74,279.76 remaining.

Ireland said there are a few minor items that need to be addressed and the DDA is holding back \$290,241.65.

Ireland said she will plan an open house

shortly after the first of the year. She said she and Lothringer have only been in the building for a week and an open house during the holidays would be too difficult.

Ireland said the DPW will put the lighted holiday ice skaters in the triangle at Belleville and Quirk Road and put the lighted trees in Harris Park at the new headquarters.

"We need to think about use of the building," Ireland said. She said she sent a questionnaire to all members and it will take a while to get the policy in place.

"It's not Susan's building," she stressed.

DDA member Helen Foster said they have to comply with state law in the spending of DDA funds, but she likes the questionnaire, too.

Foster suggested Ireland check the enabling legislation for DDAs in the state when determining how the building is going to be used, and if the DDA pays for something, determine if it is a legitimate expenditure.

McNamara said it was a community meeting room.

Foster replied that it has to be determined if any cost is or is not a legitimate expenditure, such as security for a meeting.

"It's a community resource," McNamara insisted.

"Yes, but there are restrictions," said Foster, who also served as VBT treasurer and supervisor in the past.

In other business at the unofficial gathering, the DDA:

- Heard Ireland report that the DDA is holding some retainage to ensure that the 15 dead trees are replaced in the spring at the Belleville Road pathway and crossing over I-94. She said this project came within 4% of the original contract amount;

- Learned the DDA staff met with Wade Trim on Nov. 21 to review the Capital Improvement Plan. The subcommittee had already had earlier draft copies to evaluate. Ireland said in early December a copy of the plan will be forwarded to board members to review and a presentation will be made at the first meeting of 2020. There is no meeting in December;

- Learned Aerotropolis has hired Christopher Girdwood as its new executive director and he will attend the January 2020 meeting to bring the DDA board up to date. Supervisor McNamara said this is not a political appointee and "sounds like this is a real-live developer of economics";

- Heard Supervisor McNamara say digital marketing is where everyone is going and if you can't do it on your phone, you're in

(continued on page 5)

O P I N I O N S

Editorial

New year, new chance to change

The new year of 2020 is just around the corner and we hope that thoughts of a new slate upon which to write will encourage fresh, new thoughts.

With this issue, the *Independent* is completing its 25th year and we are looking at new things to do to continue our service. We'll tell you next week about our upcoming celebration on Jan. 9.

The City of Belleville will be getting a new city manager and so things will be different in city hall. After working a total of 40 years in municipal governments, Diana Kollmeyer is ready for a rest.

In Van Buren Township there is a new planning director and lots of upcoming developments. The former director, Ron Akers, was very particular about following the law precisely. We hope new director Dan Power is as particular.

There are other new things in VBT -- so many it makes your head spin. Their PR department is running at high speed and, along with their slick magazine, are making VBT seem to be heaven. Don't worry, we'll continue to tell you what's happening in the day-to-day spending of taxpayer money.

In Sumpter, they will be opening their new library branch soon, so people in the township will be able to use computers and scanners and printers in their own neighborhood instead of having to drive the six miles or so to the main library in Belleville. If you want to browse for a book to read, you'll still need to go to the main branch. We're told there are no books at the branch library in Sumpter.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

A reader reports that his neighbor in Canton went into his own front yard and shot off his assault rifle late Dec. 18, shouting, "We won! We won!" The Canton PD came to see him.

He obviously referred to the U.S. House impeachment vote on President Trump that night.

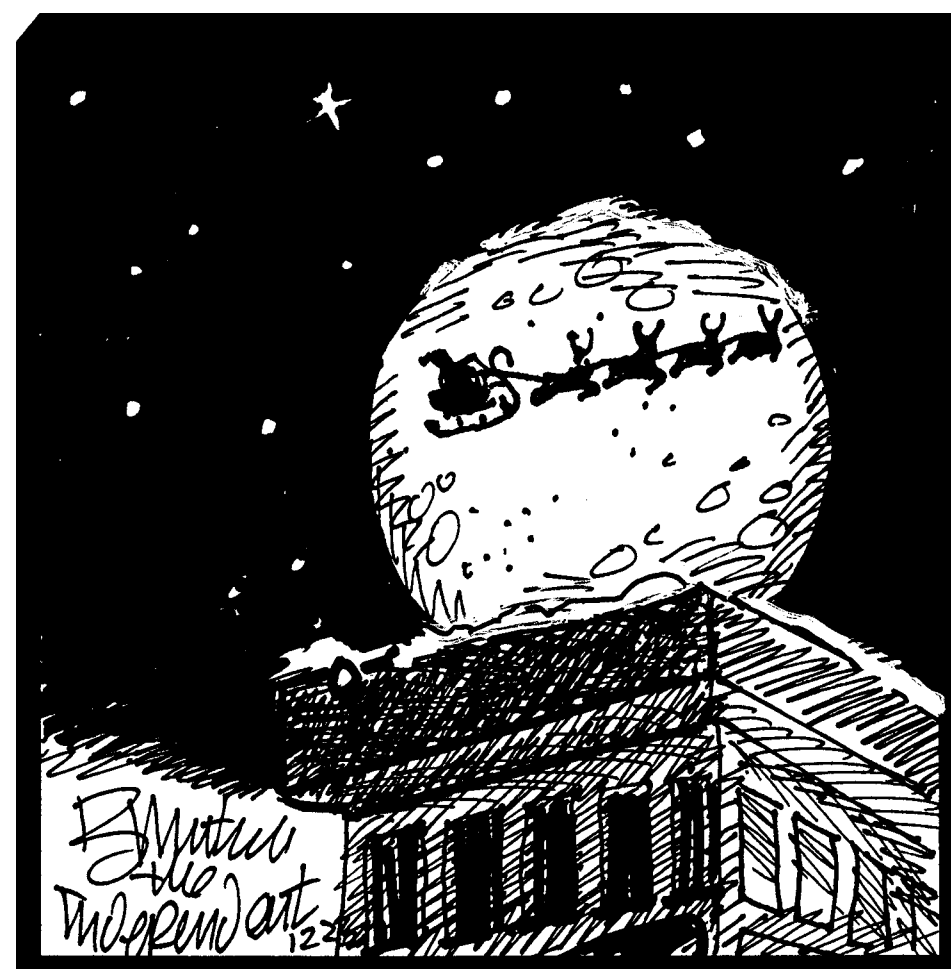
At the Dec. 17 regular township board meeting, I asked VBT Supervisor Kevin McNamara when the township hall's new LED sign will be turned on. It has been wrapped in a tarp for weeks. Supervisor McNamara said it is due to be turned on Dec. 23.

While VBT's new project will include fixing up the worst road in the township -- Old Michigan Avenue -- and using county funds for rehabilitation of roads, the main reason for the water pipe project is to make sure Subaru gets the water and water pressure it was promised when it developed on the Smith Farm.

The township is planning some other work in that section of the township to facilitate getting water to the water tower so it can be filled at night at lower rates. As long as that work is going to be under way, this project next door will work right in with it.

"We want our infrastructure to service any kind of development in that area," said Water and Sewer Director James Taylor, promising the board will get more details from them on the newest project by spring.

Also in that area, Willow Run Airport will be putting in water and sewer lines that will hook up to VBT service. The airport will



turn the lines over to the township when the project is complete.

I missed the VBT Environmental Commission meeting on Dec. 18 because I was waiting for our newspapers to be delivered and the delivery truck was very late. Anyway, I missed the commission's annual Christmas party and all the conversation.

I've been brought up to date on the meeting and have learned the commission's recording secretary Anna Halstead is going to Plymouth Township to work there, leaving her job in the VBT building department.

Also, chairman David Brownlee announced he will be moving to Lake Forest, North Carolina, in the spring where the taxes aren't so high. He was reelected chairman and will serve as long as he can. Then vice chairman Norm DeBuck will take over.

Also, I'm informed, the commission was told the Belleville Lake drawdown is history. It's not going to happen.

The *Detroit News* reports that Wayne County has closed on the \$4.9 million sale of the Pinnacle Aeropark Property to HS Commerce 275 LLC. HS Commerce 275 is a joint venture, with two developers getting together to invest \$40 million in the Huron Township property over five years. Plans for the property, which includes

350 acres of county-owned land and the 300-acre former Pinnacle Race Course site, call for two warehouses totaling more than 600,000 square feet.

After two years of operation, the horse-racing track closed in 2010. This was after the Ficano administration spent \$26 million in taxpayer money there for infrastructure. Money from the property sale will go toward paying back debt from \$13 million in bond funding issued for the site by the county under Ficano, *The News* reports.

Since Christmas falls on Wednesday this year, it sent our printers in Adrian into a frenzy. Since they can't print our paper on Wednesday, and they are backed up by other printing jobs, we are being printed on Monday and our deadline was last Friday.

We are promised delivery of this paper on Monday, but it could be late. We'll be delivering this paper on Thursday, as usual.

Then, on Friday, Dec. 27, we'll put another paper together for Dec. 30 printing and delivery. We'll deliver it on Thursday, Jan. 2.

If this is confusing for you, we understand. It's very confusing for us, too, but we'll all get through it just fine.

www.bellevilleareaindependent.com
mail@bellevilleareaindependent.com

BELLEVILLE-AREA INDEPENDENT

Established Dec. 3, 1994 First Edition Jan. 5, 1995

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

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

Advertising Manager: Bob Mytych

Sports Editor: Bob Mytych

Bookkeeper: James Otzman

Production Manager: James Otzman

Office Manager: Janet Millard

Business Manager: Gerald McKelvey

Editorial Cartoonist: Bob Mytych

Belleville Area Independent™ is a Trademark and is registered with the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Reg. No. 3,751,670
Belleville Area Independent Holding Company, LLC
(Michigan Limited Liability Company)

152 Main St., Suite 9,
Belleville, MI 48111
734-699-9020
FAX 734-699-8962

The Independent is owned and operated by a Michigan Limited Liability Company made up of members of this community.

Member: Michigan Press Association

Entire contents of this paper is Copyrighted © 2019 - All rights reserved.

This paper is available free at sites throughout the community. To get the Independent delivered by mail, cost is \$30 per year for postage, Outside of Michigan - \$35 per year, outside of the USA - call. Also available free to download on our website.

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.



HALL RENTAL AVAILABLE

THE FAMILY FRATERNITY
Moose
Loyal Order of Moose • Women of the Moose • Moose Legion

Belleville Family Center # 934
45476 Harris Road
Belleville, MI 48111
bellevillemoose.com
moose934@yahoo.com

Weekday & Weekend Rates
Bartending Service Provided -
Catering Available -- Ask for Tiff!
Free Wi-Fi Hotspot!
734-325-7799
Members & Qualified Guests

Columbia Court Apartments
275 W. Columbia • Belleville
For 1 Bedroom & Studio Apartments Only.
Accepting Applications for Individuals 62 & Older
H.U.D. Guidelines Apply
A Senior Facility of National Church Residences
Affordable Housing • Sec 8-202
Minutes From Shopping, Freeways & Restaurants
 734-697-8200

"It has become appallingly obvious that our technology has exceeded our humanity."
— Albert Einstein

Letters

Thanks for help with children's party

To the editor:

Every year my heart is filled with gratitude for our sponsors that continually donate year after year to our annual Children's Christmas Party. With their generosity, this event continues to remain the success and tradition that it has become.

Among the Sponsors we wish to acknowledge: Benito's Five Star Pizza, Burhop Collision, Carlisle Wortman Associates, CRG Electric, Dan Watson, Davenport Brothers Construction, David C. Brown Funeral Home, Fox Auto Parts, Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue, Gretchen Lucas, Higgerson & Neal Funeral Home, Honorable Judge David Parrott, J&T Towing, Inc., John & Donna Osborne, Kellers Real Farm Bakery, Martin & Son, Michelle Bellingham, Post, Smythe, Lutz, & Ziel of Wayne, Red Rooster Lounge & Pizzeria, Sumpter Collision, Sumpter Township DPW, Sumpter Township Fire Chief Joseph Januszyk, Sumpter Township Parks & Recreation, The Bake Shoppe, Three Farmers Meat Processing, Utilities Management Service, Wolverine Power Corporation, Zywicki Greenhouses.

A special thanks to Santa Claus who took time out of his busy schedule to stop by and the Numerous Volunteers that selflessly contributed their time to ensure the success of the Children's Christmas Party!

John W. Morgan
Sumpter Township Supervisor

All should visit Historic Trinity Lutheran

To the editor:

My family went with me last Sunday to the historic Trinity Lutheran Church in downtown Detroit. The church was decorated beautifully for Christmas. Everyone should see it.

The church was full and the music was wonderful and all of the traditions were carried out. A nice lunch after church with family made for a great day.
Merry Christmas.

Mickey Widener
Van Buren Township

Things to do in the Belleville area...

• **Friday, Dec. 27** – Van Buren Eagles 3996, 9961 Beck Rd., Van Buren Township, is open for dinner from 5 to 8 p.m.

• **Monday, Dec. 30** – Red Cross Blood Drive, 8 a.m. – 1:45 p.m., Tim Horton's, 10360 Belleville Rd. RedCrossBlood.org

• **Tuesday, Dec. 31** – Van Buren Eagles #3996, 9961 Beck Rd., are throwing a 2020 New Year's Eve Party with live music by Southern Heat.

VBT DDA

(continued from page 3)

trouble. "Van Buren Township does not want to get into the economic development game," he said. "We don't have to do deals to get them to develop... The \$25,000 dues to Aerotropolis is a cheap way to get an economic development director";

• Heard Ireland state that although the DDA did not have an October meeting, as required by PA 57 the staff held the second informational meeting for the year on Oct. 22. She said one person came to the meeting, DDA director Joe Baskin;

• Heard Vice Chairperson Carol Bird say that at a recent real estate convention she heard many good comments about VBT. "Van Buren Township has come a long way ... Now it really looks good ... Northville and Plymouth residents want to come to VBT... What a difference. We've come a long, long way";

• Heard Ireland say that they are looking at doing an overpass like VBT's over I-94 in Ypsilanti and they have asked for details from VBT on its project;

• Heard Foster comment on the park next to the DDA building. She said sitting in the park is very peaceful and that it's amazing that next to a five-lane road you can have that peace. "We build quality," McNamara replied;

• Heard visitor Marcia Hollins ask the distance you can walk around the park. She said it would be good to know to tell the senior citizens the distance they would cover. She asked about a restroom and McNamara said walkers could go inside the DDA building to use the bathroom. Hollins asked when the building closes and McNamara said there would have to be more discussion about the use of restrooms; and

• Heard McNamara say the State of Michigan has a new emphasis on walking and there's a grant out there that he wants the VBT Parks and Recreation Department to apply for in conjunction with the DDA for a walking map. He said there is a walking app where you walk along and the GPS tells you where you are. He said Parks and Recreation Director Jennifer Wright is half way to having the grant application filled out. Secretary Chris Brown said in Ann Arbor as you're walking along the street, you can see all the buildings and it tells you what they are. You go in through Google Maps, he said.

Present at the meeting were Vice Chairperson Carol Bird, Secretary Chris Brown, Supervisor Kevin McNamara, and Directors Jim Chudzinski and Helen Foster. Also present were DDA Executive Director Susan Ireland, Assistant Director Lisa Lothringer, and visitor Marcia Hollins. DDA members absent were Chairman Craig Atchinson and Directors Joe Baskin, Dawn Chappell, Victor Delibera, Mark Laginess, and Joyce Rochowiak.

"We should be eternally vigilant against attempts to check the expression of opinions that we loathe."
— Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

STOP **JAYCO** **COMFORT SYSTEMS**
YOUR HEATING & COOLING FAMILY
Have You Been Turned Down for Credit? WE CAN HELP!
Credit Problems? Bankruptcy? **NO PROBLEM**
We can design a system and budget plan just for you.

Don't Buy A Furnace Until You Call
DISCOUNTS FOR MILITARY, TEACHERS, CITY, STATE & COUNTY EMPLOYEES!
A+ Rating with

Furnace Installed as low as \$1075 HIGH EFFICIENCY
Furnace Installed as low as \$1650 SUPER HIGH EFFICIENCY
10 year parts and labor

For Free Estimates, Call (313) 381-2800
20740 Ecorse Road, Taylor, MI 48180
FAMILY OWNED FOR OVER 38 YEARS!

FREE \$500 VALUE!
Humidifier & Digital Thermostat with Installation of Furnace & Central Air!

Belleville Tax & Accounting Service, Inc.
Criss, Wilmarth & Parr
Certified Public Accountants



Denise W. Baker, MSA, CPA **Gayl Parr, CPA**

Providing Services to Small Business and Individuals

- Small Business Accounting & Financial Statements
- Payroll Services
- Business and Personal Tax Returns
- Small Business Advising and Start-Up Consultation
- Quickbooks Training and Support

Visit our website www.bellevilletaxservices.com

Call Us Today!
(734) 697-8000

All major credit cards accepted

152 Main Street
(in The Professional Building)
Belleville, MI 48111

Court Watching**Exams adjourned until Feb. 12 for Titia Redmond, Brenna Reed**

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

A vital witness could not testify in preliminary exams against codefendants Titia Maria Redmond, 42, of Ferndale and Brenna Katricia Reed, 33, of Detroit, because the man was in mandatory job training and couldn't be present before 34th District Court Judge Brian Oakley on Dec. 11.

The two each are charged with doing from \$1,000 to \$20,000 worth of damage to two cars parked in the Constellium parking lot in Van Buren Township on Sept. 2. Redmond was free on \$5,000 personal bond and Reed posted bond of \$5,000/10%. Both were defended by retained attorney David Cripps.

Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Kiefer Cox said two of the witnesses were present, but he asked to have the exam adjourned to another date when the third witness could be present.

"I'm not going to adjourn," said Judge Oakley. "We could start the exam now and get the third witness another day. Or, dismiss the charges and refile later."

Defense attorney Cripps made a motion to dismiss the charges. Prosecutor Cox said they could hold the exam now for the two witnesses and then hear the third witness later.

The first witness was Stacey Felder who testified she drove her car to work at Constellium Automotive, 6331 E. Schooner Dr., Van Buren Township, and arrived between 5:40 and 5:50 a.m. to begin her 6 a.m. shift on Sept. 2. She said at about 6:30 a coworker who was her friend came and told her that her car had been damaged. She testified she went to her supervisor, George Jackson, and they went out to see that four tires were flat on her 2013 Mercedes C300 AMG. Also, the windshield was broken, the driver's window broken out, and the hood dented. She had it taken on a flatbed truck to Jack Demmer Collision Shop in Dearborn the next day. The shop gave an assessment that there was \$20,414.21 in damages, a total loss.

She said she had to put a down payment to buy a different used car, her insurance went up \$200, and she lost her job.

"My life changed when these two girls tore

up my car," she testified, adding, "I'm going to counseling right now." She said she had worked as a production worker at Constellium.

She identified her two coworkers who were the defendants and said she had ongoing issues with them, especially Redmond. She said Redmond slapped her on Aug. 11 and it was on camera and they all had a meeting with Human Resources.

Felder said Progressive Insurance paid off most of her note, leaving \$244 for her to pay.

The second witness was Grace Moore, whose daughter, Cameron Seeger, worked at Constellium. She testified her daughter drove her mother's 2005 Chevy Equinox to work on Sept. 2. The car was in the parking lot at Constellium and had its front windshield, driver's side and rear windows broken out and all four tires flattened, along with a broken tail light.

Moore said the car was towed to her home and her husband met her daughter at work. She said she works in a casino and left for work at 3 a.m. that day. By the time she got home, her car was back in her drive with all its damages.

She said while the car had insurance, she did not file a claim but replaced the four tires at Sam's Club for over \$800, spent \$250 for the windows,

and got a \$150 estimate on the tail light.

After the schedules of the attorneys involved were checked, the final witness was scheduled before Judge Oakley at 11 a.m., Feb. 12.

Van Buren Township Officer Dale Harrison is the officer in charge of the case.

Vern Terrell Wells

A charge of assault with intent to do great physical harm less than murder in VBT on Sept. 21 was dismissed against Vern Terrell Wells, 55, of Taylor, because the prosecutor was not ready to proceed.

On Dec. 11, Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Keifer Cox told Judge Oakley that the victim was subpoenaed and they don't know why the victim isn't present. The charge was dismissed without prejudice, which means it could be refiled in the future.

Officer in charge of the case was VBT Officer William Bettendorf. Defense attorney was Stephanie Farkas from the Neighborhood Defense program.

Chase Antonio Morgan

Chase Antonio Morgan, 17, of Ypsilanti waived his preliminary exam and was bound over to circuit court on Jan. 8 for an arraignment

on the information. He is charged with accessory after the fact to a felony on Oct. 14 in Van Buren Township. Morgan was bound over by Magistrate Lisa Martin on Dec. 11.

His co-defendant is Sean Demetrius Elliott, 18, of VBT, who is charged with assault with a dangerous weapon (felonious assault) and weapons/felony firearm on Oct. 14 in VBT. Elliott waived his exam on Nov. 13, had his arraignment on the information in circuit court on Nov. 27 and had a calendar conference set for Dec. 13.

JOE'S APPLIANCES

WE SELL USED APPLIANCES!
Pick-Up & Delivery
In-Home Service Calls Too!
(734) 697-3206
Bemis Road @ Savage Roads



"Real Estate with Real Service"

Angela Netro & Co. Real Estate
734-697-6655
 Fax: (734) 697-3531
 P.O. Box 592, Belleville, MI 48112
 Email: nettroandco@comcast.net
<http://www.angelanetro.featuredwebsite.com>

Broker

Residential * Commercial * Vacant * Repos * Short Sales

BASIC OBEDIENCE & TRAINING CLASSES FORMING NOW! CALL 734-449-4513

Where Pets and People Meet. **734-461-9458**

Promoting a Healthy and Safe Environment for All.

Visit us @ **fmar1.org** and on 

Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue

IMPORT AND DOMESTIC



Burhop's Collision

BODY AND FENDER REPAIR
COMPLETE GLASS INSTALLATION
(734) 699-3641
FAX: (734) 699-3856

112 Davis St. **Towing Available**
Belleville, MI 48111 **Open Weekdays 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.**

WE'RE AIR CONDITIONING SPECIALISTS!



Owner Randy Martin

Martin & Son
Auto Repair
734-697-7765

Hours Mon - Fri 8am - 5pm 401 Sumpter Rd Belleville MI 48111

BONECUTTERS TREE EXPERTS, LLC

50% DISCOUNT IF YOU KEEP WOOD/BRUSH!

- Storm Clean Up
- Free Estimates
- Tree Topping & Trimming
- Tree & Shrub Removal
- Stump Removal • Bucket Service

Insured & Senior Discounts

CALL FOR A PROMPT FREE ESTIMATE

(734) 431-4202



Saundra Hightower
Licensed Agent



Clement Insurance **Life Auto Home Commercial**

Phone (734) 699-1300 354 Main Street
 Cell/Text (734) 654-5050 Belleville, Michigan 48111
 Website www.clementinsurancecllc.net/

Save 80% on DIVORCE

You can have confidence with CS&R
 we have been proudly providing quality service since 1992

OUR PRICE IS AFFORDABLE
OUR SERVICE MAKES US THE BEST
 WITH OUR DIVORCE SERVICE YOU DON'T GET A CONFUSING INSTRUCTION SHEET - WE GET IT DONE!!

CS & R DIVORCE & DISABILITY 734-425-1074 (or you can text to 734-221-0844)
WEBSITE: www.CSRdisability.com

PRO PLUMBING

Free Estimates
 Service & Repair
 Drain Cleaning
 Gas Lines & More

Licensed & Insured
 Honest & Reliable

Caleb Windiate
 734.307.6478
ProPlumbing734@yahoo.com

LOOK

Made you look! Start advertising in the Belleville-Area Independent today and get noticed too. Home of the buy 3 ads, get 1 free. Call Advertising Manager Bob Mytych at 734-699-9020 today!

David C. Brown Funeral Home

**SERVING THE COMMUNITY FOR
OVER 35 YEARS**

**SERVING BELLEVILLE, SUMPTER TOWNSHIP
& VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP**

Specializing in Celebration of Life Services.



460 E. HURON RIVER DR., BELLEVILLE, MI 48111

(734) 697-4500

David C. Brown, Manager • Shelly A. Brown-Chudzinski, Director

Complete Line of Monuments & Markers.

www.DAVIDCBROWNFH.com

Obituaries



Donald Gerald Bluhm

DONALD GERALD BLUHM

(September 19, 1923 – December 18, 2019)

Donald Gerald Bluhm, age 96, long-time Belleville resident, passed away Wednesday, December 18, 2019 at his home. He was born September 19, 1923 in Detroit, MI, son of Emil Otto & Pearl (Bovve) Bluhm.

Mr. Bluhm graduated from Belleville High School, class of 1941. He proudly served his country in the U.S. Army in WWII, from 1943-1945. He attended Berry College in Georgia. He was a member of First United Methodist Church, Belleville. He retired as Director of Security & Investigations from Detroit Edison after many years of loyal service. Don was a volunteer firefighter for Van Buren Township and was on Belleville Civil Service Commission until 2014. He loved sports and founded and coached little league for Van Buren Township. He enjoyed traveling. He also loved old cars, and would tell you he only had a few! He had a wonderful sense of humor and always had a joke to make everyone smile. Most of all he loved Christ and his family.

Don is survived by two sons Gerald (Jerri North) Bluhm and Ronald (Patti) Bluhm, both of Belleville; four grandchildren: Sara (Bill) Gibson of New Hope, Pennsylvania, Christopher (Melissa McGregor) Bluhm of Detroit, MI, Katie (Alex) Moffly of Washington, D.C. and Blake (Christina) Bluhm of Redford, MI; five great-grandchildren: Katherine, Isabelle, Lucas, Arianna and Nicholas, and one on-the-way; a sister Delores Doria of Plymouth, MI, and many friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, wife Doris (Mitchell) Bluhm on February 5, 2014, half-sister Virginia Crawford, also a brother George Bluhm.

Visitation was 1-5 PM Sunday at David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville. Funeral Service was 1:00 PM Monday, December 23, 2019 at First United Methodist Church, 417 Charles St., Belleville. Reverend Jim Walker officiated. Entombment will be in Hillside Cemetery, Belleville.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Ypsilanti Automotive Heritage Museum, 100 E. Cross Street, Ypsilanti, MI, and would be appreciated by the family.

www.davidcbrownfh.com

VBT planners get report on building projects under way for 2020

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

At the end of the Dec. 11, nine-minute meeting of the Van Buren Township Planning Commission, Vidya Krishnan, who has been filling in as planning director until someone could be hired to replace Ron Akers, announced someone has been hired.

She said Dan Power of Walker will take over the position as of the first of the year.

Krishnan of McKenna Associates also announced a senior housing project will come before the planning commission in January.

Also, Mike's Kitchen on the South Service Drive and Belleville Road is scheduled to be redone and an addition added. This will need Board of Zoning Appeals approval for the setback.

Camping World on the I-94 North Service Drive plans to tear down part of its building to make more space for outdoor parking of RVs and will need special land use approval, she said.

When asked if there are any houses being built in the township, Krishnan said building permits have been issued for homes in Cobblestone, Cobblestone Creek, and Cobblestone Ridge on West Huron River Drive, as well as at Townsend Park at Ecorse and Morton Taylor roads.

She said there are other projects in the planning stages, as well.

The commission meeting was called for a housekeeping procedure. The public hearing and approval for rezoning of a DTE parcel at 8001 Haggerty Rd. from C1, General Business, to M1, Light Industrial, had been approved by the commission in September.

But, by the time it was ready to go to the township board for approval, a requested combination of parcels had taken place and it had a new tax parcel identification number.

Krishnan said when the rezoning is presented to the board it has to have the actual ID number and so they decided to do a public hearing again and vote again on the recommendation on the rezoning and present it to the board with the new number.

The commission again voted to recommend the rezoning to the board. Preliminary site plan approval had already been approved.

DTE Energy wants to construct an Alternate System Operation Center (ASOC) to function as an emergency back-up facility for the DTE Downtown Campus Electrical Systems Operation Center (ESOC).

***To build a better
world, start in your
own community!***

Higgerson & Neal Funeral Home

Continuing A Belleville Tradition Since 1932

Bryan R. Hajciar,
Manager

209 Main Street
Belleville, Michigan 48111

734-697-9400

VISIT US AT WWW.HNFFH.COM



734 - 482 - 6000
320 N. Washington • Ypsilanti, MI
Christopher Janowiak – Licensed Manager

734 - 699 - 6000
19865 Sumpter Road • Belleville, MI
Geoffrey Janowiak – Licensed Manager

janowiakfuneralhome.com

Funeral Service *with Burial*

Service Charge	\$4,890.00
Casket 5 colors made in U.S.A.	\$1,395.00
Grave Liner	\$700.00
Register Book Package	\$140.00
Total	\$7,125.00
Same Day Service	\$6,630.00

Funeral Service

with Cremation to Follow

Service Charge	\$4,890.00
Ceremonial Rental Casket	\$1,095.00
Register Book Package	\$140.00
Crematory	\$170.00
Cremation Authorization	\$75.00
Total	\$6,370.00
Same Day Service	\$5,875.00

Simplified Cremation

\$1,695*

*Certain restrictions apply.

Includes arrangement conference,
local transportation, crematory,
cremation container,
website obituary
and video tribute.



Service Charges to include Basic Service of Funeral Director and Staff, Embalming, Other Preparation of Body, Visitation at Funeral Home or Other Facility, Funeral Service at Funeral Home or Other Facility, Transfer to Funeral Home 30 mile radius, Hearse and Service Vehicle. Website Obituary and Video Tribute. Other charges may include sales tax, cemetery charges, newspaper notices, and vault company service fee.

Notice to Advertisers:

The *Bellefonte-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.

Sumpter OKs sending Sgt. Joseph Balowski to Staff/Command School

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Sumpter Township Police Sgt. Joseph Balowski will attend the 2020 Eastern Michigan University School of Police Staff and Command.

This was approved at the regular meeting of the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees on Dec. 10. Tuition cost of \$3,250 will be paid from the police department forfeiture account. The school starts in February and ends in October, entailing one week a month over the nine months.

In his request Director of Public Safety/Chief of Police Eric Luke said Sgt. Balowski was promoted last July to fill the sergeant position left vacant by the retirement of Chris McGlynn. Balowski is now the sole supervisor in the police department without the critical executive-level training this program provides.

"Starting his supervisory duties off on the right foot with this program is vital to the uniformity in decision making we expect from all of our supervisory personnel," Director Luke wrote.

"I note that upon Sgt. Balowski's anticipated graduation in the fall of 2020, the Sumpter Township Police Department will have eight graduates of this prestigious program. Quite a feat for a small department but indicative of the enormous weight we place on decision making from our supervisors."

After some discussion, Fire Chief Joe Januszyk said he had asked for command training for fire fighters, who must be trained in other skills under state law.

Supervisor John Morgan said the township encourages employees to take college classes to help with their jobs and the township reimburses them.

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

- Approved sending clerk office assistant Dawn Hadyniak to attend the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks Institute in March at a cost not to exceed \$1,350. Hadyniak resigned as deputy clerk in May and became office assistant. The board motion on her transition stated she would be able to continue MAMC certification and join the union. Anthony Burdick replaced her as deputy clerk. Later, Hadyniak went on maternity leave and her mother, Maria

Beaudrie took over her office assistant position. Clerk Esther Hurst said Beaudrie was still working, but Hadyniak was expected to be back on Monday and then Beaudrie wouldn't be there any more;

- Approved a memorandum of understanding with the AFSCME Local 1882.14 on the van driver/utility part-time position that allows him to not be a member of the union, but he would get union benefits. In 2015 when Bud Morgan was hired, he stated he did not wish to be in the union. This agreement states while he is not in the union, he is subject to coverage by the bargaining agreement. His duties also are clarified. His rate of pay will be consistent with the hourly wage applicable to the union agreement and he will be subject to all rate increases set forth;

- Approved formalization of a contractual arrangement between Post, Smythe, Lutz and Ziel of Wayne for accounting service work performed by CPA Cari Ford at a rate of \$157.50 per hour. Projected hours through year end are eight hours per week;

- Approved a resolution on Property Tax Payment Designee Appointments to collect/receive tax payments per Public Act 129 of 2019, with a contingency requested by Trustee Matt Oddy that the board will follow up with a meeting after the holidays to address supervision of people working in the treasurer's office. Treasurer Ken Bednark was not present at the meeting to respond to Trustee Oddy's comments. Treasurer Bednark had requested the following be approved: Wendy Snook, deputy treasurer; Erica Campbell, treasurer's clerk; and Anna Winter, water billing clerk. Attorney Rob Young said the new law takes immediate effect. It was noted that Anna Winter, the employee questioned by Oddy, is supervised by the financial director Michelle Cole;

- Approved 2020 dates for the Sumpter Township workshop and regular meetings, as well as planning commission meetings;

- Heard a report that on Thanksgiving Day there was a water main break in south Sumpter and bottled water was delivered to those involved and the line fixed the next day;

- Was informed all water bills that were due Feb. 28 and were still due Aug. 31 will be rolled into the Winter Tax bill;

- Approved an agreement with Constellation,

a natural gas provider, as worked out by Financial Director Cole and attorney Young. Young said approval of his report would include approval of the contract;

- Was reminded the township offices would be closed from Dec. 23 through Jan 1. The treasurer's office will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Dec. 31 for tax payments only;

- Heard Donald Basham ask questions about handicap parking regulations and business licensing. He asked if he sells things in his house does he need handicap parking. He said he asked the ordinance officer about it and was told if he's not crippled to forget it. Supervisor Morgan said that was not an appropriate response. Director Luke said he has looked into the issue and found it to be a business license and zoning issue. Supervisor Morgan asked Basham to give the township a chance to look into that issue. Basham also asked about inspections of businesses;

- Heard Donald Barrington Robinson ask how many fire hydrants had been inspected and Supervisor Morgan replied, "Just make your comments and sit down." Robinson

replied, "I have three minutes," and Morgan said, "You've got two left." Robinson said there were many trailers on vacant land in the township and he is the only one persecuted for this. "I've already talked with the inspector general. It started out of this office with a lie. Look out for BOLO." Morgan said that sounded like a threat and Oddy chimed in, "Sounds like a threat to me." Robinson replied, "It's not a threat but a promise." He said that BOLO is a police reference to "Be on the Lookout." Later in the meeting Oddy said BOLO is a knife and he has been threatened with a knife. "Be careful what you say," Oddy warned Robinson; and

- Heard Mary Ban "thank God that we have freedom to come to a meeting and give our opinions" and Mary Sherwood praised the township parks. She remembered what it was like before they had Parks and Recreation. "Now, it's so amazing. Very lovely. Very nice." Supervisor Morgan said a lot of positive things are going on in this township. "We're doing the best we can with what we have."



The Law Office of
Amy M. Eversole

• Estate Planning • Probate • Criminal Law
• Family Law • Property Law

152 Main St. Suite 11
Belleville, Mich. 48111 Call 734-718-8574
www.amyversolelaw.com



BETHANY
BIBLE CHURCH

810 E. HURON RIVER DR. BELLEVILLE, MI | 734.697.7456
Sunday | Adult Bible Fellowship & Children's Sunday
School 9:45am | Morning Worship 11am
Wednesday | Kids & Teens 6:45pm | Bible For Life 7pm
Visit bethanybiblechurch.com for more info

RIVER OF LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD

16650 Sumpter Rd., Belleville, MI 48111
Worship Sunday: 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday Family Night: 7:00 p.m.
Boys & Girls Ministries, Youth, College & Career, and Seniors Ministry.
Visit rol-ag.com (734) 699-6700

Faith Assembly Church

Sunday School – 10:00 a.m.
Worship Service – 11:00 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study – 7:00 p.m.
894 E. Huron River Drive, Belleville, MI 48111
Find us on Facebook! or www.faithassemblybelleville.com

ST. ANTHONY CATHOLIC CHURCH

409 W. Columbia Ave., Belleville, MI 48111
(734) 697-1211

• Saturday Mass: 6:00pm
• Sunday Masses: 8:30am & 10:30am
www.stanthonybelleville.com

Ridge Road Church of Christ

1770 Ridge Road, Ypsilanti, MI 48198
Sunday Bible Study 10 AM, Worship 11 AM
Sunday Evening Worship 6 PM
www.ridgeroadcoc.org (734) 485-2930

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE YOUR CHURCH LISTED IN THIS DIRECTORY?

CALL ADVERTISING MANAGER BOB MYTYCH AT 734-699-9020 TODAY!

HONESTY IS OUR POLICY!



AT 5-POINTS
Lonnie's
AUTO REPAIR

NEW CUSTOMERS GET
10% OFF LABOR DURING OUR:
GET-TO-KNOW-YOUR-FRIENDS-TRUSTWORTHY-
RELIABLE-AUTO-MECHANIC-SALE

WITH COUPON • LONNIE'S AUTO COUPON EXPIRES 12-31-19

DISC BRAKE SPECIAL
PREMIUM PADS & ROTORS, INCLUDES
LABOR, STARTING AT \$225 OR LESS!
Most Cars. Restrictions Apply.

WITH COUPON • LONNIE'S AUTO COUPON EXPIRES 12-31-19

SENIORS, VETERANS &
ACTIVE MILITARY TAKE
10% OFF YOUR TOTAL BILL

WITH COUPON • LONNIE'S AUTO COUPON EXPIRES 12-31-19

LET'S GET READY FOR WINTER!
HEATER CORE FLUSH \$39.99
Plus Coolant

WITH COUPON • LONNIE'S AUTO COUPON EXPIRES 12-31-19

50 South Street at 5-Points, Belleville • 734-325-7065

Open Monday – Friday 8am – 6pm

Univ. of Mich. selected to host Presidential debate Oct. 15, 2020

The University of Michigan will host a Presidential Debate on Oct. 15, 2020, the Commission on Presidential Debates announced Friday.

The debate, which will take place in the university's Crisler Center, will be the second in a series of three Presidential Debates next year prior to the November election.

"This is a tremendous opportunity for the university community to contribute to our democracy, while setting an example of civic engagement and shining a light on the outstanding academic strengths

of our institution," said U-M President Mark Schlissel. "Public service and civic engagement are at the core of our great university and its history."

The debate will be staged largely on the university's athletics campus. Crisler Center is home to the men's and women's basketball teams and the women's gymnastics team. Educational and outreach activities will take place in facilities near Crisler Center and in other parts of the Ann Arbor campus.

The university is the alma mater of former President Gerald R. Ford, whose legacy lives on in the Ford School of Public Policy, which is helping to lead U-M's debate initiative, and in his presidential library, which sits on the campus. Ford was an honorary co-chair of the CPD.

U-M has been the site of many important

events in U.S. history, including President Lyndon B. Johnson's "Great Society" speech and the clinical trials of the Salk polio vaccine. It was on the steps of the Michigan Union that presidential hopeful John F. Kennedy delivered his speech in 1960 announcing his vision of what would become the Peace Corps.

"For generations, the University of Michigan has led the way in advancing understanding of our nation's most pressing issues—and next year our students, faculty and staff will have a novel opportunity to enhance this essential quality of our mission at the national level," Schlissel said.

The university community can anticipate themes related to democracy, the election and the debate -- from cybersecurity, to voting rights, to the meaning of truth -- to

be woven throughout the coming year, providing opportunity to engage with the electoral process, through curricular and co-curricular experiences and various public events enhanced by being a debate site.

The CPD announced in September that former presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama have agreed to become honorary co-chairs of the CPD.

Information on public events and media access will be announced in the months to come. Visit: Debate2020.umich.edu. Join the debate conversation at @Debate2020UMich on Twitter and Instagram.

CPD (Commission on Presidential Debates) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization and has sponsored all general election presidential and vice presidential debates since 1988.

Marycrest



Our Amenities Include:

- Daily fresh meals prepared by our executive chef
- Assistance with activities of daily living such as bathing, dressing, personal care, and/or medication management
- Restaurant and bistro style dining available
- Daily housekeeping with laundry services available

- Chapel open to all faiths
- Ongoing life enrichment activities
- House physician available, along with specialists such as dentist, audiologist, podiatrist and optometrist
- Life Plan Community – when your needs change, your home doesn't have to!

Assisted Living Apartments



ST. JOSEPH MERCY
SENIOR COMMUNITIES

Marycrest Assisted Living

Our mission is to embolden people to live a joyful, purposeful life.

Please contact Christina Clement
734.743.4030
clemechm@trinity-health.org

15475 Middlebelt Rd.
Livonia, Michigan 48154



ST. JOSEPH MERCY
SENIOR COMMUNITIES



MarycrestCampus.org

Aerotropolis announces new executive director Christopher Girdwood

The Detroit Region Aerotropolis Board of Directors announced Dec. 12 that Christopher Girdwood has been selected to serve as the organization's new executive director, effective immediately.

"Christopher brings a wealth of national experience and tremendous enthusiasm to the role," said David Glaab, chairman of the Detroit Region Aerotropolis Board. "Under his leadership, I believe Aerotropolis will continue to attract quality jobs and business investment to the region."



Girdwood

Girdwood formerly served as the Business Development Manager for Prince William County in Virginia, where he implemented strategies to grow a 1,500-acre Innovation Park by attracting and expanding life science and advanced manufacturing industries.

His economic development experience also includes work in Los Angeles and at the International Economic Development Council (IEDC). Girdwood attended Michigan State University, the University of Michigan, and Harvard Kennedy School.

Correction: Joint Anti-Trafficking Task Force no longer in existence

In the Nov. 14 issue of the *Independent* we reported that Gov. Whitmer re-appointed Belleville resident Brigitte Robarge to the Michigan Human Trafficking Health Advisory board.

We recently received a note from A. Andjelkovic from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services saying that while we also identified Robarge as belonging to the Joint Anti-Trafficking Task Force, that task force no longer exists because its funding from the Department of Justice officially ended in 2018, "with some leftover money for a couple of more months."

Sorry, we didn't know. Thanks for the information.

Rosemary Oztman, editor

"I am from greater Detroit and it's great to be back home promoting economic growth in the region," said Girdwood. "The talent is here, there are many shovel-ready sites, and developers can work directly with two world-class airports, three major interstates, and five Class-A rail lines."

Girdwood's office is in Romulus.

Over the past five years, the Aerotropolis region welcomed \$470 million in new capital investments and created close to 3,000 new jobs, according to a news release from Aerotropolis. Many opportunities still exist with thousands of acres of undeveloped property throughout the region, the news release said.

Assistant Wayne County Executive Khalil Rahal applauded the move.

"Aerotropolis is central to our effort to continue to grow Wayne County as a world-class logistics and distribution hub to match our airport," Rahal said. "I look forward to seeing Aerotropolis continue to thrive under Chris' leadership."

"Working with the Aerotropolis communities, we will build on the momentum of the Amazon, Penske, and Brose projects to attract even more quality jobs and investment to this area over the next decade," said Girdwood.

The Detroit Region Aerotropolis Development Corporation is a four community, two-county, public-private economic development partnership driving corporate expansion and new investment around Detroit Metro and Willow Run airports. Aerotropolis offers 6,000 acres of

development-ready land.

Members in the public sector are Van Buren Township, Huron Township and the cities of Romulus and Taylor, along with Wayne and Washtenaw counties, Wayne County Airport Authority (Metro and Willow Run airports) and Michigan Economic Development Corporation.

Aerotropolis business partners are DTE Energy, CBRE, Detroit Chinese Business Association, French American Chamber of Commerce, German American Chamber of Commerce, British-American Business Council, Asian Pacific American Chamber of Commerce, Detroit Regional Chamber, and Detroit Regional Partnership.

White Pine
DENTAL HEALTH
Your Smile Comes First!
Affordable, Kind, and Convenient.

Call Us Today: (734) 252-6002 187 Main Street, Downtown Belleville
www.WhitePineDentalHealth.com

Meet our Dentist: Dr. DeAngelo S. Webster is an award-winning dentist, author, and a University of Michigan graduate.

• Now Booking New Patients •
Open Evenings and Weekends
Family Friendly Dentist for Adults and Kids

VISIT
www.AGIRLNAMEDEGYPT.ORG

SEEKING INFORMATION
RELATING TO THE DEATH OF
EGYPT COVINGTON
Van Buren Township | Friday, June 23, 2017

JUSTICE FOR EGYPT
ANY INFO CONTACT;
1-800-SPEAK UP
OR CONTACT
CRIMETIP@VANBUREN-MI.ORG

SPECIALIZING IN LARGE AND HAZARDOUS REMOVALS

PROFESSIONAL TREE SERVICE

24 Hr. EMERGENCY SERVICE
TREE TRIMMING & REMOVAL
STUMP & SHRUBBERY REMOVAL
CRANE SERVICE • FIREWOOD
FULLY INSURED • FREE ESTIMATES
SENIOR CITIZEN DISCOUNT
EMERGENCIES & BELLEVILLE AREA
Call Tom (734) 864-2243
10% OFF MENTION AD
Call Joe (734) 664-9285

*Sleigh Bells Ring...
Can you hear them?*

Don't let hearing loss prevent you or a loved one from enjoying the holidays. Call today to schedule your **FREE HEARING SCREENING AT BELTONE**

HOLIDAY OFFERS

\$1000 OFF
AN AMAZE TECHNOLOGY SYSTEM
Expires 12-31-19

FREE \$20.00 GIFT CARD**
AFTER COMPLETING YOUR HEARING SCREENING.
(Expires 12/31/19)

WE MATCH & EXCEED MOST MEDICARE & DISCOUNT PROGRAMS
We offer Award Winning Technology, Service & FREE UNLIMITED LIFETIME HEARING CARE!

Belleville 889 Sumpter Rd. 734-256-4113	Ann Arbor 4076 Packard St. 734-389-8725	Ann Arbor 283 S. Zeeb Rd., Suite F 734-274-6794
--	--	--

*Offer valid towards purchase of two Beltone Amaze hearing instruments. \$500 off a single instrument. Discount off MSRP. Cannot be combined with other offers or coupons. Not valid on previous purchases. **Gift card valid at your nearest Kroger or Walmart location. Participation may vary by location. Beltone 2019.

BETTER HEARING IN 30 DAYS OR YOUR MONEY BACK!

ORPHAN OF THE WEEK FREIDA



Add a miracle to your life this holiday season by bringing **Freida** home. **Freida** came to us in a miraculous way and with a different name. She was originally called Flint in honor of where she arrived from. Little **Freida** somehow rode all the way from Flint, MI tucked up inside the engine of a truck! She was found after the drive safe and unharmed, a true miracle. We only changed her name when we realized she wasn't a he. **Freida** doesn't seem to have any memories of her dangerous trip and is ready for her fur-ever home. She is a feisty, spunky and playful kitten with so much love to add to a home. She likes chasing and batting toys around, nibbling on unexpected fingers and napping in comfy spots. We can't think of a better miracle to add to your life than this sweet kitten so call today to meet her. **Freida** is already spayed, vaccinated to date, tested neg. for FeLuk/FIV and micro-chipped. Call **Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue** today at **734-461-9458** to make an appointment or visit our website **fmar1.org** for more information.



FOR RENT IN CANTON!

Lovely colonial. Over 1800 sq. ft.
Three bedrooms, 2.5 baths,
basement, attached garage. Backs
up to open space! \$1800 per month.
Must have references and minimum
610 credit score.
Call Liz Slovik. 313-402-0187
AERO REALTY
35890 Goddard Rd.
Romulus, MI 48174



WE'RE OPEN MON.-FRI. 8AM-6PM, SAT. 8AM-NOON

Schedule Your Appointment Today!

AMC ANIMAL MEDICAL CENTER
 OF VAN BUREN

ANIMAL MEDICAL CENTER of VAN BUREN

Scott Driscoll, DVM **Keri Dasher, DVM**

491 Sumpter Road, Belleville, MI 48111

734-699-6510

www.amcvanburen.com

MANAGERS SPECIAL
10% OFF PARTS
& LABOR*
For All Services Up To \$40 Off
 *Excludes Discounted or
 Special Pricing.
 With Belleville Independent Coupon.
 Expires December 31, 2019

FREE WINTER
MAINTENANCE
INSPECTION!
WITH APPOINTMENT ONLY.
 With Belleville Independent Coupon.
 Expires December 31, 2019

50% OFF OUR
NATIONWIDE TIRE
ROAD HAZARD
PROGRAM

SEE STORE FOR DETAILS!

- State-Certified Mechanics • Oil Changes • Tune-Ups •
- Brakes • Shocks/Struts • Front-End Work •
- Alignments • Batteries • Charging Systems •
- Radiator & Transmission Fluid Changes •
- Check-Engine Light Diagnostics •

LOCAL SHUTTLE AVAILABLE!
For Faster Service, Make An Appointment.

OIL
CHANGE
SPECIAL!
\$29.95*

Includes synthetic blend up
 to 5 quarts, filter, 25 point
 inspection, battery test,
 coolant test, etc.
 *By appointment only.
 Add a tire rotation for an
 additional \$10.

Firestone
 America's Tire Since 1900
BRIDGESTONE
 THE NEXT REVOLUTION IN TIRES
 ... AND MANY OTHER TIRE BRANDS
 AT COMPETITIVE PRICES

EXPRESS TIRE
AND AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR

10625 Belleville Road, Belleville, MI 48111 (734) 697-2424

Ask About Rebates on Select Tires.
 We Accept Competitor's Coupons.

HOURS:
 MONDAY - FRIDAY
 7:30 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.
 SATURDAYS
 8:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

Belleville High School football players signed National Letters of Intent last week. Andre Seldon, left, signed to play football for the University of Michigan and his teammate Brenden Deasfernandes, right, signed to play football at the University of Iowa.

Upcoming Meetings

- Thursday, Jan. 9 – Keystone Academy School Board at 6 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township Planning Commission at 7 p.m. Also, Belleville Planning Commission at 7 p.m.
- Monday, Jan. 13 – Van Buren Public Schools organizational meeting, 7 p.m. at BHS Commons. Also, Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, Jan. 14 – VBT Local Development Financing Authority meets at 2 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township board meeting at 6 p.m. and regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. Also, Belleville Area District Library Board, 7:30 p.m., in old library building.
- Tuesday, Jan. 21 – Van Buren Township Board of Trustees workshop session at 4 p.m., with regular meeting at 6 p.m.
- Monday, Jan. 27 – Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.

DAISY
MAIDS

NO TIME TO CLEAN?

Open 7 Days – All Supplies
 Move-Ins, Move-Outs,
 Organizing Services.
 We Don't Cut Corners.
 We Clean em! References.
 🌿 Gift Certificates Available! 🌿
BELLEVILLE AREA ONLY.
 Serving Belleville Area Since 1988.
(734) 740-0879

Van Buren Township hires Dan Power as planning director

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Dan Power, the planning director for the City of Walker for the past year, and Walker's staff planner / zoning administrator for three years before that, has been hired as the new planning director for Van Buren Township.

Unanimous action was taken at the VBT Board of Trustees' meeting on Dec. 17.

He replaced Ron Akers, who resigned last July to take a job in Ypsilanti.



Power

Power will have a base pay of \$73,000 and work under Director of Public Services Matthew Best.

Power received the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) certification in 2018. He earned a master's degree in Landscape Architecture from the University of Michigan in 2012 and a bachelor of science degree from Central Michigan University in 2008, with majors in environmental studies, policy and geography, and land use and environmental analysis.

He worked for Spicer Group in Saginaw as a community planner and was an environmental services assistant for The Greening of Detroit for a year.

He has computer skills that include GIS, AutoCAD, ArcMap 10, Sketchup, Access, Excel, Adobe Creative Suite, and PowerPoint. He also has done grant writing.

At the board's Dec. 17 meeting, Power said he and his wife are from this area and spent time in Van Buren Township and Belleville growing up. He said he started moving their things to this area last month. He begins work in VBT on Jan. 2.

During the board's work/study session on Dec. 16, Director Best described an exhaustive hiring process.

Supervisor McNamara referred to Power as a "Swiss army knife," with many skills.

In other business at the 45-minute meeting, the board:

- Approved spending not to exceed \$213,000 from the Water and Sewer Fund

to Fishbeck, Inc. to provide engineering services in the design and planning phase of the proposed Old Michigan Avenue / Denton Road Water Main Rehabilitation Project. The project will replace the existing 8-inch cast iron water main along Old Michigan Avenue near the VB-06 (Rawsonville) meter pit, including the rehabilitation/reconstruction of Old Michigan Avenue and the water main crossing of Michigan Avenue at Denton Road. Funds of \$375,000 are also available for the rehabilitation of Old Michigan Avenue through the Wayne County 2019 Local Partnering Initiative. McNamara said the township will be able to get another \$375,000. The estimated total cost of the project ranges from \$1.85 million to \$2.4 million. It was noted a 12-inch water main was damaged by traffic signal drilling operations by a private utility working in the Michigan Avenue right of way at one point and the township permanently severed and capped the crossing rather than repairing the main. Subaru is completing utility construction and needs the upgraded water lines, as promised. Other vendors are showing interest in this part of the township, so it is imperative to repair and upgrade these water system deficiencies, said Fishbeck engineers;

- Approved amending the 2019 Amended Budget to transfer \$52,000 from the fund balance to "Township Board Other" to total \$102,000 to account for the Recreation Center Feasibility Study. So far, the study has shown that 80% of the residents responding to a poll supported a recreation center, once they found out what could be in it. McNamara said that in 2022 the \$450,000 the township has been paying annually from the landfill fund to pay off the water tower property and the fire hall on Hull Road will be freed up. The township can chip in \$2 million to the \$5 million then available to make a \$7 million project possible without tax increase;

- Approved changing the language of the Elected Officials' manual to reflect the retiree benefits change effective Sept. 1, 2019 to receiving a Health Care Savings Account rather than benefits;

- Discussed the merits of the *Van Buren Today* magazine and its cost and then

approved the Voucher List that carried a \$10,500 quarterly payment for the magazine, with Trustee Paul White voting no because of the magazine's cost. White said if \$10,500 is a quarterly payment, then \$42,000 would be the full-year payment. Supervisor McNamara said there is no \$42,000 cost. Treasurer Sharry Budd said they have put \$28,000 in the budget for the magazine next year;

- Learned a free ride to the Detroit Institute of Arts for a daylong visit is being offered on Jan. 30, leaving from the Senior Center. Sign up at (734) 699-8918;

- Heard Supervisor McNamara explain

(Continued on page 13)

West Branch Builders
Commercial Contractor
New Construction & Remodeling

**Retail Build Outs • Metal
Studs • Insulation • Drywall •
Painting • Millwork • Floors •
Acoustical Ceilings**

**Restaurants • Office Spaces •
Warehouses • Retail Spaces**

**Locally Owned & Operated For Over 40 Years
Licensed & Insured | License # 2101215480**

734-476-1098

Accurate Dental Denture Inc.

"Serving the Belleville and Van Buren community for over 20 years with quality and caring service."

**CROWNS • ROOT CANALS • EXTRACTIONS • FILLINGS
WHITENING • BONDING • DENTURES (SOFT & FLEXIBLE)**

**Quality Dentures at
Affordable Prices!**

**SENIOR & MILITARY
DISCOUNTS**

HEALTHY KIDS DENTAL

Accepting Blue Cross Complete,
United Health, Molina,
Meridian & Medicaid!



SAME DAY DENTURE REPAIRS

*Immediate Dentures and
Flippers Available.*

734-697-5477

**781 Sumpter Rd. Belleville
(IN BELLE PLAZA)**

COMPLETE DENTURE or PARTIAL \$399.99
WITH COUPON

NEW PATIENT \$49.99
WITH COUPON

Includes
Exam, Cleaning
& X-Rays

GARDEN FANTASY Greenhouse

43250 TYLER ROAD (1.25 Miles East of Belleville Road)

**FRESH MICHIGAN
CHRISTMAS TREES**

**CHOOSE FROM
SCOTCH PINE & FRASER FIR!**

**FRESH ROPING,
DOOR WREATHS,
AND KISSING BALLS.**

**POINSETTIAS
MANY SIZES To
CHOOSE FROM!**



**GRAVE BLANKETS,
CEMETERY CONES
& WREATHS**

**WE WISH ALL OF OUR PATRONS
A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

**OPEN: MONDAY – SATURDAY 9 A.M. – 5 P.M.
SUNDAY 10 A.M. – 4 P.M.**

(734) 697-1765



Visit www.thegardenfantasygreenhouse.com



BEST CHIMNEY OUR 50th YEAR! & ROOFING CO. OUR 50th YEAR!

- ★ CHIMNEYS BUILT - REPAIRED & CLEANED
- ★ SCREENS INSTALLED
- ★ TUCK POINTING
- ★ ROOFING & GUTTERS
- ★ RESIDENTIAL
- ★ COMMERCIAL
- ★ VIOLATIONS CORRECTED

Since 1962



**WE DO
PORCHES**

**WORKERS
COMPENSATION &
GENERAL LIABILITY TO
PROTECT HOME OWNER**

**FREE ESTIMATES
LICENSED • INSURED
STATE LIC # 40800**



**SERVING BELLEVILLE &
SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN**

www.bestchimneyandroofing.com

734-242-2992

VBT

(continued from page 12)

that the Dec. 17 board meeting was being streamed live over YouTube and will later be put on governmental channel 12. The recent board meetings have been in the Otisville/Sheldon room because the regular board meeting room is being renovated;

- Heard Treasurer Budd announce the township hall will be closed between Christmas and New Year's Day, but people can pay their property taxes at the drop box in front of township hall, the police department office, and through the mail. The treasurer's office will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 27, to accept tax payments;

- Heard Clerk Leon Wright announce that the board meetings of Jan. 6 and 7 are cancelled. He announced that, so far, his department has 1,170 requests to be on the permanent absentee voter list;

- Heard Trustee White announce that the township officially closed on the purchase of the Ford property across the road from township hall. "Now we can continue the discussion on what to do with it," he said;

- Heard resident Reg Ion complain about the cost of the *Van Buren Today* magazine. He asked if anybody was related to those publishing the magazine and McNamara asked, "In this room?" There was no further reply. Ion also complained about the tiny flags at the voting precincts. He would like to see 3'x5' flags on poles at each precinct. "Next we won't have any flags. It's coming to that," he said, noting there is a Korean or Asian banner next to the American flag in the gym, which is inappropriate. "I'm sick of this flag stuff. I'm not going to be nice about this flag stuff any more." He also would like the gun range moved away from the ball park and school, possibly to the Waste Management golf course area, now that they aren't using it. Or, the township could buy them something at T-Rex. He also complained about paying \$3,000 to hire Paula Tutman to give a motivational speech to the employees. "How about hiring someone who doesn't need to be motivated?"

"We can't help everyone, but everyone can help someone."

— Ronald Reagan

Court Watching

Judge Green binds over Glenn Emil McClain to circuit court on Jan. 15

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

After a Dec. 18 preliminary exam before 34th District Court Chief Judge Tina Brooks Green, the judge bound Glenn Emil McClain over on two charges of criminal sexual conduct-third degree (force or coercion) and one charge of domestic violence on Nov. 24 in Sumpter Township.

McClain, 41, of Sumpter Township, is due at the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice on Jan. 15 for his arraignment on the information. He is free after posting bond of \$5,000/10% and bond was continued.

The only witness brought by Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor Larry King was the defendant's wife of 20 years. She testified although they were separated, they were living together in their rented home in Sumpter Township with their three teenage children.

She said they were in the process of getting a divorce and a PPO for no assaultive behavior had been in effect for a week. She said she filed for a "no entry" PPO, but was denied because they were still married.

She testified that she had the bedroom and her husband slept on a mattress in the living room.

On Nov. 24 the wife said she had been home all day and they were watching football and listening to music. They both had been drinking, she said, and she said she had a few shots – three or four – of liquor. She said she had been drinking tequila the previous night and she was

nauseous and sick and later threw up.

She went into her bedroom to lie down around 4 p.m. and fell asleep. She said she awoke suddenly when she felt him touching her in her private area, and trying to penetrate her. She said she pushed him away and he said he was sorry and left.

She again fell asleep and woke when he was trying to penetrate her again. She testified she told him he was "gross and disgusting" and that she was sick. She said he again said he was sorry and left. She later reported the incidents to police.

Stephanie Farkas of the Neighborhood Defender Service pointed out she had filed for divorce on Feb. 5 and then they reconciled and she dropped charges. Then, she filed again in November. Farkas entered into evidence a series of text messages the wife had sent the defendant, as for him to move out and to sign an agreement for financial support. The wife said that was for child support.

She stressed she wasn't asking for money from him for herself as a property settlement, as the defense attorney alleged. She testified they have nothing.

In an email to the defense attorney, the wife said she does not believe the November incident was a rape.

When the defense attorney asked if she had done any drugs during that time and she said she had smoked weed, but had no idea how much.

When the defense attorney said that in a marriage sometimes the people are on different pages and the wife stressed they were not "on different pages."

When the defense attorney asked the wife if the kids know about the charges and she said they did, Judge Green intervened.

"We're not getting into what happened after the fact, so wrap it up," Judge Green said.

The attorney ended her questioning and Prosecutor King made a motion to bind over to circuit court. Judge Green what happened that day was an issue of fact for a jury to decide, so she bound McClain over.

Bennie Joe-Michael Dickerson

Bennie Joe-Michael Dickerson, 31, waived his right to a preliminary exam and was bound over to circuit court for a Jan. 15 arraignment on the information.

He is charged with assaulting a police officer and domestic violence on Nov. 30 in Van Buren Township. He is free on \$10,000 personal bond.

His Neighborhood Defender Service attorney asked to change the bond to allow contact, but Judge Green said she needs a victim to talk to, unless the Prosecutor says he is in agreement. The attorney said he is unable to reach the victim.

Judge Green said she was going to leave the no-contact order in place and if she appears in Judge Green's courtroom later in the week, she'll amend the order.

Jeramey Allen Laford

Jeramey Allen Laford, 29, of Van Buren Township, waived his preliminary exam and was bound over to circuit court for a Jan. 15 arraignment on the information. He is charged with receiving and concealing a stolen vehicle and operating while intoxicated on Aug. 22, 2018 in Sumpter Township.

His defense attorney is James O'Donnell of the Neighborhood Defense Service.

It was noted he is due back in Judge Green's courtroom on Jan. 28 for a separate misdemeanor charge.

Matthew Alan Pacteles

Matthew Alan Pacteles, 34, of Rockwood, was before Judge Green for preliminary exams on two separate charges, both from incidents on May 5 in Van Buren Township.

He is charged with retail fraud in one case and retail fraud, malicious destruction of property (\$1,000-\$20,000), and assaulting, resisting, obstructing a police officer in another case.

Each case had bond of \$5,000/10% and he posted both bonds. His defense attorney is James O'Donnell of Neighborhood Defender Service.

Not all the witnesses were present, so those involved agreed to adjourn the preliminary exam until 9 a.m. Jan. 22.

(continued on page 15)



Dudek Heating & Cooling

Service and Installation

Licensed and Insured • Free Estimates • Furnaces • Boilers
Air Conditioning • Duct Work • Humidifiers • Water Heaters
Generators • Electrical • Plumbing

Keith Dudek : Owner
11681 Rawsonville
Belleville, MI 48111

Office: (734) 461-6165
Cell: (734) 730-9733



Beyond **THANKFUL** and full of **GRATITUDE!**
Thank you to all my clients and friends for
allowing me to help you buy or sell a home in 2019!

Janice Marshall
Realtor & Resident
of Van Buren Twp. 25 yrs.

Cell: 734-218-3768

janiceremercia@comcast.net



6231 N. Canton Center, Canton, MI 48187

BEER & WINE AVAILABLE - DRIVE-THRU PICKUP!

CHINA KING

45915 S. I-94 Service Dr., Belleville
Next to the Belleville Post Office

(734) 699-1550

See our menu online at chinakingbelleville.com

LUNCH • DINNER

Best Buffet Around!

10% OFF

Any Entree (Includes Carry Out Orders)
or Buffet Purchase Per Person

DINE-IN OR CARRY OUT

Chinese & American Food

CHINA KING COUPON
COUPON EXPIRES DECEMBER 31, 2019

HOURS
MON.-THURS. 11AM-10PM
FRI. 11AM - 11PM
SAT. 12PM-11PM
SUN. 12PM-10PM

Wi-Fi HOTSPOT

Lincoln Consolidated Schools increases substitute teacher pay

Lincoln Consolidated Schools has adopted a pay rate increase for substitute teachers to \$100 per day, up from \$90 per day. In addition, Lincoln will pay teacher substitutes a \$100 bonus for every 10 days worked in the district.

Lincoln, along with many other districts across the state, has been suffering from a substitute shortage. The pay increase is expected to address the disadvantage Lincoln has faced while competing with neighboring districts offering a higher per-day rate. Lincoln contracts substitute teachers from EduStaff as part of a consortium agreement through Washtenaw Intermediate School District.

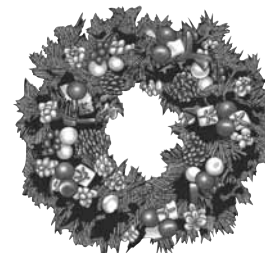
"I am glad we were able to increase our

pay rate for substitute teachers and bring it in line with other neighboring districts," said School Superintendent Sean McNatt. "Additionally, the bonus structure we've put in place will effectively increase the daily rate to \$110 every 10 days. This change will allow us to fill our daily positions and ensure consistent classroom coverage."

For more information on becoming a substitute teacher or paraprofessional, visit

EduStaff at www.edustaff.org.

Van Buren Public Schools pay \$110 for daily substitute teachers.



INDEPENDENT CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE

ART VAN: 72" gray leather couch, \$400; glass Bistro table/w2chairs, \$75; and glass/wood oval coffee table, \$75. Call for pictures. (734) 218-4793 12/26

BEER & WINE LICENSE (SDM). Serious inquires only. Call or text Jackie at (313) 220-0780 12/26

BLACK POWDER RIFLE, 50 caliber w/ scope, imported from Spain, \$300 OBO. AR15 5.56mm w/scope & extra clips, \$650 OBO. (734) 461-9699 01/09

FIEST PUPPIES. Males & females. 8 weeks old, shots & wormed. Registered great small dogs. (734) 753-4110 01/09

FOOD GRADE BARRELS - Various sizes & styles. Inventory & pictures at www.mattsbarrels.com Call/text (734) 474-5981. Located in Willis. 02/12

VEHICLE FOR SALE

2007 CHEVY WAGON, H.H.R., 4-cyl, auto, steering & brakes, air. Actual mileage. Private owner. Lady owned. (734) 695-0819 01/02

2009 PONTIAC VIBE GT. 4-door SUV, 5-speed manual transmission, sunroof, air, clean, loaded with extras. \$2,350. Private Owner. (734) 695-0819 01/02

2003 FORD WINDSTAR 9 passenger wagon. Auto, power steering & brakes, clean. Good transportation. Average mileage. Private owner. \$1,450. (734) 695-0819 01/09

FREE

FREE FILL. Delivery available. (734) 697-1183. Yost Sand & Gravel. Belleville. TFN

BROWN TWEED SOFA. (734) 699-5783 12/26

FOUND

CHAIR. Fell off a truck the week of 11/17 into the intersection of Willis & Whittaker. Call (734) 778-4903 12/19

SERVICES

A&L SERVICES

Home Improvement & Handyman Service
Painting, Drywall, Carpentry,
Electrical, Plumbing,
Ceramic Tile, Kitchens & Bath.
Serving Belleville Since 1995. Call Aaron Schultz @ 734-740-0628

M.D. APPLIANCE SERVICE

Refrigerators • Washers
Dryers • Ranges
\$40 House Call
Call Monday-Friday, 9am-4:30pm
(734) 782-3354

PLUMBING • SEWER DRAINS • HANDYMAN

Gutters Cleaned! Power Washing! CALL US!
Local To The Belleville Area. Call (313) 740-6276. Ask For Bill.

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

LARRY'S HANDYMAN SERVICE. No job too small. Interior/exterior painting, hang wallpaper, power washing & carpentry. (618) 267-7774 03/26

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

HELP WANTED

Quest, Inc. is HIRING

We're looking for fun, energetic & caring Direct Care Workers to assist persons with special needs we serve in their own homes. Starting wage \$11.30 per hour for trained staff.

Applicants must be:

- Responsible & committed and work well with others.
- Have a clean criminal record.
- Be available for training. MORC/WCCMH/CLS Training is preferred.

Send Letter/Resume to:
recruiter@questserv.org
or Call (734) 458-8140



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

NURSE AIDE NEEDED. Day shift 6am-3pm. Part-time. Experienced, driver's license & references. (734) 482-4847 01/09

WANTED

H & W TOP DOLLAR \$

Cash For Salvage & Scrap Vehicles.
7 Days. Free Towing.
Licensed & Insured.
(734) 223-5581

WANTED - ANY SIZE MEN'S JEANS for the homeless. Please drop off at Bladez's 601 E. Huron River Drive. (734) 697-5600 TFN

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 PAID for sports cards and comic books. '50s, '60s, & '70s. Private collector can come to you. (734) 697-3546 12/26

"You can observe a lot just by watching."
- Yogi Berra

"I love a dog, he does nothing for political reasons."
- Will Rogers

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.



Court watching

(continued from page 13)

Pacteles also is charged with a misdemeanor retail fraud case in VBT and that will have a pretrial at 34th District Court on Jan. 28.

Cindy L. Clapsaddle

Cindy L. Clapsaddle, 50, of Toledo waived her preliminary exam and Magistrate Lisa Martin bound her over to circuit court for a Jan. 15 arraignment on the information. She is charged with larceny between \$1,000 and \$20,000 and receiving and concealing stolen property

valued \$1,000 to \$20,000 on Nov. 12 in Sumpter Township. Her court appointed attorney is Brian Schaf.

Brandon Nicholas Heim

Brandon Nicholas Heim, 32, had his case adjourned until Jan. 22 before Judge Brian Oakley. He is charged with child abuse in the third degree and child abuse in the fourth degree on Oct. 8 in the City of Belleville. He is free on \$2,000 personal bond and his retained attorney is David Dart.

Nicholas Edward Simpson

Nicholas Edward Simpson, 36, waived his preliminary exam on a charge of driving while intoxicated, third time, in Sumpter Township on Dec. 3. Magistrate Martin bound him over to circuit court for an arraignment on the information on Jan. 15. He is free after posting bond of \$5,000/10%.



Dec. 21 – James Barnowsky
Dec. 27 – Sharry Budd, Janet Millard
Dec. 29 – Vicki White
Dec. 30 – Marc Littleleson, Pam Mendis
Dec. 31 – Josee Lee-Craig
Jan. 1 – Judy Jordan
Jan. 2 – Robin Michaelson

Do you have a birthday soon? Does someone you know have a birthday? Call the Independent at (734) 699-9020 with your information and we will publish it as soon as possible.

Metropark events in December

KNITTING IN NATURE: SHARING STITCHES

Saturday, Dec. 28, at 10 a.m.
Oakwoods Metropark Nature Center, Flat Rock. From beginner to expert, let's get together, relax, knit, crochet, teach and learn. Have a cup of coffee, a treat or two and make some new friends. This is not a class on knitting or crocheting. This is a monthly gathering of people who love to knit and crochet and want to "share stitches."

Cost: Donations gratefully accepted.
Pre-register at 734-782-3956 or email kevin.arnold@metroparks.com

WINTER WALK-N-TALK

Saturday, Dec. 28, at 10 a.m. & 2 p.m.
Oakwoods Metropark Nature Center, Flat Rock. Take a guided hike through our Oakwoods to discover the beauty of Winter! Discover which critters are out-and-about through tracks and other signs.

Cost: \$3 child; \$5 adult
Pre-register at 734-782-3956 or email kevin.arnold@metroparks.com

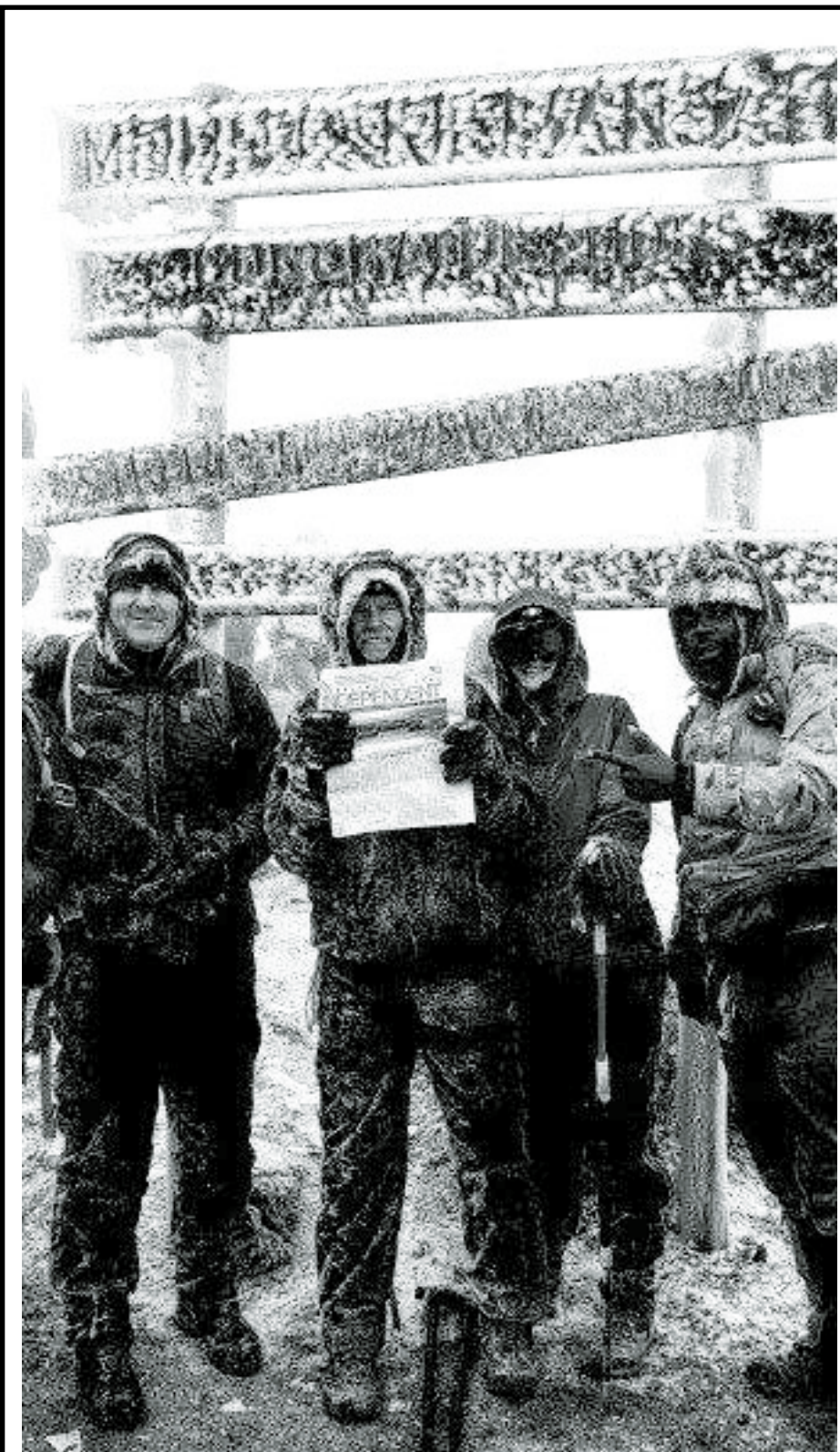
WINTER WALK IN THE WOODS

Saturday, Dec. 28, at 10 a.m. & 2 p.m.
Lake Erie Metropark Marshlands Museum. We are going to hit the trail in search of what's going on in the woods this winter. Tracks and signs of our winter critters will be the focus of this cold-weather stroll.

Cost: \$3 child, \$5 adult
Pre-register at 734-379-5020 or email kevin.arnold@metroparks.com
www.metroparks.com

"Baseball is 90% mental, the other half is physical."

– Yogi Berra



They're reading the Independent everywhere

Jim and Diane Patton, son Ty Patton and guide Manny stand with their *Independent* at the summit of Mt. Kilimanjaro in Tanzania on Oct. 7.

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 \$30 for postage to an address inside Michigan or \$35 out of state, and we'll provide mail delivery of the *Independent* so you won't miss a single, exciting issue.

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

Having trouble finding the Belleville-Area Independent on the newsstands or just want to subscribe? Fill out the form below and send a check for \$30(in Michigan), \$35 everywhere else in the U.S. To subscribe even faster, call us Monday - Friday between 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (local time) at (734) 699-9020. We accept almost all credit/debit cards. We also have gift subscriptions available for any occasion. Thank you!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone# _____

Just incase we have any trouble with your order.

Mail to: **Belleville-Area Independent**
152 Main St., Suite 9
Belleville, MI 48111

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!



Huron Clinton Metroparks' first police dog was sworn in on Dec. 12. Officer Parks is shown with his handler Officer Tom Green

Officer Parks sworn in as first Metroparks Police Dog

Officer Parks made his debut as the newest furry addition to the Huron-Clinton Metroparks Police Department back in February 2019, and on Dec. 12 at the December Metroparks Board of Commissioners meeting he was awarded this training diploma and sworn into the department as an official Police dog.

Officer Parks is joining the force as the first Metroparks Police Dog. His new position includes being an ambassador for the Metroparks and fostering positive interactions with the police department, but that's not his only job.

Parks and his handler, Officer Tom Green, recently attended training where Parks became certified in tracking and explosives detection. He also graduated first in his class for obedience.

Parks' training and status allows him to work in combination with his handler

(Ofc. Green) to conduct police activities. The courts recognize this for criminal prosecution and civil litigation purposes. He is also required to receive additional training on a regular basis to maintain this status. He will sometimes travel to assist other police departments when a need for his special services arises.

Metroparks Chief of Police, Michael Reese, shares his excitement and states "Parks is a nice additional resource for the department and we look forward to introducing him to new Metroparks visitors at upcoming events. Besides assisting in the law enforcement aspect, Parks will provide a nice bridge between the police and patrons of the Metroparks."

Parks proudly raised his right paw Dec. 12 as Lieutenant Smith completed the official swearing in in front of the Metroparks Board of Commissioners,

staff, members of the public and even members of Parks' human family. Officer Parks and his handler, Officer Green, are excited to continue meeting visitors out in the Metroparks in 2020.

The Huron-Clinton Metroparks have served the people of Southeast Michigan since 1940. Managed by the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority, the Metroparks are made up of 13 properties in Livingston, Macomb, Oakland, Washtenaw, and Wayne counties, including the Lower Huron Metropark in Belleville.

Available activities include fishing, swimming, boating, hiking, nature study, biking, golf, winter sports and more. The Metroparks also provide educational

resources on science, nature, history and the environment. Learn more at Metroparks.com.

**Read The Newspaper
On The Web!**

**The Belleville-Area
Independent Website
is Online! Visit us @
bellevilleareaindependent.com**

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES DECEMBER 17, 2019

Supervisor McNamara called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room. Present: Supervisor McNamara, Treasurer Budd, Clerk Wright, Trustee Frazier, Trustee Martin, Trustee Miller, and Trustee White. Others in attendance: Secretary Montgomery, Communications Specialist Albrecht and Nichols, Public Services Director Best and Executive Assistant Renaud, Water and Sewer Director Taylor, DDA Director Ireland and an audience of three (3).

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

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA: White moved, Miller seconded to approve the agenda moving the Voucher list of December 17, 2019 from the Consent Agenda to new business item #3. Motion Carried.

ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA: Wright moved, Budd seconded to approve the Consent Agenda. [Board Meeting Minutes of December 3, 2019, Prepaid List of December 5, 2019, Prepaid List of December 12, 2019, Approval of amending the 2019 Amended Budget transferring \$52,000 from General Fund Balance (101-000-390-000) to Township Board Other (101-101-965-000) to total \$102,000 to account for the Recreation Center Feasibility Study, Approval of changing the language of the Elected Official's Manual to reflect the Retiree Benefits change effective September 1, 2019 to receiving a Health Care Saving Account]. Motion Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING: None.

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

Announcements included the following: Free admission and transportation to the Detroit Institute of Arts via the "Come Wander Around" program on January 30, 2020 from noon until 3:30 p.m. with limited seating sign up at the Van Buren Township September Days Senior Center, Parks and Recreation will host a Harry Potter themed crafty Saturday for children age kindergarten to 5th grade at the cost of \$5.00 on January 11, 2020 from 10:00 until 11:00 a.m., the administrative offices at Township hall will be closed for the remainder of 2019 starting December 24 however anyone who wants to pay their taxes may place them in the drop box in front of Township Hall in the drop box located in the Public Safety Department the Treasurer's office will also open on December 27, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., the Township administrative offices will be closed from December 24, 2020 through January 1,

2020, the Work Study Session of January 6, 2020 and the Board of Trustees meeting of January 7, 2020 have been cancelled, residents are encouraged to return their applications to be placed on the permanent absentee application list, to date the Clerk's office has received 1170 applications since the mailing went out to all registered voters, the Belleville area museum encourages everyone to visit the museum and place a \$1.00 vote for the best decorated tree, free pictures with Santa on December 21, 2019 and ornament workshops at noon, 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. for \$2.00 will be held at the museum located at 405 Main Street in the City of Belleville.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Unfinished and New Business): None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Miller moved, Frazier seconded to approve the Personal Services Agreement between the Township and Daniel Power's to fill the Planning Director position. Motion Carried. Martin moved, White seconded to approve the selection of Fishbeck, Inc. to provide engineering services in the design and planning phase of the proposed Old Michigan Avenue/Denton Road Water Main Rehabilitation Project not to exceed the amount of \$213,000. Motion Carried.

Budd moved, Wright seconded to approve the Voucher List of December 17, 2019. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: McNamara, Budd, Wright, Frazier, Martin and Miller. Nays: White. Motion Carried. Resident expressed concern regarding the cost of the Van Buren Today Magazine. Trustee White expressed a similar concern over the cost while other Board members expressed how pleased they were with the magazine and the value it brings to the residents and community as a whole.

REPORTS: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT NON-AGENDA

ITEMS: Resident commented on the size of the flag displayed during Elections at Wayne County Community College, the "Asian" flag next to the United States flag in the Township gymnasium, potholes in the roads, location of the gun range and cost of motivational speaker.

BOARD COMMENT NON-AGENDA

ITEMS: Trustee White commented that President Trump will be coming to Battle Creek and will be videotaped by a reporter related to him.

ADJOURNMENT: Martin moved, Miller seconded to adjourn at 6:45 p.m. Motion Carried.

Leon Wright, Township Clerk
Kevin McNamara, Supervisor
Published: December 26, 2019

Van Buren Township Planners OK addition for A.D. Transport

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

A.D. Transport at 45101 Yost Rd. now has permission to tear down part of an old building, leaving the 365-square-foot office area and updating it, and to build an 11,875-square-foot warehouse addition.

The Van Buren Township Planning Commission voted unanimously at its Nov. 13 regular meeting to grant preliminary and final site plan approval all at once for the project.

Gary Percy, one of the A.D. Transport owners, said the building is old and not functional, and this updating and enlarging will make it useable. The site is south of Yost Road.

Vidya Krishnan of McKenna planning consultants is filling in as director of planning and economic development until a replacement for Ron Akers can be hired.

Krishnan said Percy owns most of the land in that area but a parcel division goes through the center of the building, so he will have to consolidate the parcels. She

said the 23' height of the building needs to be added to the site plan.

Krishnan said Percy is working with Wayne County to abandon Yost Road, which is a dead end and runs through the company's private property. She said since the road may be abandoned, the township won't require them to put in a sidewalk through the private property to a dead end.

She said also the warehouse won't require landscaping since Yost may be abandoned. The warehouse will have galvanized steel siding and has minimal visibility from Yost Road. No signage is planned at this time.

The township's engineering consultant from Fishbeck Thompson Carr & Huber said there are no sanitary or water leads to the warehouse, only to the office and they will remain. He said the 1" water service is from adjoining Canton Township. Fire suppression is not needed according to the fire marshal. The project will disturb less than an acre of the site.

"If Yost Road is abandoned, shouldn't they get an address on Belleville Road?"

asked VBT Treasurer Sharry Budd, who sits on the commission.

Director of Public Service Matthew Best said it is not a problem to get a new address.

Director Best said Yost is a dead end and to the north is Canton and to the south is VBT. He said trucks are driving onto Yost and then turning around on private property.

He said some trucks are missing the turn into Costco and their GPS is telling them to turn this way. He said the semis are backing up onto Belleville Road, trailer first. He said abandonment is a safer process and the township has moved to abandon the property.

Percy explained the boundaries of his property and said they have been asking for the abandonment for many years.

"It's been a challenge," he said, noting the county is for it and has already voted on it. There is an issue that has to do with DTE and an easement. "I think it eventually will go through," Percy said.

He said his company originally purchased the site in question from the Wayne County Road Commission.

Percy said their company's security cameras show that when a truck gets on Yost, it backs up onto Belleville Road and it's just a matter of time until someone gets killed there, under a trailer.

"You can't see it," he said.

Percy said the address change won't be a problem because another one of their buildings in Canton has a Belleville Road

address and they could just use that.

In other business at the 41-minute meeting, the commission:

- Voted to send to the township board a recommendation for approval of rezoning from RM Multiple Family to M-1 Light Industrial of a narrow band of land, part of the ITC corridor, at Ashley Crossroads South Development to make way for parking 88 trucks. Ashley Capital said it leases the land from ITC and has ITC's approval for this rezoning. Krishnan said Ashley already is required to improve Ecorse Road in that area for the new Ashley North development; and

- Heard Commissioner Medina Atchinson say where she sits at her desk at work, she sees the trucks going south on Belleville Road from Costco. She said they are supposed to be heading north to Michigan Avenue and then to I-275 to hit the freeway system. She said she is concerned about preserving Belleville Road's surface and reducing the traffic. Best said if you look at the site plan for Costco, it's all laid out to have the trucks go to I-275. He said there are two sets of trucks, Swift Trucking and Costco trucks, that leave the site. He said the township ordinance officer has been trying to get them to follow the approved route and other township officials have been meeting with them on the issue.

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

City of Belleville Public Notice

CITY OF BELLEVILLE Regular City Council Meeting Minutes Monday, December 2, 2019

A regular meeting of the Council for the City of Belleville was called to order by Mayor Conley at 7:30 p.m. at City Hall, 6 Main Street, Belleville.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE

2. ROLL CALL

Council Member Bates	Present
Council Member Fielder	Present
Council Member Marcotte	Present
Council Member Voigt	Present
Mayor Conley	Present

3. PRESENTATIONS AND CITIZEN COMMENTS

Presentations
34th District Court Judge Green conducted the swearing-in ceremony for reelected Mayor Conley and newly elected Council Members Bates and Voigt.

Council follow up list

Council Member Marcotte inquired about the status of the Veterans' Memorial repair and Council Member Bates stated that she would like to revise the list by adding "cleanup of the building next door to City Hall."

Citizen Comments None

4. AGENDA APPROVAL

Motion by Marcotte, Second by Voigt to approve the agenda as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Fielder, Second by Marcotte to approve the City Council special meeting minutes and regular minutes, both from November 18th, 2019 as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. PUBLIC HEARING

Controlled Substance & Toxic Chemicals Section --
Belleville Code of Ordinances

City Manager Kollmeyer stated that Attorney Hitchcock had presented a draft ordinance on the subject matter, which addresses the new law on recreational marihuana, at the meeting on November 18th.

Motion by Bates, Second by Fielder to open a public hearing at 7:37 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

There were no public comments.

Motion by Fielder, Second by Voigt to close the public hearing at 7:38 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

None

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

A. Controlled Substance & Toxic Chemicals -- Belleville Code of Ordinances

Motion by Fielder, Second by Marcotte to approve **Ordinance No. 19-003** as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

B. 2020 City Council Meeting Dates

Motion by Bates, Second by Fielder to approve **Resolution No. 19-082**, approving the 2020 City Council meeting dates as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

C. City Administration Recommendation for Refuse Bids

DPS Director Rick Rutherford recommended the City continue with Republic Waste Services, the lowest bidder who has served Belleville for the past 15 years. Motion by Fielder, Second by Marcotte to approve **Resolution No. 19-083**, authorizing the City to enter into a new contract with Republic Waste Services as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

D. City Manager Search

Mayor Conley led a discussion that included a newly developed job description, process timeline, and comparison of manager/administrator salaries sourced from CWW. It was agreed that the City would advertise the City Manager opening on MML's website, Indeed.com and the City's website. Resumes with cover letters will be accepted until January 3rd, 2020.

9. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE & DEPARTMENTAL EXPENDITURES

Motion by Marcotte, Second by Voigt to approve **Resolution No. 19-084**, for accounts payable and purchases over \$500.00 totaling \$107,869.84 as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Mike Renaud inquired whether the City could patch a hole in High street. The P.O. delivery supervisor is asking that residents keep their porch lights on since postal workers are delivering mail after dark.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Bates, Second by Voigt to adjourn meeting at 9:20 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheri Scharf

City Clerk

Approved: December 16, 2019

Published: December 26, 2019

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Charter Township of Van Buren Board of Zoning Appeals will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, January 14, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.**, at the Van Buren Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, MI 48111 to consider the following variance request:

1. **Case # 19-039-** A request by Joseph Altman on behalf of Marash Nucullaj for 11511 Belleville Road (Mike's Kitchen Restaurant) Parcel ID# 83-086-99-0012-001 for a variance from Section 3.112 (E) for C-2 Extensive Highway Business District:

Side (South) Yard Setback:

- Required: 25.00 feet
- Existing: 5.00 feet
- Proposed (to addition): 5.00 feet
- Variance requested: 20.00 feet

Please address any written comments to the Van Buren Township Board of Zoning Appeals, at 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, MI 48111 or via email at mbest@vanburen-mi.org. Written comments will be accepted until 4:00 p.m. on the hearing date and all materials relating to this request are available for public inspection at the Van Buren Township Hall prior to the hearing.

Van Buren Township will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aides and services to individuals with disabilities who are planning to attend. Please contact the Van Buren Township Planning and Economic Development Department at 734-699-8913 at least seven (7) days in advance of the meeting if you require assistance.

Posted: 12/19/2019

Published: 12/26/2019

Keystone Charter Academy to purchase 75 more Chromebooks

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

About 20 teachers attended the Dec. 12 meeting of the Keystone Academy school board to lobby for more Chromebooks for their students to use in grades 4-8.

They wanted each student to have a computer to use in class sessions instead of having to share.

After a long discussion, the item was tabled in order to seek legal counsel. Board president Vesta Losen said she was working on a way to get it through the PTO with the board paying for some of the PTO projects.

But, the next day, Principal Jorvonna Drain alerted board president Losen that she had found the money needed in her principal's budget because of a funded, unfilled position.

She said she called NHA and it said OK and the Chromebooks requested will be purchased.

At the board meeting, Sloan Leppen said the students in Kindergarten through third grade have 20 Chromebooks per classroom because of a reading grant, but students in classes 4-8 don't have 20 per classroom and she asked for five additional Chromebooks per classroom.

She said technology is needed by students more than ever before. She said Keystone's competition, McBride Middle School in the Van Buren Public Schools, has one computer per student and the students are able to take them home.

She said the Chromebooks are supportive of the curriculum and allows Keystone to become a Green School which had been taken away from them.

Jill Cannon said students need to be able to type on computers and another teacher said students need to learn to do research in a formatted way which is difficult with three to four kids on one Chromebook.

Tracy Kaminski, who teaches math, said now there is a lot of CAD (computer aided design) and with Chromebooks students can explore this and become more excited about learning.

Board president Losen said these were all good ideas and good things. She said some months ago, National Heritage Academies made sure Keystone had a copy of the service agreement and it stressed that NHA would provide all education and the labor, equipment, and materials for education and such items cannot come out of the board funds.

Losen said the service agreement stresses that everything "necessary for delivery of the educational program" will be covered by NHA and not by the board.

"Our attorney went through this and found this was not a permissible use of board funds," Losen said, noting the NHA budget controls most of the budget. "This is an impermissible gift," she said.

She listed permissible expenditures such as athletics, band uniforms, special field trips, school plays, and the like.

"I disagree," said Andrew Roth, NHA representative. "It's not an

absolute necessity, like water and lights. Chromebooks are an appropriate use for board funds." He said he had a list of schools that had bought Chromebooks with board funds.

"Our attorney says different," Losen said. She pointed out the Michigan Legislature just put back the \$240 per pupil the governor took out of the budget for charter schools and since NHA is getting that money, they could buy the Chromebooks for Keystone, at a cost of \$232 each. "I say this is the way to spend it."

Board secretary Connie Shull said the teachers would have to wait while this gets straightened out and she doesn't want to have a delay.

"You *can* spend it on Chromebooks," Roth insisted.

Principal Drain said that NHA said Chromebooks are not an essential part of their educational program.

"They say it's not essential part of the curriculum, but the teachers would like them. It would improve their teaching," Drain said.

Leppen said the middle school had very high scores because of the use of technology.

Drain said NHA paid for ten for each classroom and the board could pay for more.

Roth said these are extras for the school.

Leppen said McBride Middle School is a competitor for Keystone and McBride students are telling Keystone students that they can take their Chromebooks home. "And, they're 10 minutes down the road."

Another teacher said she wants to keep Keystone teachers and it's important for them to have the technology.

Yet another teacher said this is an enhancement to what NHA has provided to Keystone. "It's not a curriculum necessity and they can't use the funds if it's a necessity."

Losen read from the service agreement again stating the funds can be spent for a "compelling" reason. "We have the money, that's not the problem," she said.

Losen said NHA already put extra money into the budget and, "I'll have our attorney hash it out with the NHA attorney. I would think we'd have an answer by the next meeting."

Secretary Shull asked how long it will take in all, pushing for the computers the teachers want.

Principal Drain said 75 Chromebooks are needed.

"There have been times we've overstepped our bounds" with spending of the funds and she didn't want to do it again, Losen said.

"NHA is obligated and I'm willing to ask," Losen said.

"You can buy it!" insisted Roth.

"You said it's an important part of the program and I think we should try to get NHA to buy them," Losen said. "I'd like to go by the law."

Shull said when they start calling in the lawyers, they should talk about the shed

that was approved last summer and still is not built.

Roth said NHA is still waiting for paperwork from the contractor.

"I think we should get our attorney's opinion" on the Chromebooks, said board treasurer Charlene Derrick.

"Our lawyers say you have no problem," Roth insisted.

Later in the meeting Losen said McBride students get to take their Chromebooks home, but their scores aren't any better.

In other business at the 75-minute meeting, the board:

- Heard fourth-grade president Shawn Derrick ask the board for funding for equipment for games and recess. He said when he ran for president, he made a promise to approach the board for funds for this use and he estimated \$175 to \$200 would do it. The equipment is to be used by the whole school. Shull made the motion to set aside \$200 for the equipment and the motion was seconded by Derrick, Shawn's mother, and approved;

- Discussed the shed to store athletic equipment that is yet to be built. Losen said the local contractor was doing it at cost. "But, he's not doing it," Shull said. Roth said they have time to figure it out in time for construction season;

- Heard Drain announce that Keystone has seen a decrease in students considered chronically absent year to date. Last year at this time 14.1% of the students were considered chronically absent and now it is down to 8.7%. She called that a huge decrease. She said they honored 189 students who had perfect attendance for the month of November;

- Heard Drain announce that the school acknowledged more than 40 veterans at the annual Veterans Day assembly;

- Heard Losen encourage everyone to read the State of Michigan Compulsory School Attendance Policy. "We don't have an attendance officer because we don't have 1,000 students, but 10 days unexcused absence is considered enough." She said there are rules in the school handbook that the board approved and, "So, there we are." She said 10 days is considered chronic. She said a year ago a mother in Muskegon was jailed. "Our parents should take it seriously. You might want to go on line and read that policy," she said; and

- Tabled for further study a new protocol for accounts payable from the board budget, proposed by Roth. He said he is trying to speed things up.

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

NOTICE OF CANCELLATION

**The Charter Township of Van Buren
Board of Trustees Meeting
scheduled at**

**Township Hall
46425 Tyler Rd.**

Van Buren Township, MI 48111

on

Tuesday January 7, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

Has been Cancelled

**The next regularly scheduled
Board of Trustees Meeting is
Tuesday January 21, 2020**

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, reasonable accommodations can be made with advance notice by calling the Clerk's Office 734.699.8909.

Posted: 12-17-19
Published: 12-26-19

**ASK US ABOUT
HOW YOU CAN
USE YOUR HSA
AND FSA
DOLLARS!**

**DON'T FORGET TO USE YOUR HSA AND FSA
DOLLARS BEFORE THEY EXPIRE!
ASK ABOUT DISCOUNTS ON SECOND PAIRS!**

Dr Robert Kennedy, O.D.
11824 Belleville Rd
Belleville, MI 48111

734.699.1010

perspectiveeyecare.com

*Some restrictions apply. Contact Perspective Eyecare for details.

perspective EYECARE

Find us on 



Councilman Tom Fielder, center, presents an award to the Morin Family of 77 Carmell, for the best lighted home in the Mobile Home Parks category.



Belleville Mayor Kerreen Conley presents an award to Elliot and Kera Jokinen of 336 Victorian Ln. for being a co-winner in the Victoria Commons category of the holiday house-lighting contest.

**IS YOUR BUSINESS
A TARGET
FOR BURGLARS?**

734-697-2888

**Get SERIOUS about your Security!
WE CAN PROVIDE A REAL SOLUTION
for BOTH your Business & Home...**

- Remote Control-View-Playback
- Email / Smartphone Alerts
- PC / Mac Support
- No monthly fees

\$1500 Includes:

- Installation
- 4) HD Cameras (bullet or dome)
- 19" Monitor
- DVR (2TB)

Actual hardware may vary.

innovative
COMPUTERS
Full-Service IT • Networks • Cameras

A veteran-owned company, supporting Michigan businesses since 1995.
Serving Metro Detroit to Lansing • InnovativeComputers.net



Mayor Pro Tem Jesse Marcotte presents an award to Ronald and Donna Adkins of 461 Waterbury for their co-winning placement in the Victoria Commons category.



Belleville City Councilman Ken Voigt presented the award to Lacey Marcotte, 138 Clarence St., for being a co-winner in the Balance of Belleville category in the holiday house-lighting contest.



RE/MAX

CROSSROADS III
418 Main Street
Belleville, Michigan 48111
(734) 740-3000

email: mrsold@mrsold.com

Merry Christmas

Glenn Silvenis

EXTRA FEATURES



13731 ELWELL, VAN BUREN TWP
LARGER 5 BEDROOM, 3 Bath Ranch with Large Living Room, Fireplace, Solarium Room, Deck, Basement, Newer Roof, Newer 90+ Furnace and Central Air, Separate Living Area with Bedroom, Bath and Second Kitchen. \$239,900

BOOMING WITH ROOM



48024 BEMIS, VAN BUREN TWP
ORIGINAL OWNER 2,500 Square Foot Brick Colonial Offering 4 Bedrooms, 2 Baths, Hardwood Floors Everywhere, Large Family Room with Fireplace, Basement, Huge Fenced Yard, 2 1/2 Car Garage. \$242,900

BELLEVILLE LAKE



42101 S 1-94 SERVICE DR VAN BUREN
YOUR OWN PRIVATE WORLD A Total of 5,263 Square Feet! 4 Bedroom 3 Full and 2 Half Baths, INTERIOR POOL, High End Premium Built Brick 3 Level Home. 100+ Feet of Lake Frontage, Double Dock & SAND BEACH. \$898,900

GREAT LOCATION



18571 SAVAGE, SUMPTER TWP
ONE BEAUTIFUL YARD With Open Space, A Natural Pesticide Free Garden and Mature Trees. 1,762 Square Foot Updated Colonial featuring 3 Bedrooms, 3 Baths, New Carpet and Paint, Open Kitchen and More. 1 Plus Acres on Paved Street Priced to Sell at \$199,900

PRIME LOCATION



41405 TYLER, VAN BUREN
PRIME LOCATION. Corner of Haggerty and Tyler. Opportunity Awaits this 3 Bedroom, 1 Bath Home. Large Lot with Larger 2 1/2 Car Detached Garage. This Property could be the key to a larger development parcel. Immediate Occupancy. Offered at \$135,000

HUGE DUPLEX



10106 WILLIS, WILLIS
THIS HOME HAS MORE SPACE THAN SPACE! HUGE HOME in the Village of Willis. Residential Zoning and now used as a Duplex. 2 Kitchens, 2 Baths, 2 Living Rooms, and 5 Bedrooms. A Home Filled with Historic Character and Charm plus Basement, 2 Car Detached Garage and Large Lot. \$172,900

4,224 SQUARE FEET



23560 SUMPTER, SUMPTER TWP
RESIDENTIAL OR INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY. Possible Residential, Day Care, Group Home, Apartments or Your Ideas Large front covered porch. Large Covered Patio & fireplace and patio area. Fire System. 1 Large Kitchen, 2 Apartment Kitchens, 5 Bathrooms. 1 Car Detached Garage. A Best Buy at \$225,000

1 ACRE + POLE BARN



17164 RENTON, VAN BUREN TWP
LARGE COUNTRY HOME on more than an Acre. Just minutes from expressways and shopping. Open Floor Plan with Huge Rooms, Wood Flooring, Fireplace, Rear Patio, Fire Pit with 2 1/2 Car Detached Garage PLUS Pole Barn. A Quite and Serene Setting with Mature Trees and the Best of Nature. \$199,900.

DREAM WORKSHOP



44280 DUNN, SUMPTER TWP
LARGE 2,700 SQUARE FOOT COUNTRY HOME on 2.24 ACRES with Possible Split. This home could use some updating but much to offer with 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, bright and open kitchen, family room with wood stove, covered patio Great Private Location with many outbuildings. \$199,500

FOR SALE OR LEASE



500E HURON RIVER DR, BELLEVILLE
HIGHEST QUALITY BRICK COMMERCIAL BUILDING IN THE CITY OF BELLEVILLE. Former Florist, Bakery and Coffee House. Potential for Franchise Opportunity and Immediate Occupancy. It's QUALITY, POTENTIAL AND DESIGN! For Sale at \$750,000 or Lease at \$4,500. Month Double Net.

THREE PARCELS A MOST BEAUTIFUL PROPERTY 20+ ACRES WEAR RD \$175,000
TORREY 2.48 AC PERC & SURV \$48,000
VACANT BALL ROMULUS .34 AC \$19,000
VACANT RAWSONVILLE 2.6 AC \$95,000
SUMPTER EXETER TWP 8 ACRES \$65,000

VACANT SUMPTER & WILLIS COMM & RESIDENTIAL ZONING 25 ACR \$250,000
JUDD 10 ACRES SUMPTER TWP \$100,000
SAVAGE 1 ACRE SUMPTER TWP \$45,000
25817 SUMPTER 80X529 .97 AC \$20,000
SHERWOOD 37.55 AC BY WEARS \$189,900

WILLIS SUMPTER 1.14 ACRES \$60,000
28710 SUMPTER ROAD \$10,000
VACANT BALL ROMULUS .34 AC \$19,000
GRANT ROMULUS 1.8 ACRES LT IN \$72,000
HAGGERTY 1.5 AC VAN BUREN \$70,000
VACANT LOUISA "DREAM LOT" \$70,000

7 PARCELS ON THE CORNER OF BEMIS AND MARTINSVILLE. PRICED \$50,000 TO \$60,000 EACH. BUILD YOUR DREAM
VACANT 50115 BOG 29 ACRES \$160,000
MORTON TAYLOR 1.8 ACRES \$30,000
HURON TWP VAC ASH .87 ACRES \$70,000

HURON TWP VAC CLARK .74 ACRES \$65,000
HURON TWP VAC CLARK 1.12 ACRE \$75,000
HURON TWP VAC OTTER 2.94 ACRES \$80,000
HURON TWP VAC BELL 2.48 ACRES \$75,000
HURON TWP VAC BELL 2.48 ACRES \$75,000
HURON TWP VAC ASH .87 ACRES \$70,000

Atchinson Ford Sales, Inc.
9800 Belleville Rd.
Belleville, MI 48111

ATCHINSON

734-697-9161

www.atchinson.net



Dealership/Community Food Drive
Feeding Local Families in Need
You Can Help!

The Atchinson Ford team has a pine tree that could be yours when you enter our Holiday-Season's Drawing with your contribution of Non-perishable food items or a Monetary Donation. The winner of this gorgeous pine tree will have it delivered and planted free of charge.

Please help us feed the hungry in our area this holiday season!!!!
Drop off your items & enter to win during regular business hours.

Business Hours:

Monday & Thursday 9:00 am - 9:00pm
Tuesday, Wednesday, & Friday 9:00am to 6:00pm
Saturday 10:00am - 3:00pm

9800 Belleville Rd., Belleville, MI 48111

734-697-9161

www.atchinson.net



2019 FORD EDGE SEL AWD
24 month lease for \$207 per month*
OR 0% APR + \$5,750 cash.



2020 ESCAPE SE
24 month lease for \$226 per month*
OR 0% APR + \$2,600 cash.



2019 RANGER SUPERCREW 4x4
24 month lease for \$178 per month*
OR 0% APR + \$8,100 cash.

PAYING TOP \$ FOR YOUR TRADE-IN!



2019 F-150 SUPERCREW XLT LUXURY 4x4
24 month lease for \$141 per month*
OR \$9,500 cash.



2020 EXPLORER 4WD XLT
24 month lease for \$299 per month*
OR 0% APR + \$3,000 cash.



2017 FORD TAURUS SEL
Comes with Limited Comprehensive Warranty!
\$16,500

* WITH APPROVED CREDIT FOR RETURNING AZ PLAN LESSEES, INCLUDES MODEL RENEWAL AND/OR COMPETITOR REBATES. NO SECURITY DEPOSIT. 10,500 MILES A YEAR FOR 24MO. PAYMENT PLUS TAX, \$2000 DOWN, PLUS FIRST PAYMENT TAXES, TITLE, DOC. FEE AND LICENSE DUE AT SIGNING. EXPIRES 11/30/2019