



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 22.52 Thursday, December 29, 2016 Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren **F R E E**

Sumpter Treasurer Alan Bates dead at 73

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Sumpter Township Treasurer Alan D. Bates died of an apparent heart attack on the morning of Christmas Eve at the age of 73. He was alone, not feeling well, and called 911.

Mr. Bates was elected to his first official term as treasurer on Nov. 8 and sworn in for four years on Nov. 22.



Alan D. Bates

Mr. Bates, a retired builder, was elected to four-year terms as trustee from 2004 through 2012-16. In 2004 he started his collection of *Independents* and piled them up neatly week after week. The papers recorded the current history of the township. Sometimes Mr. Bates would ask the editor to publish more stories where “Sumpter” is in the headline.

When Supervisor Johnny Vawters resigned due to ill health in 2014, Treasurer John Morgan moved up to take the supervisor’s position and Trustee Bates was put into the treasurer’s position.

He missed the Dec. 13 meeting of the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees because he wasn’t feeling well, but he said it had nothing to do with his heart.

Mr. Bates grew up in Dearborn Heights and attended his 50th class reunion there. He was a big fan of the University of Michigan. He never married and had no children, but he had two nephews in Ohio who planned to attend his funeral.

Mr. Bates was invited to join the Sumpter family of James and Joanne Posegay and their daughter Lori Demond and her family. He became part of the family and they spent holidays together and were very close.

Mr. Bates lived in the township for 36 years. He held a Bachelor of Business

Administration degree from Eastern Michigan University.

He built many homes in Sumpter Township over the years, including all of the houses on Claxton Drive, and most of the homes on Kozma.

After he retired, his life revolved around Sumpter Township and the Parks and Recreation Commission. He served as Sumpter’s parks administrator and watched over the parks, obtaining grants for their upgrades. He also managed the township’s website.

During his recent election campaign, Mr. Bates said he has built many houses in Sumpter Township and in 2004 he was asked to run for the office of trustee and he felt it was time to give back to Sumpter.

Under state law, the township has 45 days to appoint someone to fill a vacant elected position or the county will appoint someone.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, Dec. 30, at David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville. He will be buried in Belleville’s Hillside Cemetery.

Visiting hours at the funeral home were held from 4 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 28, and will continue from 2 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 29.

A complete obituary is on page 7.

Judge removes Sumpter Township, Supervisor Morgan from law suit

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

At a Dec. 16 session in Wayne County Circuit Court, Judge Robert J. Colombo, Jr. laid out the schedule for the case of Clarita Po vs. Sumpter Township, Supervisor John Morgan, and Sumpter Police Detective
(continued on page 13)



Photo courtesy of Belleville High School

The Belleville High School girls’ basketball team threw themselves into the spirit of Christmas by doing community services. The players brought in clothing items and also collected more at the high school and took them to the local Goodwill and Salvation Army. “This was a really positive example of our athletes giving back to the community,” said BHS Athletic Director Joseph Brodie.

City Council doesn’t like Chamber plan to add 21 festival rides downtown

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Belleville’s police chief, fire chief, and most of the city council didn’t like the Chamber of Commerce’s proposal to bring up to 21 more children’s carnival rides downtown to side streets during Strawberry Festival.

On Dec. 19 at the regular city council meeting after a long discussion on the proposal, Michael Dotson, president of the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce, told the council the chamber will “have to go back to the table to sharpen our pencils.”

He said he would take the comments back to the chamber. Dotson said no way does the chamber wish to make the city have safety issues.

But, that’s just what Police Chief Hal Berriman and Fire Chief Brian Loranger said would happen if Third Street were full of carnival rides. That’s the street they use

to cut through the booths downtown to get to the other side of town in emergencies. Otherwise, they would have to go all the way around, they said.

Also, using those streets for more rides would result in a lack of parking in those areas for vendors on Main Street and also calls from neighbors about the noise in their residential neighborhoods.

Dotson presented the proposal to move more children’s rides from St. Anthony’s to Main Street to make it more family oriented.

Paul Henning passed out hand-drawn maps of the downtown area with circles indicating where new rides were proposed, which included the parking lot of Chase Bank, the parking lot behind the museum and in the middle of Third and Fourth streets and on the property next to the Chamber office. This is in addition to the usual ferris wheel at Fifth Street and the
(continued on page 11)

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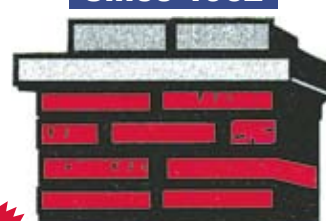
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SECOND FRONT PAGE

VBT enacts moratorium on applications for marijuana facilities

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

At its Dec. 20 regular meeting, the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees unanimously approved enacting a moratorium to defer the review of applications pertaining to Medical Marijuana Cultivation Facilities until May 20, 2017.

The township had adopted an ordinance in June to allow up to six primary caregivers to get together to grow their allowed plants in a facility in an Industrial zoning district. The ordinance prohibited dispensaries.

Ron Akers, director of planning and economic development, sent a letter to Supervisor Kevin McNamara recommending the moratorium based on a new law that takes effect in December 2017.

He said under the Medical Marijuana Facilities Licensing Act, the township has to decide whether or not to allow one, some, or all five medical marijuana facilities into its jurisdiction.

The facilities are: cultivation facilities, processor (creation of marijuana-based products), dispensaries, secure transporters and marijuana testing labs.

There are also provisions in the law that provides for additional taxes and fees to the township from these facilities.

Akers said the moratorium would give township officials time to study the situation and makes decisions. He said if the moratorium is approved, staff will work with the supervisor's office, public safety, the planning commission, and legal counsel to develop a recommendation for the township board.

The board discussed the moratorium during its work/study session on Dec. 19.

The issue was presented at the Dec. 20 regular board meeting by Matthew Best, deputy director of planning and economic development. He said after the six-month moratorium is over, the township could enact another six-month moratorium if it wasn't ready to make its decisions.

"We can see what's facing Sumpter and we don't want to go there," said Trustee Sherry Frazier.

"The State of Michigan passed a law and we're living under the law," said Supervisor McNamara.

"We get a call every week and numerous calls about growing facilities," he said.

"Several people are looking to site growing facilities in our township," Best agreed.

In other business at the Dec. 20 meeting, the board:

- Approved the combination of five lots in the northeast corner of Denton and Michigan Avenue for a commercial development;

- Approved the supervisor's reappointment of Robert McKenna as a full member of the Board of Zoning Appeals with a term to expire Dec. 1, 2019;

- Approved the supervisor's reappointment of Angela Netro, Juanita Jensen, Harry Roesch, and Loretta Speaks (alternate) to the Board of Review with terms to expire Dec. 31, 2018;

- Approved the supervisor's reappointment of Carol Thompson and Joan Franzoi to the planning commission with terms to expire Oct. 1, 2019;

- Approved a resolution adopting the Downriver Utilities Wastewater Authority Service Agreement. Once the service agreement is approved by all 13 members

of the authority it can get a credit rating, and issue bonds. Farther down the road each community can decide whether to be an owner or customer;

- Approved the Residential Field Appraiser job description and personal services agreement between Gina Dorazio and the township. Pay had already been approved in the budget as \$35,360;

- Approved the job description for Human Resource Director and the personal service agreement between Nicole D.W. Sumpter and the township. Pay had already been approved in the budget as \$66,000;

- Approved the job description and personal service agreement for Daniel Selman for the position of executive assistant to the supervisor on a 6-1 vote with Trustee Reggie Miller voting no. Pay of \$50,000 was already approved in the budget. Trustee Miller said she voted no because, "I feel this is an executive position. Education is not a replacement for experience." Selman had graduated from University of Michigan-Dearborn, with a degree in local government, but has no experience;

- Heard Trustee White read a letter that was sent to all members of the board by George Deverich and also printed in the Independent. It concerned the previous board's proposal to approve a fifth amendment to the host community agreement with Waste Management that eliminates free trash pickup and eliminates the golf course at the corner of Ecorse and Hannan, among other changes;

- Heard Ernie Tozier, 9200 Hannan Road, say he wants those appointed to boards and commissions to be residents of the township. "I do not know a single

commission member that doesn't live in Van Buren Township," McNamara said;

- Heard Trustee Frazier say all jobs in the township should be posted inside and outside, "not just anoint people already working here and move them up." That way "you can hold inside candidates up against outside candidates and say we made the right choice," she said. Trustee Miller agreed she would support Frazier to make a motion on a policy for hiring. McNamara said since two trustees want this to be an agenda item on the next agenda it will be. Trustee White also agreed and said there could be a 90-day probationary period and try to get politics out of the system; and

- Heard Tozier say he read the original landfill host community agreement with Waste Management and it documents that the landfill cannot be expanded past the golf course. McNamara said, "This board will be dealing with that in January. We will take a long time to review this. You may be right... We will have a big discussion." Tozier said, "It'll be a major bill."

Long-Term Debt Fund

At the work/study session of Dec. 19, the board discussed a recommendation by Treasurer Sharry Budd to create a Long-Term Debt Fund and transfer \$4 million into it from: the General Fund, \$2.5 million and from the landfill fund \$1.5 million, and to also transfer \$1 million in each following year, \$500,000 from each fund. Budd said the 2015 audit recommended \$4 million be put into reserve and this will set the money aside into its own fund. This is scheduled for a vote at the Jan. 10 meeting of the township board.

VBT Environmental Commission approves tighter coal tar rule

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

An amended coal tar ordinance that tightens up rules for applicators of driveway sealants was passed by the Van Buren Township Environmental Commission at its Dec. 21 meeting.

The commission's recommendation to pass the amended ordinance has been sent to the township board for consideration.

The commission members hope to have the amended ordinance in place by the time driveways and parking lots are being resurfaced in the spring.

At the Nov. 16 meeting of the commission there wasn't a quorum, so although members present agreed with the draft wording, they couldn't take a vote. At the Dec. 21 meeting there was a quorum.

The changes included reducing the maximum amount of Polycyclic Aromatic

Hydrocarbons (PAH) allowed to .1%, from the original 1%; addition of fines as penalties; and necessity for application contractors to be certified.

"We got something started and others are following," said Commission Chairman David Brownlee, referring to the coal tar ordinance VBT passed last December at the commission's urging. VBT was the first municipality in the state to pass the ordinance, but soon others followed and most of them had tough penalties.

"The target is not the residents, it's the applicators."

He said the residents can't buy buckets of driveway sealant with PAH, anyway, since Lowe's, Home Depot, and other places no longer sell such mixtures.

Brownlee said he went over sealant work done by a popular local applicator and his work failed Brownlee's test for PAH.

He said VBT has to order the number of pamphlets it wants available from the Huron River Watershed Council and get them distributed. The pamphlets cover the health and wellness issues of PAH and coal tar. He said in June, the city of Belleville sent out the pamphlets in its water bills.

"We have to educate the community by March," Brownlee said. And, he said, the township needs to notify the applicators that there will be a small stipend to register.

"Many people don't know about it," said Commissioner Ron Merritt, noting his neighbors all know, but others he's talked to do not know.

"Education is the biggest enforcer," Brownlee said. He said they are focusing on PAH not coal tar because manufacturers of the sealants change the name of the substance to avoid coal tar regulations.

"I think it goes to the board of trustees

next and we will move it as quickly as we can," said Matthew Best, deputy director of planning and economic development.

In other business at the Dec. 21 meeting, the commission:

- Heard Best report that there has been a request from Marvin Lang to use biosolids from the Ann Arbor Waste Treatment plant on 45 acres of land owned by Richard Wallace on the northeast corner of Hull and Hoeft roads. The fertilizer is human waste in a slurry in a tank. Commissioner Debuck, a lifelong farmer, said it doesn't smell unless it's improperly put into the ground. Best said this substance has been used by farmers in the township in the past and if residents haven't noticed it then, they won't notice it now. It is used on cash crops like corn, beans, and soybeans and is "like recycling," Debuck said;

(continued on page 18)

OPINIONS

Editorial

Who will be able to replace Alan Bates?

On Christmas Eve the Treasurer of Sumpter Township Alan Bates had a heart attack and left us for a better place. His sudden passing was a shock to everyone who knew him and put a pall of sadness across the holiday in Sumpter.

The Sumpter Township supervisor and board now must act quickly to fill this vacancy on the board within 45 days or the county or state will fill the position.

Treasurer Bates, who spent many years as a trustee, had been appointed treasurer in 2014 and ran for first-time election to the office and was elected Nov. 8.

Officials could choose Lydia Graber who came in second in the primary with just 133 fewer votes than Bates, but they probably won't. Seated officials were quite curt to other Democrats who presumed to run against them. We doubt if they will invite any of them to the table.

Since the total compensation for treasurer is about \$30,000, no one with a good job within the township will want to move over to an elective position and make less, even with health care and a cell phone. The supervisor probably will accept the names of people who are interested in the job and then sort them out to see who will be best and recommend the name to the board.

Alan Bates had deep roots in the community, built many of the homes in the township, gave countless hours of volunteer effort for parks and recreation, and had a college education. He will be very difficult to replace for such a key position. We wish officials well.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

Someone is working to get a gaming café in the former JB's Bar that was owned by John Bota back in the day. It has been empty a lot since John left.

I've been told the developers of that unit at Belle Plaza shopping center on Sumpter Road have something in mind like the former pool hall on Main Street. Remember those days?

In the past, the Belleville City Council would divvy up the categories to judge in the annual holiday lighting contest and not let the public know who judged what.

But, this year, at the Dec. 19 meeting, Mayor Kerreen Conley handed out the plaques to present to the winners to specific councilmen, often asking them which category they judged.

And, adding to that, each councilman who had a winner to honor, told of judging that category and how he came to his final decision.

The judges were: Mayor Conley for the business category, Councilman Jesse Marcotte for Harbour Pointe subdivision, Councilman Tom Smith for the mobile home parks, Mayor Pro Tem Jack Loria for Victoria Commons, and Councilman Tom Fielder for the "Balance of Belleville," what he referred to as "Old Belleville."

After the presentations were over, Councilman Fielder publicly told the *Independent* not to let the public know who judged what since they are supposed to keep it secret. Well, the cat was out of the bag by then before a room full of people.

As a former high school civics teacher, he should know better than to ask the press to keep a secret.



While I was working on a story at my computer on my kitchen table on Christmas Eve, I heard a report on the police scanner that said a man called 911 to report that he left his dog in the car, the dog put the car into Drive, and his car crashed into another car. I don't know where it happened.

I can't believe I had a whole week without a municipal meeting! It was fun. I read a couple of books, watched some movies, and cooked a little. Next week, the meetings start up again and I'll be there to report to you what's going on and what new ordinances are coming up locally and what may hit you in the wallet -- again. It should be interesting.

I heard the story of a man who was reading his *Independent* in his lakeside home and saw the ad for a de-icer. His de-icer had stopped working and he was getting it fixed. But the price in the paper was so good, he decided to buy it.

The de-icer keeps the water from freezing at the dock and staves off damage to the dock in the winter. He looked out at his neighbor's de-icer that was working wonderfully.

As he was getting ready to leave to buy the de-icer, he saw his neighbor's dog running out on the ice. Then, the dog fell in the lake. To make a long story short, in the past the dog hated him and always barked

at him, but he went out and saved the dog, with the dog biting onto his sleeve to get hauled in. Heavy dog.

He went on to buy the de-icer with his arms all wet and his sleeve in tatters. What a guy! What a nice Christmas story.

A few years back, Dan Swallow, who used to be VBT Director of Planning and Economic Development, left here to go to the City of Monroe, where he was director of economic and community development. He resigned that position in late 2015 to become city manager of the City of Tecumseh. On his page on the Tecumseh website, Dan put in big letters: "You are always welcome to speak your mind! We work for you!" Nice touch.

VBT Fire Department responded to a structure fire on Monday, shortly after 9 a.m. It was in a warehouse at 41199 Van Born, between Haggerty and I-275. Romulus FD came as mutual aid and the fire was declared out before 10 a.m. The sprinkler system seemed to work nicely. There was a lot of smoke that needed to be cleared out and some burned furniture in the warehouse. Don't know the cause.



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-- Mother Teresa



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Letters

Congresswoman Dingell seeks help for Ypsilanti mail delivery

December 22, 2016
Ms. Megan J. Brennan
Postmaster General and Chief Executive Officer
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20260

Dear Ms. Brennan:

This letter is regarding the unacceptable quality of mail delivery service in Ypsilanti, Michigan. My office has received many complaints from constituents and city leaders have reached out to me personally.

While it is understandable that there may be some delays during the busiest time of the year for the Postal Service, these issues seem to go well beyond what is expected for the normal holiday rush. Residents of Ypsilanti must be able to rely on fast, consistent mail service.

The nature of the complaints fall in the following areas:

- Mail is often being delivered after 8 p.m.
- Packages are being picked up after 7 p.m. which leads to further delays in delivery.
- Mail is not being delivered for days at a time. A large bundle of older mail is then delivered after several days.
- The Ypsilanti Post Office is unresponsive to customer complaints. Residents are unable to speak to anyone via telephone regarding their mail service problems.

I urge you to investigate the reason for this level of unsatisfactory service and take the necessary measures to ensure that the residents of Ypsilanti receive the service they deserve. Please provide a response detailing the reasons behind these service problems and the steps USPS is taking to correct the problem.

Thank you for your attention to this issue and I look forward to receiving your prompt response.

Sincerely,
Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress

Adult Ed classes available by taxi cab

To the Editor:

My name is Kerin Stover. I work for Wayne-Westland Adult Education. Last year we were housed at Tinkham on Venoy Road. That building has been closed and our program (adult

English as a Second Language -- ESL -- and GED courses) have been moved to John Glenn High School.

Since the announcement of the closing of Tinkham we feel that some community members may be confused and may think that our program has ended.

The Wayne-Westland Schools are very happy to be able to continue this community service. We offer free taxi service to and from class and have many students who are being taxied in from Belleville.

We have a variety of tools both in class and online to assist the adult learners with reaching their GED and ESL goals.

We have many interesting activities going on in class to prepare the students for employment. We are growing vegetables indoors this year. We attend career fairs. We also have local businesses come and speak to the students regarding opportunities in the community.

We held a Holiday Tradition Celebration on Wednesday Dec. 21 at 2:30 p.m. at John Glenn High School in room B192, my classroom. Students shared food from their native countries wore clothes from their native countries and they shared their holiday traditions.

Call for more information on the free program.

Kerin Stover
John Glenn High School
ESL and GED prep teacher
(734) 419-2425

Thank you to Mans Lumber, Home Depot

To the Editor,

I just wanted to give a big shout-out to Mans Lumber and Home Depot.

After participating in the Flag placement event at Hillside Cemetery last month, I submitted a request for dowel rods to be used as replacement flagstuffs on flags that were repairable and refurbishable.

On Oct. 29, after many volunteers completed the task of replacing U.S. Flags at veterans graves in Hillside Cemetery, I picked up all the torn, tattered, dirty, broken flags (approximately 600) that were replaced, with the intention of salvaging as many as I can. All unsalvageable flags will be properly disposed by my VFW Post 4434.

I take it upon myself to refurbish as many possible, and use them to decorate South Biggs Street and also place many in front of my house, "FREE" to anyone who wants one. After washing, installing repainting finials, and reattaching flags to new flagstuffs, I should have about 370 salvageable ones.

Mans Lumber and Home Depot located on Michigan Avenue in Canton met my request beyond my wishes. I now have enough to repair over 300 flags, which will be done over the winter in time for Memorial Day, May 29, 2017. I had enough flags from previous efforts to also have a supply available this last Veterans Day, Nov 11.

Thanks, again, Mans Lumber and Home Depot.
Pete Pitzen, Belleville Resident
Member VFW post 4434

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More Letters

Thank you, Belleville, for your support

To the Editor:

I would like to offer the citizens of Belleville and our surrounding communities a sincere thank you for their well wishes and continued support of Belles.

As a new business owner I am humbled by the outpouring of support and kindness by so many people I am meeting for the very first time. Kindness from not only the customers I am meeting as they come in to shop, but from the other local business



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owners who have stepped up to offer their support and encouragement without a hint of competition.

This is a wonderful community, I feel blessed on a daily basis by having made it my home. The overwhelming success of ladies night proves to me once more that I am where I belong, that this is truly a community that looks after one another.

Thank you to all who came out last

night, braving the nasty weather to support your community. Again, my sincere thanks to those of you who continue to support me personally by shopping at Belles. I do realize my success can only happen with your support and my hope is to be a part of your lives for many years.

Thank you, Belleville.
 Martha Milholin
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McCann gets law degree

To the Editor:

My brothers and I are proud to announce that our mother, Tara K. McCann, earned a "Master's of Jurisprudence in Law" on Dec. 16. Tara is the Children's and Teen Librarian at the Belleville Area District Library and she already has a Master's in Library and Information Science. We are so proud of her!
 Kayleigh Moffett

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Obituaries



Joseph Cleon Auge'

JOSEPH CLEON AUGE'

(August 16, 1924 – December 22, 2016)

Joseph Cleon Auge' went to be with the Lord on December 22, 2016. Joseph was born in St. Paul, Minnesota on August 16, 1924, the son of Joseph Henry Auge' and Ethel (Johnson) Auge'. Joseph was very proud of his Minnesota roots and his Native American heritage. He was Mdewakanton Santee Sioux, the great-great grandson of Chief Wabasha, great-great nephew of Chief Little Crow, and a descendant of Joseph Renville -- all key figures in Minnesota history. He was the first chairperson of the Swartz Creek Schools Title IV Indian Education Program in Michigan, a long-time member of the Genesee Valley Indian Association Board of Directors, a life-long advocate for Native American rights and a member of the Mendota Mdewakanton Dakota Tribal Community in Minnesota. Joseph joined the army in February, 1942. He began as a paratrooper testing experimental parachutes in the Army Air Corps, eventually joining the newly formed Air Force. As a military lifer who rose to the rank of Senior Master Sergeant, he proudly served in WWII and the Korean War. Following the wars he was stationed in Alaska, Japan and New York, then in Germany during the building of the Berlin Wall. Finally, he served as an Air Force recruiter in the greater Detroit area before eventually retiring from the military in 1967. After his military service, he entered a second career as a pipefitter with Union Local 370 in Flint, where he was an active member of the union's governing body. When he retired for the second time, he moved to Donna, Texas where he resided until his illness brought him back to Michigan.

Joseph's proudest accomplishment was his devotion to his family. He married Esther Miriam (Franks) on January 18, 1945 and they remained together for 63 years until her death in 2008. Into this blessed union nine children were born, including Thomas Joseph Auge' (deceased), Mary Estelle Auge' (deceased), Colleen Theresa Levack, Jennifer Ann Smith, Elizabeth Ethel Auge' (deceased), Mitchell Paul Auge', Patricia Jane Auge' (deceased), Carol Lynn Auge', and Kenneth Roger Auge' (deceased).

In addition to his grateful children, Joseph leaves to cherish his memory, two sisters (Mary Lou Foster and Nancy Auge'), one brother (William Auge'), numerous cousins, his grandchildren (Cathy Auge', Carl Auge', Phillip Michaeli, Joseph Michaeli, Matthew Michaeli, Christine Jablonski, Theresa Levack, Dawn Laubach, David Levack, Daniel Levack, Samantha Smith, Jennifer Jones, Elizabeth Stewart, Linda Auge', Mitch Auge' Jr, Nikolai Nickison, and Sarina Nickison), 27 great grandchildren, and 8 great-great grandchildren.

Joseph was an avid baseball fan and coach. He also loved nothing better than participating in family celebrations and playing cards with his family and friends.

Visiting hours have been arranged from 9 until 11 a.m. on Wednesday, December 28 at David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville.

The Rosary will be prayed after 10:00 a.m. at the funeral home.

Following the praying of the rosary, Joseph will be carefully transported in a procession to St. Anthony Catholic Church, 409 W. Columbia, Belleville, where a Funeral Mass concluding with military honors will be celebrated at 11:30 a.m.

Interment will follow at a later date at Arlington National Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to Arbor Hospice & Home Care or Michigan Hospice, and would be appreciated.



Alan Darryl Bates

ALAN DARRYL BATES

(June 30, 1943 – December 24, 2016)

Alan Darryl Bates, age 73, of Sumpter Township, died suddenly on December 24, 2016.

Alan was never married, but is survived by his special "family," Chris (Lori) DeMond of Belleville; dear "Papa Alan" to James DeMond along with their families, and the entire Sumpter Township community. Sadly, he is preceded in death by his parents, Albert and Mariam Bates and cousin Rosemary Johnson.

Alan was born on June 30, 1943 and was raised in Dearborn Heights. He later moved to Sumpter Township, founded and was President of the Alan Bates Building Co.

Sumpter Township was truly Alan's love and passion. He recently was elected as Treasurer, but was very active for many years in the management of the community. The Parks and Recreation of Sumpter held a special place in his heart.

A funeral service has been arranged for 11:00 a.m., Friday, December 30, in the main chapel of the David C. Brown Funeral Home, (734) 697-4500. A procession with interment prayers will follow at Hillside Cemetery, Belleville.

Visiting hours were arranged for Wednesday from 4 until 8 p.m. and continue with visiting hours Thursday, from 2 until 8 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial tributes may be directed to the Sumpter Senior Center.

More Obituaries on page 8

Upcoming Meetings

- Monday, Jan. 2 – New Year's Day observed
- Tuesday, Jan. 3 – City of Belleville regular meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- Monday, Jan. 9 – Van Buren Township work/study session, 4 p.m. Also, organizational meeting of the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m., at the Belleville High School Commons (cafeteria).
- Tuesday, Jan. 10 – Van Buren Township Local Development Finance Authority, 2 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township workshop at 6 p.m. and regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. Also, Van Buren Township regular board meeting, 7 p.m. Also, Belleville Area District Library Board, 7:30 p.m.

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Obituaries



Bonnie Dean Anguilm

BONNIE DEAN ANGUILM

(February 11, 1918 – December 24, 2016)

Bonnie Dean Anguilm, age 98, died peacefully on December 24, 2016 at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Ann Arbor.

Bonnie is the beloved wife of the late Urban (d.1991); dear mother of Edward (Kay) Anguilm of Belleville, Carole (Jerry) Pasek of Belleville and Gary (Pam) Anguilm of Denver, Colorado. Mrs. Anguilm is also survived by fifteen grandchildren, sixteen great-grandchildren and eight great-great grandchildren. A longtime Belleville resident, Mrs. Anguilm was a very active parish member of St. Anthony Church of Belleville, including being involved with the altar society. She was a woman of deep faith and a love for helping people. This was shown with her work as a hospice volunteer, when she won an award as caregiver of the year in Pasco Co. Florida.

Visiting hours were Monday, December 26, from 1 until 4 p.m. at the David C. Brown Funeral Home of Belleville, (734) 697-4500. The rosary was prayed at 3:30 p.m.



Jennifer Lynn Vaprezsan

JENNIFER LYNN VAPREZSAN

(September 24, 1965 – December 21, 2016)

Jennifer Lynn Vaprezsan, 51, of Maumelle, Arkansas, passed away of a heart attack on Wednesday, December 21, 2016 at Baptist Medical Center in Little Rock. Jennifer was born September 24, 1965 in Ann Arbor, Michigan to Dale and Patricia Barrett Bennett. Jennifer loved to cook, and care for her family. She had a soothing personality that carried over into her work with the community. She loved to play the piano, was obsessed with healthy eating, and she loved learning, and being a powerful supporting partner to her husband John. Jennifer was very proud to have been a flight attendant for South West Airlines and to be the activity director for Stonehaven Assisted Living Center.

Jennifer is survived by her parents Dale and Patricia Bennett, husband John Vaprezsan, son Preston Vaprezsan (Angela), daughter Alexis Bryan (Gabe), brothers Mike Bennett (Carol) and Tom Bennett; sister Karen Bennett Frisch, and by her beloved Yorkies Coco and Cola.

Services will be Thursday, December 29, 2016 at 6 p.m. at First Baptist Church, 120 Millwood Circle Maumelle, Arkansas 72113, with visitation beginning at 5 p.m.

Arrangements by Moore's Jacksonville Funeral Home (501) 982-2136.



Matilda Ellen White Coleman

MATILDA ELLEN WHITE COLEMAN

(August 24, 1923 – December 22, 2016)

Matilda Ellen White Coleman, age 93, a longtime Sumpter Township resident, died December 22, 2016 at 93 years of age.

Matilda is the dear wife of James R. for seventy two wonderful years; beloved mother of Richard, William and James. She is also survived by her sisters, Hazel and Ellamae and eight grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. Sadly, she is preceded in death by her parents, James and Nora White; two sisters Darlene and Rosie; and six brothers Freeland, Charles, Raymond, Harrison, James, and Clarence.

Matilda was born on August 24, 1923 in Tulga, Greenup Co., Kentucky. She married James on September 9, 1944 and they lived and raised their family in Sumpter following their marriage. Mrs. Coleman loved to quilt and plan family trips in her younger years. In her later life, she and James became active in the Sumpter Township Senior Center.

A funeral service was held at 2 p.m., Tuesday, December 27, at the David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville, (734) 697-4500. The Coleman family greeted family and friends from 11 a.m. until the time of the service.

A procession with interment prayers followed at Michigan Memorial Park, Flat Rock. In lieu of flowers, memorial tributes may be directed to the Sumpter Senior Center.

Things to do in the Belleville area...

• **Saturday, Dec. 31** – The public is welcome to a New Year's Eve party at the Moose Lodge 934 at the corner of Sumpter and Harris roads. Tickets in advance \$20 each; \$30 at the door. Dinner is 7-9 p.m. and Southern Heat Band plays from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Pizza and champagne at midnight. Reserve your table of eight. (734) 325-7799

• **Sunday, Jan. 1** – You are invited to Bugles Across America at 7:15 p.m. at the Veterans Monument in Belleville. The monthly event honors those that have or are serving in the military. There is a brief ceremony with the playing of "Taps" by Ross Medos of the Belleville VFW.

• **Friday, Jan. 6** – Friends Family Theater FREE Friday Movie Night, 7 p.m. in the Youth House at 7890 Tuttle Hill Road, at Bemis Road, Ypsilanti. "Veggies in the House" (2015 - 8 minutes) and "What do our pets really do?" (2016-80 minutes, 3D). Family films, fun, food, all for free. Questions: (734) 482-5074 or [previews www.friendsfamilytheater.com](http://www.friendsfamilytheater.com)

• **Wednesday, Jan. 25** – Free Community Dinner from 6 to 7 p.m. at Belleville First United Methodist Church, 417 Charles Street. Get to know your neighbors. Everyone welcomed. Info: (734) 697-9288

Lincoln Schools increase pay of substitute paraprofessionals

Lincoln Consolidated Schools reports the adoption of a pay rate increase for substitute paraprofessionals to \$10 per hour, up from \$8.50 per hour. This follows an increase for substitute teachers to \$90 per day earlier in the school year.

The pay increase is expected to address the disadvantage Lincoln has faced while competing with neighboring districts offering a higher per hour rate.

Lincoln contracts substitute paraprofessionals 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 paraprofessionals and bring it in line with other neighboring districts," stated Superintendent Sean McNatt. "This change will allow us to compete in the marketplace and help fill our daily positions."

To learn how to become a substitute teacher or paraprofessional, visit EduStaff at www.edustaff.org.

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VBT says goodbye



Independent photo by Rosemary K. Oztzman

At the Nov. 1 regular meeting of the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees framed resolutions were presented to outgoing board members by those staying on the board. Staying on the board are, from left, Trustee Reggie Miller, Treasurer Sharry Budd, and Clerk Leon Wright. Honored were, from left above, Trustee Jeff Jahr, Trustee Phillip Hart, Supervisor Linda Combs, and Trustee Brenda McClanahan.



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More Letters

I highly recommend Sumpter Collision

To the Editor:

I recently had an unfortunate incident that involved my car last Friday. I took it to a collision shop in Ann Arbor but was told they couldn't work on it until the first or second week in January and they would need my car for four to six days.

I called Kevin at Sumpter Collision and took it in for an estimate last Friday

afternoon. I took my car into Sumpter Collision when I got off work Tuesday, after 5 p.m., and he said he'd have it back to me on Friday.

Much to my surprise, Kevin called me Thursday afternoon and said my car would be ready by 4:30. I was so thrilled to get it back within 24 hours and my car was much cleaner than when I brought it in.

I HIGHLY recommend Sumpter Collision and thoroughly enjoyed working with Kevin! GREAT shop!

Elaine Chateau
Belleville



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City Council

(continued from page 1)

usual children's rides at that point.

"We want to maximize the family experience downtown," Dotson said, adding they would like to do this for the next Strawberry Festival.

When asked if they really planned 20 more rides, Dotson said it would be an additional one to 20 rides.

"Looks like a parking nightmare," said Fire Chief Loranger, who said he hadn't seen these plans before the meeting. "The only way I have to get through with a fire truck is through Third Street."

Dotson said Police Chief Berriman expressed concern, too, when they talked earlier.

"We want to make the Strawberry Festival better every year," Dotson emphasized.

Mayor Pro Tem Jack Loria asked if they were planning to put more games of chance on Main Street and Dotson said that was possible.

Loria said he had a problem with the plan to move children's rides from St. Anthony to Main Street.

"I don't think carney rides enhance the family experience," Loria said.

Chief Loranger said if they are blocked with rides they wouldn't be able to see what's going on down the side streets. It's a safety problem, he said.

"I'm dead set against it," said Chief Berriman. "With rides on the side streets, we'll have people complaining about the noise."

DPW Chief Rick Rutherford, who said he hadn't seen the proposal until this meeting, said by blocking Third Street with rides it would impede vendors from getting to their booths to load their vending spaces.

While Dotson had presented the proposal for the Chamber, at this point in the discussion, immediate chamber past president Randy Brown took up defending the plan.

Brown asked if kiddie rides on the side streets were OK and Chief Berriman said, "No."

"If we eliminated putting them on Third Street, you could have more rides on Fourth Street ... Like 21 rides," Brown pushed.

Planning commissioner John Juriga asked for a map of where they wanted to put rides. Henning had passed out the maps at the beginning of the discussion to members of the council and the press. Members of the audience did not get maps until Juriga asked.

"We might be digging up Main Street by June for the library construction," said Juriga, who also serves on the library board.

"Once the library is built, Fourth Street won't be available," said Mayor Kerreen Conley.

Kim Tindall asked how many kids rides are on Main Street now and she was told about 10 plus the ferris wheel. She suggested they use the bank parking lot and a lot at the corner of Third and Main.

Chief Loranger asked, "If you take away parking from the residents, where are they going to park?"

"The council certainly does not support rides in proximity to residences and taking away parking," said Mayor Conley. "I'm not comfortable about voting on it. Jack [Loria] isn't comfortable or Tom Smith either." That made a majority of the council.

Councilman Tom Fielder, who is president of the festival board, said games of chance can be replaced by more family friendly games.

"Is it necessary to have children's rides at St. Anthony?" he asked. "We could keep some up there." He suggested expanding the vendor booths further up Main Street.

"If you go too far up, the parade route's gone," Mayor Conley said.

Chief Loranger asked if they planned to take away craft space for more ride space and Dotson said that was not their intention.

Councilman Jesse Marcotte said he would like to see something more specific before he would vote.

"Does the chamber have to come to the city for more rides on private property?" Brown asked, specifying the bank and Woody's property.

Former City Councilwoman Tindall pointed out the city has a carnival ordinance which is very specific where exactly rides are allowed.

"You need a comprehensive plan of where the carnival is going to be," Mayor Conley said to Brown, who is the chamber's liaison to the festival committee.

Tindall said rather than losing crafters, from Frosty Boy to 5 Points is empty and the vendors could travel south and the whole thing could move two blocks south.

"In the last two years there has been space there," Tindall said and Mayor Conley said it has been empty a lot longer than that.

As long as they were talking about the festival, Mayor Conley said the quality of vendors has deteriorated.

"The quality of vendors has gone way down," Mayor Conley repeated.

Juriga agreed, saying it resembles "a Florida flea market."

Mayor Conley said they could have more people at the festival if there were better vendors.

"We will bring those comments to the next Strawberry Festival meeting," Dotson said.

Tindall said maybe they could offer something to do for the family that doesn't cost \$10, \$20, or \$30. She said no longer is there any free entertainment. If kids want to see the leopard, that costs money and rides cost money.

Tindall said if, for example, families got to see the Animal Magic show for free, they would have money to spend on other things downtown.

Planning Commissioner Kelly Bates said she has been a volunteer for years at Art in the Park in Plymouth and they have free items for the kids to do, including Home Depot coming out teaching how to do things.

"I'd be glad to give you a list of these businesses to improve the offerings," Bates said and Dotson said to give it to Fielder since Fielder chairs the festival.

Fielder said at the first of the year they begin going over what happened last year and begin planning the upcoming festival.

In other business at the Dec. 19 meeting, the council:

- Discussed the special events ordinance and set a Jan. 3 public hearing and vote. Fielder has prepared the ordinance, with some input, and Tindall had typed up his hand-written document and put it in order. Councilman Marcotte said he wanted a section for emergency suspension or cancellation of activities for public safety reasons. Brown asked, "Who pays for it if you guys cancel it?" It was suggested insurance policies may have that covered. Also, Bates asked for a section having a charge if cleanup isn't done after the event. Juriga said he went to the florist and saw tape markers for festival booths still on the curb and suggested a \$100 fee for that. "If you put on all these fees, you'll push people out," Brown warned;

- Discussed the zoning ordinance amendment regarding B-2 Building Height, as recommended by the planning commission and set the item for action on the next agenda, Jan. 3. A public hearing had already been held by the planning commission. Marcotte was a member of the subcommittee that reviewed the issue and he said, "Every time a developer comes in, we shouldn't rush to throw out our Master Plan. After speaking to a lot of the people in the community ... they thought a one-

(Continued on page 13)

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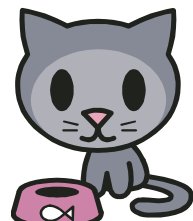
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More Letters

It's time to say thank you to everyone

To the Editor:

2016 is winding down and it is a time to say thank you to lots of people:

Thank you to the public safety officers who patrol the community and keep it safe; to the firefighters who risk their lives to enter burning buildings to rescue those who are trapped inside; to the rescue workers who rush the injured to hospitals and to the staff at health facilities that mend and bring us back together.

Thanks to friends and families who come together to have great conversations and lots of good food; to the businesses that

give great service to their customers and clients; to service workers who keep our community clean and free from garbage and rubbish in our streets.

Finally, thank you to Paul Henning of Belleville Chamber of Commerce who took the time out to present Rosie the Riveter and a commendation to Phyllis Roullier for her work at Willow Run Bomber plant during World War II.

Thank you to Congresswoman Debbie Dingell for spearheading and executing the private event at the Yankee Museum last August. Thank you to Rosemary Oztman for the opportunity of a by-line of reporting on the Yankee Museum event.

Lastly but not least, a big thank you to the community for participating in the annual Community Baby Shower which gives much needed baby clothes to "First Step," an organization which helps women and

children survivors of abuse and violence.

As we look forward to 2017, let us continue to care and share with each other. And, remember to say thank you as you go along your way.

Marian Caldwell
Van Buren Township



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Van Buren Public Schools Public Notice

VAN BUREN PUBLIC SCHOOLS ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID

Van Buren Public Schools will receive sealed bid proposals until **2:00 p.m. on January 12, 2017**, for the Temperature Control Upgrades Project at Tyler and Savage Elementary Schools. Bids will be opened and publicly read aloud immediately following the deadline for submission. Van Buren Public Schools will not consider or accept a bid received after the date and time specified for the bid submission.

A non-mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at Savage Elementary School, 42975 Savage Road, Belleville, MI 48111, on **January 5, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.**

All bids must be addressed to: Van Buren Public Schools, 555 W. Columbia, Belleville, MI. 48111. Attention: Mr. James Williams.

Bid Security, Cashier's Check, or Certified Check in the amount of five percent (5%) of the bid must be included along with a sworn and notarized statement disclosing any familial relationship that exists between the owner or any employee of the bidder and any member of the board, board of directors, or the superintendent of the school district. Accepted bidders will be required to furnish performance and payment bonds in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the Contract Price.

Bid documents may be viewed and downloaded at:

<https://app.e-builder.net/public/publicLanding.aspx?QS=dc8b93fa6bb64d66a5ace3094e10f588>

Documents will be available for viewing on **December 22, 2016**. Any questions, contact Rob Kakoczki at Plante Moran Cresa at rob.kakoczki@plantemoran.com.

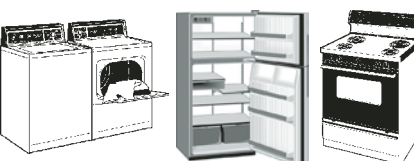
Publish: December 29, 2016

ORPHAN OF THE WEEK "KALIE"



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Po law suit

(continued from page 1)

John Toth.

Clarita Po sued following a raid in August on her home and her husband's marijuana grow house. She was jailed and then released without any charges filed.

Clarita Po's attorney Ronald Reese Ruark agreed to withdraw Sumpter Township's and Supervisor John Morgan's names from the case as defendants based on Michigan's law on governmental immunity.

Judge Colombo said discovery and depositions will run until April 14. The case will mediate in June and then a settlement conference will be held 42 days later, sometime in the late summer.

The only defendant left in the case is Sumpter Township Police Detective John Toth who led the raid on the house and grow facilities. On Dec. 16 Judge Colombo denied Toth's motion to dismiss Clarita Po's case against him.

The McGraw Morris law firm, the township's insurance attorney, is representing Det. Toth.

Clarita Po's lawsuit demands a jury trial. Attorney Ruark's son, Scott Richard Ruark, recently was admitted to the Michigan bar, and he and his father are representing Nelson Po on the criminal charge of delivering / manufacturing 5-45 kilograms of marijuana on Aug. 16 at the Pos' home at 45025 Harris Road.

The Dec. 16 final conference and motion hearing before Judge Ulysses Boykin at the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice was to be held with a substitute judge sitting in, since Boykin was on vacation.

But the substitute judge said he did not wish to act on these motions, adjourning the case until Jan. 6 when Boykin is back.

A jury trial on the felony charge is set for Jan. 26 before Judge Boykin. If found guilty, Po could be imprisoned for 7 years and/or pay a fine of \$500,000.

Scott Ruark drafted a motion to be presented Jan. 6 to dismiss the charge against Nelson Po based upon entrapment. He will be arguing his motion to dismiss.

Scott Ruark will argue that the Deferred Prosecution Agreement, signed by Sumpter Township and Po on Nov. 3, 2015, is an illegal drug deal – 200 pounds of marijuana for \$40,000 – and that Sumpter Township used it to entrap Nelson Po into breaking the law.

"Look at it this way," said defense attorney Ronald Ruark last week. "If the 200 pounds of marijuana was legal, it never should have been sold for \$40,000. That's extortion. It should have been returned to its rightful and legal owner.

"If the 200 pounds of marijuana was illegal, it never should have been sold for \$40,000. That's an illegal drug transaction.

It should have been kept in police storage and used as evidence.

"Sumpter Township either extorted \$40,000 from Nelson Po, or they engaged in an illegal drug transaction. There is no other option," attorney Ronald Ruark concluded.

City Council

(continued from page 11)

story building was all right." He said the renovation of a one-story building is allowed in the ordinance with a minimum height of 18 feet (14' ceiling, plus 4' parapet) and a new building can be done that way to match other buildings in that area and avoid looking like a strip mall;

- Approved SMART Specialized Services Operating Assistance Program for fiscal year 2018 to help subsidize the operation of a service that provides transportation of the elderly and disabled persons in Belleville;

- Approved water tank repair for fire truck #451, at a cost of about \$2,000, rather than the water tank replacement for \$15,900 that would have required a transfer from fund balance to accomplish. Chief Loranger said he put the replacement on the expenditure list to underline the need for a capital fund to replace fire equipment that he has asked for many times in the past. He said the truck, that goes out on every run, is not worth \$30,000, but its 500-gallon tank is leaking and flooding the fire hall and gets to fires not quite full. "I want you to understand we need to rely on this piece of equipment and it is part of the ISO rating, as well," Loranger said, adding he is not sure how long a repair would last.

Fielder made an amendment to the motion to pay all accounts payable to approve "appropriate repairs" to the tank, unless funds are available from other sources than fund balance to replace the tank. The motion passed unanimously; and

- Went into closed session with the city attorney to discuss pending litigation, and came out into regular session to accept the MMRMA settlement of \$75,000 recommended in the trip and fall by Jane Walzack on a sidewalk along Clarence Street. The council also went into a second closed-door session to discuss pending union negotiations and made no decisions in open session.

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– Alexis de Tocqueville

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More Letters

Thank you, St. Jude

To the Editor:

I would like to thank St. Jude's Novena Prayer for answering another prayer. Have a blessed holiday.
C.P.

Thank you to St. Jude

To the Editor:

This is to thank St. Jude. May the sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us. St. Jude worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, keeper of the hopeless, pray for us.
St. Jude, pray for our great nation.
M.

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

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Some featured items included in these units: Household furnishings, sofa, love seat, lamps, wall cabinets, fans, refrigerator, tools, folding tables, party planning supplies, snow blower, weed whacker, pressure washer, golf clubs, restoration equipment and a freezer.

Publish: Dec. 29, 2016; Jan. 5, 2017

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

Republicans set Trump swear-in watch party in Wyandotte Jan. 20

The Wayne-12th Congressional District Republican Committee will be marking the swearing in of the new president with its Donald J. Trump Inauguration Celebration on the evening of Inauguration Day Jan. 20 at the Epicurean House Banquet Center, 3530 Biddle Ave., Wyandotte, MI, 48192.

Those coming to the 6:30-10:30 p.m. celebration will enjoy food and fun with friends, while they view on a big screen the Inaugural Ball taking place in Washington. The cost at the door for the evening will be \$20 per-person.

Early bird registration can be made online. (For the early-bird \$15 per-person price, payment must be made online by 11:59 p.m. on the Monday prior to the event, on January 16, 2017). Online orders have to be done at the website <http://InaugurationCelebration2017.eventbrite.com>.

Otherwise, anyone reserving spot(s) in advance will pay the full \$20 per-person price. Registration can be done by mail by enclosing a check (payable to "Wayne-12 CDRC" – no corporate checks please) and the following information in an envelope

addressed to WAYNE-12th Inauguration Celebration, PO Box 2171, Southgate, Michigan 48195: contact name, address, city, state, zip, email address, phone number, number of attendees and total price.

This event is paid for by the Wayne-12 Congressional District Republican Committee, and is not authorized by any candidate or candidate committee. For additional information on the event, see the website <http://InaugurationCelebration2017.eventbrite.com>, or contact Joe Lenard at (734) 282-0643.

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PART-TIME RECEPTIONIST/Assistant and a hair stylist at Shear Envy, 990 Sumpter, (734) 697-9778 12/29

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HELP WANTED

CAPTAIN NEMO Belleville is hiring. Must be over 18. No calls. Apply at 144 3rd Street 01/12

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– Yoda

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Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN BOARD MEETING MINUTES

December 20, 2016

Supervisor McNamara called the meeting to order at 7:00 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, Executive Assistant Selman, Public Services Director Taylor, Assessing Coordinator Stevenson, Planning and Economic Development Deputy Director Best, Benefits Coordinator Sumpter, Assessing Clerk Dorazio and an audience of nine (9).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Frazier moved, Miller seconded to approve the revised agenda as presented. Motion Carried. Revisions included movement of commission/committee member re-appointments to New Business and the addition of New Business item #5 [To consider approval of resolution 2016-21 a moratorium to defer the review of applications pertaining to Medical Marihuana Cultivation Facilities until May 20, 2017].

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: Budd moved, White seconded to approve the Consent Agenda. [Work Study Session minutes of December 5, 2016, Board Meeting minutes of December 6, 2016, Prepaid List of December 9, 2016, Prepaid List of December 15, 2016 and the Voucher List of December 20, 2016 and approval of the request for the combination of lots: 83-018-02-0134-006; 83-018-02-0134-007; 83-018-02-0134-008; 83-018-02-0134-009 and 83-018-02-0134-010 with conditions]. Motion Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING: None.

CORRESPONDENCE: Supervisor McNamara read a letter to the Fire Department from the Belleville Chamber of Commerce thanking them for their assistance with the Fireworks during Winterfest. Trustee White read a letter sent to Board members and published in Belleville Area Independent opposing expansion of the Waste Management Landfill and cost to residents for trash pick-up.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Resident questioned if there was a residency requirement for Committee and Commission appointments.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: Wright moved, White seconded to approve the re-appointment of Robert McKenna as a full member of the Board of Zoning Appeals with a term to expire 12-1-2019. Motion Carried. Mr. McKenna has been a valued member of the Board of Zoning Appeals and has expressed his desire to continue his service.

Frazier moved, Martin seconded to approve the re-appointment of Angela Nettore, Juanita Jensen, Harry Roesch and Loretta Speaks (Alternate) to the Board of Review with terms to expire 12-31-2018. Motion Carried. Members have been long serving, valued members of the Board of Review and have expressed their desire to continue to serve.

Budd moved, Miller seconded to approve the reappointment of Carol Thompson and Joan Franzoi to the Planning Commission with terms to expire 10-1-2019. Motion Carried. Ms. Thompson and Franzoi have been long serving, valued, members of the Planning Commission. They have expressed their desire to continue to serve.

White moved, Frazier seconded to approve Resolution 2016-20 the Downriver Utilities Wastewater Authority (DUWA) Service Agreement. Motion Carried. The agreement is an important first step toward the transfer of sewage treatment to the Downriver Utilities

Wastewater Authority in conjunction with twelve communities.

White moved, Frazier seconded to approve Resolution 2016-21 a moratorium to defer the review of applications pertaining to Medical Marihuana Cultivation Facilities until May 20, 2017. Motion Carried. In September 2016 the State of Michigan adopted PA 281-283 of 2016 which created new requirements for Medical Marihuana Facilities. The moratorium allows for further review of the Township's current zoning ordinance pertaining to Medical Marihuana Facilities under PA 281-283 of 2016.

White moved, Miller seconded to approve the Residential Field Appraiser Job Description and the Personal Service Agreement between the Township and Gina Dorazio. Motion Carried. The full-time position was approved during the budget process under the Assessing Department and was created to meet the Departments workload following the resignation of the current Residential Appraiser.

Budd moved, Miller seconded to approve the Human Resource Director Job Description and Personal Service Agreement between the Township and Nicole D. W. Sumpter. Motion Carried. The full-time position was approved during the budget process under the Supervisors office. The job description has been updated from the previous job description to improve overall service to Township employees.

Martin moved, Frazier seconded to approve the Executive Assistant Job Description and Personal Service Agreement between the Township and Daniel Selman. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: McNamara, Budd, Wright, Frazier, Martin and White. Nays: Miller. Motion Carried. The full-time position was approved during the budget process under the Supervisors office and reports directly to the Supervisor. Trustee Miller commended the education of the applicant however felt his lack of experience was not consistent with an executive level position.

REPORTS: None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Announcements included: the Township Administrative offices will be closed December 23, 2016 thru January 2, 2017; thanked Supervisor McNamara, Treasurer Budd, Trustee Miller, Wade Trim, the law firm of Greco, Gasior, Morgan, McCauley and Kotzian, McKenna & Associates, the law firm of Johnson Rosati, Waste Management and Burnham and Flower who donated to the Clerk's Office Coats for School Kids drive; Menards will begin construction next year; the Museum Christmas party was well attended thanks to Museum Director Dallos; thanked Public Safety for this year's Shop with a Hero which served the needs of 35 families through the generous donations of Walmart and Meijer; thanked the Good Fellows program and their generous supporters; encouraged the community to shop local; thanked the individuals who volunteer in the Senior Department; thanked the Belleville Area Independent for keeping the community informed; acknowledge the Boy Scout in the audience working towards his rank as an Eagle Scout and wished members of the community a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year.

NON-AGENDA: Resident expressed concern over a possible 5th amendment to the Waste Management Host Community Agreement and expansion.

ADJOURNMENT: Budd moved, Wright seconded to adjourn at 8:00 p.m. Motion Carried.

Leon Wright, Township Clerk
Kevin McNamara, Supervisor
Published: December 29, 2016

Minding Your Business

with Bob Mytych



Lonnie's Auto Repair at 5 Points in Belleville is offering a heater core flush for \$39.99 and brake installation starting at \$225 or less with their ad coupons in today's paper. Lonnie's also offers window tinting packages every Wednesday by calling (734) 363-1608. They're open Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday's from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Call (734) 325-7065.

Each month the Yankee Air Museum at Willow Run Airport chooses a city or municipality and gives those residents free admission to the museum and January, 2017 is the month for Belleville, Sumpter Township and Van Buren Township. The museum is open year-round, Tuesday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sundays, noon to 5 p.m. Regular priced admission is \$8 per person, 18 and over, and \$5 for children, seniors, etc. The museum features artifacts from WWI through the modern era, including a static display of military and civilian aircraft. Earlier this month the museum added a US Navy A-4 Skyhawk to their list of aircraft on display. To learn more about the museum and its offerings, visit www.yankeeairmuseum.org or call (734) 483-4030.

The Belleville Area Council for the Arts has teamed up with Van Buren Township Parks & Recreation to present a variety of programs this winter, starting with Kids Art Club: Artists' Pets every Saturday, beginning Jan. 7 through Feb. 11, from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. each day. Elementary aged students will learn about famous artists and receive step-by-step instruction in various media. Cost is \$50 per student and a \$10 material fee. The class will be taught by BACA President Mendi Russell.

Every Monday, starting Jan. 23 through Feb. 27, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., participants 12 years old to adult will take part in Potatoes to T-Shirts. Projects include making greeting cards, posters, and art prints using a variety of printing techniques, including a potato. Cost is \$35 per student with a \$15 material fee. The class will be taught by BACA's Ken Voigt.

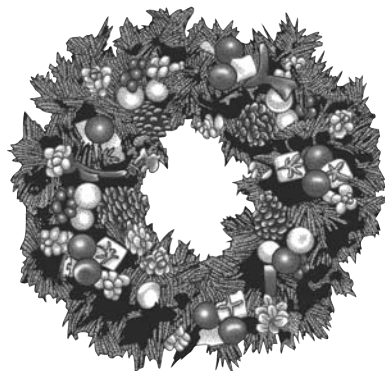
On Thursdays, starting Jan. 12 through Feb. 16, from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m., a Digital Photography course will be offered with a cost of \$90 per student and a \$10 material fee. The instructor is Chris Hardy. To register or more info, call (734) 699-8921. All classes are held at township hall on Tyler Road.

I'd like to take an opportunity to thank our advertisers for running their ads in this newspaper, some of you since day one when we started in 1995. We appreciate your business. To learn more about advertising options, for our display advertising rate cards by email or fax, or to simply

place a classified, call us at (734) 699 9020 and visit us online at www.bellevilleareaindependent.com.

Happy New Year!

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



Jacob Hoppe honored as student/athlete

SPRING ARBOR, MI — The Crossroads League has announced its Academic All-Crossroads League award winners for the 2016 fall seasons, and a league-best 32 Spring Arbor University student-athletes were recognized for their academic excellence.

Among those named was Jacob Hoppe, a senior from Belleville, who was honored in the men's cross country category.

A total of 204 student-athletes from the Crossroads League's ten member institutions participating in men's cross country, women's cross country, men's

soccer, women's soccer and volleyball received the honor. Spring Arbor led all schools with 32 recipients while Taylor University and Mount Vernon Nazarene University followed with 29 and 26.

In order to be eligible for Academic All-Crossroads League, a student-athlete must have reached junior status academically and possess a cumulative grade-point average of 3.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale for the entire academic semester in which the student-athlete participated in the league sport.

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Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN PLANNING COMMISSION

PURPOSE OF HEARING:	CONSIDER AMENDING THE TEXT OF THE VAN BUREN CHARTER TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE NO. 6-2-92 BY ADDING A NEW ARTICLE XVIC, BELLEVILLE LAKE SHORELINE DISTRICTS, SECTIONS 16.01C. – 16.06C.
DATE OF HEARING:	Wednesday, January 25, 2017
TIME OF HEARING:	7:30 P.M.
PLACE OF HEARING:	Board of Trustees Room, Van Buren Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Charter Township, Michigan 48111

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission of Van Buren Charter Township on its own motion proposes to amend The Charter Township of Van Buren Zoning Ordinance 6-2-92 to add a new Article XVIC, Belleville Lake Shoreline Districts, containing the following sections:

Section 16.01C.	Purpose – The purpose of the regulations is described.
Section 16.02C.	Definitions – Terms used in this Article
Section 16.03C	Belleville Lake Shoreline Districts – Two new zoning districts are described (BLA and BLB) with permitted uses and general conditions
Section 16.04C.	Development Regulations – Dock location; measurement of lake frontage; setback requirements; dock length and width; size and extent restrictions; dock and raft ownership identification and repair; boat storage devices; excavations, grade changes and earth modifications; markers or buoys; floating rafts; stairs; marinas and non-commercial multi-docking facilities; watercraft repairs; overnight anchorage; rental prohibited; fences prohibited.
Section 16.05C.	Exemptions – Activities that do not require Township approval
Section 16.06C.	Belleville Lake Shoreline District Approval Process – Activities that require Township approval; application requirements; review process; approval criteria; approval issuance; existing boat docks, structures and uses; exceptions, modifications and appeals; indemnification; obligations; penalties and enforcement

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the complete text of the proposed amendments is available and may be examined at the Van Buren Township Department of Developmental Services, Van Buren Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, Michigan during regular business hours from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Written comments will be accepted at the Department of Developmental Services until 4:00 PM on the hearing date of January 25, 2017. You may also contact the Department of Developmental Services with questions at (734) 699-8913.

At or after the public hearing, the Planning Commission may recommend approval of the text changes as proposed, or as amended.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE: In the spirit of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals with a disability should feel free to contact the Department of Developmental Services, at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the meeting, if requesting accommodations.

PUBLISHED: December 29, 2016

POSTED: December 29, 2016

Copies of the proposed Shoreline Ordinance can be found on the website www.vanburen-mi.org

Court Watching:

VBT PD to go into archives to get 2007 file to prosecute suspect

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Bernardo Keith Frye, 54, had been lodged in the Wayne County Jail with bond of \$5,000/10% on a charge of operating while intoxicated-third and failure to stop at a property damage accident (attended vehicle) on April 14, 2007 in Van Buren Township.

He was brought before 34th District Court Chief Judge Tina Brooks Green for his preliminary exam on Dec. 21, but the officer in charge of the case, Sgt. Marc Abdilla, was not present and Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor Nadine Hammoud said police couldn't find the evidence.

Prosecutor Hammoud said the People cannot proceed because Sgt. Abdilla is on

vacation and won't be back until January and they can't find the file, but will find it soon.

Judge Green said this is a drunk driving charge from 2007, and she's not inclined to dismiss the charge.

Hammoud said he had three prior drunk driving convictions and he is unable to post the \$500 for bond. He was in the Jackson County Jail since Sept. 5 on another charge and then was brought over to Wayne County Jail where he'd been since Dec. 5.

The court-appointed attorney made a motion to dismiss the charge and have the warrant reissued when the officer is back and the file is found.

Prosecutor Hammoud said she would have no opposition to a personal bond with

an electronic tether.

Judge Green sent for the detective on duty at the courthouse from VBT and Det. Donovan McCarthy entered the courtroom. He said police would need to go into the archives to get the file and Judge Green asked why they didn't do that. Det. McCarthy said Sgt. Abdilla was on vacation.

Judge Green released Frye on a personal bond, which included alcohol testing, and adjourned the preliminary exam until 10 a.m., Jan. 4 before Judge Brian Oakley. She said at this time the exam must go forward or it will be dismissed. No more adjournments.

Jalil Rashon-Josiah Smith
Jalil Rashon-Josiah Smith, 20, was present

for his preliminary exam as co-defendant on two charges of larceny in a building (involving cell phones on display) in VBT on Nov. 28. He was free after posting bond of \$5,000/10%.

Smith waived his preliminary exam and Judge Green bound him over to circuit court at the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice on Jan. 4 for an arraignment on the information.

Avontae Dajuan Covington
Avontae Dajuan Covington, 25, waived his preliminary exam on charges of possession of analogues and driving while license suspended in Belleville on Sept. 30, 2015. He was bound over to circuit court for his arraignment on the information on Jan. 4. Covington is free on \$10,000 personal recognizance bond.

He is facing similar charges in Wyandotte for a Dec. 14 incident.

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN
PLANNING COMMISSION

PURPOSE OF HEARING: CONSIDER AMENDING THE ZONING MAP OF THE VAN BUREN CHARTER TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE NO. 6-2-92 BY REZONING BELLEVILLE LAKE PARCELS OWNED BY VAN BUREN CHARTER TOWNSHIP TO THE BELLEVILLE LAKE SHORELINE DISTRICTS.

DATE OF HEARING: Wednesday, January 25, 2017

TIME OF HEARING: 7:30 P.M.

PLACE OF HEARING: Board of Trustees Room, Van Buren Township Hall,
46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Charter Township, Michigan 48111

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission of Van Buren Charter Township on its own motion proposes to amend the Zoning Map of the Charter Township of Van Buren Zoning Ordinance 6-2-92 to rezone those portions of Township-owned Belleville Lake parcels that are located below the 655-foot contour line (1929 NGVD) or "brow of the hill" to Belleville Lake Shoreline Districts, consistent with Article XVIC. The affected parcels to be rezoned all or in part are as follows:

Tax ID Number	Address
82-83-056-99-0013-000	N Interstate 94 Service Dr.
82-83-056-99-0014-000	Belleville Lake
82-83-073-99-0012-000	50901 S. Interstate 94 Service Dr.
82-83-073-99-0013-702	Belleville Lake
82-83-078-99-0002-702	Belleville Lake
82-83-082-99-0012-701	Belleville Lake
82-83-085-99-0023-000	Belleville Lake
82-83-090-99-0015-000	Belleville Lake
82-83-094-01-0215-000	Haggerty Rd.
82-83-095-01-0221-300	12100 Haggerty Rd.
82-83-110-99-0001-000	Belleville Lake
82-83-113-99-0008-000	Belleville Lake
82-83-117-99-0010-000	Belleville Lake

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the map of the parcels and proposed zoning district locations is available and may be examined at the Van Buren Township Department of Developmental Services, Van Buren Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, Michigan during regular business hours from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Written comments will be accepted at the Department of Developmental Services until 4:00 PM on the hearing date of January 25, 2017. You may also contact the Department of Developmental Services with questions at (734) 699-8913.

At or after the public hearing, the Planning Commission may recommend approval of the Zoning Map amendments as proposed, or as amended.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE: In the spirit of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals with a disability should feel free to contact the Department of Developmental Services, at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the meeting, if requesting accommodations.

PUBLISHED: December 29, 2016

POSTED: December 29, 2016

Mark Steven Daroci
Mark Steven Daroci, 55, waived his preliminary exam and charges of operating while intoxicated-3rd and driving while license suspended-2nd on Dec. 10 in Sumpter Township. Judge Green bound him over to circuit court for an arraignment on the information on Jan. 4. He is free after posting \$50,000/10% bond.

Lisa Halina Gonzalez
Lisa Halina Gonzalez, 47, waived her preliminary exam and was bound over to circuit court on Jan. 4 to face charges of being in possession of controlled substance less than 25 grams on Feb. 9 in VBT. She is free after posting \$10,000/10% bond.

William Thomas Tatum
William Thomas Tatum was present for his probable cause conference on a felony charge of embezzlement in VBT on Dec. 5. He was lodged on \$5,000/10% bond. Court-appointed attorney David Lankford got him a plea bargain that dropped the felony charge and added a new charge of larceny more than \$200 but less than \$1,000.

Tatum told Judge Oakley he stole the money from Kmart and Kmart fired him. His sentence is delayed for 12 months, plus fines and reimbursement, and if there are no problems for a year the case will be erased from his file. His aunt said she will be paying his fines. She flew in for him and said, "We're getting ready to strategize his life for the future."



Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

Out of the 529 dispatch calls for service reported by Van Buren Township police this week, the following are selected for this column.

Sunday, Dec. 18:
0020 – assault & battery, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0206 – operating while intoxicated, Belleville
0236 – ATV/ORV complaint, Cross St./Western St
0359 – agency assist, SB I-275/Ecorse
1141 – assault & battery, Rose
1144 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1301 – property damage accident, Hull
1332 – property damage accident, Quirk/McBride
1350 – harassment call, Cranberry Dr.
1553 – property damage, Belleville Rd.
1903 – assault & battery, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1942 – family trouble, Linda Vista Ct.
2235 – family trouble, Jeremy Rd.

Monday, Dec. 19:
0117 – vehicle repossession, Parkwood Dr.
0121 – breaking & entering motor vehicle, Ayres
0601 – larceny from auto, Ayres Ave.
0752 – larceny from auto, Ayres Ave.
0803 – larceny from auto, Ayres Ave.
0815 – larceny from auto, Ayres Ave.
0823 – assault & battery, Liberty Ln.
0859 – malicious destruction of property, Belleville / Walmart
0900 – property damage accident, N I-94 Service Dr. / Belleville
0919 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1129 – private property accident, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1128 – property damage, Meadows Cir.
1402 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1554 – fraud, Denton Rd.
2057 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
2103 – juvenile complaint, E. Archwood Dr.
2133 – disturbance, S. I-94 Service Dr.
2241 – private property accident, Belleville
2305 – property damage, Belleville Rd./S. I-94 Service Dr.

Tuesday, Dec. 20:
0200 – assault & battery, Winchester St.
0917 – sexual assault, E. Huron River Dr.
1933 – assault & battery, Rolan Meadows Dr.
1044 – fraud, W. Adams
1339 – ordinance violation, McBride Ave.
1421 – property damage accident, COSTCO
1506 – property damage accident, EB Ecorse / Denton Rd.
1539 – breaking & entering, Madison Dr.
1559 – private property accident, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1733 – property damage accident, Belleville / McDonald's
1812 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / N. I-94 Service Dr.
2020 – family trouble, McBride Ave.
2042 – assault & battery, Jackson St.
2149 – hold-up alarm, Belleville Rd.
2153 – assault & battery, Oak Ln.

Wednesday, Dec. 21:
0720 – property damage accident, Belle Point
0717 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd. / W. Huron River Dr.
0722 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd./W. Huron River Dr.
1002 – abandoned auto, Michigan Ave./W. Schooner Dr.
1216 – fraud, Pond Ridge Dr.
1352 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1449 – property damage accident, Ecorse Rd.
1511 – retail fraud, Walmart
1609 – missing person, Quirk
1622 – overdose, Brandi
1652 – property damage accident, Haggerty/Ecorse
1700 – intimidation threat, S. I-94 Service Dr. / Denton Rd.
1927 – assault & battery, W. Archwood Dr.
1941 – traffic hazard, Rawsonville Rd. / W. Huron River Dr.
2225 – vehicle repossession, Village Green Ln.
2329 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.

Thursday, Dec. 22:
0506 – vehicle repossession, Bemis Rd.
0722 – property damage, Brookview Dr./Belleville
1337 – assault & battery, Rawsonville

1527 – personal injury accident, Belleille Rd./N. I-94 Service Dr.
1607 – harassment call, Coca-Cola Dr.
1618 – family trouble, Arthur St.
1740 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1828 – vehicle repossession, Westlake
2218 – fraud, Tyler Rd.

Friday, Dec. 23:
0522 – property damage accident, S. I-94 Service Dr./Denton Rd.
0821 – property damage accident, Tavistock Dr.
0955 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / Westlake Cir.
1100 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / Ecorse Rd.
1206 – trespassing, Ayres Ave.
1249 – property damage accident, Oak Ln.
1253 – property damage, Rawsonville/Bemis
1302 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Westlake
1330 – private property accident, S. I-94 Service
1450 – traffic hazard, Rawsonville/W. Huron River
1453 – assault & battery, Belleville Rd.
1527 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1529 – juvenile complaint, Zachary/Van Buren
1552 – child abuse, Belleville Rd./Tyler Rd.
1731 – property damage accident, Denton/Merle
1803 – property damage accident, Belleville/E. I-94
1841 – operating while intoxicated, Belleville Rd. / Ecorse Rd.
1854 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / Ecorse Rd.
1914 – operating while intoxicated, Belleville Rd.
1932 – operating while intoxicated, Belleville Rd. / Tyler Rd.
2122 – ATV/ORV complaint, Jackson/Lincoln

Saturday, Dec. 24:
0000 – traffic hazard, Florence Ln.
0013 – shots fired, E. Huron River Dr.
0018 – loud party complaint, Hardwood Dr.
0104 – assault & battery, Rose Blvd.
0324 – disturbance, Monterey Dr.
0815 – assault & battery, N. Ponderosa Trl.
1117 – ATV/ORV complaint, I-94 N. Service Dr. / Jackson
1444 – property damage accident, Rawsonville / Grove
1547 – property damage accident, N. I-94 Service Dr. / Hannan Rd.
1814 – private property accident, Maurice Dr.
2034 – suicide or attempt, Hanover Dr.
2048 – neighbor trouble, Maple Dr.
2048 – property damage accident, Tyler Rd. / Morton Taylor Rd.
2153 – agency assist, Kent Dr.
2204 – disorderly conduct, Rawsonville/Martz
2359 – loud party complaint, W. Archwood Dr.

Also on this week's log are 196 traffic stops, which include 75 on the I-94 and I-275 freeways and bypasses and six in the city of Belleville.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Dec. 18:
1302 – property damage accident, Hull Rd.
1457 – parking complaint, Victorian Ct.
1639 – warrant arrest, Michigan/I-275
2016 – agency assist, Linda Vista

Monday, Dec. 19:
0355 – assist fire dept., Edison Ave.
0650 – intrusion alarm, Victorian Ln.
0741 – animal complaint, Victorian Ln.
0940 – suspicious vehicle, Harbour Pointe Dr.
1010 – disturbance, N. Aberdeen Ct.
1036 – violation public health code/violation controlled substance act, W. Columbia Ave.
1531 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Church
1741 – family trouble, Carmell St.
1856 – intrusion alarm, E. Columbia Ave.
2003 – suspicious situation, Harbour Pointe Dr.
2132 – property damage accident, South/E. Davis

Tuesday, Dec. 20:
1204 – welfare check, Sumpter Rd.
1212 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
1359 – assault & battery, N. Edgemont Ave.
1613 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / Denton Rd.
1711 – follow up, Third St.

2328 – motorist assist, E. Huron River Dr./Angola

Wednesday, Dec. 21:
0113 – parking complaint, Belle Villa Blvd.
1110 – suspicious situation, Wabash Ave.
1712 – found property, South St.
1822 – assist fire dept., S. Biggs
1909 – assist fire dept., Robbe
2340 – noise complaint, Carmell St.

Thursday, Dec. 22:
0758 – larceny, Belle Villa Blvd.
1014 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
1550 – larceny, Main St.
1559 – personal injury accident, Davis St./South St
1601 – personal injury accident, W. Davis/South
1736 – assist fire dept., S. Industrial Park Dr.

Friday, Dec. 23:
1449 – property damage accident, W. Columbia Ave.
1730 – found property, Main St.
1820 – E-911 hang up/investigation, N. Liberty St.
2230 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Church

Saturday, Dec. 24:
0113 – agency assist, Rose
0333 – parking complaint, Carmell St.
0446 – E-911 hang up/investigation, Santa Clara St
0938 – assist fire dept., Sumpter Rd.
1026 – suspicious person, N. Liberty St.
1044 – suspicious vehicle, Edison Ave.
1127 – suspicious vehicle, W. Columbia Ave.
1455 – intrusion alarm, S. Edgemont Ave.
1744 – intrusion alarm, W. Wabash Ave.
2014 – suspicious person, N. Liberty St.
2026 – agency assist, Belleville Rd./Denton Rd.
2031 – motorist assist, 5 Pts. Marathon

Also on this this week's log are 40 traffic stops.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Dec. 18:
0422 – alarm, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1415 – citizen assist, Sherwood/Willow
1626 – family trouble, 18000 bl. Savage Rd.
2000 – fire dept. assist, 45000 bl. Harris Rd.
2004 – mental health commitment, 44000 bl. Paris

Monday, Dec. 19:
0033 – fire dept. assist, 39000 bl. Willis Rd.
0506 – traffic hazard, Rawsonville/Willis
0527 – unauthorized driving away of auto, 7200 bl. Oakville Waltz Rd.
0826 – fire dept. assist, 8100 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
1011 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1217 – assist other agency, Sumpter/Willow
1413 – fire dept. assist, 40000 bl. Harris Rd.
1418 – well-being check, 45000 bl. Bontekoe
1446 – property damage accident, 41000 bl. Bemis
1738 – well-being check, Hampshire
1757 – animal complaint, 28000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1912 – reckless driver, Rawsonville/Willis
2112 – alarm, 40000 Bemis Rd.
2132 – 911 hang up, 50000 bl. Willis Rd.
2245 – family trouble, 21000 bl. Fenster
2353 – property damage accident, Clark/S. Huron
2357 – fire dept. assist, Edgewood

Tuesday, Dec. 20:
0148 – fire dept. assist, 47000 bl. Willow Rd.
0857 – ordinance violation, 48000 bl. Judd Rd.
1102 – civil dispute, 40000 bl. Harris Rd.
1117 – property damage accident, 26000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1122 – family trouble, 22000 bl. Prince Rd.
1126 – animal complaint, 28000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1126 – civil dispute, 40000 bl. Harris Rd.
1203 – civil dispute, 51000 bl. Willis Rd.
1212 – civil dispute, 20000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
1422 – civil dispute, 24000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
1426 – warrant arrest pick up, out of township
1433 – animal complaint, 26000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1434 – civil dispute, 40000 bl. Harris Rd.
1459 – breaking & entering, 22000 bl. Sherwood
1752 – citizen assist, 47000 bl. Willow Rd.
1813 – civil dispute, 21000 bl. Fenster
1820 – animal complaint, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1927 – neighbor dispute, 18000 bl. Martinsville

Wednesday, Dec. 21:
0653 – animal complaint, 20000 bl. Wilmot Rd.
0817 – fire dept. assist, 23000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
0844 – unauthorized driving away of auto, 40000 bl. Willis Rd.
1005 – well-being check, 45000 bl. Paris Dr.

1031 – assist other agency, 24000 bl. Karr Rd.
1051 – suspicious incident, 45000 bl. Paris Dr.
1225 – larceny, 22000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1443 – identity theft, 22000 bl. Fenster
1511 – civil dispute, 24000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
1619 – traffic hazard, 43000 bl. Harris Rd.
2013 – fire dept. assist, 21000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
2209 – warrant arrest pick up, California
2316 – suspicious vehicle, 49000 bl. Willis Rd.

Thursday, Dec. 22:
0614 – fire dept. assist, 40000 bl. Judd Rd.
0702 – assist other agency, Willis/Rawsonville
1132 – property damage accident, Carleton West / Wear
1347 – family trouble, 10000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
1425 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, 22000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1516 – animal complaint, Claxton/Wilmot
1536 – warrant arrest pick up, Second St.
1622 – trespassing complaint, 43000 bl. Judd Rd.
1650 – juvenile complaint, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1752 – civil dispute, 8100 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
1948 – neighbor dispute, 18000 bl. Martinsville
2253 – fire dept. assist, 49000 bl. Bemis Rd.

Friday, Dec. 23:
1422 – fire dept. assist, 42000 bl. Harris Rd.
1818 – fire dept. assist, 47000 bl. Willow Rd.
2236 – shots fired, Wyoming

Saturday, Dec. 24:
0450 – property damage accident, Judd/Sherwood
0603 – family trouble, 45000 bl. Willis Rd.
0635 – fire dept. assist, 17000 bl. Odyssey Dr.
0736 – breaking & entering, Edgewood
1027 – alarm, 21000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1031 – civil dispute, 47000 bl. Willow Rd.
1116 – assist other agency, out of township
1330 – property damage accident, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1530 – alarm, 28000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1556 – alarm, 28000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1754 – shots fired, Sherwood/Arkona
2011 – 911 hang up, 23000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
2129 – civil dispute, 27000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2223 – family trouble, 17000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
2229 – well-being check, Rawsonville/Bemis
2350 – suspicious vehicle, 19000 bl. Haggerty Rd.

Also on this week's log are eight follow-up investigations, 15 miscellaneous details, 135 patrol checks, and 14 traffic stops.

Environmental (continued from page 3)

- Discussed the status of the dam in Ypsilanti that at one point was going to be removed, with the danger of what is behind the dam polluting Belleville Lake. Best said he will follow through to see what the status is;
- Discussed the Lakeshore Zoning Amendment and General Ordinance that will be having a public hearing before the VBT Planning Commission at 7:30 p.m., Jan. 25. Best said “the ordinance that wouldn’t die” has been worked on for 10 years. A year ago it was presented again and opposed by a large number of residents, so a subcommittee made of up some of those opposing the ordinance worked at revising the ordinance and now they support it. Best said earlier that day they mailed 700 letters to occupants and all property owners affected along the lake informing them of the public hearing; and
- Discussed the EQ Waste Treatment Plant Permit renewal that is coming up in 2017, if all goes well. Best said a huge binder full of information is available for people to read at the township clerk’s office to get all the information on its operation, but, “Nothing has changed in the facility. They are just renewing their permit.” Best said, “We would be in violation of the host agreement if we opposed this without talking to them.” He said Carrie and Sylvia of US Ecology would be glad to come to a commission meeting to discuss the permit.

Before the meeting started, commission members, staff, and former commission member Jeff Jahr gathered to eat a potluck holiday dinner, featuring Jahr’s pizza.

More Letters

Critical of VBT's proposed ordinance

To the Editor:

A lake property owner brought to my attention that VBT has sent out a letter to all lake property owners concerning a hearing on Jan. 25, 2017 at VBT Township Hall about passing a lake property ordinance. The township backed off from this hot issue before the election, but now they have proceeded with their type of business as usual, and seek to sneak this thing through in the dead of winter -- after the election!

I remember sending a letter to you on Sept. 2, when I was a candidate for Trustee, "Hands Off Lake Property," but it must have gotten lost, or you didn't have enough space. As this issue has resurfaced, perhaps you will print it below:

To the Editor:

I seek to inform the electorate on where I stand in relation to lake property owner's issues. I will stand on a "hands off" position, for the following reasons:

1. The original land grants from the United States government "guarantees to his heirs and assigns forever" the land granted to the buyer, which included all the land up to the original river bed, and including riparian rights. It should be noted that these are considered to be allodial titles, which

means tax free, but that is another issue. The land in question (under the lake) has never been legally condemned and eminent domain for "public use." Ever.

2. Next, VBT should consider that there are enough roadblocks (DNR/DEQ) to lake owners to improve upon their property and raise its taxable value, and more restrictions would hinder such upward assessment.

3. Lately VBT has been destroying structures and putting property liens on land titles for that destruction. The proposed Lake Ordinance would allow VBT to attach property liens for destruction of "non-conforming" docks/structures. It would certainly be more expensive to destroy "non-conforming" docks and liening lake properties, saddling the homeowner with more headaches and financial obligations. I think lake property owners do not want that.

4. I see no good changes that can result from this arbitrary power grab, other than getting more money into township coffers to pay for, let's say, some of their other irresponsibilities to the taxpayers, like maybe the Visteon Fiasco. And that's not really a good reason, from the taxpayers' perspective.

HANDS OFF! I say, and VOTE NO ON ALL MILLAGES! It is time the electorate tightened the purse strings on the public carnivores, and made them conform to the will of the People, who are staggering under the weight of their tax burden and misspending.

And, I would like to see the Edison Dam

electrical sale issues reexamined to better taxpayer yield.

Sincerely,
James F. Chapman
Van Buren Township

Seniors not getting support promised

To the Editor:

Over the many years we seniors have put our trust in the federal government to take care of the money we paid into the Social Security Administration, entrusting them to take care of us in our Golden Years.

The only gold anyone has seen is in the Social Security Administration. When the government started the Social Security Administration it told our forefathers that it would be there when they retired at 65 or in some cases if you become disabled and can no longer work it would provide for them even if became disabled earlier than 65!

They also said this would continue for generations after, as long as we paid into it. So we did and they still collect today from our children. But it seems that somehow they forgot the reason for the program. It wasn't to help them buy new \$1,500 chairs for their desks or to help fund anything they wanted. But as time passed they felt this money must be theirs to do with as they please.

Well, I guess they want to put the seniors out of their minds and forget the years we gave to them and entrusted them to do the right thing. As most of us know, if you're on Social Security, there were safe guards put in place when the program was established to ensure no one can just get on it and collect it. One of those safe guards was you

had to be a born or naturalized American. But that rule doesn't apply anymore.

Another rule is you must work 10 years before you can collect it. That rule seems to have gone bye-bye, too. There are other rules, too!

The point I'm coming to is this: Many of us have reached the age of 65 or are disabled and, as always, the government dropped the ball on us! As most of us know, they use an outdated program to figure how much we should get each month. Next year is no exception to their rule.

During the last ten years we have only gotten a raise in our Social Security three times, including 2017! They call it a C.O.L.A. Adjustment. Well, we're getting a whole 3% increase for 2017, but they forget to tell you they're increasing our Medicare cost and if you have Part D (medicine plan) they increased it, too! Well, congratulations, you lost money this time!

I lost over \$50 from what I'm getting in 2016. Then, if you live in this community you got a property tax increase due to special interests (only \$70 on a \$100,000 home times three). You now lost another \$200 or so overall. We have to live on \$200, or more, less than in 2016 and we still can't get help in the growing cost of the medicine we take.

But they can still get those \$1,500 chairs they never use in the Congress building. They rarely go in due to the local golf game.

Come on, older Americans. Let's get what they promised us and make them accountable for their promise to our forefathers.

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City of Belleville Public Notice



**Belleville City Council
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the Belleville City Council will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, January 3, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers at the Municipal Building, 6 Main Street, Belleville, MI 48111 for public input regarding:

AN ORDINANCE TO REPEAL ORDINANCE 88-255 WITH AN ORDINANCE TO REPLACE SAID ORDINANCE REGULATING SPECIAL EVENTS IN THE CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 6, ARTICLE 6.

All interested parties are encouraged to attend. Comments may be given in person at the hearing, or submitted in writing prior to the hearing. If you have any comments, please call Belleville City Hall at 734 697-9323 ext. 7010.

Sherri Scharf
City Clerk Treasurer

Publish: December 29, 2016



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GREAT NEIGHBORHOOD



47279 HARBOUR POINTE CT, VAN BUREN
GREAT NEIGHBORHOOD and a Best Buy Spacious 4 Bedroom, 2 1/2 Bath home offers Family room w/ Fireplace, Formal Dining Room, Living Room, Extra Storage Space in Huge Unfinished Basement. 2 Tier Deck, Large Yard and 2 1/2 Car Attached Garage. Ask a Neighbor *'how good it can be'* to live here \$205,000

UPDATED CLASSIC DESIGN



6315 DENTON, VAN BUREN
CLASSIC LINES AND TIMELESS DESIGN. Impressive and Updated 4 Bedroom Victorian Home with Wrap Porch Master Bedroom with Fireplace, Hardwood Floors, Basement, High Energy Efficient Furnace and Updating Everywhere. 2 1/2 Car Garage PLUS Bonus Second Home w 3 bedrooms, 2 baths. \$194,900

PRIVACY AND QUALITY



21700 DALE DRIVE, SUMPTER
DREAM SECLUDED LOCATION on Private Paved Street. Immaculate 4 Bedroom 2 1/2 Bath, Open Kitchen, Livingroom with Fireplace, Central Air and Whole House Generator. 2 1/2 Car Attached and Heated Garage. It's Curb Appeal Plus on 1.35 Acre Parcel with Extra Wide Cement Drive and Parking Pad. \$225,000

2 PARCELS = 20 ACRES



6760 OAKVILLE WALTZ, SUMPTER
DOUBLE PARCEL FARM - 20 ACRES. 668x1293 Corner Parcel. Hard to Find Vinyl Sided Farm Home with 3 Bedrooms, Family Room, Living Room, Dining Area, Small Basement, Newer Water Heater and Many Out Buildings and Paved Street. If you have been looking for Farmland - This is the one! \$219,900.

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35841 CYPRESS, ROMULUS
DOUBLE FENCED LOT and More. This home features a large family room addition for extra living space, spacious living room with bay window, master bedroom with half bath, neutral decor with freshly painted kitchen & bedrooms, plus a wooded lot. Conveniently located - close to schools, freeways & airport. \$72,000

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23260 KARR, SUMPTER
IMPRESSIONS AND UPDATED 4 Bedroom 2 Bath Ranch with Granite Counter Tops & SS Appliance. Large Living Room with Fireplace, and Hardwood Floors. Formal Dining Room Master Bath with Jetted Tub and Separate Shower. Central air and ceiling fans, Attached Garage, Shed and on 2.2 Acres. \$209,900

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9191 RAWSONVILLE, SUMPTER
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VACANT MCKEAN 11+ ACRES	\$85,000
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TORREY 2.48 ACRES PERC & SURVEY	\$50,000
SUMPTER TOWNSHIP	
VACANT KARR ROAD 5 ACRES	\$35,000

42915 WILLIS 4 SPLITS	\$30,000 & \$40,000
26960 SHERWOOD 2.5 ACRES	\$30,000
45885 BEMIS PAVED BUIDABLE LOT	\$25,000
24409 SHERWOOD 1.15 ACRES	\$30,000
20743 GRIFFIN COURT 1.4 AC	\$29,500
ELWELL ACROSS FRM 29300 10AS	\$59,500

49317 ARKONA 40.28 ACRES	\$180,000
BEMIS JUST WEST OF SAVAGE 6 ACRES AND 6 ACRES (2 PARCELS)	\$65,000 EACH
VINING AND SIBLEY 21+ ACRES	\$450,000
WILLOW ROAD 1.36 ACRES	\$15,000
26455 KARR 5 ACRES 162X1308	\$33,000

VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP	
45109 S SERVICE DRIVE HUGE FRONTAGE 2.29 ACRES. SUPER DEVELOPMENT	\$287,500
PARCEL WITH ALL UTILITIES	\$287,500
47441 MARTZ ROAD 17+ ACRES	\$176,000
VACANT BOG ROAD .55 ACRES	\$29,750

VACANT BOG ROAD 1.36 ACRES	\$30,000
VACANT BOG RD 12.83 ACRES	\$129,000
6422 GILMORE 82X165 ALL UTIL	\$15,000
739 SAVAGE PAVED ST 1.02 ACRES	\$35,000
HURON TOWNSHIP	
26129 LEONTINE DOUBLE LOT	\$24,000



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