



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 22.7 Thursday, February 18, 2016

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FREE



Members of the audience had to wait two hours for the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education to begin its special meeting at the administration building on Feb. 10. The quarters were cramped and the audience had to find chairs to put up in the board room. While they waited, some of them read their *Independents*. Former School Board Trustee Scott Russell sat with Trustee Sherry Frazier, at right, after she left the closed-door board meeting where the school attorney and other board members were trying to get her to quit the board. She told the audience she is not quitting.



Gunesha Frederick reads her *Independent* while waiting for the school board to start its meeting.



After making the public wait for two hours, the school board members finally took their seats at the board table at 9:06 p.m., Feb. 10.

VB School Board meets in closed session to try to get Frazier to quit

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

About 50 members of the public had to wait two hours before the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education finally started its special session to rescind the May 3 election.

When the meeting opened at 7 p.m.,

the board immediately left the room for a closed-door session with its attorney, which appeared to be a session to try to get Trustee Sherry Frazier to resign from the board.

As reason for the closed door, the agenda cited Open Meetings Act Section 8(a):

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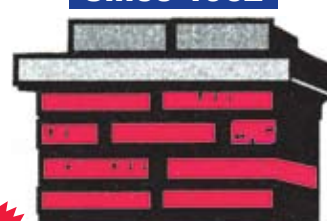
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SECOND FRONT PAGE

School Board

(continued from page 1)

"To consider the dismissal, suspension, or disciplining of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against, or to consider a periodic personnel evaluation of, a public officer, employee, staff member, or individual agent, if the named person requests a closed hearing..."

This seemed to be in response to a Jan. 28 argument between Frazier and School Supt. Michael Van Tassel, who called police complaining that Frazier was going to attack him. A week later Van Tassel told police he would not prosecute.

After about an hour behind closed doors, Trustee Frazier came out of the meeting and took her place at the empty board table. The audience applauded her.

She shook her head at the applause and said, "It didn't go well, but I'm not going to take it anymore. I am going to say it in public. This is not about me. It's about doing what is best for the Van Buren students."

A woman in the audience added, "... and staff," and Frazier nodded her head.

As time wore on, former school board Trustee Scott Russell sat down in a chair next to Frazier at the vacant board table and they chatted until the board returned about an hour later.

As members of the audience talked to each other and milled around, parent spokesman Rick Rytman got up and addressed the audience, suggesting when they start making statements to the board to let every statement be heard.

"Don't holler and clap even if you want to or they'll use that to shut it down," Rytman said and Pam Johnson called him a "bully."

"She called me a bully, in public," Rytman said in surprise. Later, he said that comment shows what happens here: If you speak your mind, you get called names.

Johnson is the secretary to School Supt. Mike Van Tassel and for that evening's meeting she moved her desk from the audience, where it has been located for years, to a far corner of the room against the wall behind the board table.

During the two-hour closed-door session when people were talking to each other and walking around the room, Johnson repeatedly sent text messages to someone the audience assumed was her boss who did not attend that night's meeting.

After almost an hour had passed, the new editions of the *Independent*, that had been printed a few hours earlier, were distributed to the audience. Johnson had banned all *Independents* from the administration building some months back, but she said nothing about the newspapers being distributed.

When the board reconvened at about 9:06

p.m., president Mikulski invited members of the audience to make comments.

Michael Gentz questioned why a Tele-Town Hall had been set up instead of another session with an open floor like the one held at the auditorium on the gun issue. He asked how much it was costing the district and Mikulski said he would have to ask the superintendent. Gentz said he would be unable to attend the Tele-Town Hall and asked if information gleaned there will close discussion on certain matters. Mikulski said there are things they can't discuss.

Mike Campbell, band teacher at BHS, spoke much longer than speakers are generally allowed, praising Supt. Van Tassel, calling him a person with extremely high ethics and vision. He said he never had a more thorough evaluation than when Van Tassel did it and then he spent a whole period giving him tips on how to improve his teaching. "And, it's not just because I am band director." (Members of the audience laughed at that statement because Van Tassel spent many years as the VBPS band director.) Campbell said Van Tassel raised the bar for teaching.

Tony Spitznagel asked if his child does well on her tests does that mean her teachers will get fired? He got no answer and he asked about the superintendent's absence. Mikulski said the superintendent "wasn't available tonight." He asked about why a person inside this [administration] building was calling for a boycott of a local business and was not reprimanded. [He obviously referred to Pam Johnson who put the suggestion to boycott Egan's Pub on Facebook because one of the owners spoke up at a meeting.] Spitznagel said Detroit Public Schools are hurting for money and they are not calling for boycotts of local businesses.

"Nobody wants to step up and do the right thing," Spitznagel said.

Amy Pierce, who said she had three kids in the district with the youngest in Gifted and Talented at Savage. She said the Van Buren Schools are an exceptional learning environment right in her backyard. She questioned why any parents would take their students to other schools. She spoke of her frequent conversations with Supt. Van Tassel and said last week she shared with him her daughter's college entrance essay. Pierce said the district is in a "stagnant state of disarray" and, "We cannot afford any more of this." She talked about the many news stories about the district and said, "The press doesn't care about us. It's our problem to solve as a community."

A man called out, "How do you get Van Tassel to talk to you?"

Rick Rytman also asked for the cost of the Tele-Town Hall and noted that there are two sides to the current situation, with one side saying "everything's wonderful" and the other saying, "something's horribly

wrong."

He said they don't want to be pointing fingers but to do something about it. He asked if a full investigation was done at Savage before the report was sent to the state. He said he understands the investigation is ongoing and maybe it will find the report isn't as accurate as was thought. He said other people, including some of those in the audience, may have information that would help.

"Be sure to give due process," he said. "Did it rise to the level of cheating or they just didn't follow standards and it didn't rise to the level of cheating?"

Philip Miller, who said he was a graduate of BHS, spoke of the state of the schools' personnel and their effect on the community. He said the administrative bodies give glowing reports of education in the Van Buren Schools, but the district is in the bottom one-third of performance in the region and even fails to meet the middle of the pack. He said the scores and the controversy drags the entire tax base of the community down.

He pointed out that the members of the crowd in the room waited for two hours to hear what the board has to say. Miller said Van Tassel has a multiple-year contract and the value of his contract is honored if he is dismissed. In a few months his contract will be extended for another year if the board does nothing to stop it.

"Does this board still have confidence in this superintendent?" Miller asked. "Make it public. It's incumbent upon you to decide."

He said the board conglomerated in clear violation of the Open Meetings Act to write a letter that accuses the public of being embarrassing. He said the problems have come to light because of a series of gaffes, including the gun in school, bomb threats, and teachers taken off their jobs.

Miller said the board needs to come up with answers and not just be covering up for the superintendent.

"Be real. Get this shit done!" he concluded. The crowd erupted in applause.

Kim Kowalski said she has been looking at board minutes and on June 15, 2015 Diane Kullis gave a report on NWEA test data and said the math and reading scores showed significant growth. There were questions in the minutes from members of the audience asking how the tests were administered and who monitored the tests. Jeff Moore stated, "There is no way to beat the test."

There was nothing in the minutes about M-Step until Nov. 9. She asked at what point was the board told of the M-Step results. She noted that some of Van Tassel's letters on line aren't dated.

Mikulski said the school district got the results in October.

Kowalski asked when the board got a report on the test held in May and Mikulski

said the board never had a formal report.

"When was the board informed?" Kowalski pressed and Mikulski said he didn't remember.

A teacher in the audience told the *Independent* that the school district first got information in July on the test that was held in May.

Another man, sitting on the floor in the audience with others asked questions about the Savage PTSO clique.

At the very end of the meeting, as Mikulski asked for a motion to adjourn, Frazier said she had a statement.

"As your elected official, I have always respected two-way communication," Frazier said. "I will continue to serve on this board. A formal statement will be available at the next board meeting."

The next meeting is set for 7 p.m., Monday, Feb. 22, at the BHS cafeteria.

VB School Board decides not to hold millage election May 3

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

The May 3 election has been cancelled.

The only question on the ballot was to be the proposed renewal of the Van Buren Public Schools' 18-mills Non-Homestead Property Tax renewal.

The school board met in special session on Feb. 10 to rescind the resolution passed Jan. 11 that set the election. That was the only action item on the agenda.

In the background information on that agenda item, board president Brent Mikulski said, "We have had requests from local municipalities to delay this ballot action until March 2017.

"Also, with the passage of PA 269, the limited amount of time allowed to inform the community, and most recently court action being waged against this legislation, we feel it would be prudent to delay this non-homestead millage election until a definitive resolution has been addressed by the legislature and/or the courts on PA 269."

However, the resolution the board unanimously passed rescinding the millage election said, "... the responsible election official for the School District has requested that the School District utilize a different election date given the large number of election responsibilities during a presidential election year ... and it would be in the best interests of the School District..."

The resolution authorizes the board secretary to provide appropriate notice of the cancelling of the election to all necessary officials, including city and county clerks.

(continued on page 10)

OPINIONS

Editorial

VB School Board doesn't get it

We can't understand why the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education held a large crowd of concerned parents and teachers hostage while they pursued action against a board member who tends to speak out – to those very parents.

This is the way it usually works when municipal bodies are mindful of their constituents: If an item is not on the agenda for action that evening, there is no rush so the closed-door session is put at the very end of the meeting so once the business is done the audience can go home.

But, the school board went into closed-door session immediately after opening its Feb. 10 special meeting. Then it was absent for two hours while the public waited and waited and waited.

The concerned parents and grandparents and teachers and ex-teachers had to go find some chairs to bring into the room to sit in since only about 20 had been provided. Many sat on the floor.

We can't believe how rude the taxpayers were treated. And then, the superintendent's secretary was arguing with parents and calling them names.

What does this picture show? Doesn't the board realize who owns the district? Who voted for them to look out for their interests and their children?

It's the people the board is beating down that are ultimately in charge. The majority of this clueless board is working for the superintendent instead of the hired superintendent working for it.

This isn't going to end well.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

John, one of our readers on Martinsville Road, called to tell us he got a phone call from a young man who said he flew down to an island for a wedding and got jailed. "Grandpa, can you send me some money to get out of jail?" the young man asked. The young man said he was one of John's grandsons and when John asked which one, the young man couldn't say, so John hung up.

John just wanted our readers to know about another scam call and to warn everyone to stay alert.

You have to say whether you want a Democratic or Republican ballot for the March Presidential Primary Election because you can only vote on one side. One man told me he got a ballot for the Democratic Presidential Primary and he called up his township clerk and demanded: "Send me a ballot with TRUMP on it!" And, they did. And, the clerk apologized.

The Belleville Area Council for the Arts will not hold its annual Art Affair on Main this year. It's a lot of work and there are not enough volunteers to make it happen.

I received an email from a reader that questioned the reason for the Tele-Town Hall put on by the School Superintendent, who said it was put on because people have been unable to get to night meetings.

Our reader said with the huge crowds coming to board meetings these days, the only ones having trouble with attendance have been the board members and the superintendent.

You recall the recent cancellation of a



board meeting for a lack of quorum, the first such action by this school board in the more than 20 years I've been covering the action. Also, the absence of Supt. Van Tassel from last week's special meeting was a first.

School Supt. Van Tassel now has a body guard. No, I am not making this up. A local official met with Van Tassel in his office last week and the body guard was there. Hope the taxpayers aren't paying for this foolishness.

Did you see the recent television report on an angry father whose five-year-old son suddenly showed up at home when he was supposed to be in school? Channel 2 News interviewed the father who said his child left school and came home and nobody at the school noticed.

The father said he turned around at home in the middle of the day and there was his young son coming in the door: "Hi, Daddy." Apparently, the boy had a pass to go to the rest room and then just decided to go home.

Well, daddy was very distressed. He thought the school was looking after the safety of the children. The TV crew showed the Edgemont Elementary School Principal Fred Abel at his desk saying they will look into it so something like this doesn't happen again.

In discussing the Michigan Press Association award the *Independent* received for coverage of the story of a man who had a car impounded for seven years and then was charged \$50,000 for storage, the man's attorney John Day gave me an update.

He said although the city of Belleville appealed the \$50,000 verdict against it, it lost and had to pay \$7,000 to Day's client and \$20,000 to J&T Towing.

A woman called in a tip to us that there had been a complaint filed with MIOSHA on the Belleville Fire Department. I learned a MIOSHA rep did meet with Fire Chief Loranger and the city manager to review the complaint. An investigation has been initiated and is ongoing. There has been no fine announced.

MIOSHA is short for Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration. We'll see what happens next.

A grandmother told us she went to the recent middle school honors assembly and saw police there. She was upset to see that. She said there weren't many people there and it was only a half-hour long, but there were police.



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BELLEVILLE - AREA

INDEPENDENT

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Letters

Let's renew the 4-mill Public Safety Millage

To the Editor:

Happy New Year, Van Buren Township residents. As you all know the Public Safety Millage failed last November. In this new year we have three opportunities to pass a Public Safety Millage and keep our present level of service for our police and fire departments.

We have millage election opportunities in May, August, and November. This is also an election year for your elected Township Board of Trustees. It is my sincere hope that our elected officials do the right thing and get the Public Safety Millage passed sooner rather than later.

I can envision elected officials becoming overly concerned about their own reelection to public office, and neglecting the safety of the residents of this township. My concern is if this board of trustees waits until August, or November to place the Public Safety Millage issue on the ballot, and it fails they may not be reelected in November.

It is highly possible that they may leave office without passing our Public Safety Millage. If that happens they will have effectively failed the citizens of Van Buren Township who voted them into office, and paid their salaries for the past four years.

These politicians were warned that nearly every millage increase requested by local governments in southeastern Michigan in the past few years failed. In fact, some of your board members did not want to discuss or research past millage failures, or read a research study that proved the possibility of a millage increase failure.

They asked for a 2.5 mill increase, disregarding solid evidence, and their proposed increase failed, as some people knew it would fail. It's time to cut the political gamesmanship, place our 4 mill public safety millage renewal on the ballot, get it passed, and continue to protect our lives and property. Not having an effective police department puts us at considerable risk.

To see what not having a police department looks like simply go to crimemapping.com on your computer. Click on the State of Michigan, then scroll down to Van Buren Twp. Police, and look at the reported crime in Ypsilanti Township, on the western side of Willow Run Airport. Compare the reported crime icons in Ypsilanti Township to the reported crime icons in Van Buren Township. The evidence is clear, see for yourself. Having a 24-hour police service drastically improves the quality of life in a community. Not having a police department

drastically degrades the quality of life in a community.

Talk to your elected officials, ask them to renew the public safety millage, and go for their 2.5 mills later to pay for their Visteon Bond fiasco. They don't have to start paying for the Visteon Bond increase until 2019; they have time for that. The safety of our lives and property is at risk here.

Let's renew the 4-mill Public Safety Millage, keep our current level of Public Safety Services, and protect the citizens of Van Buren Township. That is what government is supposed to do.

Carl McClanahan
 Former Director of Public Safety
 Van Buren Township

Thanks to Warren Evans for his efforts

To the Editor:

On behalf of the residents of Van Buren Township, I thank County Executive Warren Evans and his colleagues for their efforts to keep the county and waterways healthy.

In 2013 there was a leak in the liner at the VBT EQ facility. A representative said that even when the landfill is full the cover systems will need to be maintained forever. Who pays for that? Radioactive fracking wastes stay in the ground for thousands of years.

Our current Supervisor Linda Combs, Treasurer Sharry Budd, and Clerk Leon Wright all accepted 2012 campaign contributions from EQ. When EQ came to the residents to explain how they wanted 10x the amount of fracking wastes our Supervisor said there was nothing we could do, then quickly fell asleep during the meeting.

Again, thank you, Mr. Evans, and please consider running for Governor.

Diane Madigan
 Van Buren Township

Thanks to Liquor Wagon for donation

To the Editor:

Through an unfortunate error, the Liquor Wagon on Willis Road in Sumpter Township was not on the recent list of those who contributed to the Sumpter Children's Christmas Party.

We really appreciate the generous donation for the children and apologize for the error.

James Posegay
 Sumpter Township

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More Letters

Thanks to those who donated during holidays

To the Editor:

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We would like to thank each of these contributors: RJ Adamski, Belleville Area Council for the Arts, Belleville Area Women's Club, Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce, Belleville DDA, Belleville Fire Auxiliary, Belleville Health Care, Belleville Presbyterian Church, Belleville Rotary Club, Beltone, Bethany Bible Church, Bethlehem Baptist Church, Debbie Betz, Brown Funeral, David and Minette Brownlee, CRG Electric LLC, Melissa Cannon's Daisy, Brownie and Girl Scouts, Mike and Cindy Clarey, Joyce and Mike Cooley, Peggy Curtis, Davenport Brothers Construction, Dudek Heating and Cooling, Eagles, Eastern Star, David and Lois Egbert, FUMC of Adrian, Robert Fowler, Garden Fantasy, Grace Baptist Church, Bruce and Julie Hacala, Higgerson Neal Funeral Home, Mary Hoff, Toni Hunt, Leo's Coney Island, LULU UMC of Ida,

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Please support these businesses as they are supporting the needs of this community. In Christ,
Janette K. Renton, Director
Belleville Food Closet

How does it feel to be a VBT top-pay cop?

To the Editor:

How does it feel to be a Van Buren top-pay cop? To have no conscience? Pretty damn good.

S.T., Belleville

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Obituaries

SIDNEY H. WEBBER

(May 31, 1919 – February 8, 2016)

Sid Webber, 96, of Belleville passed away on Monday, February 8, 2016 at Beaumont Hospital in Wayne following a lengthy illness. He was born on May 31, 1919 in Elkhart, Indiana, son of Sidney H. and Grace (Stover) Webber. He was married to Irene Durkin for 49 years. She preceded him in death in 1995.

Sid was a lifelong Teamster, Local 299. He retired from truck driving in 1974. He went on to work at American Truck Driving School where he became president of the company, retiring from there in 1994. He then became a consultant for Kett Engineering and other companies before his permanent retirement in 2008. He was a member of St. Anthony Parish. Sid is survived by his loving children; David (Patricia) Webber, Steven (Nancy) Webber, Charles (Vicky) Webber and Pamela (Mike) Rooney. Cherished grandfather of 12 grandchildren, 27 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his current spouse Leta.

Visitation for Sid was held on Wednesday, February 10, 2016 from 4 PM to 8 PM at the Higerson & Neal Funeral Home, 209 Main St., Belleville. A funeral mass was held on Thursday, February 11, 2016 at 11 AM at St. Anthony Catholic Church, 409 W. Columbia, Belleville with the Rev. Fr. Thomas Cusick and Deacon Peter Cornell officiating. Visitation was at the church from 10 AM until the time of service at 11 AM. Burial was private. Memorial contributions in Sid's name are suggested to St. Anthony St. Vincent DePaul, 409 W. Columbia, Belleville, MI 48111.



Sharon Eileen Knox

SHARON EILEEN KNOX

(June 13, 1941 – February 14, 2016)

Sharon Eileen Knox, 74, of Ypsilanti is the beloved wife of the late John (d. 1994); dear mother of Sandra Ochalek of Romulus, James Knox of Ypsilanti, Kenneth (Tracy) Knox of Ypsilanti, John (Theresa) Knox of Ypsilanti, Wendy (Jeff) Winters of Ypsilanti, Linda (Joseph) Ostrowski of Ypsilanti, David (Debbie) Knox of Ypsilanti and Charles Knox of Ypsilanti.

Mrs. Knox is also survived by 16 grandchildren, 23 great-grandchildren and her sister Darlene Oswald.

A lifelong Ypsilanti resident, Sharon enjoyed reading and watching game shows. She was also a passionate fan of the Detroit Tigers, knowing all about the players and their lives. Most of all she enjoyed time with her family and friends.

A funeral ceremony has been arranged for 11 a.m., Thursday, February 18, at David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville. The Knox family will receive guests from 10 a.m. until the time of the service.

Interment will follow at Hillside cemetery, Belleville.

Visiting hours were scheduled for Tuesday 4 until 8 p.m. and Wednesday 2 until 8 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be directed to the American Cancer Society. Please sign her on-line guest book at www.davidcbrownfh.com.



Hersley McGee

HERSLEY MCGEE

(September 26, 1941 – February 5, 2016)

Hersley McGee, 74, of West Huron River Drive, passed away on Friday, February 5, 2016, at 12:27 a.m. at the Heartland Hospice Facility in Ann Arbor, MI. Hersley had a kindred spirit, he never met a stranger, and was amiable to everyone he met.

Hersley McGee was born September 26, 1941 in Robeson County, Fairmont, North Carolina. He was the son of John C. McGee and Caralene Jacobs. Hersley graduated from Fairgrove High School in Fairmont, NC.

Hersley was loved by his family and his many friends. Mr. McGee leaves his siblings Bobby McGee (Elizabeth) of Fairmont, NC, Hazel Loyd of Charlotte, NC, Henry McGee of Fairmont, NC, and Marie McGee of Charlotte, NC. Hersley also leaves several nieces and nephews.

Cremation services were accorded and he was memorialized in his hometown of Fairmont, NC.



Michael A. Gratz

MICHAEL A. GRATZ

(March 6, 1980 – February 14, 2016)

Michael A. Gratz, 35, of Grosse Ile, died February 14, 2016 of complications of clear cell sarcoma.

He is a former Van Buren Township police officer, serving from June 2008 to May 2009, when he resigned to become an officer in Southgate. That police department had family ties and that was where he wanted to be.

After his death on Sunday, VBT police cars took part in a 20-car motorcade from the University of Michigan Hospital in Ann Arbor to the funeral home in Wyandotte. Police agencies along the way shut down ramps for the procession.

Michael is survived by his wife Jennifer and twins Riley and Laynie, his parents Brad and Patty Gratz, and sister Jennifer (Rob) Gratz-Whyte. Mike was a dedicated City of Southgate Police Officer and a member of the Downriver S.W.A.T. Team.

Visitation will be from noon to 9 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 18, at Czopek Funeral Home, 2157 Oak St., Wyandotte, and 1-3 p.m. Friday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 21599 Parke Lane, Grosse Ile, with a service immediately following.

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**More Obituaries
on page 8**

Obituaries



LEO KYKO

(November 1, 1923 – February 15, 2016)

Leo Kyko, 92, of New Boston, Michigan, passed away at his residence on February 15, 2016. Leo was born November 1, 1923 in Carleton, Michigan. He was the son of the late Alex Kyko and Eugenia (Gerazs) Kyko.

Leo enjoyed many sports, was a avid hunter of deer and birds, a volunteer firefighter and a licensed private pilot. He became married on June 15, 1946 to Grace A. Martin and remained happily married for 69 years. Leo was also a lifetime member of the Flat Rock V.F.W., a member of the Huron Rotary for over 40 years, a past president for the Huron Township school board for 16 years, and the Huron Township supervisor. He served our country in WWII with the U.S. Marines, and he was a local builder in Wayne and Monroe counties for over 50 years. Leo was a devoted husband and father and will be greatly missed.

To cherish his memory he leaves his wife; Grace A. Kyko of New Boston, four daughters; Leota Kyko of Canton, Janice Kyko of Belleville, Katherine Kucyk of Troy, and Mary Beth (Mark) Verrot of Canton; a brother Theodore (Jennie) Kyko of Monroe; five grandchildren, Bradley (Karen) Kycyk, Sara (Ryan) Walker, Trevor (Liz) Verrot, Gretchen Verrot, and Marie Siminski; and nine great-grandchildren. Leo was preceded in death by his parents and four sisters Nettie, Helen Mary, and Sonia.

Friends may gather from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Thursday February 18, 2016, at Crane Funeral Home, 36885 Goddard Rd. Romulus, Michigan 48174, (734) 941-9200. Prayers will be held on Thursday February 18, 2016 at 12:00 p.m., with Father Robert Royer, of St. Paul Orthodox Church in Dearborn Heights, officiating. Interment will take place at Michigan Memorial Park, with full military honors by the Downriver Honor Guard.

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

More Letters

Registration still open for spring soccer season

Hello, Van Buren Soccer Community:

We are looking forward to our spring 2016 soccer season which will start in April. Registration is still open for the spring 2015 season. Please register as www.vanburenpride.com.

We are hopeful we can continue to grow our soccer club at a reasonable cost. Sponsors and volunteers help us do this. We thank you so much for all your support and dedication! We couldn't do it without the community's help. If you are interested in donating to our soccer club, please email us at vanburensoccerbelleville@yahoo.com.

Programs we have available are:

- **Pride Development** - Ages 2-5 (This is a development program for our little ones-learn basic fundamentals of the game - 1 hour every Saturday starting in April and ending in June)

- **Recreational In-House** - Ages 5-8 (This program is an in-house program where teams will play teams within our community - practices will be held weekly and games will be held once a week)

- **Recreational Travel** - Ages 8-14 (This program is a recreational program where teams will play teams outside of our community - practices will be held weekly and games will be held once a week)

- **High School Off Spring** - High School Level

- **Offer a Low-Cost Select Program** - Tryouts in June 2016 (This program is our select, more-competitive program for players that are more highly skilled)

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change in our community!

Thank you for your continued support.

Registration is still open. Register today!

Thank you,

Angie McCluskey, president

Van Buren Community Soccer



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Free legal advice offered on how to save your home from Medicaid

Attorneys Barbara Rogalle Miller and Kathlene Walch will give a free presentation on how to save your home from Medicaid and give it to your children.

The informational session is at 3 p.m. on Feb. 23 at Belleville First United Methodist Church, 417 Charles Street, in downtown Belleville. Call to reserve a seat at (734) 697-9288. The event is presented by the United Methodist Women.

To be discussed is the Lady Bird Deed Law and legal definition. It is a variation of a quit claim deed that enables a person to retain his/her home and keep it exempt from Medicaid claims during the person's lifetime and, at the same time, enables the homeowner to name a person to receive the home upon the homeowner's death.

BHS to open pool to the public on Fri., Feb. 19, for a Family Swim

Belleville High School will open its pool to the community on Friday, Feb. 19. Hours will be 6-8 p.m. with a fee of \$5 per swimmer.

Parents swimming and parents of minor swimmers will be required to sign a waiver to enter the water for the Family Swim.

Pool manager John Cast said as an FYI for the community, the pool is a "competition" pool and is not a "zero-entry" facility. There are steps and a lift device is available when required.

Cast explained "zero entry." He said many new recreational pools have an entry that starts at water/deck level and the swimmer walks into deeper water.

Belleville's pool is four feet deep at the shallow end, he said.

For more information, call BHS Athletics at 697-0016.

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Marques Johnson enrolled at Heidelberg University

Marques Johnson of Belleville has enrolled at Heidelberg University in Tiffin, Ohio, for the winter semester. Classes began Jan. 19.

Johnson, a freshman, is majoring in Computer Science and Music.

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Court Watching:

All three men in Sumpter Roller rink crimes now in custody

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

The third suspect in the Sumpter roller rink stabbing and gunplay on Halloween 2014 is now in custody.

Santino Dominic Deleon, 24, a habitual offender from Saginaw, was scheduled to be arraigned by video before Judge Brian Oakley at 34th District Court on Feb. 3, but the connection could not be made.

Finally, the officials trying to set up the video arraignment found that, although Deleon had been scheduled with Saginaw jailers for a 10 a.m. arraignment by video, he was instead in a dentist's chair at the jail, "all drugged up."

"Obviously, video doesn't work," said Judge Oakley, adding that Deleon will be arraigned in person on Feb. 10 and his probable cause conference would be held then.

Sumpter Township police officers drove to Saginaw to pick him up on Feb. 10. His co-defendant Robert Kristopher Stilson, 26, was due for his preliminary exam on the case on Feb. 10, but Judge Oakley said the cases for the two co-defendants should be kept together, so the two had their probable cause conferences on Feb. 10 and then their preliminary exam dates were set for March 9 at 10 a.m. before Judge David Parrott.

Sumpter officers will have to drive to Lansing to pick up the victims for the March 9 exam since they all live there.

Both Deleon and Stilson are charged with

assault with intent to murder, assault with intent to do harm less than murder, armed robbery, and felonious assault.

Deleon is in custody in Saginaw without bond since there reportedly are several other serious charges against him in that venue. Charles Longstreet is Deleon's court-appointed attorney.

Stilson's retained attorney is Sheldon Halpern who filed a motion to have all the discovery at the county's expense since his client is indigent.

Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Doug Dwyer said Stilson retained a lawyer and then asks for transcripts at no charge, which doesn't make sense. The attorney obtains money and wants the government to pay for the evidence, Dwyer said.

Judge Oakley asked how much the discovery is and Sumpter Detective John Toth said it was \$97 and in addition Halpern got the transcripts of the codefendant's case for nothing.

Judge Oakley denied Halpern's motion on Feb. 3. He said the next week, Halpern could make his announced motion to request the judge reduce Stilson's \$500,000/10% bond.

On Feb. 10, Halpern told Judge Oakley that Stilson had never been in trouble in his life. He is deeply involved in his own life with his fiancée's two children and his twin daughters who just turned one.

Halpern pointed out that his fiancé, his mother, stepdad, step grandmother and other family members were present in the courtroom that day. He said Stilson is a barber and auto mechanic who is involved in starting an indoor skate boarding facility in Saginaw.

"The judge who set the bond had no information about him whatsoever, except from the police," Halpern argued.

He said he wanted to get his client a bond he can make and he is not going to run.

Halpern said Stilson was arrested when he went to a bar with someone who was involved. Hundreds of people were at the scene of the crime and police told everybody to leave and there could have

been witnesses, Halpern said.

Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Doug Dwyer said the suspect has strong Saginaw ties and it could be difficult to find him if he ceased to appear in court.

Sumpter Detective John Toth told Judge Oakley that co-defendant Ralph Rosas who was convicted is shown on surveillance tapes as being together with Stilson from the very beginning of the incident. When police discovered someone was stabbed, suspects ran and were pursued by a Belleville police officer, Toth said.

Toth pointed out that when Rosas went for a bond reduction at circuit court, the judge raised his bond

instead of lowering it.

"He is not Mr. Rosas," said Halpern. "He is not the one who stabbed somebody. He did not hurt anyone."

Judge Oakley agreed to refer Stilson to a pretrial services bond review at circuit court.

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Millage election

(continued from page 3)

The sprawling Van Buren Public Schools district is in five municipalities: City of Belleville and Van Buren Township, and parts of Sumpter, Canton, and Ypsilanti townships.

Van Buren Township Clerk Leon Wright said the election would have cost the school district about \$50,000 to hold, since the district would have to reimburse all the municipalities for their elections.

Mikulski said the school district was informed by the VBT supervisor and clerk that holding this election would be a costly endeavor.

The motion to pass the resolution to rescind the election was made by Trustee Sherry Frazier, seconded by Trustee Allison Bennett and passed unanimously by the board. Secretary Kevin English was absent. Also, School Supt. Michael Van Tassel was absent.

An overflow crowd was present in the administration building for the meeting and members of the audience said, among the reasons stated to cancel the election, the board knew the majority of voters would not approve anything this board and this administration proposed at this time.



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VBT DDA gives tentative OK to design pedestrian bridge

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

Engineers Wade Trim were given a tentative OK by the Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority to do pre-design work not to exceed \$46,000 for a \$2 million pedestrian bridge over I-94 on Belleville Road.

There is a chance for a Southeastern Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) grant to fund half of the cost. That grant application is due May 2 and there would be a decision in June or July.

After much discussion at its Jan. 26 meeting, the DDA authorized Wade Trim only to conduct the pedestrian needs portion, then present findings to the DDA, and at that time the DDA could discuss it and vote whether to continue the rest of the contract.

The motion was made by Ron Blank and supported by Mark Laginess. The \$46,000 for pre-design was moved out of the DDA fund balance.

The VBT DDA is working to create a walkable, bikeable and business-friendly atmosphere within the DDA District, noted Wade Trim engineer Matt Stacey.

One of the main arteries of the DDA is Belleville Road which is bisected by I-94. In an effort to provide a connection between the north side and south side of Belleville Road it is necessary to determine if the ability exists to have a pedestrian crossing

over I-94.

There is a pedestrian crossing over I-94 approximately a half mile west of Belleville Road. This is utilized by those in that area, but it is not uncommon to see people crossing over I-94 along Belleville Road. DDA board members have voiced their concern for pedestrian safety, he said.

The DDA had authorized an amount not to exceed \$7,500 for Wade Trim to look into the feasibility of constructing a pedestrian bridge crossing along Belleville Road over I-94. Engineers met with MDOT and there was conversation with Wayne County.

"We got a lot of positive direction and told what items we'd have to provide," Stacey said, noting they would have to explain how a pedestrian bridge would fit in with the township master plan, the township, walkways, schools, and neighborhoods.

He said I-94 is federal, so the plans would first go to Lansing and then to the Federal Highway Administration.

He said they would do a justification study, an engineering study, and come up with schematic bridge designs so they can come up with construction plans.

Engineer Dave Nummer said they just found out that very day that there's a grant opportunity through SEMCOG and Wayne County said it will support the VBT DDA. He said he hasn't had a chance to look at the requirements.

"A sizeable chunk is possible," Nummer

said, adding they will ask for half from the grant program and it is possible to get from \$800,000 to \$1 million.

"We have to do a pedestrian study," Stacey said. "MDOT and the feds would want to understand the situation."

DDA member Blank said, "This is a great idea," but questioned whether enough people would use the bridge to justify spending \$1 million.

"It's an 'If You Build It They Will Come' sort of thing," Stacey said.

"If we found out it's 10 people a day or 100 people a month?" Blank asked saying, he thinks they should find out how many people would use it before committing to \$49,000.

Nummer agreed Wade Trim could get that portion of the study done first and then stop work and come back to the DDA to get direction.

"We can always stop," Nummer said.

Susan Ireland, DDA Executive Director, said people say they see people dodging traffic in that area and a pedestrian bridge would help with their Placemaking initiative.

"Our downtown is cut in half by the freeway," she said.

"It would be nice to find out the need," Laginess said.

DDA vice chairperson Carol Bird said when there is snow people have had to walk in the street over the bridge. This winter there has been little snow.

Blank said the DDA is not putting a price on somebody's safety, but they should have an idea of how many this pedestrian bridge would serve.

DDA member Brown said half a mile down the road there is a pedestrian bridge and it may be inconvenient, "But, how many justifies a \$2 million bridge?"

Blank said those with the grant have a responsibility and the DDA has a responsibility for managing the money.

"We're trying to encourage bikeability," said Supervisor Linda Combs, describing her harrowing bike ride over I-94 on Belleville Road.

The \$46,000 pre-design proposal includes a project-justification study, pedestrian-needs study, stakeholder engagement, and report preparation. After the need and justification has been established the proposed plan includes performance of a site-location study and sidewalk layout, schematic bridge design and report preparation.

"What if it's only three people?" asked DDA member Baskin. "How much of a grant would you get for that?"

Nummer said the bridge could be a part of Placemaking for Van Buren Township. The bridge would be on the east side of Belleville Road and there could be a sign on it so people coming from Detroit would see it. Then, they could put a sign on the other bridge so people coming from Ann Arbor could see it is Van Buren Township.

In other business at the Jan. 26 meeting,

(Continued on page 12)



The Willis Feed Mill



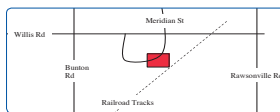
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VBT DDA

(continued from page 11)

the DDA:

- As a housekeeping matter, voted to finally convey to the township Quirk Park at 47270 Ayres and Fire Station #2 at 7981 Belleville Road. The DDA purchased each of those sites and developed them but never formally signed them over to the township. Documents will be forwarded to the Wayne County Register of Deeds for formal recording;

- Approved Phase 1 of the 2016 Print Marketing Campaign at a cost not to exceed \$8,000. Full-page ads will be in the Ann Arbor Area Guest Guide, Strawberry Festival booklet, and Chamber of Commerce Directory. There will be a sponsorship ad in the museum calendar and a two-page ad in the 2016 A-Source relocation guide;

- Directed Assistant DDA Director Lisa Lothringer to go out for bids for the proposed total redesign for a new mobile-friendly DDA website instead of taking the \$23,000 quote by Communication Associates. The project was slated to be done in four phases, taking about 12 weeks to complete. "There's never anything the matter with getting more bids," said Blank, one of those DDA members stating that \$23,000 is a lot of money for this service and there should be two more quotes; and

- Heard Ireland report that the DDA's financial consultant said it has the ability to go out for another bond and interest rates are still good. The DDA has a stable A-rating with Standard and Poors, she said.

Belleville Day in Florida set for March 23

Once again, folks with a connection to Belleville who live, winter, or visit Florida are invited to "Belleville Day in Florida". This year the luncheon will be held on Wednesday, March 23, at Citrus Hills Golf and Country Club in Hernando, FL from 12:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. Cost is \$25 per person. Last year almost 70 people attended the festive afternoon.

To register, send your check, name(s), phone number, email address, physical address and the number of people attending to: Lynn Gorman, P.O. Box 1788, Dunnellon, FL 34430. Checks must be received by March 11, 2016.

For more information, email Lynn (Akans) Gorman at lynn@gorcomm.com with "Belleville Day" in the subject line.

Lincoln School Board to officially start search for new Supt. of Schools

The Lincoln Board of Education has scheduled a special meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 24, at 5:30 p.m. relative to officially commencing the superintendent search process.

They will begin with a public interview of internal candidate Interim Superintendent Sean R. McNatt.

The Board of Education is seeking to permanently fill the position of

superintendent. Further timelines on the superintendent search are being finalized.

Lincoln Consolidated Schools serves more than 4,000 students from southeast Washtenaw and southwest Wayne counties.

"Our mission is to provide an exemplary educational experience where students develop the foundation for lifelong learning," said Vicki Coury, Communications & Information Services Supervisor.



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More Letters

Exit Interview:

I may be the first victim of Van Tassel bullying

To the Editor:

I am Ronald James Mays of Sumpter Township, a former teacher in Van Buren Public Schools for ten years and subbed for three years.

Many things have been stirred by the M-Step investigation into five teachers, one I have known most my life and know

he is an honorable person that would never cheat.

People are speaking up about their abuse in the Van Buren District by the Superintendent Mike Van Tassel. Only these people are being charged with wild accusations and rumors. Well I would like to tell a true story about my life as a teacher and what happened in Belleville High School in the Van Buren Public Schools district.

It was the 2009-2010 school year. The administration came up with a rule that the students had to wear their IDs around their neck or they were to be written up. I remember the staff meeting while the administration told us about this rule and many were leery. Many figured to go by the unwritten rule at the high school where you don't write up students and make work for the administration, even if it means overlooking a rule. The administration adamantly said if we wanted the rule to work we would have to write the students up and they would back us up. The administration did an assembly on the importance of wearing your ID and that the student would be written up if not wearing them. The rule was put in the student planner given to every student. The rule was also printed on the back of each student's ID.

My colleagues were smart and stuck with the unwritten rule. I blindly believed them and wrote a lot of students up. The students were allowed three times of forgetting their ID. I had records on how many times a student forgot their ID but the records were lost when the old school building was destroyed. I remember one student forgot his ID 23 times. That means I wrote him up 20 times and I would see him in the hallway with a pass on his shirt that said he forgot his ID. Nothing was being done.

I was known by the students to follow school policy so I continued to write students up knowing I was breaking the unwritten rule. Mike Van Tassel became an assistant principal in 2010. I thought here is a guy that will follow school policy. Not much was done. He soon became head principal of the high school. This is where I believe I may have become the first victim of the Van Tassel bullying.

I was called into his office and immediately told I was writing too many students up. It was making me look like I lost control

of my class. I explained that the write ups were for school ID policy which fell into the realm of administration. He explained he didn't care what they were for. That the number of write ups and my failure rate made me look like I'd lost control of my classes.

I had control of my classes and students knew I followed school policy. As far as the failure rate I told him to match that with any other ninth grade teacher or my past which never came into question. I had taught ninth grade for nine years before.

The district practiced social promotion. A student could literally not do any homework in middle school and would be passed to the next grade for social promotion if the parents requested so. That stopped in the ninth grade. Teachers begged students to work but didn't get through to them and they would fail and repeat the class. Not much was said about this after I made this point.

He then continued to say I used to be in the top three teachers in handling students in the school and asked what has happened now. He suggested I changed maybe because my mother had passed. This was a ludicrous accusation. I moved on like my mother who worked in the district for 23 years would have wanted me to.

I told him I was just following school policy and wanted the rule to work. He replied that I was being screwed by my colleagues for not following the rule and I looked bad by writing so many students up. I tried to ask him why didn't administration go to the students following their schedules and find out how they made it to my hour without wearing an ID. But my time to talk was over.

Van Tassel's new tactic was to explain what an individual evaluation plan (IEP) was and it was a step before getting fired. He told me that I'm on my way to an IEP. I would try to talk but I wasn't allowed to. I just was reminded what an IEP was and I was going to be put on one. I asked him did he want me to stop following the school policy? That is what I was hearing and was being threatened with my job, my livelihood, my dream for following school policy. He laughed and said no, I was to follow school policy, but stop writing so many pink slips. I was confused, berated,

(continued on page 14)

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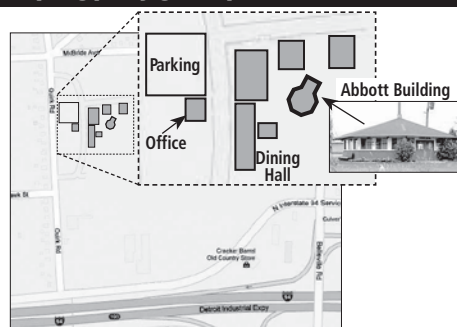
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More Letters

(continued from page 13)

and sick to my stomach. I remember walking out stating to him that I felt I was being set up for something bad. A colleague was standing outside to talk to Van Tassel and looked away knowing he wanted no part of Mike.

Later that same colleague came up and asked what happened. I told him. He replied it looked like I just walked out of a fight that I was beaten badly at.

I had two choices leaving that meeting. One, I could go back to the unwritten rule of not writing up students and stop following the rule that I wanted to work. The rule the administration promised to have our back on. By doing this I would lose respect of my students that knew I was a teacher that followed the rules and all of sudden stopped following a school policy. Perhaps lose some discipline I had established in my classroom. The students and I didn't argue or have confrontation about the rule. They knew I followed it and accepted the consequences, which basically was nothing.

Or two, I could continue teaching the same way I was and continue following school policy keeping control of my classroom. I chose number two. I went back to doing it the way I have all year. Remind the student to put his ID on while I was out in the hallway before class. Told students I was checking for IDs after taking attendance. Then I would announce to the class I am checking for IDs. I did this all year. Bad mistake.

I would try to avoid Mike Van Tassel when I saw him but when we got together I would be constantly reminded about an IEP and me losing my job. My health started to decline with my chest becoming very tight and I started to throw up a lot. I'm sure if you check my attendance you would see I would start missing days from being sick and I started to have ideas before going to work of running my truck into a tree to break my leg because I feared having to hear about an IEP again. Many of my colleagues were my friends and several told me they heard Mike Van Tassel walk out of the office saying Ron Mays needs to go. I'm positive he knew I would hear about it and my eye started twitching from stress. I made it through the school year with my health in decline. I had heard he was putting my write ups into the computer as worst offenses to make me look bad for an IEP. I saved copies of my write ups for that year just in case.

Beginning the 2010-2011 school year I came in the first day excited about a new school year and begin teaching again. I would have to follow the unwritten rule and keep my head low. On the first day of school I had 13 people come up to me and tell me to watch my back. Mike Van Tassel was heard saying he had a list of teachers he wanted gone and I was on top of the list. A bullseye was on my back. I went to my

(Continued on page 15)



Sumpter Township Regular Board Meeting Minutes January 26, 2016

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm, showing present: Supervisor J. Morgan, Clerk C. Hoffman, Treasurer Bates, Trustees: Swinson, Oddy, LaPorte, P. Morgan. Also showing present: Attorney Young, Deputy Clerk J. Hoffman and approximately 15 residents.

3. Agenda: Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Swinson to approve Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Public comments on agenda items only

5. Minutes:

A. Motion by C. Hoffman, supported by Swinson to approve minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of January 12, 2016. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Motion by P. Morgan, supported by C. Hoffman to accept Planning Commission minutes of December 10, 2015. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Warrants: Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Swinson to approve warrants totaling \$692,258.24. Roll call vote: Yes: J. Morgan, C. Hoffman, Bates, Oddy, Swinson, LaPorte, P. Morgan. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Parks & Recreation/ Chamber Report- Swinson: No Chamber Report. Motion by Bates, supported by C. Hoffman to approve Parks & Recreation Report. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Planning/Zoning Report-Oddy: Motion by C. Hoffman, supported by LaPorte to approve Planning/ Zoning Report. Motion carried unanimously.

9. Board Response

10. New Business:

A. Motion by C. Hoffman, supported by P. Morgan to approve The Specialized Services Operating Assistance Program Third-Party Contract between Smart and Sumpter Township for fiscal year 2016. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Motion by C. Hoffman, supported by P. Morgan to approve canceling Regularly Scheduled Board Meetings for March 8, 2016 and November 8, 2016 due to scheduled same day as Elections.

C. Motion by P. Morgan, supported by LaPorte to approve the termination of employment of Robert Gay from the Fire Department. Motion carried unanimously.

D. Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Swinson to approve the termination of employment of Nate Cornwell from the Fire Department. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Motion by C. Hoffman, supported by LaPorte to approve to hire Bernard Rich to the Fire Department pending he passes a physical examination. Motion carried unanimously.

F. Motion by C. Hoffman, supported by LaPorte to approve to hire Michael Beaudrie to the Fire Department pending he passes a physical examination. Motion carried unanimously.

G. Motion by Swinson, supported by LaPorte to approve to hire Shauna Spoonamore to the Fire Department pending she passes a physical examination. Motion carried unanimously.

H. Motion by C. Hoffman, supported by LaPorte to approve the recommendation to appoint Patrick Douglas Russell to the position of full time Police Officer under the current Collective Bargaining Agreement benefits that currently exist. Motion carried unanimously.

11. Announcements

12. Open Floor

13. Adjournment: Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Swinson to adjourn at 6:48 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Clarence J. Hoffman Jr., Clerk

Certification

I, Clarence J. Hoffman Jr., Clerk of Sumpter Township, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of minutes taken at a Regular Board Meeting of the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees on January 26, 2016 at 6:30 pm at the Sumpter Township Hall, 23480 Sumpter Road, Belleville, MI 48111, County of Wayne, and that said meeting was conducted and public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in full compliance with the Open Meeting Act, being Act 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, and that the minutes of said meeting were kept and will be available as required by said act.

Clarence J. Hoffman Jr., Clerk

Publish: February 18, 2016

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Charter Township of Van Buren Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, March 9, 2016 at 7:30 p.m.**, in the Board of Trustees Room, 46425 Tyler Road, Charter Township of Van Buren, Wayne County, Michigan to consider a proposed amendment to the Charter Township of Van Buren Zoning Ordinance 06 -02-92, as amended. The proposed amendment regulates medical marihuana uses, permits medical marihuana cultivation facilities in the M-2 (General Industrial) zoning district as Special Land Uses (Section 16.03), and provides standards in proposed Section 4.57.

The proposed amendment can be reviewed at the Developmental Services Department at Van Buren Township Hall during normal business hours. Written comments will be accepted by the Planning and Economic Development Department until 4:00 p.m. on the hearing date.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, reasonable accommodations will be made available with advance notice.

Posted: February 18, 2016

Published: February 18, 2016

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

VAN BUREN CHARTER TOWNSHIP 2016 MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW

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

The **BOARD OF REVIEW** of the Charter Township of Van Buren will meet at the Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Road, on the following dates:

March 8th, Tuesday
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
(Organizational Meeting)

No Appeals Heard at this Meeting

March 14th, Monday
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

March 16th, Wednesday
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

March 17th, Thursday
3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

REVIEW IN PERSON IS BY APPOINTMENT

Taxpayers/Property Owners may appeal by making an appointment to appear before the Board of Review **OR** by letter appeal (personal appearance is not required).

Letters of appeal must be received on or before MARCH 16, 2016.

Appointments to appeal in person may be scheduled by calling the Assessing Office at 734-699-8946 between 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. by MARCH 15, 2016.

Tentative ratios and estimated multipliers are as follows:

Classification	Ratio	Multiplier
Agricultural	50%	1.0000
Commercial	50%	1.0000
Industrial	50%	1.0000
Residential	50%	1.0000
Developmental	50%	1.0000
Personal	50%	1.0000

Leon Wright
Van Buren Charter Township

Publish: Thursday, February 18, 2016
Thursday, February 25, 2016
Thursday, March 3, 2016

More Letters

(continued from page 14)

union president and told her about my first day and she set up a meeting with Mike. He laughed at the idea of a list and I had a bullseye on my back. But why would 13 of my colleagues and friends lie to me about this information? I didn't believe him and he knew I would hear about it. My health started to decline again.

The administration came up with a four-

point system to follow before sending a student to the office on a write up unless it was gross disrespect. 1. Talk to the student. 2. Talk to the parent. 3. Send to the counselor. 4. Write student up and send to office. Ok, so we have a system but I wanted to make sure I didn't make it to step four or I would be heading towards an IEP. I was helpless, really.

Three weeks into the school year I had a student that was sagging every day and it was against the school dress code. I used step one every day. I went on to step two a few times. I even went to step three a

couple of times. I finally made a deal with the student, trying to save my job. I sent him to the office on a pass and told him to ask if he was sagging and if he was could they call me in my room. I told him if they called me I was contacting mom and his coach again. If they said he wasn't sagging I wouldn't say another word to him for the rest of the semester. The phone quickly rang and they said he was sagging in the office. They asked me if I wanted them to send him to in-school suspension like they have been with other students that have been sagging. For fear of my job I said no, send him back, he needs to learn what is going on in class and I'll contact mom and coach.

When he returned, I told him they said he was sagging and the student said, I know. So, I informed him I contacted mom and coach. I will try to keep this clean for the paper, but the student replied why don't I get off his f'ing private part. I had no choice but to write him up after this.

The next day I ran into assistant principal Abdul Madyun who got the write up. He promised me he would never let a student talk to one of his teachers this way. This kind of gross disrespect will not be tolerated. He told me if the student made it to my fourth hour to send him down to the office. I had split lunch fourth hour, which means I start class, have lunch, finish class. He made it to fourth hour and I sent him down.

He was back in my class in about seven minutes. The time it takes to walk from my room to the office and back. I asked him if he talked to the principal. He said yes. I asked if they said anything to him and he said no. Several of my students said they couldn't believe he got away with talking to a teacher that way. At lunch time I went to find Principal Madyun and asked him what happened. He told me that the way it was explained to him if I wouldn't have asked this student to follow the school dress policy everyday, he would have never acted this way. I was getting blamed for this student's actions.

I told principal Madyun that I followed the four-point plan; how can this happen? Again, he told me it was my fault the student reacted the way he did. I knew the only person that could explain this to Abdul was the head principal Mike Van Tassel. I went into the teacher's lounge to find answers of how this student could get away with this with no consequences. I walked in and said hello to everybody, which everybody acknowledged me except Van Tassel. He was finishing up his lunch so I politely said I was sorry for interrupting lunch but how can a student say this to a teacher and nothing happen. Van Tassel ignored me without looking at me just like when I said hello. I politely asked again and he looked at me and said I'm not going to talk about this with you. I was upset. I turned around and yelled "unbelievable" twice. That's it, nothing more or nothing less. I had fifth-hour prep and Mike Van Tassel and Dennis Connely, a principal advisor, came to my class to inform me I was getting suspended and was to be escorted off the premises like I was a criminal. I found out that a student could tell me anything but saying "unbelievable" would get me suspended. I've seen this policy used by administrators in the past to get people to resign by leaving them alone in the classroom and not covering their back when a student does something wrong.

My return interview with Mike was one-sided all the way. I would like to state that this was my first discipline action in ten years teaching and three years subbing. I had positive administration reviews as a teacher and never a negative thing posted in my folder. Mike controlled the meeting not really allowing me or my union representative to talk. Van Tassel changed my write up from the profanity to writing the student up for sagging. Which was not true. They had a place where I signed if I disagreed with what was said I could write it there. But this is a man that was after my job. I feared correcting the information and did not. I did ask my union representative to try getting that changed. But things were about to get worse for me.

Five weeks into the school year I had a student towards the end of class come up to me and start calling me a f'ing a-hole over and over again because she thought I lost her work. I was lost. I didn't know what to do. I was helpless in the classroom and wondered how I would be blamed for this. My chest started to hurt and my left

(Continued on page 18)

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN NOTICE OF PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST

In compliance with State Election Law 168 Section 798, a Public Hearing will be conducted on Thursday, February 23, 2016 at 3:30 p.m. in the Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Road, Belleville, Michigan. The Public Accuracy Test is conducted to demonstrate the program and computer that will be used to tabulate the results of the election, counts the votes in the manner prescribed by law for the Presidential Primary Election to be held Tuesday, March 8, 2016. Said meeting is open to the public and any concerned citizens may attend. The Charter Township of Van Buren will provide, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, reasonable accommodations with advance notice to the Clerk's Office, 734.699.8909.

Posted: 1/4/2016
Published: 2/18/2016

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN NOTICE OF PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION – MARCH 8, 2016

In accordance with Michigan Election Law, Act 116 of 1954 Section 168.653 (a), notice is hereby given to the registered voters of the Charter Township of Van Buren that the Presidential Primary Election will be held TUESDAY, March 8, 2016.

Polls are open 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. EST. Polling place locations for Van Buren Township:

Precinct #1	McBride Middle School	47097 McBride
Precinct #2	Wayne County Community College	9555 Haggerty Rd.
Precinct #3	Van Buren Township Hall (Board Room)	46425 Tyler Rd.
Precinct #4	Van Buren Township Hall (Gym)	46425 Tyler Rd
Precinct #5	Tyler Elementary School	42299 Tyler Rd.
Precinct #6	Belleville High	501 W. Columbia
Precinct #7	Belleville High	501 W. Columbia
Precinct #8	Haggerty Elementary School	13770 Haggerty Rd
Precinct #9	Savage Elementary School	42975 Savage Rd
Precinct #10	Owen Intermediate School	45201 Owen St.

All polling place locations are handicap accessible. To obtain election instructions in an alternative format (audio or Braille), contact the Clerk's Office prior to Election Day.

The March 8, 2016 Presidential Primary Election will be conducted in all voting precincts of the Charter Township of Van Buren for the purpose of nominating candidates for the following office:

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Republican Candidates

Marco Rubio	Ted Cruz
Rick Santorum	Carly Fiorina
Donald J. Trump	Lindsey Graham
Jeb Bush	Mike Huckabee
Chris Christie	George Pataki
Rand Paul	Uncommitted

Democratic Candidates

Roque Rocky De La Fuente
(Formerly: Roque De La Fuente)
Martin J. O'Malley
Hillary Clinton
Uncommitted

A sample of the ballot may be obtain at the Van Buren Township Clerk's Office 46425 Tyler Rd., Van Buren Township, MI 48111 or on the Township website www.vanburen-mi.org. Applications for Absentee Voter Ballots are available at the Clerk's Office. The deadline for filing an application to receive an Absentee Ballot for the March 8, 2016 Election is Saturday, March 5, 2016 until 2:00 p.m. at the Clerk's office.

Publish: 2-18-2016
Posted: 1/4/2016

Minding Your Business

with Bob Mytych



Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue of Sumpter is holding their monthly pet adoption clinic this Saturday, Feb. 20, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the **Petco Pet Store** in Westland on Warren Avenue across from the mall. Call (734) 461-9458.

The Polar Plunge to benefit **Special Olympics** in Southeast Michigan will take place this Saturday, Feb. 20 at the **BYC** on East Huron River Drive. Registration starts at 9:30 a.m. with the parade of costumes to follow at 11:45 with the plunging at noon. The awards presentation is scheduled for 12:45 p.m. The public is invited.

The Belleville Community Chorus will be holding its 3rd annual **Baked Potato Dinner Fundraiser** on Saturday, Feb. 27, from 4 to 7 p.m. at **Open Arms Church** on Belleville Road. The cost is \$5 per person and you get a loaded potato, a beverage and dessert. For info, call **Geof Bush** at (734) 776-7596 or visit www.bellevillechorus.org.

The **Wayne County Fairgrounds** will be holding a fundraiser with **Wine & Canvas**, also on Saturday, Feb. 27 at 7 p.m. at the Fairgrounds on Quirk Road. The cost is \$35 per person to paint, \$10 per person for snacks. A cash bar will also be available. Pre-registration can be made by calling (734) 277-9253 or by emailing jeannie@wineandcanvas.com.

Also on Saturday, Feb. 27, the **BHS Jazz Band Spaghetti Dinner** will be serving from 5-8 p.m. at the Belleville High School Commons. \$8 per person.

Guitarist **Nathan Sweet** is performing live every Tuesday evening, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at **Leo's Coney Island** on Belleville Road. Call (734) 697-1000.

Quality Home Maintenance Service and owner **Rick Smith** has over 29 years of experience in new construction and remodeling of kitchens and bathrooms, additions, basements, decks, pole barns, concrete and electrical. Schedule now and receive 10% off indoor work during the spring months. The company is fully licensed and insured. Call (734) 968-4509.

There's still time to get a little bowling in before spring as **Lodge Lanes** in Belleville is offering **All You Can Bowl** open bowling sessions every Thursday through Saturday night. See their ad in today's paper for the times and other details. There's also room on their Wednesday Trio League, beginning March 2, at 7 p.m. for ten weeks. Call (734) 697-9178 and visit www.lodgelanes.com.

"Trust, but verify."

— Ronald Reagan

INDEPENDENT CLASSIFIED ADS

AUCTION

NOTICE OF AUCTION FOR SUMPTER TWP. POLICE AT J&T CROVA TOWING
287 Industrial Park Dr., Belleville 48111
MON., FEB. 29 at 10:00 a.m.

Year	Make/Model	VIN
2001	Arctic Cat	4UF013NWX1T151889
1989	Dodge Ram	1B7HM16Y9K5192634
2002	Oldsmobile Alero	1G3NK12F52C232599
1998	Jeep Grand Cherokee	1J4GZ58S9WC234131
2002	Ford Taurus	1FAFP53U42G118392
1994	Chevrolet Camaro	2G1FPL250R2221263
1996	Chevrolet Lumina	2G1WL52MXT1119478
2000	Ford Expedition	1FMFU16L3YLC33902
1996	Cadillac Eldorado	1G6EL12Y6TU618767

Publish: February 18, 2016

FOR SALE

BLACK TV STAND holds up to 50" television, 3 glass shelves. Like new. \$50 OBO. (734) 697-3501

2/25

STEEL WHITE SCROLLED security door. Includes hinges & keyed lock. \$100. Call afternoons (734)-620-5562.

2/25

2 30X96 GREENHOUSES \$3,000/ea. w/rollup doors & includes furnaces, overhead fans, hanging watering system. Rolling flower racks \$50/ea. You take down. (734) 461-2172.

2/25

WANTED

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

ROOMMATE WANTED in Huron Township. \$350/mo. plus utilities. (734) 787-7729

3/3

FREE

OLDER MODEL Mitsubishi 30" TV. Works great. (734) 697-4355

2/25

FOR RENT

FARMHOUSE. 4 Bedroom, 2 bath. Belleville area. \$1,100/mo. plus security. (734) 461-1362

2/25

1 BEDROOM APT. All utilities included. \$550/mo. for one adult. Newly decorated. (734) 942-0995.

2/18

CONDO AT WOODBURY GREEN. 2 bedrooms, 1½ bath w/washer & dryer. \$825/mo., \$825/security. 1 year lease. (734) 697-2226.

3/10

MANUFACTURED HOMES FOR SALE

Franklin Homes will double your TAX RETURN!

We'll match your tax return up to \$4000 as a credit when you purchase a select Franklin owned home in one of our fine communities through February 29!*

Call one of our sales associates today or visit our website for a list of homes for purchase or lease!
www.FranklinHomeSales.com



Franklin

Manufactured Homes • Communities

Belleville Manor
734-699-7700
Belleville Road just 1 mile north of I-94

Van Buren Estates
734-697-6159
3 miles south of I-94 at the Rawsonville Exit

Mohawk
734-513-4108
Joy Road between Middlebelt and Inkster

* WAC. Certain restrictions apply.

HOMES FOR SALE

CASH FOR YOUR HOME!
ANY CONDITION OKAY!
QUICK BUY-OUTS!
AERO REALTY
(313) 402-0187

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

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:

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

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



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A&L SERVICES

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

M.D. APPLIANCE SERVICE

Refrigerators • Washers
Dryers • Ranges
\$20 House Call
Phone (734) 782-3354

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Family Owned & Operated. Serving The Belleville Area Since 1978.
Visit www.robsgaragedoor.com
Call (734) 301-5959

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Consignments—Buy—Sell—Used—New
Email: FFL48111@gmail.com
Call: 734-740-0746

LOCAL HANDYMAN – SOME Jobs too LARGE – NO JOB too SMALL. Residential snow blowing. LICENSED & REFERENCES. (734) 765-9224

TFN

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

8/18/16

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.

INDEPENDENT CLASSIFIED ADS

HELP WANTED

IMMEDIATE OPENINGS

Home Heath Care Workers and Direct Care Workers Needed.
Starting wage \$8.50 hour.
Willing to train. Our team is motivated to provide services to the elderly in their own home.
For an interview, call Golden Home Health Care Agency in Belleville at (734) 697-0888

ARAMARK @ Lincoln Schools is hiring part time food service employees. Please visit www.aramark.com/careers to apply. Email Thomas-karen@aramark.com with questions. A background check/drug screen is required for this position.
EOE, M/F/Disability/Vet

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

COOKS & SERVERS needed at Huron School District. Please contact Honey (734) 782-1710. 2/25

HELP WANTED

Belleville Pointe Apartments is looking to fill a full-time maintenance position. Fair pay & full benefits to a Dependable, Hardworking Enthusiastic person. Qualifying applicant should have basic knowledge of plumbing, carpentry, painting & HVAC. A valid driver's license is a must. Please send resume to bellevillepointe@pmapts.com or apply in person at the Belleville Pointe office.

Quest, Inc. is HIRING in BELLEVILLE!

We're looking for fun, energetic & caring Direct Care Workers to assist persons with special needs we serve in their own homes.

Applicants must be:

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

Send Letter/Resume to:
recruiter@questserv.org
or Call (734) 699-6543

HELP WANTED

Huron School District (New Boston) is hiring Bus Drivers.
Will train qualified applicants. \$13.80hr.
Visit
www.huronschools.org
or call (734) 782-1418

Direct Care Workers/ Home Health Aides needed to work with individuals with disabilities. \$10 per hour + mileage. FT/PT.
We can provide training.
Call (248) 471-9168 or (734) 637-8143
Fax (248) 471-9326

EXPERIENCED CARPENTERS wanted. Full-time, competitive wages based on experience. Based in Monroe County. (734) 587-3195. 2/18

HAIR DRESSER with clientele wanted at Karen's Place Salon, 36968 Huron River Drive, New Boston, MI (734) 753-9130 3/3

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

CHAIRSIDE DENTAL ASSISTANT. Part-time, 2 days/week. Experience preferred but willing to train the right person. People skills a must. Fax resume to Dr. Jelsch (734) 697-4946 or email drjelsch@ameritech.net 2/18

Birthdays

Feb. 19 – Bernie McManus

Feb. 20 – Robert Stoner

Feb. 22 – Sandy Askew, Toby Leis, Betty Tontalo

Feb. 26 – Sheila Patton

Feb. 27 – Dennis Davidson

Do you have a birthday in February? Does anyone 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.

Belleville Area District Library 2015 Employee Wages and Benefits

	Wages	Benefits	Total Compensation
Administration			
Suchy, Mary Jo	\$71,587.20	\$21,033.38	\$92,620.58
Savage, Hilary	\$53,040.65	\$17,622.46	\$70,663.11
Wloch, Michelle	\$38,228.80	\$30,240.96	\$68,469.76
Green, Debra	\$41,077.91	\$7,998.78	\$49,076.69
Johnson, Carol	\$28,208.01	\$5,226.84	\$33,434.85
Librarians			
McCann, Tara	\$50,740.16	\$25,174.15	\$75,914.31
Wloch, Michelle	\$35,680.06	\$30,278.72	\$65,958.78
Greschaw, Amy	\$15,254.20	\$5,383.77	\$20,637.97
Skinner, Kelly	\$19,683.65	\$1,505.80	\$21,189.45
Frazier, Sherry	\$14,296.00	\$1,093.64	\$15,389.64
Lodge, Dan	\$2,903.92	\$222.15	\$3,126.07
Richards, Jonathan	\$4,972.80	\$380.42	\$5,353.22
Clerks and Assts.			
Lebron, Joe	18,365.73	1,404.98	\$19,770.71
Reed, Ronda	15,002.40	1,147.68	\$16,150.08
Willson, Lori	12,191.33	932.63	\$13,123.96
Booher, Beth	11,796.85	902.45	\$12,699.30
Douglas, Jackie	10,356.85	792.29	\$11,149.14
Garascia, Judy	10,163.14	777.48	\$10,940.62
Green-Husted, Jessamy	9,642.83	737.68	\$10,380.51
Carr, Mary	8,634.95	660.58	\$9,295.53
Student Assistants			
Oudsema, Olivia	4,226.93	323.36	\$4,550.29
Lore, Lindsay	3,578.53	273.76	\$3,852.29
Douglas, Erin	2,386.09	182.54	\$2,568.63
Demery, Mikail	2,119.33	162.13	\$2,281.46
Mayberry, Amanda	1,963.90	150.24	\$2,114.14
Douglas, Noelle	1,719.66	131.56	\$1,851.22
Mayo, Diana	1,519.98	116.28	\$1,636.26
Computer Techs			
Marshall, Bradly	2,485.81	190.16	\$2,675.97
Meder, Todd	1,335.00	102.13	\$1,437.13
Gokcek, Can	910.79	69.68	\$980.47
Custodian			
Curry, Sintra	6,016.50	460.26	\$6,476.76
TOTAL			\$655,768.90



More Letters

(continued from page 15)

arm went numb. I started getting dizzy. I gave the girl a pass to leave my class but she left and came back to abuse me some more. Class was over. I don't know what happened my next hour but I remember leaving before it ended and going to the office because I thought this was it. This is where I was going to have a heart attack and die. I was dizzy fading in and out. I remember the fireman asking me what happened and I replied I had bad kids.

The last thing I remember before getting to the hospital was the fireman saying something to Mike. He smiled and said yes I had some bad kids. Another policy used to get teachers to resign. Give them troubled students. I was never the same after that day. My leg or arm would shake uncontrollably for about three years. I was diagnosed by my therapist with PTSD with severe anxiety and panic disorder with major depression.

2011-2012 school year I was out with mental sickness. Mike VanTassel is the superintendent. The department of Human Resources called and said I needed a note for my absence and a note saying I would be out indefinitely would be good. She told me there is a part of the contract where I had to write a letter to the administration building but a note would be fine. I got the note that said I would be out indefinitely for anxiety or depression I can't remember. A few weeks later I got a letter from Mike Van Tassel saying he accepted my resignation. My union tried to fight it saying past practice of bringing a doctor's note had set a precedent. But they came up unsuccessful. This is after I would be good with a doctor's note. I'm sure the ADA would have something to say about that.

I was about to make close to \$80,000 with extra for coaching. But through deception he got my resignation. Today I still suffer from PTSD and I'm an agoraphobic. I can rarely leave the house without having an anxiety attack. I have them pretty much every day. I read a normal attack will last 20-30 minutes, mine last hours if not the whole day. I stopped shaking after three years, but not much else has changed. I see a therapist every week. Now I live off of disability instead of a teacher's salary.

I was bullied by this man till he broke me down to what I am today. A man who lives in fear. My therapist said I would never be in this position if it wasn't for the bullying by this man after following a school policy. I've heard many others have been broke down from stress also. I'm writing this hoping people realize what Mike Van Tassel is capable of. He has hurt a lot of people.

Ronald James Mays
Sumpter Township



Ronald Mays

Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

Out of the 527 dispatch calls reported by Van Buren Township police this week, the following are selected for this column.

Sunday, Feb. 7:

0032 – malicious destruction of property, S. Bellridge Dr.
0052 – liquor violation, Michigan Ave.
0109 – larceny from auto, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0218 – fight, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0255 – noise complaint, N. I-94 Service Dr./Oak Ln.
0305 – hospice, Chaney Ave.
0954 – noise complaint, Westlake
0957 – sexual assault, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1229 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1250 – breaking & entering, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1346 – property damage accident, N. Service/EQ
1503 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / S. I-94 Service Dr.
1722 – assault & battery, E. Huron River Dr.
1819 – abandoned auto, Dalton Dr.
1822 – family trouble, Truman
1941 – family trouble, Togowtee Pass
2003 – fraud, Village Green Ln.
2048 – disturbance, Lake Point Blvd.
2232 – assault & battery, Ventura Dr.
2307 – traffic hazard, Tyler Rd./Belleville Rd.

Monday, Feb. 8:

1306 – fraud, Belleville
1348 – vehicle repossession, Village Green Ln.
1406 – fire training detail, Tyler Rd., cancelled
1512 – fire fire chief call, Station 2, cancelled
1734 – abandoned auto, Parkwood Manor
1737 – assault & battery, Lighthouse Dr.
1753 – larceny, Rawsonville
1818 – assault & battery, Hannan Rd.
1902 – assault & battery, Henry
1904 – property damage accident, N. Service/Belleville
2013 – assault & battery, Belmont Dr.
2028 – harassment call, North Shore Dr.
2318 – PPO violation, Denton Rd.

Tuesday, Feb. 9:

0038 – agency assist, Rawsonville/I-94
0058 – assault & battery, S. Bellridge Dr.
0812 – personal injury accident, Kmart/I-94 Service
0852 – property damage accident, N. I-94 / Rawsonville
0925 – harassment call, Village Green Ln.
1147 – fraud, Bemis Rd., cancelled
1201 – property damage accident, Tyler Rd. / Morton Taylor Rd.
1331 – found property, Van Buren St.
1437 – motorist assist, Tyler Rd./Haggerty Rd.
1636 – retail fraud, Rawsonville Rd.
1713 – fraud, E. Sadie Ln.
1902 – juvenile complaint, Kirkridge Park Dr.
2117 – larceny, E. Archwood Dr.
2246 – noise complaint, Kirkridge Park Dr.

Wednesday, Feb. 10:

0055 – prowler in area, Reedgrass Ln.
0336 – mental, Parkwood Dr.
0837 – abandoned auto, Dalton Dr./Madison Dr.
0916 – hospice, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0944 – disturbance, E. Huron River Dr.
0959 – found property, Tyler
1210 – narcotics crime, McBride Ave.
1233 – family trouble, Arthur St.
1345 – property damage accident, Belleville/Quirk
1412 – assault & battery, Belleville Rd.
1544 – suspicious vehicle, Country Walk Blvd.
1714 – property damage accident, Michigan / Denton
1735 – suspicious situation, Van Buren St.
1827 – fraud, Parkwood Dr.
1850 – disorderly conduct, E. Schooner Dr.
1918 – agency assist, Liberty/Main
2042 – noise complaint, Savage Rd.
2145 – breaking & entering, Jackson Ct.
2255 – suspicious situation, Belleville Rd./ N. I-94 Service Dr.
2300 – noise complaint, W. Walden Dr./Walden Blvd.

Thursday, Feb. 11:

0741 – motorist assist, NB Rawsonville/Grove
0836 – vehicle repossession, Stonebridge Dr.

1204 – assault & battery, Rawsonville Rd.
1244 – abandoned auto, Ecorse Rd.
1520 – vehicle repossession, Oak Ln.
1627 – agency assist, Maple Dr.
1747 – assault & battery, Ecorse Rd.
1908 – family trouble, Holly Ln.
2157 – noise complaint, N. Timberview Dr. / Cedarhurst Dr.
2219 – harassment call, Rayna Ct.
Friday, Feb. 12:
0831 – personal injury accident, Haggerty Rd. / S. I-94 Service Dr.
0905 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Peninsular Dr.
0941 – juvenile complaint, N. Ponderosa Trl.
1157 – fraud, Oak Blvd.
1435 – property damage accident, Belleville/Yost
1502 – disorderly conduct, S. Ponderosa Trl.
1618 – property damage accident, Jeremy Rd. / Ecorse Rd.
1628 – assault & battery, Country Walk Blvd.
1652 – private property accident, Lighthouse Club House
1754 – intimidation threat, Haggerty Rd.
2222 – overdose, Kirkridge Park Dr.

Saturday, Feb. 13:

0041 – fight, Walmart
0749 – larceny from auto, Brookside Dr.
0934 – larceny from auto, Sunset Pond Cir.
1021 – private property accident, Lacy Dr.
1059 – fraud, W. Huron River Dr.
1404 – property damage accident, Riggs Rd.
1709 – assault & battery, Park Estates
1735 – agency assist, Michigan Ave./Dellor St.
2046 – operating while intoxicated, Quirk Rd. / N. I-94 Service Dr.
2201 – assist citizen, Sumpter Rd.
2256 – motorist assist, Tyler School
Also on this week's dispatch log are 166 traffic stops, 22 of which were on the I-94 or I-275 freeways.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Feb. 7:

0108 – suspicious person, Henry St.
0935 – vehicle lockout, Fifth/Main
1010 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
1838 – traffic complaint, South St./W. Wabash
2115 – motorist assist, Sumpter Rd.
2258 – assist fire dept., Carmell St.

Monday, Feb. 8:

0434 – property check, Harbour Pointe Dr.
0912 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
1129 – E-911 hang up/investigation, Third St.
1229 – animal complaint, N. Liberty St.
1632 – neighbor trouble, Henry St.
1859 – domestic assault, Henry St.
2102 – civil matter, Belle Villa Blvd.

Tuesday, Feb. 9:

0037 – assist citizen, Rawsonville/I-94
0839 – miscellaneous complaint, W. Columbia
2104 – assist fire dept., Santa Clara St.
2229 – welfare check, Church St.
2233 – disorderly conduct, Main St.

Wednesday, Feb. 10:

0328 – assist fire dept., Victorian Ln.
0719 – assist fire dept., Potter Dr.
1103 – suspicious vehicle, N. Biggs Ave.
1136 – prisoner transport, 34th District Cout
1344 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd./Denton Rd.
1514 – vehicle lockout, Main St.
1627 – vehicle lockout, Carmell St.
1728 – assist fire dept., Carmell St.
1916 – traffic hazard, N. Liberty St./Main St.

Thursday, Feb. 11:

0110 – suspicious vehicle, Oxford Ct.
0400 – suspicious vehicle, Bay Pointe Dr. / Light Tower Dr.
0658 – assist fire dept., Sumpter Rd.
1055 – abandoned auto, N. Liberty St.
1325 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
1608 – intrusion alarm, W. Columbia Ave.
1700 – assist fire dept., Owen St./Sumpter Rd.
1905 – prowler in area, Belle Villa Blvd.

Friday, Feb. 12:

0912 – warrant arrest, Ann Arbor/I-275
1215 – assist fire dept., Henry St.
1250 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.

2211 – intimidation threat, N. Liberty St.

Saturday, Feb. 13:

0110 – property damage accident, Hayward's
1152 – domestic assault, Henry St.
1303 – miscellaneous complaint, Main St./N. Liberty St.
1316 – missing person, Carmell St.
1701 – animal complaint, S. Liberty St.
2102 – E-911 hang up/investigation, Belle Villa Blvd.
2337 – citizen assist, Belle Villa Blvd.
Also on this week's log are 58 traffic stops.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Feb. 7:

0024 – fire dept. assist, 44000 bl. Clay Rd.
0232 – operating while intoxicated arrest, Willow/Clark
0400 – citizen assist, Sumpter/Wear
0716 – fire dept. assist, 45000 bl. Bemis Rd.
0759 – mental health commitment, Nevada
0922 – fire dept. assist, 49000 bl. Willis Rd.
1231 – missing person, Stonecrest
1820 – civil dispute, 44000 bl. Harris Rd.
1837 – well-being check, Rustic Ln.

Monday, Feb. 8:

0035 – suspicious incident, 47000 bl. Wear Rd.
0117 – operating while intoxicated arrest, 12000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
0746 – fire dept. assist, 19000 bl. Clark Rd.
1855 – subpoena service, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

Tuesday, Feb. 9:

0420 – fire dept. assist, 28000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1333 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1725 – fraud complaint, Delaware

Wednesday, Feb. 10:

0151 – assist other agency, 48000 bl. Sully Dr.
0629 – alarm, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1833 – assist other agency, 8700 bl. Rawsonville
1843 – reckless driver, Bemis/Sumpter
1957 – animal complaint, 22000 bl. Fenster
2146 – fire dept. assist, Second St.
2238 – suspicious incident, 25000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

Thursday, Feb. 11:

0810 – animal complaint, 44000 bl. Arkona Rd.
1141 – fire dept. assist, 24000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1541 – mental health commitment, 23000 bl. Haggerty Rd.

2111 – breaking & entering, Arizona

Friday, Feb. 12:

0840 – alarm, 51000 bl. Willis Rd.
1312 – subpoena service, 8100 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
1641 – subpoena service, 8100 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
1906 – well-being check, 18000 bl. Martinsville
2148 – suspicious incident, Redwood

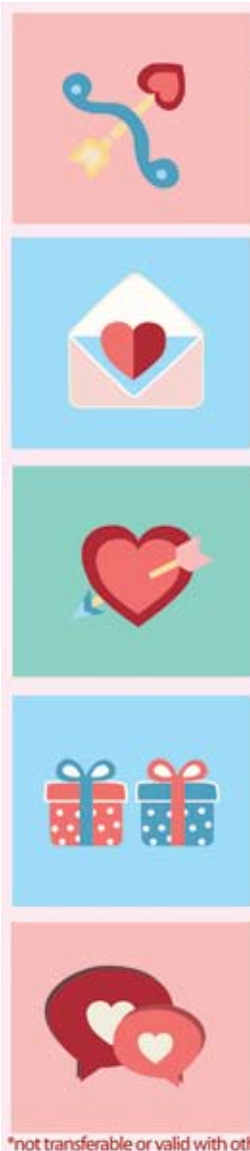
Saturday, Feb. 13:

0337 – fire dept. assist, 21000 bl. Bohn Rd.
0834 – animal complaint, Sumpter/Judd
0948 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1050 – suspicious vehicle, Wilmot/Willis
1200 – suspicious incident, Timberlane
1337 – fire dept. assist, 39000 bl. Willis Rd.
1821 – threats complaint, 24000 bl. Clark Rd.
2116 – shots fired, 8900 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
2118 – animal complaint, Bemis/Martinsville
2310 – harassment complaint, Arizona

Also on this week's log are 13 follow-up investigations, 30 miscellaneous details, 305 patrol checks, and 57 traffic stops.

Patrick Roelant named to Millersville Dean's List

MILLERSVILLE, PA – Patrick Roelant of Belleville has been named to Millersville University of Pennsylvania's Dean's List for the Fall 2015 semester. The 1,506 students named to Millersville University's Fall 2015 Dean's List earned a semester grade-point-average of 3.50 or higher and attempted at least 12 credits of course work.



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District Library Board approves option for 360 Charles Street

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

The Belleville Area District Library Board voted unanimously to accept an option agreement to buy the property next door at 360 Charles Street for \$200,000, if voters approve funding to construct a new library.

At its Feb. 9 meeting, Building Committee chairwoman Joy Cichewicz said in 2013, when the board was making preliminary plans for several sites, it had an option for a \$275,000 price for this property.

The agreement, with Belynda Domas of HD Accounting, includes paying property taxes for two years. The option runs until July 31, 2018.

Trustee Mary Jane Dawson said the board doesn't know the property's worth and whether it is a fair price, "... and, it might be."

"If we're spending more than the property's worth, then that's a problem," Dawson said. "We would pay the closing costs and taxes for two years."

Board attorney John Day said the board could look at the assessment the city has on the property and double it. The numbers could be the same or the numbers could be wildly different for the cash value.

"This is what she's offering," Day said, referring to what Domas had offered at a recent meeting. "This is an adjacent parcel ... and you would generally pay a premium."

Board chairwoman Sharon Peters put the board in recess for about 12 minutes while Cichewicz went to a computer in the library to get the State Equalized Value of the property online.

Domas arrived from a previous engagement and told the board that she had a mortgage study done and she was told the value of the property is from \$150,000 to \$200,000, not adding in the cost of relocating her business in Belleville. She offered to go out to her car to get the paperwork on that study.

"We've got a willing seller and a willing buyer," Day said after she left the room. "She's in the striking zone. You're looking not at today's price, but at two years down the road, which should be more."

When Domas brought in the study, it had comparables on sale in the city, including a car wash, an ice cream shop, and the former flower shop on East Huron River Drive and everyone agreed these were not good comparables for 360 Charles.

Cichewicz brought in paperwork that showed the city's assessed value is \$57,400 for 2015. Twice that would be the sales price.

Day said what the agreement does is take the property off the market for two years, pays her taxes, and then buys it at the locked-in price of \$200,000.

"It's important that the board raises questions," chairwoman Peters said of the discussion.

Then the board voted unanimously to

enter into the option agreement for 360 Charles St.

In other business at its Feb. 9 meeting, the board:

- Heard Cichewicz report on the recent trip to the city council meeting to tell members their plans for the new library on Fourth Street and to get their ideas. A committee was set up of Councilmen Tom Smith and Tom Fielder, Planning Commission chairman Steve Jones, and city attorney Steve Hitchcock to work with attorney Day on a development agreement that would spell out who does what, in what order. The plan is to take down the HB Accounting office first for parking during construction and later for formalized library and city parking;

- Heard Cichewicz report that she and Dawson and Mike Boelter met with Sumpter Township Supervisor John Morgan and Treasurer Alan Bates about use of the octagon building for computers and other electronic equipment for a library site. "They showed the same enthusiasm as the city of Belleville," Cichewicz reported. "It was a good meeting. Short and sweet";

- Heard Boelter say that he is happy to see the response to the board's new path for a new building. "We're sharing that vision with others," Peters said. "We've had meetings with Van Buren Township, Sumpter Township and the city of Belleville. This board has been working together very well – but we have a long way to go";

- Heard Dawson say the Friends of the Library made more than \$500 at its recent used book sale and gained nine new members. She said since it was "buy-one-get-one" a lot of books went out the door;

- Was informed of Peters' new assignments for committee chairpersons: Cichewicz is Building Committee; Tanya Stoudemire is Finance; Dawson is Marketing; Boelter is Personnel; and Lachelle Reed Caver is Policy; and

- Heard a report on the reception held to discuss the library that drew 65-70 guests and 15 filled out slips to offer to help with building a new library. Circulation Clerk Beth Booher catered the event and she and her husband donated all the food.

BHS grad opens new restaurant in Northville

Greg Richards, a 2000 graduate of Belleville High School, has opened a new restaurant at 144 Mary Alexander Court in downtown Northville.

Wok Asian Bistro is local, fresh and organic and prepared exhibition-style while diners watch. Customers order off the menu or create their own stir fry from a variety of fresh cut vegetables. A full bar includes wine, beer, sake and specialty drinks. Check out the restaurant at www.wokasianbistro.com.

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26405 KARR 5 ACRES 162X1308 \$45,000
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26455 KARR 5 ACRES 162X1308 \$35,000
26405 KARR 5 ACRES 162X1308 \$35,000

25817 SUMPTER RD. 97 ACRES \$20,000
26960 SHERWOOD 2.5 ACRES \$30,000
45885 BEMIS PAVED BUIDABLE LOT \$27,500
24409 SHERWOOD 1.15 ACRES \$30,000
20743 GRIFFIN COURT 1.4 AC \$29,500
20731 GRIFFIN COURT 1.1 AC \$25,900

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

BELLEVILLE
337 MAIN .32 ACRES 83X165 \$79,500
VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP
739 SAVAGE PAVED ST 1.02 ACRES \$35,000
47441 MARTZ ROAD 17+ ACRES \$176,000
VACANT BOG ROAD .55 ACRES \$29,750

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