



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 21.53 Thursday, December 31, 2015 Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren **F R E E**

Court Watching:

Beasley bound over for assaulting police officers in VBT

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

After a preliminary exam before 34th District Court Judge Brian A. Oakley on Dec. 23, Samuel Roderick Beasley, Jr., 26, was bound over on two charges of assaulting a police officer in Van Buren Township on Nov. 29.

Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Doug Dwyer call VBT Police Officer Mark King as his first witness.

Officer King testified he and his partner were called to 48920 Denton Road, Harbour Club Apartments, on Nov. 29, because a man had assaulted his girlfriend. King said the suspect was a non-compliant sex offender with multiple warrants.

King said when they got to the third floor, the apartment door was open and a woman and her six-year-old female child were in the hall. He said she gestured with her head that Beasley was in the living room of the apartment. When they entered, he was on the couch and got up, King said.

When they said he was under arrest on the sex offender violation, Beasley attempted to run, King testified. The officers placed him against the wall and he was pushing off the wall and they were forced to take him to the floor, King said.

He kept struggling but they finally got him handcuffed behind his back, King testified.

King testified that he suffered a strained muscle in his neck – that he later described as a strained cervical muscle – and a one-quarter-inch laceration to his right index finger. He testified he went to St. Joseph Mercy Hospital emergency room for treatment and he was given a muscle relaxant and Motrin, which he later switched to Aleve.

He said his partner VBT Police Officer Eric Dougherty suffered scratches across

(continued on page 14)



The Van Buren Township Fire Department recently presented a check for \$9,000 to St. Joseph Mercy-Ann Arbor as a result of a number of fund-raising efforts held by the department to support breast cancer care at St. Joe's-Ann Arbor. From left are fire fighters Elizabeth McCormick, LaMar Griffin, Dustin Cox, David McInally, Ryan Smith, Lt. Doug Doty, regional director of Oncology Services at St. Joseph John Stout, regional director of annual giving at St. Joseph Brandy Marino, president of St. Joseph Mercy Ann Arbor and Livingston hospitals David Brooks, and fire fighters David Brouillette, Matt Jovanelly, Lacey Jo Marcotte, and Aaron Ladach.

Belleville DDA cuts back on grants for community events

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

The Belleville Downtown Development Authority is cutting back on grants to groups for Community Events Funding.

At its regular meeting on Dec. 16, the DDA unanimously approved the change in its budget.

DDA Coordinator Carol Thompson said the DDA had said for the last couple of years that those receiving grants needed to be helpful to the downtown businesses and, "We didn't see much of a change."

She said as the DDA begins work on this budget year the bond payments are beginning to escalate and, "We have to scale back until we see tax capture and revenue continue to rise."

She said revenues are not expected to increase, yet the 2010 bond payments have

annual increases ranging from \$17,000 to \$28,000 for the next five years.

She said January is when they usually announce a call for grant applications.

In a study she made she said she did not see many DDAs that fund other downtown events, with a lot of DDAs funding farmers' markets and, "a lot, a lot, a lot of facades."

She said they need to scale back on putting money in the events and let others, including businesses, back the events.

"Part of it is that we have to keep our budget intact," said DDA Chairwoman Rosemary Loria. "We don't want to be known as the group that funds events."

"I think it's a good idea," said DDA Vice Chairman Gary Snarski. "It was surprising to see other municipalities don't do this," he said referring to the list Thompson had prepared.

"Many of the events we gave seed money to, such as Winterfest and ArtAffair, and then they keep coming back," he said.

He said the pop-up shop in December went around and did the shop and didn't ask for money, just asked the DDA to support it. Snarski made a motion to

approve the change in the grant program. Later in the discussion, DDA member Jim Higgerson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Going forward, the DDA intends to support qualified downtown events with funding not to exceed \$1,500 per event in fiscal year 2016-17 and not to exceed \$1,000 per event in 2017-18.

Annual grants in the past have ranged from \$1,000 to \$8,000 and the DDA has invested between \$15,000 to \$19,000 a year for the past six years.

Under the new program, to qualify for funding consideration events must be open to the public, take place within the DDA Downtown District, include the participation of local downtown businesses, promote the attributes of Downtown, show sponsorship from others in the community / region towards the total cost of the event, and preference will be given to public events which attract a diversity of participation.

Thompson said they have to tell local groups in January that there is a change in

(continued on page 3)

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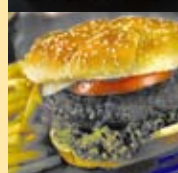
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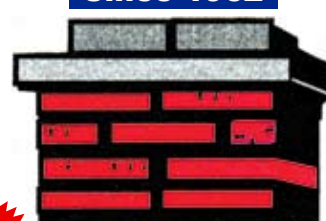
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SECOND FRONT PAGE

VBT Planners grant amendments to Bethany Bible Church site plan

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

It wasn't easy, but on Dec. 9, Bethany Bible Church got approval from the Van Buren Township Planning Commission for amendments to its site plan for its expanded church building at 810 East Huron River Drive, that opened last spring.

The problem was that, in the beginning after a tiff over jurisdictions, VBT Supervisor Linda Combs sent an email on July 7, 2014 giving Wayne County jurisdiction over storm water drainage as well as all the landscaping the storm water management system impacted.

Architect Wade Hoppe said the county approved the revised site plan and construction began. During construction township engineers Wade Trim visited the site on numerous occasions acknowledging that the storm water management system was not under their jurisdiction, Hoppe said.

Upon completion of construction, VBT planning consultant, Patrick Sloan of McKenna Associates, visited the site and indicated that the township retained jurisdiction over all landscaping. His review comments were dated Aug. 14, 2015.

"Even though we produced the email from

the supervisor stating that the township would not assert jurisdiction over the landscaping and storm water management system, Mr. Sloan insisted that the changes to the site plan would need to be approved by the Planning Commission," Hoppe said.

Bethany couldn't plant the trees and shrubs VBT wanted because the county had changed Bethany's proposed underwater storm water retention to a bioswale and trees can't be planted there because the roots interfered with the system. Also, when the open pond was revised to a bio-retention pond the surrounding trees and shrubs were no longer required by ordinance and deleted, Hoppe said.

The trees and shrubs required for a buffer with the property owner to the north is no longer necessary because Bethany now owns that property.

After a long discussion the commission approved a motion having Bethany plant six more shade trees, with a caliper of 1.5", with two in a corner of the parking lot and four on the property it just bought to the north of the church. Since so much of its space is taken up with paved parking areas, a bioswale area, and a drainage pond, these were the only places left to plant the trees the township insisted they plant.

The commission also approved requiring architect Hoppe to relocate the text in the site plan exactly over the bioswale, at the recommendation of Director of Planning and Economic Development Ron Akers. He also wants a new, updated version of the site plan which eliminates strikethrough text and removed items.

The commission also approved the use of Hose Bibs attached to the building as an acceptable means of irrigation.

Arborvitae trees that grow six feet wide and 30 feet tall are being put up for screening of two homes on Greylock Street, because two residents there have complained to the township that the lights in the parking lot bother them.

The zoning ordinance requires a minimum of 87 trees and Bethany only planted 81, Akers said.

Actually the number of trees planted, including the relocation of the Arborvitae, is 116, Hoppe said. The number of shrubs required by ordinance is 70 and the number planted is 70.

Bethany will put up 18 more Arborvitae, for this screening on their own volition, in addition to the nine already planted there because they want their neighbors to be happy. Their request to have their 28 total arbor vitae trees remove the need of the six extra shade trees was denied because Akers said the Arborvitae trees weren't trees according to the township ordinance.

Hoppe said the species that was specified,

Thuja Occidentalis, Nigra, is commonly referred to as Eastern White Cedar is in the Cypress family. These coniferous trees grow six feet wide and 30 feet tall, according to Hoppe's landscape architect Brian Devlin, and qualify as a tree.

He said under the township ordinance's 4.41.1.b, "Suggested Plant Materials" has a separate listing for Narrow Evergreens. Among these are varieties of the Cypress and the Arborvitae. He said the Arborvitae is not listed under item "c" as a "Tree like shrub" so they had counted the 35 Arborvitae on their project as trees.

Hoppe said to see the trees, people can go to the I-94 rest stop near Rawsonville Road where the trees are planted along the back as a dense shield to the area.

Akers did not agree. The Arborvitae weren't trees in VBT.

Five neighbors indicated they were satisfied with how things were now.

An unhappy neighbor, Neighbor #6, Darwin Loyer at 763 Greylock Street, demanded that the sumac that had been approved by the township not be planted along his property, so Bethany didn't plant the sumac. The honeysuckle approved already had been planted. The 20 feet of woodlands on the 25 feet between Loyer's property and the church had been provided as a goodwill gesture by the church, but Loyer said he still could see headlights.

Hoppe said this homeowner had not complained to the church but he heard he had complained to the township along with Neighbor #7, Patricia Veerkamp, at 791 Greylock.

Matthew Best, Deputy Director of

Planning and Economic Development, said Neighbors #6 and #7 talked to him, with #7 only being there briefly and #6 speaking at length, complaining about the church and its "lack of response, not being kept in the loop, unhappy with his statement on the site plan, and unhappy with the lights through the trees."

"I do not think the church hasn't been more than amenable to the neighbors, Wayne County, and the township," said Commission Vice Chairman Donald Boynton. "I think we can find a happy medium in here."

"When we're done, we want everybody happy," Hoppe said.

"What we originally approved now stands," said Commissioner Bob McKenna. "It doesn't seem fair to me to put the applicant in that position ... People could come after the fact and say we're not happy."

Treasurer Sharry Budd, who sits on the commission, said she agreed with that.

"I think we should have them put in six small trees and the Arborvitae where they want it," Treasurer Budd said.

In other business at the Dec. 9 meeting, the board:

- Re-elected for the next year Carol Thompson as chairman, Donald Boynton as vice chairman, and Bryon Kelley as secretary;

- Noted that the bylaws revisions have been approved by the township board; and

- After a discussion, heard Akers say he would set dates for an informal meeting with the public on the new Lakeshore Ordinance. "This is huge," Akers said.

Belleville DDA

(continued from page 1)

the program and the review process will be changed going forward.

In other business at the 50-minute meeting, the DDA:

- Heard Chairwoman Loria announce that Gary Snarski has chosen not to be reappointed to his DDA position. He has served two, full, four-year terms, from 2006 to 2015. Snarski said he has served under three mayors and three chairmen and, "It's been fun, although there were some days we were ready to pull our hair out." He said he will give someone else a new opportunity in the position; and

- Heard a report from Therese Antonelli about the Holiday Pop Up Shops on Main that she and others put in place at 381 Main on Fridays and Saturdays for the month of December. They rented the vacant building for a month from Realtor Glenn Silvenis, dropped a lot of money into Facebook, and put out 1,000 flyers. She said she was disappointed that the *Independent* didn't give them free advertising. "We probably won't make a dime," she said. She spoke of how successful it was and how they could do it again next December, but not all year. DDA members said they appreciated what she did for the city and, "Belleville was a little better for it," Loria said.



The Belleville Rotary Club conducted its annual Belleville High School Interact Club officer installation on Nov. 17. Rotary District Governor-elect Sue Goldsen conducted the formal installation with assistance from Rotarian Deb Juchartz. Pictured with Belleville club president Julie Hardy are, from left, secretary Leah Hardy, vice president Ashley Pestano, and co-presidents Nicole Pearce and Brandon Bond. (Treasurer Ethan Klobucar, was absent.) The Belleville Interact group has been very involved in community service throughout the years, supporting local clothing drives, self-esteem projects, teacher appreciation projects, raking leaves for seniors, sending care packages to soldiers, taking numerous bell-ringing shifts for the Salvation Army and volunteering at the local animal shelter. They also helped to sell bracelets for the Children of the Dump project. "The club is very proud of these young adults and their commitment to make the community and the world around them a better place," said Rotarian Ray Eissinger.

OPINIONS

Editorial

Setting off on a new adventure: 2016

The year of 2015 is finally rolling to a close and we have a bright, new year ahead: 2016. Let's hope the new year is less trouble than the old year – both at home and abroad.

In 2015 in the tri-community, a reduced school millage Sinking Fund request was approved, but the Van Buren Township millage request that was billed for “public safety” was turned down. It was the 4-mill renewal plus a 2.5-mill new tax.

That VBT 6.5-mill proposal was whipped into shape out of the public eye and, so, many were irritated. At one meeting, a supporter said the board should not break it into 4 and 2.5 choices, as suggested, but to go for “the whole enchilada” and if voters turn it down, then, “We can get to work.”

Well, they have to get to work. The 6.5 mills was technically for public safety, but it promised nothing new for the extra 2.5 mills. The plan was for the taxpayers to pay 2.5 mills more so that 2.5 mills the board had been using from the landfill fund for public safety could be moved back to a special fund to help pay for the Visteon debacle. It wasn't explained very well to the public.

Now, things have gone to blazes in public safety, so there is a lot to be done before voters will give them any more money. But, be sure, the board has to come back for at least the 4-mill renewal.

And, the library board is figuring out how much to ask for for a new library building. That question will be on the November ballot. Welcome to 2016.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

There was supposed to be a weather nightmare Monday afternoon into Monday evening when a nasty mix of ice, snow, and rain hit Michigan.

In our area there was an electric wire down around 8 p.m. in the Sumpter Road/Owen Street area. Actually, Belleville Fire Chief Brian Loranger said the downed line was more behind 575 Sumpter, near the senior high rise's parking lot off Owen.

Also, around 6 p.m., Haggerty Road was closed briefly by VBT fire fighters in the 15000 block for a huge tree limb blocking the road. They cut it up and that was that, according to Fire Chief Dan Besson. There was another tree with low-hanging wires in VBT. No problem.

A power line went down in the 20000 bl. of Martinsville Road in Sumpter Township. Fire Chief Joe Januszyk said electrical power was out in that area until about midnight.

According to reports, 150 flights were cancelled at Metro Airport and 325 flights delayed. And, there were many reported vehicle crashes on the freeways and elsewhere.

Gov. Snyder closed all state offices at 1 p.m. after a winter weather advisory was announced for 11 counties for 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Monday. We saw people trying to get into our closed, local Secretary of State office on Monday afternoon, after driving over slippery roads to get there. All the state offices were due to reopen on Tuesday morning.

Actually, late Monday evening, the weather started warming up and the sleet changed to rain. By Tuesday morning, there were puddles on the ground and a bit



of rain for the windshield wipers to wipe away. And, weather in the 40s.

In last week's paper I forgot to put someone's name under a picture on page 11. I did put “VBT Deputy Director Public Safety-Fire” but didn't continue with Dan Besson's name. It was so much easier when he could just be called “Fire Chief.” I apologize for the error.

When Dan walked into the Belleville City Council meeting with his boss, VBT Public Safety Director Greg Laurain, on Dec. 21, one of the council members called out, “Dan, what are you doing here?” He replied that he was providing security for Laurain and everybody laughed.

I remember when Dan was a dispatcher at Central Dispatch in the city of Belleville and had to decide whether he would continue with his job for the city or accept his newly voted position of city councilman. He decided to be a councilman and got a job in dispatch at VBT. Then he got a job at Flat Rock and was there until he was named VBT Fire Chief.

I'm having a vacation this week. I'm still on the job, but there are no meetings at all of any governmental body or school board for me to attend. I've already read the two books I got for Christmas and am getting to know some television shows to fill up my evenings. Sometimes, I just tuck myself in bed and read.

Most of the time in the evenings throughout the year I'm sitting at a meeting and don't watch anything on TV except when I get home for the 10 or 11 o'clock news.

I know, soon the new year will burst upon us and I'll be back in the meeting mode. January's meetings get messed up because of the Michigan Township Association's convention, knocking VBT out of its regular day so board members can attend. Also, there's the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday on the 18th so the regular meetings for that day are moved. We have to be alert.

I'll be back in my assignment of recording what goes on at the meetings so our readers can be advised of what's going on in their communities – especially the actions that will impact their wallets and pocket books.

Our readers call out thank-yous many times as they pick up their free papers from the rack outside our office. They are sincere and often write us personal notes of thanks. Well, we appreciate you, too. Although it's been said that nobody reads newspapers any more, we beg to differ.

One of my biggest thrills comes when I hear a reader publicly state information he or she got from our paper – and that person is absolutely accurate in his or her interpretation of a situation. I love it.



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BELLEVILLE - AREA

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Letters

Squatters should be arrested, put in jail

To the Editor:

First of all, what I think about squatters.

I think they should be arrested for trespassing and put in jail.

On the fire in Belleville, the adults should be arrested and charged with manslaughter.

Sending kids to Belleville schools when they are not legally a resident of Belleville is not the children's fault. They were stuck in that situation.

I would like to know how they got the money to support themselves, other than living for free off someone else. Were they on welfare? This happens all over the United States and if it was me, I would end up in jail if I tried something like that.

Also, I think people that protest, blocking roads, airports, and destroying property should be treated as terrorists, as they are.

William Allen
Sumpter Township

VBT Police Officer comments listed on web

To the Editor:

Twenty-Nine police officer comments from a morale survey taken last summer are listed on the *Independent's* website. <http://bellevilleareaindependent.com/morale-survey-summer-2015-van-buren-police-dept/>

Eighteen of the comments describe Public Safety Director Greg Laurain as a pompous fool that is unqualified, inconsistent, dishonest, and unable to lead. There are several comments recommending the Director resign, retire, or be demoted.

Please keep in mind the survey was conducted in the summer, prior to the failed 6.5 millage vote. Since then, the Director has taken it upon himself, with no Board directive, to advise the POLC union of a 7-day lay-off notice, laying off 5-10 police officers, and rescinding a job offer for a new police officer.

To date, nothing has been done to address the survey. Where is the leadership in the township? Now more than ever our police officers and fire fighters need the support from the public and our elected officials.

Diane Madigan
Former Chair, Public Safety Committee
Van Buren Township

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-- Ronald Reagan

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To the Editor:

On behalf of the Van Buren Firefighters and Police Officers Associations, along with our fellow union alumni member Kathleen Springer, we publicly thank all the people and businesses that contributed to the Dec. 13, 2015 fire victims' families through the youcaring.com account and through your physical and monetary donations.

It's because of your generous donations that we were able to pay 100% of Savion Robinson's funeral. In addition, we were able to give over \$1,000 worth of groceries and merchandise to the family of Amariyana Wells, who is the 18-month-old child that was critically burned in the fire.

We additionally have several packages for the surviving children and families that were donated at Mail Center One and Garden Fantasy. We want to thank those businesses for making their locations drop-off centers for physical donations.

Sincerely,
Adam Byrd, Steering Committee Member
Van Buren Police Officers Association

Marc Abdilla
Steering Committee Member
Van Buren Firefighters Association

Kathleen Springer
Community Organizer
Van Buren Township

SW Democratic Club thanks all its supporters

To the Editor:

Greetings from the Southwestern Wayne [County] Democratic Club, proudly representing the communities of Huron, Sumpter and Van Buren townships and the city of Belleville. We would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to our supporters throughout the past year and wish all a happy, healthy and safe 2016 New Year!

Our 2015 SWDC Annual Holiday Party was a huge success -- lively, with a great turnout! We want to acknowledge those from our communities that supported our efforts and helped to make the event a huge success: EagleCrestGolfClub, RomulusAthleticClub, Bayou Grill, JT's Pub and Grub, Woodstone Grill, Garden Fantasy Greenhouse, Garden Fantasy on Main, Egan's Pub, Zino's Pizza, Dos Pesos, Lodge Lanes, Belle Nail Salon, Woodcreek Golf Club.

A special thank you to our elected officials for their contributions: State Rep. Erica & Doug Geiss, Judge Mark & Dian Slavens, Van Buren Trustee Reggie Miller, Van Buren Clerk Leon & Janice Wright, Van Buren Trustee Phil Hart.

Thank you to all that helped to make this event a huge success! Enjoy these holiday times with family and friends, as we prepare to work hard in 2016 to turn out an informed, educated electorate in November!

Debbie Chamberlain
Corresponding Secretary
Southwestern Wayne [County] Democratic Club

Obituaries



Mark Pratt

MARK PRATT

(August 20, 1959 – December 28, 2015)

Mark Pratt, a resident of Belleville, has passed away at the age of 56. He leaves behind a daughter, granddaughter, mother, one brother, two sisters, and many nieces and nephews.

Mark enjoyed life. He had a happy-go-lucky attitude. He liked riding his bike all through town and talking to everyone. He will be missed by many people. To pay your respects, go online to Higgerson & Neal Funeral Home for date and time of service.

www.hnfhome.com

EYVIND CLAXTON

Eyvind Claxton passed away Monday evening, Dec. 28, at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital. His wife Sharon is making funeral arrangements at Janowiak Funeral Home in Ypsilanti. Call there for further information, (734) 482-6000. Full obituary next week.

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Donations only thing stolen in Taco Bell break-in on Saturday

Taco Bell restaurant on Belleville Road was broken into early Saturday morning after the delivery truck left, said Van Buren Township Police Lt. Charles Bazzy.

A window was broken and the only thing taken was an undisclosed amount of money from a donation container on the counter.

The store manager said he couldn't give

the *Independent* any information, but did confirm that there was a donation container at the end of the counter.

He said the donations were for Teen Graduates and the money collected, with each dollar collected being matched by Taco Bell, goes to help teens graduate in some form. "It's a very worthy cause," the

manager said.

Lt. Bazzy said the physical evidence is being investigated.

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— Benjamin Franklin

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Obituaries



Barbara Christine Price

BARBARA CHRISTINE PRICE

(October 30, 1931 – December 25, 2015)
 Barbara Christine Price, age 84, of Belleville. Barbara is the loving wife of her beloved husband, the late Richard (d. September 30, 2015); dear mother of Patricia (Herbert Hapke) Price of Belleville, John (Debra) Price of Britton, MI, William (Heidi) Price of Commerce Twp., MI and Amy (Gary) Fulton of Belleville. Barbara is also survived by her siblings, John (Pat) English, William (Frances) English and ten grandchildren and five great grandchildren. Sadly, she is preceded in death by her son, David (Brenda) Price, and brothers Herbert (Genie) English, James English, and Janet English. A lifelong Belleville resident, Barbara was an active part of Faith United Methodist Church. During her lifetime as a member, she held many leadership roles. She was a loyal, dependable and a very essential part of the church community. She also had a passion for quilting. A founding member of the Western Wayne Co. quilting guild, formed in 1994. She set a pathway for others to improve their quilting skills. Also, she was involved in small quilting groups that participated in making baby quilts for third world countries.

Visiting hours were 2-8 p.m. Monday. A funeral service was conducted on Tuesday, December 29, at 12 noon at Faith United Methodist Church, 6020 Denton Rd., Belleville. The family greeted guests at the church from 10 a.m. until 12 noon. Interment in Denton Cemetery followed. Please sign her online guest book and share a memory for her family to treasure at www.davidcbrownfh.com.



Savion Robinson

SAVION ROBINSON

Savion Robinson, age 14, died in a fire in his Van Buren Township home on Dec. 13. A funeral was held in his memory at 11 a.m., Dec. 23, at Greater Bethlehem Baptist Church, 2969 S. Fort Street, Detroit. Gates of Heaven Funeral Home made the arrangements and donations from the Belleville community paid for the expenses. He was a freshman at Belleville High School and a member of Belleville-Ypsilanti Young Life/Wyldlife, a Christian group for youth. Lanterns and balloons were sent aloft in his memory at BHS on Dec. 21.



Elaine Marie Schmidt

ELAINE MARIE SCHMIDT

(October 26, 1942 – December 23, 2015)
 Elaine Marie Schmidt, age 73, of Tecumseh, MI, passed away on December 23, 2015 at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital with her loving family at her side. She was born on October 26, 1942 in Jackson, MI, the daughter of Orville and Gladys (Peasley) Mannor. On March 23, 1963 she married Paul R. Schmidt in Wayne, MI and together they shared 51 years before his passing in 2014.

Elaine was a member of the York Baptist Church, Milan, MI. She retired from Ford Motor Company where she was a Benefits Representative. She loved going to church and loved spending time with her grandchildren. Elaine is survived by her sons Jeff (Lori) Schmidt and Chris (Jackie) Schmidt; grandchildren Kaitlin, Jennifer, Mahren and Emily; sisters Debbie Sampson and Beverly Kennedy. She was preceded in death by her loving husband Paul, her parents, and her brother Kenny Mannor. Funeral Services for Elaine were held on December 28, 2015 at York Baptist Church, Milan, MI. Burial was at Knollwood Memorial Park, Canton, MI. Memorial contributions in honor of Elaine may be made to York Baptist Church, 11220 Stoney Creek Rd., Milan, MI 48160. Condolences may be offered to the family at www.handlerfuneralhomes.com.

FAY D. THOMPSON

(July 15, 1930 – December 22, 2015)
 Age 85 of Taylor. Survived by sons Allen of South Pointe, Ohio, and Walter of Sumpter Township, grandchildren, great-grandchildren. Services were Dec. 26 at Janowiak Funeral Home, Sumpter Chapel, Sumpter Township.

MONA LISA ROBERTSON

(October 7, 1950 – December 21, 2015)
 Age 65 of Belleville. Survived by daughter Kim Robertson, 4 grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren, 2 brothers Roy and Michael Robertson. Service was Dec. 23 at Janowiak Funeral Home, Ypsilanti. Hillside Cemetery.

DARLENE COGSDILL

(January 5, 1951 – December 15, 2015)
 Age 64 of Belleville. Survived by son Nathan, 2 grandchildren, a sister Thelma Mae Mercer, niece, nephew, great nieces and great nephews. Service was Dec. 19 at Janowiak Funeral Home. Burial in Michigan Memorial Park.

DOROTHY JEAN DANFORTH

(September 24, 1946 – November 24, 2015)
 Age 69 of Willis. Survived by husband Gerald J. Danforth; 3 children Jerry Danforth, Tim Napier, Mike Danforth; 6 grandchildren; a sister Linda Jenkins, 3 brothers Al, Larry, Jim Napier. Janowiak Funeral Home, Ypsilanti.

DONALD 'DON' JAMES NAVARRE

(June 4, 1938 – November 15, 2015)
 Age 77 of Van Buren Township. Survived by wife Mary; 5 children Rodney McDaniels, Alan Navarre, Duane Navarre, Mona Susack, Shelly Keyser; grandchildren, great-grandchildren. Janowiak Sumpter Chapel.

More Obituaries
on pages 6 & 8

Obituaries



Marilyn Thornton Pierce

MARILYN PHYLLIS PIERCE

(September 18, 1929 – December 22, 2015)

Marilyn Thornton Pierce was born on September 18, 1929 in Detroit, MI to the late Clyde & Bertha Thornton. She was one of nine siblings of which seven have preceded her in death.

Marilyn was united in marriage to James Pierce in 1949 in Detroit, MI. They were blessed with two children, James Jr. and Zandraia. Although God saw fit to call Marilyn home to be with him on December 22, 2015, her loving spirit will forever live on through each and every life she touched in her 86 years.

Marilyn leaves to cherish her memory her sister Shirley "Leona" Trice; her two children Sumpter Township Police Chief James (Regina) of Belleville, MI. and Zandraia Walker of Detroit MI.; one grandson James (Misty) Pierce; seven great-grandchildren Kyana, Rafael, Makailah, Tyson and James Kolby Pierce, Monte' Harris and Yasmin Flint; nephews Clark, John (Skipper) and Mark; niece Ruthie and a host of other nieces, nephews and cousins; her friends at Baptist Manor and her beloved pet and companion Tinkerbell.

Marilyn was preceded in death by her spouse James Pierce, son-in-law Michael Walker, grandson Jalani-Rockheim Pierce, and siblings Norman, Earl, Ruth, Hazel, Floyd, Barbara and Betty. Marilyn (Mumu) enjoyed puzzles, crocheting, sewing, camping, dogs and playing with her grandbabies, nieces and nephews. She had a unique ability to see the beauty in everybody and everything. She had a sense of humor that could make anyone laugh and loved to tell stories, especially about her family, to anyone who would listen.

Funeral service was Saturday, December 26 at noon, with visitation beginning at 10 a.m., at Harry J. Will Funeral Home, 37000 Six Mile Road in Livonia.



Rose Marie Laginess

ROSE MARIE LAGINESS

(July 6, 1937 – December 24, 2015)

Rose Marie Laginess, 78, of New Boston, Michigan, passed away on December 24, 2015. Rose was born July 6, 1937 in Delray, MI. She was the daughter of the late John Posegay and Rose Mary (Peters) Posegay.

Rose enjoyed cooking, gardening, teaching, reading, traveling, and spending time with her grandchildren. She graduated from Belleville High School in 1955 and received her master's degree in Education from Eastern Michigan University. She had a great love of light houses and traveled with her sister around Michigan to view them.

To cherish her memory she leaves her husband Edmund Laginess of New Boston; two sons Tim (Christine) Laginess of Carleton and Edmund J. (Karen) Laginess of Carleton; two daughters Rose Marie (Daniel) Hoogterp of Grand Rapids and Valory Reams of Carleton; two brothers Joel (Mary) Posegay of Belleville and Jim (Joanne) Posegay of Belleville; one sister Carol (Dennis) Sturtz of Belleville; and twelve grandchildren Jamie, Cara, Holly, Eddy, Tyler, Amber, Tim, Brianna, Keegan, Ryan, Leah, and Hannah.

Rose was preceded in death by her parents, brother John (Evelyn) Posegay of Saline, and sister Susan (Robert) Keene of Frederic, MI.

Friends gathered from 12 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday December 29, 2015, at Crane Funeral Home, 36885 Goddard Rd. Romulus, Michigan 48174, (734) 941-9200. The Mass was held on Wednesday, December 30, 2015 at 11 a.m. at St. Stephen's Catholic Church, New Boston, MI, with Father John Hedges officiating. Interment will take place at Star Township Cemetery, Alba, MI, on Thursday, December 31, 2015 at noon.

Online guests may leave condolences, share a photo, or light a memorial candle by visiting www.cranefuneralhome.net.



Bruce E. Burnett

BRUCE E. BURNETT

(August 24, 1965 – December 24, 2015)

Bruce Edward Burnett, age 50, a lifelong resident of Belleville MI, passed away from CJD, on December 24 at his home surrounded by loved ones. He was the beloved husband of Joy Burnett, loving father of Josh Burnett, and the dear grandfather of Jalen, Audrinna and Emily. He is survived by his stepmother Shirley; his brothers Bob (Roxanne), Bill (Sue), Jim (Robin), and Steve; his sister Lori (Kevin) and brother-in-law Dave Lipe. Bruce was also an uncle and great uncle to countless nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents William and Grace Burnett, his brother Danny, sister Peggy, and niece Rachel.

Bruce was the owner of Burnett Builders for over 30 years. Bruce built a vast amount of barns all over Michigan. His passion was making his customers happy and spending quality time with his family.

Bruce loved playing with his grandchildren and making memories as "Uncle Bubbles" with his nieces and nephews. Bruce and Joy were also owners of several local apartment buildings. This, along with his barn business, gave Bruce the opportunity to constantly meet new people and touch their lives. He was well known as a loving and loyal friend to so many.

Bruce had a distinctive voice that allowed you to pick him out of a crowd and a way of making you feel like family. Every day Bruce would greet you with a smile and leave you with a hug and "God Bless You." His strong faith reassures us that heaven has gained a one-in-a-million angel. Visitation (Friday, 1-8 p.m.) and funeral service (Saturday, 11 a.m.) will be held at Michigan Memorial Funeral Home of Huron Twp. A procession will then take him past his childhood home and then back to Michigan Memorial Park. Following the burial there will be a luncheon held at the Belleville Moose.



JOSEPH ARTHUR CLOUTIER

(August 23, 1927 – December 24, 2015)

Age 88, of Belleville. Served in the Navy during World War II, 1944-46. Survived by 3 daughters: Yvette, Lynette, Melissa; 11 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren. Anderson Funeral Home, Adrian.

ORPHAN OF THE WEEK "SOPHIE"



Sophie's an older kitty girl that would love to celebrate the new year in a fur-ever home that will appreciate her lovable grumpy granny charm. She may not be the biggest cuddle-bug or attention hog but she doesn't shy away from some simple attention and yummy treats when offered her way. **Sophie** is past all the goofy, playful stuff and mostly enjoys quiet catnapping and snacking except when she gets a chance to chase after laser beams then there's no holding her back. She definitely knows how to keep her life under control and would love to share her cat wisdom and guidance on how to run your household. Her best bits of advice are never put up with any craziness, perfect a stern, no-nonsense look and always keep them guessing about what you're thinking. Her mostly dark tiger coat is speckled with lighter colors and her unique grumpy granny face fits her personality perfectly. **Sophie** would love a quiet household without kids where she can have her own granny cat bed and a bit of love and treats to enjoy. She's spayed, vaccinated, tested neg. for FeLuk/FIV and micro-chipped. Call **Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue** at **734-461-9458** or visit our website **fmar1.org** for more information.



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Lawrence Ard, 97, a veteran of World War II, was among those watching the Aug. 28 WWII reenactment in downtown Belleville. Ard was born Jan. 26, 1918 and will turn 98 in a few weeks. With him is his daughter, Jody Ihlenfeld.



At the Dec. 21 meeting of the Belleville City Council, council members awarded plaques to those who won top prizes in the Holiday Decorating Contest. Councilwoman Kim Tindall presented Ronald Adkins and Max with an award for their home at 461 Waterbury in the Victoria Commons category.



Councilman Tom Smith presents the award for tops in the "Balance of Belleville" category to Lisa Wysocki of 185 E. Huron River Drive, and Mia.

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Councilman Tom Fielder presents the award for the best Mobile Home Park decorations to the Morin Family at 77 Carmell Street, which has won for more than a dozen times.

Things to do in the Belleville area...

• **Thursday, Dec. 31** – Van Buren Eagles will welcome in the year 2016 with a New Year's Eve party. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. with catered dinner at 7:30 p.m. and entertainment at 9 p.m. Music by Second Wind (classic rock). Tickets are \$25, which include dinner, champagne toast at midnight, party favors and entertainment. Call for information at (734) 699-8836

• **Thursday, Dec. 31** – Romulus New Year's Eve party will fund free movies in the city this summer on the city's 30-foot, new inflatable screen. Tickets for the party are \$50 each at city hall and include a full dinner, beer and wine, a champagne toast at midnight, music and dancing. Held at Romulus Progressive Hall. Call for information at 941-8665.

• **Sunday, Jan. 3** – Join those at Bugles Across America at 7:15 p.m. to say the Pledge to the Flag and listen to "Taps" being played in honor of those now in the military and those who have died in service. It's a brief ceremony on the first Sunday of each month to honor those who protect our freedoms..



Mayor Pro Tem Jack Loria presents the top prize in the Harbour Pointe category to Ellie, Evie, and Christopher Kloian at 253 Harbour Pointe Drive.



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Welcome, Jesse Richard Morgan

Richard Morgan II and Doriell Darbyshire introduce the newest member of their family Jesse Richard Morgan. Jesse came into the world on Jan. 18, 2015 at 3:01 a.m. weighing 7 pounds, 2 ounces, and measuring 19 inches long. His paternal grandparents are Richard "Bud" Morgan and Sumpter Township Trustee Peggy Morgan. His maternal grandparents are Dr. Esmond Barker & Judy Brent-Barker. Jesse's name came from his father Richard who kept it a secret until Jesse was born.

Birthdays

Jan. 1 – Judy Jordan
 Jan. 2 – Robin Gragg
 Jan. 4 – Amber Laginess, Paul George
 Jan. 5 – Orman Reynolds
 Jan. 6 – Kim Dybicki, Sara Davenport
 Jan. 10 – Kathy Mular
 Jan. 11 – Lance McArthur, Beverly Berec,
 Medina Atchinson
 Jan. 12 – Stephanie Smith
 Jan. 13 – Kathi Patton, Doug Dalton
 Jan. 21 – Lisa Posegay
 Jan. 23 – Jamie Laginess
 Jan. 24 – Leah Hoogterp
 Jan. 25 – Jody Ihlenfeldt
 Jan. 26 – Lawrence Ard

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

Winter story times starting back up at Belleville Library

Winter story times are starting back up at the Belleville Area District Library, said Tara K. McCann, Youth/Teen Services Librarian.

Family Story Times are for children ages 4-10 and will run on Mondays at 6:30 p.m., Jan. 11-Feb. 22. (The library will be closed on Monday, Jan. 18, for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.)

Tuesday Toddler Story Times are for children ages 2-4 and will begin at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 12 and run through Tuesday, Feb. 23.

Thursday Toddler Story Times are for children ages 2-4 and will begin at 11 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 14 and run through Thursday, Feb. 25.

Register for all programs at the Library's Circulation Desk. The library is located at 167 Fourth St., Belleville.

Marilyn Montgomery recovering in Westland

Marilyn Montgomery of Van Buren Township is recovering in Four Chaplains Nursing Care Center, Room # 49, 28349 Joy Road, Westland, MI 48185-5524.

Her family is sure she would enjoy getting some cards and letters.

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More Letters

Belleville is privileged to have Angela Netro

To the Editor:

When a person helps others because they want to, I believe that person should be recognized.

Angela Netro is one of those "rare" Real Estate people that brings the old-school values with the modern-day Real Estate times.

We've worked with Angela on many occasions. We've sold four houses with her

(with one of the closings a very complicated situation). Each time a house has been sold she sits down with us, gives us the complete picture of what is happening with the market in the area and brings her comps to show how she arrives at the figures.

She tells us what she thinks is the best plan moving forward. If you don't have someone who knows what they are doing, it could make or break your situation or it could end up costing you more. One of our situations was just that, but because of Angela's knowledge (and years of experience), filling out the paperwork, etc., we came out with the best possible scenario. She always does her homework.

These past few weeks we were getting

ready to close on our fourth home. I ended up in the hospital for the day of closing. Twenty-four hours prior to closing, my husband had to call Angela and let her know I couldn't make it to the closing. We asked Angela, "What are we going to do?" With only a couple of signatures on our part, Angela (also being a Notary Public) took care of the whole situation.

We have been in closings where the other party has made a complete mess (either prior to closing or at closing) out of the situation. Angela has always helped out whether it be helping us, or the other party to get the job accomplished.

I could go on for pages, of all the times she has helped us out even when a sale wasn't part of the deal. She just loves her job and her clients, therefore, whatever it takes she is there to help out.

She tells us her opinion, lays out the facts and you decide what you want to do. She is honest, trustworthy, true to her word and because of the many years of being in the field, she brings much knowledge to her clients. She never puts you on the spot and doesn't rush you when making a decision.

When you've had the best, you couldn't even think about going elsewhere.

If you are looking for a Real Estate company to work with in the area, I believe Belleville is privileged to have Angela Netro (Angela Netro & Company) as a great representative for Real Estate in our city.

Debbie
Belleville

Court Watching:

Judge sentences Jamula to 6-15 yrs. in prison for criminal sexual conduct

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

Jeremy Michael Jamula, 34, of Sumpter Township, was found guilty by a Wayne County Circuit Court jury of one count of Criminal Sexual Conduct – Third Degree with multiple variables and on Nov. 18 was sentenced to 6-15 years in prison by Circuit Court Judge Vonda R. Evans.

Jamula had been charged with four counts of criminal sexual conduct, fourth degree; one count of kidnapping; four counts of criminal sexual conduct, third degree; and one count of aggravated assault. There reportedly was a hung jury on the nine other counts.

The incident occurred on Nov. 15, 2012 at Jamula's home in Sumpter Township.

The victim, who now is 22, testified to what happened that night and how Jamula picked her up at her home in Rockwood and they planned to smoke pot together. But Jamula said the pot was at his house and so he drove her there and had her come inside while he got the pot.

At Jamula's preliminary exam at 34th District Court, the victim testified how Jamula raped her, beat on her, forced her to give him oral sex, and yanked out pieces of her hair over a five-and-a-half-hour period and then took her into the shower and scrubbed her down with a washcloth.

The victim described how he had thrown her cellphone against the wall and how she was allowed to put it back together and call for a ride. She called her mother first, who hung up on her, and then her father twice and he met her at the closed party store near where Jamula had dropped her off in Sumpter Township.

Jamula also was sentenced to two years in prison on Nov. 12 in Monroe County for a nolo contendere plea to a March 15, 2013 charge of unlawful use of a vehicle.

He currently is in the Kinross Correctional Facility in the Upper Peninsula with an earliest release date of Sept. 15, 2021.

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– Will Rogers

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Gov. Snyder reappoints James Kilmark to Board of Osteopathic Medicine

On Dec. 23 Gov. Rick Snyder announced the appointment of Kathryn Hoover of Brighton and the reappointment of James Kilmark of Belleville to the Michigan Board of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery.

The 11-member board assists the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs with overseeing the practice of more than 8,200 osteopathic doctors.

"Kathryn and James are both committed to ensuring the health and well-being of Michiganders, and I appreciate their willingness to serve," Snyder said.

Hoover is a school counselor for Washtenaw International High School/Middle School. She previously served as a school counselor for Ann Arbor Public Schools and Richfield Public School Academy and developed the transformative student leadership and mentoring model. Hoover earned a bachelor's degree in communications and public relations from Oakland University and a doctorate in education and school counseling from Grand Valley State University. She represents the general public and replaces Laura Marcero.

Kilmark is a physician assistant with Emergency Physicians Medical Group, where he has more than 10 years of experience. He serves in numerous roles in the St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Emergency Department including developing and overseeing the mid-level provider fellowship program and assisting management in the flow development redesign.

Kilmark earned a bachelor's degree in biomedical sciences from Grand Valley State University and a master's of science in physician assistant studies from Central Michigan University. He continues to represent physician's assistants.

Hoover and Kilmark will serve four-year terms expiring Dec. 31, 2019. Their appointments are subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:

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

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



INDEPENDENT CLASSIFIED ADS

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HORSES. \$750 & UP obo. Great trail horses need a good home. (734) 796-4770. 12/31

CEMETERY PLOT in United Memorial Gardens. \$1,500. (734) 363-9401 12/31

AMERICAN BULLDOG puppies, 6 weeks old. White with black & brown spots. 5 male/1 female. \$100 ea. (734) 697-9527. 1/7

CEMETERY PLOT in Michigan Memorial Park. \$900. (734) 340-8831 1/14

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

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

QUEEN-SIZED BED FRAME. Reasonable price. Please call (734) 796-3036. 1/7

LOST

GOLD SHAMROCK pinky ring at Belleville Post Office before Christmas. Call (734) 740-9111. 1/14

FOR RENT

1 BR. APT. 1st Floor. Corner of 5th & Liberty St. \$595/mo. plus security. Includes heat & water. 1 yr. lease. Must have good credit. No Pets. (734) 945-2409 1/21

"In a time of universal deceit, telling the truth is a revolutionary act."
- George Orwell

HELP WANTED

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

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

PART-TIME on-site Maintenance. Own tools required. \$12-\$15/hour. Prior experience desirable. Inquires to: Carrie Martin (734) 459-5440 or cmartin@herriman.net. 1/14

CARING DRIVERS WANTED. Transport people to prescheduled medical appointments in Wayne County & beyond. Must have reliable 4-door vehicle, cell phone & access to email or fax. Great way to supplement social security, disability or a pension income. (989) 738-8671. 12/31

SUBSTITUTE KITCHEN HELP. Belleville schools food service. Call (734) 697-0011. 1/21

HIRING FULL-TIME AUTO TECH. Must have tools, license, transportation & previous work experience. Pay varies by experience & certifications. Contact (734) 697-5811 1/21

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

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Notice to Advertisers:

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

HVA seeks volunteers, offers free responder training for 2016

Huron Valley Ambulance, a member of Emergent Health Partners, is recruiting for its Volunteer Team and looking for people interested in training for a variety of volunteer positions.

A volunteer can train to be an emergency medical responder at special events or to assist with community education, awareness programs, or administrative tasks.

Emergent Health volunteers may serve in any of HVA's service area — Washtenaw,

western Wayne or southwest Oakland counties, as well as volunteer at University of Michigan football games and other large events in southeast and south central Michigan.

Information meeting and pizza

An information meeting with pizza and drinks will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 13, at Emergent Health Partners/Huron Valley Ambulance Headquarters, 1200 State Circle, Ann Arbor 48108

At the meeting, there will be information about the volunteer teams — Emergency Medical Responders, Community Relations and Administrative Support — and you will be able to apply for a position. Pizza

and drinks will be served.

FREE training for Emergency Medical Responders

Volunteers who wish to serve as Emergency Medical Responders can take a free eight-week training course that starts on Feb. 22, in Ann Arbor. Classes meet on Monday and Wednesday from 6 to 10:30 p.m. and three Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Upon completion, the volunteer may take the state exam to be licensed as an Emergency Medical Responder. Free training is also provided for volunteers interested in community education and administrative support.

All volunteers will be asked to make a one-year commitment to the program and complete a minimum number of hours and/or serve at events in addition to orientation and training.

Register for the information meeting at <https://form.jotform.com/52995320359160>. For more information, visit hva.org, email

communityrelations@emergenthealth.org or call 734-477-6782.

A member of Emergent Health Partners, Huron Valley Ambulance is a nationally accredited, nonprofit community ambulance service covering Washtenaw, western Wayne and southwest Oakland counties.

Minding Your Business with Bob Mytych



Bob Mytych's column will be back next week.

Upcoming Meetings

• Monday, Jan. 4 – Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP HALL
46425 TYLER ROAD
BELLEVILLE, MI 48111

The Charter Township of Van Buren Board of Trustees will hold a Public Hearing in conjunction with the Regular Board meeting on Tuesday, January 12, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room at Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, MI 48111 to consider establishing Industrial Development District # 17 and to consider the request for an Industrial Facilities Tax Exemption Certificate pursuant to Act 198, Michigan Public Acts of 1974, as amended for Mayser Polymer USA, Inc. Following is the described parcel:

Parcel # 83-017-99-0014-704 (Southerly Part)

Situated in the Township of Van Buren, County of Wayne and State of Michigan, and described as follows: Commencing at the South ¼ Corner of Section 32, Town 2 South, Range 8 East, Canton Township, Wayne County Michigan: thence S87D 37M 34S W (S88D 23M 26S W record) 61.08 feet along the South line of said Section 32, also being the North line of Section 5, Town 3 South, Range 8 East, Van Buren Township, Wayne County, Michigan: thence along the Westerly line of Schooner Drive (60 foot wide Right-of-Way) the following two courses:

- (1) Southerly 27.29 feet along the arc of a 370.00 foot radius curve to the right, through a central angle of 4D 13M 31S and having a chord being S07D 20M 55S E (S06D 37M 03S E record) 27.28 feet and
- (2) S05D 14M 10S E (S04D 28M 18S E record) 750.68 feet to the Place of Beginning; thence continuing along the boundary line of said Schooner Drive the following five courses:
 - (1) S05D 14M 10S E (S04D 28M 18S E record) 290.35 feet,
 - (2) Southwesterly 595.15 feet along the arc of a 370.00 foot radius curve to the right, through a central angle of 92D 09M 38S and having a chord bearing S40D 50M 39S W (S41D 36M 31S W record) 533.03 feet,
 - (3) S86D 55M 28S W (S87d 41M 20S record) 588.23 feet,
 - (4) Northwesterly 69.31 feet along the arc of a 45.00 foot radius curve to the right, through a central angle of 88D 15M 14S and having a chord bearing N48D 56M 55S W (N48D 11M 03S W record) 62.66 feet and
 - (5) N04D 49M 18S W (N04D 03M 26S W record) 600.00 feet;

Thence N85D 10M 54S E 1010.75 feet (N85D 56M 45S E 1010.65 Feet record) to the Place of Beginning. Being a part of the North ½ of Section 5, Town 3 South, Range 8 East, Van Buren Township, Wayne County, Michigan. Containing 14.58 acres of land, more or less.

Written comments may be forwarded to the Township Clerk, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, MI 48111.

Leon Wright, Clerk
Charter Township of Van Buren

Publish: December 31, 2015
January 7, 2016



They're reading the Independent everywhere

On Friday, Nov. 20, on the last night of the "BEST vacation EVER," Belleville residents pause for a picture. From left are Cindy Palmeri, Jean Fensch, Rose Ann Guenther, and former resident of 40+ years Sue Parraghi. They are posing with snowflake stilt walkers (who are holding the *Belleville-Area Independent*) at Disney Springs near Orlando, Florida.

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

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

Court watching

(continued from page 1)

his forehead. Daugherty was not called to testify.

Court-appointed defense attorney David Lankford cross-examined King. Lankford named the woman, who was holding the couple’s child in the hall, and asked if she didn’t say it was a verbal altercation only. King agreed that’s what she said.

Lankford said that the domestic violence report was called into dispatch by the woman’s mother who was not at the scene. There was no charge for domestic violence, he said.

Lankford pointed out the woman with their daughter was out in the hallway and did not run away from Beasley. He asked King if Beasley didn’t complain that he couldn’t put his hand behind his back for the handcuffs because of an arm injury and Dwyer objected to the question and the question was dropped.

Judge Oakley found there was enough probable cause to bind Beasley over to circuit court for an arraignment on the information on Dec. 30.

He is charged with: assaulting / resisting/ obstructing/ causing injury to a police officer (King), which could bring him four years in prison if convicted of the crime.

He also is charged with assaulting/ resisting/ obstructing a police officer (Dougherty), which could bring two years in prison, if convicted.

Beasley was designated a habitual offender on Dec. 1. He is lodged in the Wayne County Jail on the sex-offender non-compliance charge. VBT Det. Ken Toney is the officer in charge of the case.

Keith Eugene List

Keith Eugene List, 32, who was charged with fleeing a police vehicle, retail fraud, and driving while license suspended, was set for his probable cause hearing before Judge Oakley on Dec. 23. He was free after posting \$10,000/10% bond.

But his court-appointed attorney Lankford said there is a “systemic problem with witnesses over the holidays” and so Judge Oakley set List’s preliminary exam for Jan. 6.

Roderick Gaston

Roderick Gaston agreed to a plea deal where he pled guilty to retail fraud, 3rd degree, a misdemeanor, on Dec. 7, when he said he took merchandise from Walmart without paying. In exchange, the 1st-degree retail fraud charge was dismissed. The case was deferred for 12 months and if Gaston stays out of trouble the case will be dismissed. He has to pay \$500 in fines and fees and spend four days on the work program.

His court-appointed defense attorney was Jeff Bowdich.

Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

Out of the 459 dispatch calls reported by Van Buren Township police this week, the following are selected for this column.

Sunday, Dec. 20:

0019 – disorderly conduct, Belleville
0108 – property damage accident, W. Huron River Dr./Rawsonville Rd.
0111 – agency assist, Haggerty Rd./Van Born Rd.
0147 – missing person, Lancaster Dr.
0307 – weapons violation, Denton Rd.
0355 – PPO violation, Parkwood Dr.
0652 – agency assist, Victorian
0839 – suspicious person, Forestdale Dr.
0957 – vehicle repossession, Dover Ct.
1027 – malicious destruction of property, Ecorse
1237 – fraud, Andover
1244 – fraud, Ash Dr.
1326 – malicious destruction of property, Belleville Rd.

1353 – assault & battery, Parkwood Dr.
1415 – fraud, Belleville
1435 – assault & battery, Holly Ln.
1500 – fraud, Savage Rd.
1506 – shots fired, Haggerty Rd.
1539 – harassment call, Van Buren St.
1652 – missing person, Lancaster Dr.
1714 – trespassing, Van Born Rd./Belleville Rd.
1727 – sexual assault, Lancaster Dr.
1737 – family trouble, Holly Ln.
2003 – felony assault, E. Huron River Dr.
2004 – family trouble, Sheldon Rd.
2132 – operating while intoxicated, Belleville
2138 – E-911 cellular, I-94/Diamondback
2139 – noise complaint, Town & Country
2141 – fraud, Belleville
2227 – harassment call, S. I-94 Service Dr.
2337 – suspicious vehicle, Lancaster Dr.

Monday, Dec. 21:

0019 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
0108 – noise complaint, N. Bellridge Dr.
0140 – assault & battery, S. Bellridge Dr.
0346 – disturbance, Westlake Circle
0356 – vehicle repossession, N. Bellridge Dr.
0813 – E-911 cellular, VB Estates
0921 – vehicle repossession, Westlake
0956 – larceny, Rawsonville Rd.
1019 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / N. I-94 Service Dr.
1110 – suspicious person, Denton Rd.
1315 – agency assist, Harmony Ln.
1451 – private property accident, Belleville Rd.
1517 – private property accident, Rawsonville Rd.
1922 – assault & battery, Briarwood Dr.
2013 – suspicious person, Vine St.
2053 – suspicious vehicle, Ecorse Rd./Denton Rd.
2114 – breaking & entering, Oak Ln.

Tuesday, Dec. 22:

0307 – vehicle repossession, E. Archwood Dr.
0311 – vehicle repossession, E. Archwood Dr.
0739 – personal injury accident, Rawsonville Rd. / W. Huron River Dr.
1226 – breaking & entering, Van Born
1355 – property damage accident, Hannan Rd. / S. I-94 Service Dr.
1442 – agency assist, Rawsonville Payless
1548 – property damage accident, Belleville
1611 – trespassing, Bemis Rd.
1720 – fraud, McKinley St.
1733 – suspicious vehicle, Rawsonville
1737 – larceny, Hannan Rd.
2025 – personal injury accident, Belleville Rd. / Westlake Cir.

Wednesday, Dec. 23:

0213 – assault & battery, Maple Dr.
0523 – malicious destruction of property, Outer Dr.
0946 – private property incident, Westlake
1024 – abandoned auto, River Park Condos
1104 – property damage accident, I-94 Service Dr. / Super 8
1130 – harassment call, Jackson St.
1140 – fraud, Salem Ct.
1218 – property damage accident, S. I-94 Service Dr. / Quirk Rd.
1334 – suspicious person, Dunham’s
1337 – fight, Rawsonville Rd.
1442 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1849 – agency assist, Aberdeen

2212 – mental, Jackson St.
2320 – fight, Belleville
Thursday, Dec. 24:
0014 – disturbance, Parkwood
0326 – weapons violation, Lake Villa Dr.
0559 – harassment call, Jackson St.
1211 – fraud, Westlake
1214 – civil matter, Belleville Exchange
1459 – juvenile complaint, Belleville Rd.
1525 – mental, Denton
1807 – noise complaint, E. Walden Dr.
1902 – noise complaint, W. Archwood Dr.
Friday, Dec. 25:
0111 – vehicle repossession, Christina Ln.
0749 – assault & battery, Lighthouse Dr.
0939 – narcotics crime, Jackson St.
1128 – hospice, McBride Ave.
1336 – suicide or attempt, Belleville
1521 – property damage accident, Haggerty Rd. / E. Huron River Dr.
1830 – larceny, N. Ponderosa Trl.
1841 – noise complaint, Victoria St. / Vernon St.
2021 – assault & battery, Winchester St.
2149 – assault & battery, Belleville
2218 – property damage accident, Rolan Meadows Dr.
2240 – family trouble, Parkwood Dr.

Saturday, Dec. 26:

0017 – suspicious person, Ecorse Rd./Beck Rd.
0424 – larceny from auto, Vernon
0602 – breaking & entering, Belleville Rd.
0958 – civil matter, Chloe Ct.
1350 – hunting complaint, Cape Condos
1540 – suspicious situation, Tyler/E. of Meijer
1700 – fraud, Belleville
1707 – disorderly conduct, Peachtree
1912 – fight, W. Huron River Dr.
1925 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1956 – narcotics crime, Jackson St.
2020 – property damage accident, WB I-94 / Belleville Rd.
2326 – loitering, W. Huron River Dr.
2329 – suicide or attempt, Van Buren St.
Also on this week’s log are 83 traffic stops, seven of which were on the I-94 freeway.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Dec. 20:

0037 – suspicious situation, Main St.
0647 – domestic assault, Victorian Ln.
0724 – follow up, Victorian Ln.
0940 – domestic assault, Carmell St.
1317 – malicious destruction of property, Action Mechanical
1610 – disorderly conduct, E. Huron River Dr.
1714 – warrant arrest, Rawsonville Mobil
2047 – assist fire dept., Menlo Park Dr.
2142 – assist citizen, Belleville

Monday, Dec. 21:

1115 – welfare check, Main St.
1823 – E-911 hang up/investigation, W. Columbia
Tuesday, Dec. 22:
0123 – suspicious vehicle, High St.
1440 – motorist assist, Main St./Denton Rd.

Wednesday, Dec. 23:

0048 – agency assist, Haggerty/Huron River Dr.
0211 – parking complaint, Victorian Ln.
0729 – larceny, Harbour Pointe
1316 – suspicious situation, Huron River Dr./W. Columbia Ave.
1646 – intrusion alarm, E. Thornhill Ct.
1842 – intrusion alarm, N. Aberdeen Ct.
2112 – suspicious situation, Belle Villa Blvd.
Thursday, Dec. 24:
0247 – malicious destruction of property, High/W. Columbia Ave.
0355 – property damage accident, Main St.
0500 – information, Main St.
0911 – assist fire dept., N. Liberty St.
1223 – welfare check, Harbour Pointe Dr.
1356 – welfare check, Henry St.
1438 – suspicious situation, S. Liberty St.

Friday, Dec. 25:

0316 – suspicious vehicle, Belle Plaza
1044 – disturbance, Robbe St.
1259 – open door request, Wexford Ave.
2301 – family trouble, Brain St.

Saturday, Dec. 26:

0612 – assist citizen, W. Columbia Ave.
1104 – suspicious situation, Biggs Ave.
1327 – hunting complaint, Capistrano Ct.
1357 – juvenile complaint, Main St.
Also on this week’s log were 19 traffic stops.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Dec. 20:

0203 – fire dept. assist, 45000 bl. Judd Rd.
0519 – fire dept. assist, Fenster/Reed
0958 – animal complaint, 43000 bl. Arkona Rd.
1041 – fire dept. assist, 46000 bl. Bemis Rd.
1042 – animal complaint, 43000 bl. Arkona Rd.
1138 – animal complaint, 43000 bl. Judd Rd.
1225 – parking complaint, Montana
1311 – personal injury accident, 5400 bl. Oakville Waltz Rd.
1644 – fire dept. assist, 45000 bl. Harris Rd.

Monday, Dec. 21:

0031 – fire dept. assist, California
0835 – alarm, 25000 bl. Karr Rd.
1037 – citizen assist, 8100 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
1045 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1330 – well-being check, Greenmeadow
1626 – missing person, 28000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1633 – civil dispute, 17000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

Tuesday, Dec. 22:

0031 – juvenile complaint, Rawsonville/Bemis
0342 – suspicious vehicle, 24000 bl. Elwell Rd.
0923 – fire dept. assist, 49000 bl. Willis Rd.
1201 – fire dept. assist, Wyoming
1420 – personal injury accident, Willis/Lohr
2304 – noise complaint, 22000 bl. Bohn Rd.

Wednesday, Dec. 23:

0038 – shots fired, 22000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
1005 – missing person, 48000 bl. Wear Rd.
1052 – breaking & entering, Greenmeadow
1238 – neighbor dispute, 22000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
1506 – well-being check, 41000 bl. Willow Rd.
1603 – animal complaint, 43000 bl. Willow Rd.
1716 – larceny, 51000 bl. Arkona Rd.
1730 – identity theft report, 48000 bl. Wear Rd.
2004 – fire dept. assist, 45000 bl. Bemis Rd.
2247 – operating while intoxicated arrest, 48000 bl. Judd Rd.

Thursday, Dec. 24:

0016 – breaking & entering, Arizona
0433 – traffic hazard, Judd/Bohn
0850 – family trouble, 21000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
1318 – fire dept. assist, 17000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
1432 – threats complaint, 23000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1742 – fire dept. assist, 10000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
2029 – fire dept. assist, 24000 bl. Elwell Rd.

Friday, Dec. 25:

0741 – property damage accident, Sumpter/Clay
0945 – animal complaint, Harris/Elwell
1234 – trespassing complaint, 44000 bl. Wear Rd.
1408 – animal complaint, 45000 bl. Dunn Rd.
1816 – property damage accident, Oakville Waltz / Haggerty
1947 – reckless driver, 26000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
2041 – shots fired, 28000 bl. Elwell Rd.

Saturday, Dec. 26:

0414 – malicious destruction of property, Rustic Ln.
0521 – warrant arrest pick up, Rustic Ln.
1200 – threats complaint, 51000 bl. Willis Rd.
1259 – fire dept. assist, 44000 bl. Harris Rd.
1321 – larceny, Vermont
1346 – civil dispute, 19000 bl. Wilmot Rd.
1350 – animal complaint, 17000 bl. Martinsville
1656 – animal complaint, 28000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1935 – fire dept. assist, 22000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1948 – subpoena service, Rustic Ln.
1959 – subpoena service, Edgewood
2247 – suspicious vehicle, 28000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
Also on this week’s log are 12 follow-up investigations, 31 miscellaneous details, 101 patrol checks, and 26 traffic stops.

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

“The fact that man knows right from wrong proves his intellectual superiority to other creatures; but the fact that he can do wrong proves his moral inferiority to any creature that cannot.”
– Mark Twain



Independent photo by Bob Mytych

More than 40 people turned out for the ribbon-cutting ceremony with the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce and the new Starbucks Coffee Shop on Belleville Road on Dec. 15. Chamber President Randy Brown is at center of the group with Starbucks manager Kari Onishi of Belleville and employees Wendi Knappe, Shelby Clark, Mark White, Elise Lieberman, Ariel Seay, and Shealynn McCarthy. Starbucks District Manager Scott Pelky also attended, along with chamber members and officials from the city of Belleville and Sumpter and Van Buren townships.



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‘Teens Using Drugs: What to Know and What to Do’ series set

“Teens Using Drugs: What To Know and What To Do” is a free, ongoing, two-part education series.

Part One provides information on understanding substance abuse problems and recognizing when a young person may be harmfully involved with alcohol / other drugs.

Part Two provides information on what does and does not help when a teen substance abuse problem is suspected or identified, and will include a talk by a

young person in recovery from addiction.

The February 2016 series will be presented from 7:30 to 9 p.m. on Tuesday Feb. 2, (Part One: What to Know) and Tuesday Feb. 9, (Part Two: What to Do.)

Programs are presented at the St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center, 5305 Elliott Drive, Ypsilanti, in the Exhibition Room on the first floor.

The series is free and open to the public.

It is targeted primarily to parents / caretakers of teens but is inclusive of anyone who would like to attend for any reason. Parents, other family members, teens, students and people who work with teens are all welcome, and families are encouraged to attend together if they would like to. Free literature about alcohol / other drugs and teens is also provided.

For further information phone (734) 485-8725, e-mail info@dawnfarm.org or see <http://dawnfarm.org/programs/teens-using-drugs/>.

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WEAR ROAD 10 ACRES \$49,900
ELWIS RD 1 AC (WAS \$150,000) \$95,000

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

49317 ARKONA 40.28 ACRES \$180,000
VACANT SUMPTER 7.46 ACRES \$30,000
VINEY AND SIBLEY 21+ ACRES \$450,000
WILLOW ROAD 1.36 ACRES \$25,000
BOHN NEAR DUNN 5 ACRES \$29,000

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

VACANT BOG ROAD .55 ACRES \$29,750/VAN
6422 GILMORE 82X165 LOT WITH WATER AND SEWER PRICED RIGHT \$15,900
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