



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 25.8 Thursday, February 21, 2019

Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

FREE

Sumpter Twp. to host training

A two-hour, training session on planning and zoning procedures will be held at 7 p.m., Feb. 28, at the Sumpter Township Hall.

John Enos, principal at Carlisle-Wortman Associates of Ann Arbor, will teach about open meetings, how meetings are run, basic site plan reviews and other planning and zoning topics.

At the Feb. 14 meeting of the Sumpter Township Planning Commission, planning consultant Chris Atkin of Carlisle-Wortman said Sumpter will be inviting planning commission members in the surrounding communities to attend the training.

Sumpter Treasurer Ken Bednark said from the audience that he has a long relationship with Enos from them both teaching at the University of Michigan.

"He really knows his stuff and taught it at a college level," Treasurer Bednark said.

In other business at the 18-minute meeting on Feb. 14, the planning commission:

- Set a public hearing on the updated Master Plan for 7 p.m., March 14, at the next commission meeting. Copies of the proposed Master Plan are available at township hall for review. Atkin, who has been working on the Master Plan for months, said it is 95% complete and he will mail color copies to commission members on Feb. 15. After the public hearing they can begin the 63-day process of review by sending the Master Plan out to surrounding communities and entities for comment;
- Unanimously approved sending to the township board for action a proposed amendment on accessory buildings and structures, which increases the size and heights for some buildings. This amendment was proposed to alleviate the many Board of Zoning Appeals requests for residents wanting to build larger pole barns than allowed by the zoning ordinance;
- Unanimously approved sending to the township board for action two proposed amendments to the zoning ordinance, one that defines yard waste and adds yard clippings to environmental debris. The other prohibits putting yard waste in drains and public and private rights-of-way.



The Van Buren Township Planning Commission paused for a photo after its organizational meeting. From left are Commissioners Medina Atchinson and Jeff Jahr, Chairperson Carol Thompson, Vice-Chairperson Donald Boynton, VBT Treasurer Sharry Budd, Commissioner Joan Franzoi, and Secretary Bryon Kelley, who also is commission representative on the Board of Zoning Appeals. Boynton is alternate on the BZA.

Independent photo by Rosemary K. Oztman

VBT Planners ask for options on senior housing

By Rosemary K. Oztman
 Independent Editor

After a discussion on senior housing at the Feb. 13 meeting of the Van Buren Township Planning Commission, chairperson Carol Thompson directed planning staff to come up with options.

"I'm glad we're focusing on senior housing. We have none," said Commissioner Medina Atchinson.

She said her friends are moving out of the township when they sell their houses because there is no senior housing here.

She pointed out one of the items on that evening's agenda was for a developer to add another ranch design to his offerings because ranch houses were favorites of buyers. She suggested seniors were choosing ranches because they were on one level.

The senior housing discussion came at the end of the meeting when Patrick Sloan of McKenna Associates planning consultants gave a report on multi-family residential standards, as requested by Ron Akers, VBT director of planning and economic development.

Currently, multi-family developments are only allowed in RM (Multiple-Family Residential) and M-U (Mixed-Use) zoning districts.

Akers told the planners that recently he

has had two developers talk to him about senior housing, but the township's zoning ordinances made their proposals not possible.

Akers said he asked Sloan for the report because of the lack of senior housing in the VBT community. He sees there could be places for active living and then for assisted living, but not big places like American House.

He said he wanted to find out if the planning commission wanted to continue with Sloan's idea to update the RM ordinance or if it thinks the township has sufficient multiple housing.

Akers said the recent Master Plan survey results indicated people didn't want to see expansion of multiple-family dwellings,

(continued on page 11)

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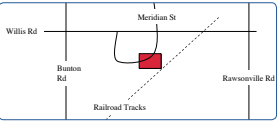
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SECOND FRONT PAGE

Sumpter Township 2018 Employee Wages & Cost to Township

Employee	Wages	Benefits	Total Compensation			
Elected Officials						
Morgan, John	\$38,931.10	\$598.75	\$39,529.85	Buccellato, Danielle	\$15,448.59	\$6,762.35
Hurst, Esther	\$27,535.73	\$299.97	\$27,835.70	Cayce, James	\$93,152.96	\$30,174.17
Bednark, Kenneth	\$2,079.54	\$30.16	\$2,109.70	Cox Jr., Jerry	\$59,009.00	\$30,552.30
Morgan, Peggy	\$30,627.23	\$213.09	\$30,840.32	Davos, Barton	\$59,535.46	\$18,510.09
Barnes Green, Sheena	\$14,041.03	\$121.16	\$14,162.19	Egerer, Elizabeth	\$95,257.81	\$41,697.96
Laporte, Donald	\$22,195.82	\$408.26	\$22,604.08	Gannon, Patrick	\$96,950.20	\$47,793.69
Oddy, Matthew	\$22,776.29	\$167.29	\$22,943.58	Gottschalk, Colleen	\$82,729.90	\$37,559.43
Rush, Timothy	\$1,344.25	\$19.49	\$1,363.74	Herrick, Christopher	\$73,538.26	\$32,774.98
Swinson, Donald	\$21,558.94	\$172.93	\$21,731.87	Hogan, Joseph	\$36,539.14	\$15,623.67
Building Dept.				Hudson, Sean	\$10,393.18	\$2,554.20
Roman, Michele	\$27,267.78	\$13,265.23	\$40,533.01	Lezotte, Michael	\$11,098.20	\$2,718.94
Clerks Dept.				Luke, Eric	\$113,073.40	\$47,559.07
Bardell, Roxanne	\$54,766.53	\$20,508.76	\$75,275.29	McGlynn, Christopher	\$58,200.41	\$45,946.01
Harris, Eva	\$21,620.88	\$1,669.57	\$23,290.45	Salajan, George	\$79,588.01	\$32,717.76
Hadyniak, Dawn	\$57,445.97	\$26,938.28	\$84,384.25	Steffani, Brian	\$77,710.27	\$36,706.78
Bowman, Debbie	\$13,718.84	\$850.57	\$14,569.41	Toth, John	\$92,162.57	\$45,934.93
DPW				Paquette, Malissa	\$64,270.06	\$14,571.28
Campbell, Leroy	\$67,259.69	\$14,085.74	\$81,345.43	Senior Dept.		
Krushlin, John	\$87,373.03	\$7,661.32	\$95,034.35	Watson, Mary Ann	\$57,044.12	\$22,871.06
Kunka, Kenneth	\$76,907.32	\$19,563.78	\$96,471.10	Morgan, Richard	\$9,265.59	\$574.47
Petrowski, Michael	\$68,372.47	\$25,974.70	\$94,347.17	Supervisor's Office		
Lynch, Randy	\$71,334.33	\$21,498.25	\$92,832.58	Woodington, Karen	\$61,485.02	\$5,726.17
Finance Director				Armatis, Karen	\$73,867.56	\$27,513.91
Holtz, Scott	\$65,443.16	\$15,368.96	\$80,812.12	Treasurer's Office		
Fire Dept.				Hoffman, Janet	\$43,543.54	\$18,830.90
Laporte, Donald	\$1,798.20	\$26.07	\$1,824.27	Pozon, Timolin	\$1,354.32	\$1,438.29
Armatis, Colleen	\$3,830.95	\$293.07	\$4,124.02	Morse, Vernon	\$15,097.26	\$936.17
Armstrong, Timothy	\$10,855.81	\$157.41	\$11,013.22	Water Dept.		
Barnette, Ronald	\$270.60	\$3.92	\$274.52	Winter, Anna	\$49,530.64	\$23,928.55
Beaudrie, Michael	\$1,946.08	\$148.88	\$2,094.96	Buchanan, Sybil	\$8,904.95	\$2,737.02
Behrendt, David	\$4,445.36	\$340.07	\$4,785.43			
Blackburn, Brian	\$7,694.02	\$588.59	\$8,282.61			
Blackburn, Elizabeth	\$2,262.07	\$173.05	\$2,435.12			
Bratby, Laura	\$2,386.38	\$182.56	\$2,568.94			
Brown, Richard	\$4,384.81	\$63.58	\$4,448.39			
Frost, Daniel	\$1,169.03	\$16.95	\$1,185.98			
Goode, Jamie	\$7,667.02	\$111.17	\$7,778.19			
Hollister, Brad	\$42.98	\$3.28	\$46.26			
Inble, Sonya	\$10,078.67	\$146.14	\$10,224.81			
Januszyk, Joseph	\$29,253.86	\$2,237.92	\$31,491.78			
Krushlin, Jamie	\$7,629.92	\$110.63	\$7,740.55			
Krushlin, John	\$9,378.84	\$135.99	\$9,514.83			
Long, Eric	\$4,070.74	\$59.03	\$4,129.77			
Lynch, Collin	\$5,139.05	\$74.52	\$5,213.57			
McHenry, Michael	\$5,371.45	\$77.89	\$5,449.34			
Mosholder, Caniel	\$2,149.99	\$164.47	\$2,314.46			
Meyers, Kenneth	\$2,171.25	\$166.10	\$2,337.35			
Sliwa, Richard	\$9,536.43	\$138.28	\$9,674.71			
Smith, Derek	\$6,394.00	\$92.71	\$6,486.71			
Spitznagel, Anthony	\$1,725.00	\$25.01	\$1,750.01			
Spoonamore, Shauna	\$915.97	\$13.28	\$929.25			
Stumpf, James	\$1,396.78	\$20.25	\$1,417.03			
Thompson, Walter	\$6,399.08	\$92.79	\$6,491.87			
Watson, Mary Ann	\$554.73	\$8.04	\$562.77			
Wisniewski, Michael	\$13,063.12	\$189.42	\$13,252.54			
Human Resources						
Bellingham, Michelle	\$64,561.55	\$5,897.05	\$70,458.60			
Ordinance Dept.						
Gregory, Peter	\$63,089.74	\$6,028.34	\$69,118.08			
Police Dept.						
Dufresne, Susan	\$56,402.36	\$29,023.65	\$85,426.01			
Ashby, John	\$53,390.45	\$15,330.18	\$68,720.63			
Balowski, Joseph	\$82,639.82	\$31,118.60	\$113,758.42			

Total \$3,572,805.78

Benefits include FICA and may include health care, dental, life insurance and pension.
Fire Fighters receive no benefits.

Compiled by Diane Madigan.

Sumpter Township takes newspaper of record change off the table

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

A proposal to change the newspaper of record from the Belleville Area Independent to Associated Newspapers' The Eagle was discussed at great length at the Jan. 22 work study session of the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees.

The agenda item, which was placed by Supervisor John Morgan, was asked to be removed from the agenda by Trustee Matthew Oddy during the regular meeting. Trustee Oddy had supported the change during the work/study discussion.

Treasurer Ken Bednark began discussion of the newspaper of record item during the work/study session.

He said he reviewed the background information and saw no monetary benefit to the township. He said the official newspaper of record gives the public constructive notice of township actions.

"We cannot as a board disenfranchise the township residents," Treasurer Bednark said. He said he was at the Senior Center

when the Independent was dropped off and people hurried to get it.

He said The Eagle stacks up by the foot.

He said The Eagle covers eight communities, but how many people even read it?

"They consider us Belleville, not part of the tri-community," Bednark said. He said he looked at the ads and there are no advertisements in there. There are few pages and they are not covering the meetings.

Bednark said he noticed that a story will be in the Independent and a week later a rewritten version of the story will appear in The Eagle.

"I have an eye for plagiarism. I saw similarities ... and they weren't even at the meeting," he said.

"Donald Trump can't stop the press in politics," he continued. "If it gets too hot, you don't belong in politics."

He said if a person on the board has odds with the way something is reported, that

(continued on page 8)

O P I N I O N S

Editorial

VBT OKs upgrades for dance studio

After Supervisor Kevin McNamara assured the *Independent* the dance studio issue would be pulled from Tuesday night's regular board meeting agenda, he kept the item on the agenda and got it approved on a 5-2 vote.

The \$162,000 in taxpayer-funded renovations focused on the Jitterbug Elite's private dance studio and was opposed by only Trustees Paul White and Reggie Miller in the vote. The half hour between the work/study session and the regular meeting Tuesday was enough time for Trustee Sherry Frazier to turn her no vote into a yes.

The 16-year, handshake agreement between Jennifer Valinski, wife of a VBT police officer, and the township allowed her to take 80% of the profits and the township to get 20%, with VBT receiving about \$1,700 a year for giving the dance studio rooms, electricity, heat, and advertising in its publications.

After a discussion two weeks ago at a work/study session, the renovations were pulled from the regular meeting's agenda. On Tuesday, three board members asked why their previous questions weren't answered and Supervisor McNamara said he would put the decision off for another two weeks. But, he changed his mind and the item was left on the regular agenda and approved. The *Independent* was assured the item was off the agenda so it went to the Belleville City Council meeting to hear a discussion on the city opting out of marijuana businesses. So much for believing a politician.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

We received an email with the following message: "Just to let your faithful readers know, Doctor Tim Dobson, who retired from the now-closed Belleville Animal Hospital, is currently working at Healthy Paws Veterinary Hospital & House Calls – Belleville Location, 10657 Belleville Rd. (in the small strip mall across from Walmart), Belleville, MI 48111 (734) 697-1400." We called and the information was confirmed.

We received a call concerning the Van Buren Township salary listing starting on page one in last week's paper. The caller pointed out David Schuler was listed as an ordinance officer, fire fighter, and police officer. I double-checked, and he was listed twice. One was as a fire fighter and then once as a ordinance officer, with the fire wages shown as well.

The confusion comes because the listing changed from police department to fire department as the listing jumped to the next page. It looked like he might be in the police listing, but it was the new fire listing. He shouldn't have been in the fire listing because that listing was also on the same line as his ordinance department wages on page 3. Confusing, but not wrong. He is not a police officer.

We have had several calls for copies of past stories that ran 10 or more years ago in the *Independent*. For your information, in about 2013, we started a program on line where users could go to www.bellevilleareaindependent.com and on the home page find a Search slot. By typing in a name or topic and clicking Search, all the stories published on that name or topic will



come up and can be read and printed out. You also can get full editions of the paper since 2012 by clicking PAPERS at the top of the home page and then clicking on the year you want.

For stories published between 2012 and back to 1995, when the paper started, you can get copies of the stories by calling our office at 699-9020 or coming in to see us. We have a morgue file of all the stories published by topic and we can dig out that story for you and make a copy. We also will get you a complete copy of a paper from the past – with a little notice so we can dig it out. All this is at no charge.

The whole point of starting this paper in 1995 was to disseminate information to residents. That's what we do.

A Belleville man brought in a letter from a prison inmate who has served 23 years for murder and has about 10 more to go. The prisoner saw the picture of the man's wife in the *Independent* and got her address because she won an award for Christmas decorations on her house and the location of the house was noted.

He starts out his letter to her, "I don't mean to creep you out ..." Well, he did creep her and her husband out.

We checked out his name and he is not a subscriber, but another prisoner at that prison is a subscriber to our paper so maybe they are cell mates or friends or something. We print the addresses of holiday

decoration contest winners released by the city because we've been made aware that people take their families for drives at night during the Christmas season to admire the winning houses. How else would they know where to go? The world is a very strange place these days.

We've had several new scam reports. One VBT woman got a call from someone saying the caller was with DTE and they wanted to give her a 25% discount on gas service. They wanted an account number and this lady always destroys her bills after paying them so she didn't have a number. They called DTE for her to get her account number, but that didn't work. She did give them the last four digits of her Social Security number, her phone number, and her address.

When the woman called DTE to ask about the discount, DTE said they don't offer such a thing, but other new gas companies do. DTE put a hold on her account so it couldn't be switched over to another company.

A reader in Sumpter said she got a call from "Medicare" and the caller said they had a prize for her, but needed personal information. Our reader said she doesn't give personal information over the phone and the caller said, "Go to hell," and hung up.





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— Albert Einstein

"It's time for those of us who have a voice to speak out for life, for love and for justice."
-- Chaka Khan

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Letters

Thank you for helping me mark my retirement

To the editor:
What a beautiful day Feb. 9, 2019 was. It was my retirement celebration from my school crossing guard position at Edgemont and E. Huron River Drive after 57 years.

I want to thank everyone that was able to come and wished me well. And, I got so many hugs.

Thank you, City of Belleville Council, AAA, Van Buren Township Board of Trustees, and Judge David Parrott for the awards you all gave me. It meant so much to me. You all are so special to me and I love you.

Most off all, I want to thank my beautiful family. I love you so much. Thank you all - everyone for everything.

Love, Mary Talaga
Belleville

Shock, indignation at Kenneth Floro's pay

To the editor:
I suspect that many of your readers share my shock and indignation concerning today's headline news: the nearly quarter-million-dollar annual compensation paid to Kenneth Floro.

Please assign your foremost reporter to inform us of the qualifications and experience that warrant such outrageous pay. If you lack a suitable person for this task, I volunteer to interview Mr. Floro on this pressing subject. My qualifications are 47 years as a writer and editor in the auto enthusiast publication field.

Don Sherman
Van Buren Township

Not 'Fixing the Damn Roads' with oily gravel

To the editor:
Our recently elected officials who acknowledge our roads are in deplorable condition are wasting everyone's time insisting that the funds don't exist to make proper, lasting repairs.

A solution to this dilemma was made obvious to me last Saturday when I encountered a Wayne county road crew at "work" on Huron River Drive. Two large trucks and four employees -- all presumably earning overtime pay -- were impeding traffic to fiddle with the countless potholes. Two men were watching from the comfort of their county truck. A third was waving traffic past the work site. One hapless individual was attempting to shovel frozen-solid oily black gravel from the bed of the first truck.

What's wrong with this picture? The open potholes are the same ones crews didn't repair during past visits to Huron

River Drive. The oily gravel remains in place only minutes before it's flushed out by the very traffic expected to mash it into the pothole. That debris is then flung by other cars, cracking windshields galore.

My point is that the current repair methods are a useless waste of money. Hot asphalt compacted by a heavy roller is unfortunately missing from the repair process. The \$0.37 we spend per gallon of gasoline and the stipends tacked onto our driver's license and license plate renewal fees for road maintenance are wasted on the aforementioned useless procedure.

So here are my suggestions: Cease the use of oily gravel as a pothole-fill material. Instead, use hot asphalt compressed by an actual rolling machine. Make more intelligent use of Michigan citizens' tax dollars to rebuild roads that require more than pothole filling. And don't waste your time telling us what we already know about life on Michigan's tattered roads.

Van Buren Township resident
Don Sherman

Drive by this residence and see if you agree

To the editor:
44325 South I-94 Service Dr. Junk Yard
We invite the residents of Van Buren Township to drive by this address and take in the Junk Yard View that we have been looking at for 30 years.

We have been battling with the township to get this "pig pen" cleaned up. Some progress was made and then the ball was dropped.

There are miscellaneous cars, trucks, RVs, commercial vans and trailers, pontoon boats, ski jets, miscellaneous trailers, commercial wood chipper, two large commercial trailers, two tractors, etc.

Our first complaint was October '18 and, ironically, other residents filed for the same reasons. Our second complaint was filed Feb. 9. Let's see how the township follows through!

Greg and Peg Jacobs
Harmony Lane, Van Buren Township

Library invites all to Feb. 27 community sing

On Wednesday, Feb. 27, at 7 p.m. the public is invited to join their friends and neighbors at the Belleville Area District Library for a community sing-along, hosted by WDET's Matt Watroba.

Community sings are an opportunity for all willing singers to experience the power of song and musical participation. Don't worry if you don't consider yourself a "singer." Community singing is not performing. All skill levels are welcome.

"I think a newspaper should be provocative, stir 'em up, but you can't do that on television. It's just not on."
— Rupert Murdoch

Obituaries



Richard Lee Newton



RICHARD LEE NEWTON

(August 4, 1946 – February 13, 2019)
Age 72, a longtime Belleville area resident, died peacefully at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital -- Ann Arbor campus, on February 13, 2019.

Richard is the beloved husband of Barbara for thirty-nine wonderful years; proud father of Jeffery (Lydia) Newton of Ypsilanti Township and loving grandfather of Aubrey, Tanner and Leeland. He is also survived by his brother, Gary (Yolanda) Newton of Georgia and many extended family and friends.

Born on August 4, 1946 in Ypsilanti to Lee and Ruth Newton, Richard was a graduate of Belleville High School (*Class of 1964*). Following his graduation he proudly served his country in the United States Army, serving a tour in Vietnam. Following his discharge, he was a long-time employee of the Ford Motor Company. In his spare time, he loved keeping his yard meticulous and enjoyed watching his son competing in auto racing. Military honors were rendered at 1 PM, Monday, February 18, 2019 in the Main Chapel of the David C. Brown Funeral Home of Belleville. (734) 697-4500. The Newton family will greet guests from 11:00 AM. Interment will follow privately, at the Knollwood Memorial Park, Canton.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions are encouraged to the Van Buren V.F.W. Post #4434.

School Supt. Kudlak explains snow day situation in schools

In a statement on the Van Buren Public Schools website on Friday, School Supt. Pete Kudlak made the following statement concerning the many snow days the district has declared this winter.

"I am reaching out to talk to you about the large number of school cancellations. The State gives us six days of forgiven time automatically each year. Currently, we have had 11 days. Under law, we can apply to the State for an additional three days of forgiven time. We will be doing that and feel fairly confident that these days will be awarded.

"We are still over by two days at this point. We will be required to make these days up, as well as any more that we incur. I am telling you this to keep you informed and for your planning purposes.

"We are looking at all available days in our current calendar, including April 19 (Good Friday) as well as extending the school year into the week of June 17, as options. We will keep you updated as we get more information."

NMU names three Belleville students to Fall 2018 Dean's List

Jonathan Damon, a Belleville student at Northern Michigan University, has been named to the Dean's List for the Fall 2018 semester, qualifying with a perfect grade point average of 4.0.

Nicholas Cooley-Sarna and Megan Martin, also Belleville students, qualified with a grade point average of 3.50-3.99.

Grant Shepherd named to Olivet Dean's List

Grant Shepherd of Belleville has been named to the Fall 2018 Dean's List at Olivet College. To make the Dean's List, a student must be full-time and earn a grade point average of 3.5 or higher.

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Obituaries



Mary E. Seppanen

MARY E. SEPPANEN

(February 10, 1954 – February 7, 2019)

Mary E. Seppanen, 64 of Mio, Michigan and formerly of Westland, passed away Thursday, February 7, 2019 at home with her husband and family by her side. Born February 10, 1954 in Mt. Clemens, she was the daughter of William and Leona (Hopman) Betsinger.

In 2002, Mary retired from General Motors. She and her husband John built a home in Mio and moved there in 2007. Mary enjoyed walking in the woods, her encounters with the wild life, as well as mushroom hunting. She loved her cats and brief time raising chickens. Mary traveled to 40 states camping and meeting new people with her husband. She had the talent to create stained glass, beautiful oil paintings and did carpentry. She will be greatly missed.

Mary is survived by her husband of 36 years, John; her brother, William Betsinger Jr. of Alaska; and many nieces and nephews to whom she was very close.

Mary is preceded in death by her parents and brothers: James, John and Dale Betsinger.

The family will have a celebration of life gathering in Belleville from 1-4 PM on Saturday, March 2, 2019 at David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI 48111-2764 (734) 697-4500.



Margaret Ann "Peggy" Ridner

MARGARET ANN 'PEGGY' RIDNER

(September 12, 1949 – February 15, 2019)

Margaret Ann "Peggy" Ridner, 69 years, of Belleville, MI passed away on Friday, February 15, 2019 in her home under the care of Arbor Hospice. The daughter of Merlin and Mona (Bethan) Grueschow, she was born on September 12, 1949 in Monroe, MI.

Margaret married the love of her life Henry Ridner on October 14, 1967 in Erie, MI. She enjoyed going camping, attending church, crafting and collecting antiques. Most of all she loved being surrounded by her family. She was a member of the Free Pentecostal Church in Romulus, MI for many years.

Margaret is survived by her loving husband, Henry; children, Henry Lee Ridner Jr., Tonnie Jean Ridner and Luke Berry Ridner; grandson, Cody Lee Ridner.

Funeral arrangements were entrusted to the Urbanski's Bedford Funeral Chapel, 8300 Lewis Ave., Temperance, MI. Burial took place in Roselawn Memorial Park, LaSalle, MI.



Mary Jensen

MARY JENSEN

(January 28, 1931 – December 25, 2018)

Mary Jensen was born in Tellico Plains, Tennessee on January 28, 1931 and passed away peacefully at her son's home on Christmas Day 2018. In between she lived a full life of almost 88 years. She had three husbands and said that she loved every one of them.

She left a son Elmer (Judy) and daughter Debbie (David), five grandsons, including one grandson Mike who preceded her, and great-grandsons and great-granddaughters.

She was raised on a working farm in Etowah, Tennessee in the '30s and '40s by her Mom and Dad, Earnest and Flora. She had a pet horse while growing up. She helped her family milk the cows, feed the pigs and all the chores necessary on a family owned farm. Her Grandma was full-blood Cherokee. She lived in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania with her

first husband, Elmer, and moved her family to Belleville, Michigan in 1961. She and her first husband Elmer were charter members of Saint Michael Lutheran Church in Wayne, Michigan in 1963. She was a woman who loved God and cared more about others than herself. She worked at Belleville Hospital as a medical assistant. She worked 10 years for a podiatrist's office in Ypsilanti. She moved to Canada with her second husband, Ken, in the '70s. And moved to Minnesota with her third husband, Tim, in the '90s. She loved to dance to the big band music of the 1940s.

She traveled worldwide to Africa, Europe, and Asia. But she also loved to stay at home, as well. She dearly loved her children and grandchildren. She was an angel on Earth and will be sorely missed. Memorial service will be at Grace Baptist Church in Belleville at 11AM on Thursday, February 21.

More Letters

Thank you, St. Jude

To the editor:

Say this prayer nine times a day and by the eighth day your prayer will be answered. It has never been known to fail. Must have faith. Publication must be promised.

St. Jude's Novena

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, helper of the hopeless, pray for us.

Thank you for answering my prayer. I will always pray to you and be so ever thankful.

With love, G.R., Belleville

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Sumpter Twp.

(continued from page 3)

person should go to the editor and talk about it. It's not the board's responsibility to punish the paper.

Trustee Don Swinson said he went 15-16 papers back in The Eagle and there is no Sumpter story in there.

"If we have to make a move, go out for bids," Trustee Swinson suggested, adding there is nothing advertised in the Belleville area in The Eagle. He said a lot of people in Belleville read and use the Independent. He sees that at his work while people are waiting for their vehicles.

He said not everything is correct in the paper and, "They write what they write."

Trustee Don LaPorte said, "This is just about legal notices. The personal stuff I could care less about."

Trustee Oddy asked if there is a contract and the Independent said no.

Oddy said there were a lot of things that were in the paper that made trouble for the township, such as the judge going to make Sumpter opt in and give dispensary licenses to caregivers. "Not true!" he said, referring to opinions on the editorial page.

"It makes sense to go out for bids," Oddy said.

That's when Supervisor Morgan invited David Willett up to the microphone to speak. Willett said he is owner of Associated Newspapers and the Belleville Enterprise is one of those newspapers and the Enterprise has been publishing since 1886.

He told his life story and how he wanted to be an architect and went to California and came back to run a newspaper when his dad wanted to retire.

He said he has been told the board is "criticized by the Independent while you're paying for it" referring to the paid legal notices required by law and the separate coverage of township government.

When LaPorte asked how many Eagles are published, Willett said it was 12,000 across its market -- eight communities.

"I'll make you happy," Willett promised. He said they will come to Sumpter meetings and be a credible source of information.

"Sumpter wrote us off a long time ago," Willett stated.

"I'm hard-pressed to find the word 'Sumpter' in your paper," Bednark said, adding the Independent covers the tri-community.

"Not everyone is discontented with the Belleville Independent," Bednark said.

"We try to be fair and unbiased," Willett said.

Bednark said a lot of people use the Independent as a one-stop stop for their information.

"We can give you a Sumpter paper on line," Willett offered.

Peggy Morgan spoke from the audience, saying she remembers when Sumpter used the Ann Arbor News, Ypsi Press, and Enterprise as newspaper of record. When Johnny Vawters was elected supervisor they changed it to the Independent.

"We've all been mad at the Independent," Morgan said, but the seniors at the senior center live for that paper, "whether we like what she prints or not." She said both papers are dropped off and a week later the Independents are all gone, but the Eagle is still there.

Morgan said when she was treasurer last summer she was asked to put the change of the newspaper of record on the agenda and told them she would think about it, but what she actually meant was, "Hell, no, I'm not going to do it."

Adrian Slaughter asked why, all of a sudden, after 12 years of being newspaper of record, there is a problem with them.

"What is the problem?" she asked. "It's hard to get an Independent ... so now I go on line to read it."

She asked if there was an issue with the legals or a problem and the room was silent with no criticisms of the legal notices.

Trustee Oddy said, "Things are reported inaccurately."

"Problems with the legals not being published?" Slaughter persisted.

"Misinformation in the paper that's your legal paper," Oddy said. "A problem as far as I'm concerned. It's not political. Some residents said 'shame on you.' My experience with you, Peggy, is you wanted to change. I would recommend it go out for a bid."

"I've been watching this for several months," said Sherry Olds. "I brought her flowers and an apology for all of you. I want to keep the paper."

"We don't have channel 12 up yet," said Sheena Barnes. "We spent \$62,000 and I thought it would be up."

She said the board has personal issues.

"The key thing is we depend on our paper ... because nothing is on our cable. It's a waste of money. They don't want the people of the township to know what's going on."

"We see what you're doing," Barnes continued. "Ken Bednark, you're a breath of fresh air. I hope you run for supervisor."

"Matt, you have to ask to talk on everything," Barnes said. "You're the captain. Save 'em. A person came and knocked on my door to tell me hundreds of my votes were thrown out."

"Personal issues are going on," Barnes continued. "We can't see what you're doing. I can't go on my phone and find out about Sumpter Township."

She said people may look at her and discount her with, "She's a mad black woman. But I just happen to be a black woman who's mad."

Willett said, "You have issues here that have nothing to do with me. We have not been covering Sumpter Township. You should send news releases. Putting this out for bids is a waste of time."

"I'm sad tonight," said Mary Sherwood. "When I read the agenda item on the newspaper of record. I love the Independent. It serves us. It tells us everything that's going on in Belleville. Rosemary said unpleasant things about us ... she's the editor of that paper and she says things on the editorial page."

"She should tell only the truth, but if she gets bad information, a mistake is not

a criminal offense... Maybe the answer to the problem is to do good things. Maybe Rosemary would like us and maybe she would say good things about us...

"In Sumpter, we love one another. We even love Rosemary... We put you up there to vote," she said to the board. "Remember what the people of the township think."

Trustee Tim Rush said in 2004 he became acquainted with the Rotary Club's Four-Way Test: Is it the truth? Is it fair to all concerned? Will it build good will and better friendships? Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

"I'm voting no because of the Four-Way Test," Trustee Rush said of the proposal to change the newspaper of record.

"This has been a very productive workshop," said Oddy, noting there has been more dialog than in the past.

After a presentation on the Missoula Children's Theater, the work/study session ended. The one-hour-and-20-minute work/study meeting was said to be the longest in Sumpter history.

In business at the regular meeting that followed, the board:

- Approved a resolution setting the township's 2019 poverty exemptions;
- Approved a calendar year payment of \$10,000 to Van Buren Township for the Belleville Area Museum, without any discussion or explanation. Sumpter has not paid its share of the museum costs for many years; and
- Approved the specialized services operating assistance program third-party contract between SMART and Sumpter for fiscal year 2019.



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Library goes out for proposals for new books, AVs for new library

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

The Belleville Area District Library has called for proposals for the Opening Day Collection from Baker & Taylor, Brodart, and Ingram to give "a shot in the arm to our present collection," said Library Director Mary Jo Suchy.

The budget for this project is \$150,000. At the Feb. 12 meeting of the library board, Director Suchy explained the purpose of this collection will be to supplement the library's current collection with special focus on popular materials as well as areas of the non-fiction collection in need of updating.

"With the new library, we anticipate a return of our patrons who are using neighboring libraries, and we want to make sure that our book and materials collection is up to the task," Director Suchy said.

In the Request for Proposals, it points out the library is seeking Opening Day Collection services for its new, two-story, 31,000-square-foot building which is currently under construction. The library anticipates moving to the new site in autumn of 2019. The purpose of the Opening Day Collection will be to supplement the library's existing collection of 77,000 books and 9,900 AV materials.

The project includes selection, acquisition, cataloging, processing, storage, and delivery of an Opening Day Collection of materials for the new library.

Materials will include adult, juvenile, and teen books, DVDs, music CDs and audio books. The project will be awarded to a single vendor.

Proposals are due Feb. 22 and the library board is expected to award the contract at its regular meeting on March 12. Tentative date for delivery to the library is October 2019.

In other business at the one-hour-and-24-minute meeting Feb. 12, the board:

- Heard Suchy announce that after much deliberation and consultation with the staff and building committee, she recommends installing an Automated Materials Handling System in the new library. She said she and others visited the Commerce Township Library to see its AMH system and she expects to make a recommendation on a vendor at the March board meeting. She said the AMH system will greatly improve staff ergonomics on a task that is very repetitive, will allow them to get the items to the shelves faster, and will allow them to deploy staff in other, more customer-centric ways;

- Learned the chairperson's appointments to committees for the year are: Building – chairperson Joy Cichewicz, Mary Jane Dawson, John Juriga; Bylaws – chairman John Juriga, Linda Priest; Finance – chairperson Barbara Gates, Cichewicz; Marketing – chairperson Alma Hughes-Grubbs, Dawson, Gates; Personnel – chairperson Priest, Gates; and Policy –

chairperson Dawson and Hughes-Grubbs;

- Heard Suchy report that three young men (ages 18, 18, and 26) were caught pointing what turned out to be air guns at each other in the quiet study room Jan. 8. The police escorted them from the premises and she informed police that the three were to be banned from the library for one year for violating the library's code of conduct;

- Learned Librarian Theresa Spiteri-Zaidel and Circulation Clerk Beth Booher are on leaves of absence. Clerk Noelle Douglas has found a new duty at the library. In her non-work life she is an artist and she has been helping the kids in the Comic Book Club to draw comics;

- Learned board member John Juriga's son and son-in-law, Jesse Juriga and Nathan Allen, have pledged \$10,000 over the next three years to the library's capital project fund. Google will match this donation each year and the anticipated total donation will be \$20,000. Juriga said

his son Jesse, 38, works for Google and had two of his commercials on television during the Super Bowl;

- Heard architect Dan Whisler say that a few months back a youth spinner was broken and they are bringing in a 12' long new piece of shelving into the children's area of the library and treating it like a mockup. People can inspect it. It will be going into the new library;

- Heard board vice chairperson Mary Jane Dawson announce that the BYC is holding its annual Lake Cleanup on May 4 and volunteers are invited to join in. She said volunteers will include the University of Michigan Women's Rowing Team and the Belleville High School football team; and

- Heard board chairperson Sharon Peters say the responses from the community concerning the library have been "so heartening and gratifying."

Shelly Ann Brown – Chudzinski recertified as CFSP by academy

Shelly Ann Brown-Chudzinski, CFSP, a funeral director with David C. Brown Funeral Home in Belleville has recently qualified for recertification of the designation of Certified Funeral Service Practitioner (CFSP) by the Academy of Professional Funeral Service Practice.

A number of professions grant special recognition to members upon completion of specified academic and professional programs and "CFSP" is the funeral service's national individual recognition.

A select few have distinguished themselves among their peers within the funeral service profession as they continue their education to exceed the highest standards of care.

This achievement is especially notable because Shelly has voluntarily elected to participate in quality educational and service opportunities that far surpass what the funeral service licensing board in Michigan requires. Shelly has committed to a program of lifelong learning to serve families in her community with the level of excellence expected of a CFSP.

The Board of Trustees of the Academy of Professional Funeral Service Practice commends individuals for choosing to put their trust in the hands of a Certified Funeral Service Practitioner.

Since its 1976 founding, the Academy has had as its goals: 1) to recognize those practitioners who have voluntarily entered into a program of personal and professional growth, 2) to raise and improve the standards of funeral service, and 3) to encourage practitioners to make continuing education a lifelong process in their own self-interest, the interest of the families they serve, and the community in which they serve.

To initially receive this award, the practitioner must complete a 180-hour program of continuing education activities and events. In addition, the practitioner is required to accumulate 20 hours per year to recertify. Credits are awarded by the Academy for work leading to personal and/or professional growth in four areas: academic activities, professional activities, career review (for retroactive credit) and community and civic activities.

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HOTSPOT**

VBT Board considers \$161,120 to upgrade private dance studio

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

A proposal to spend \$161,120 to upgrade a private dance studio housed in township hall was pulled from the Feb. 5 Van Buren Township board meeting agenda after questions arose in the work/study session on Feb. 4.

The item was placed on the 4 p.m. Feb. 19 work/study session for more discussion and also on the 7 p.m. Feb. 19 regular meeting for a decision.

The project was presented as one of the Capital Improvements-Plus projects that were approved by the board in 2018.

The dance studio part of CIP-Plus was before the board to accept the low bid of Cross Renovations, the same company that did the work on the building and planning offices.

Public Services Director Matthew Best said they will be putting in a fancy, professional dance floor, mirrors on the wall, and bars. He said the dance studio provides dances classes for the Recreation Department.

Jennifer Valinski, who has run the Jitterbug Elite Dance, Inc., studio at the township hall for 16 years -- every night except Sundays and Fridays -- was present to say the present flooring is dangerous and they don't have enough space.

On the Jitterbug Elite website, the township hall address is listed as the business address, but payments for the classes are paid directly to Valinski and are requested to be sent to her Fret Road home or paid in person.

Director Best said the Recreation Department desk will be upgraded and the waiting area for parents who wait for their dancers will be enlarged. Best said dancers have suffered broken bones and tendonitis because of the present floor and there is nowhere to put the waiting parents.

They also will put in a new, built-in display case for trophies and the floor will be leveled. He said the dance studio is the only program that uses this space.

"I want the township to use hard data," said Trustee Sherry Frazier during the work/study session when the project was discussed.

"I want to see hard numbers of students, parents in the hallway. We're at the point in the township when we need numbers," she said.

Valinsky said the parents pay for the youth to take the classes and they want to promote a safe environment.

She said each year there is a dance recital and the audience fills the Belleville High School Auditorium, which seats 901.

Best said the size of the dance studio space will stay the same, but the hard tile will be replaced with a dance floor, bars, mirrors, and lighting.

Trustee Frazier questioned the great differences in the three sealed bids for the work. As part of the board packet, the bids were listed as: Cross Renovations, \$140,500; DeMaria, \$403,500; and Aristeo, \$289,900.

Supervisor Kevin McNamara said the township engineers wanted \$60,000 to \$80,000 to design the project and the township decided to go with a design/build process.

"That could have been part of the problem," Supervisor McNamara said.

"The others overdid the design," Best said. "Cross knew the community."

"It's a big discrepancy," Trustee Frazier persisted.

"They were adding stuff," Best said.

Best said the project involves moving a storage area to turn it into waiting space, new floors, walls, lighting, moving the drinking fountain and reorienting the recreation desk.

"It's a good temporary fix, but it doesn't solve our overall problem," said Clerk Leon Wright.

Best said it will take six months for the design, permits, and going to the planning commission and then one month of construction. He said they will figure out how to take care of the dancers during construction.

"Leon's right. We're lacking space here and we have to look into the future," said Trustee Kevin Martin.

Valinsky said now they can seat 12 parents and this project will at least double the space. She said she takes about 10 students in each class.

Trustee Reggie Miller said the township has a lot of senior events and they have to watch out for fire code violations. She said they had talked about a big screen or window so parents could watch their children in the class.

Supervisor McNamara said it was a window they wanted.

"I'd like to know the figure of how many students there are," said Trustee Miller later in the meeting and Supervisor McNamara said he would get Recreation Department

Director Jennifer Wright to get the figures.

At the end of the meeting, the *Independent* asked how the township chose this private business to help when other dance studios in the community have to invest in their own studio upgrades.

It was explained this was started long ago by former Recreation Director Bruce Ross.

Director Wright said the dance studio gives a percentage of its profits to the township each year.

Canton Lions Club sets Euchre Tournament

The Canton Lions Club Foundation Annual Euchre Tournament Charity Fund Raiser will be held at 7 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 23, at the Plymouth Elks Club, 41700 Ann Arbor Rd.

Participants are asked to pre-register by Feb. 22, so they can have enough food. Entrance fee is \$20 cash or check at the door.

Cash awards to the top three players.

Complimentary Sloppy Joes and Chips. Cash bar. Raffle baskets and 50/50 raffle.

Submit all players names and emails to: MiCantonLionsEuchre@gmail.com or call (734) 844-3949 voicemail.

All proceeds will be donated to the many charities supported by the foundation.



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VBT Plan

(continued from page 1)

but did have an interest in senior housing.

Currently the minimum lot size for RM zoning is 10 acres and minimum lot width 400 feet. The maximum density is 10 units per acre for attached single-family, 15 units per acre for apartment houses, and up to 40 units per acre for multiple-family high rise.

This makes it difficult to develop smaller multi-family developments because a

multi-family residential developer will likely maximize the density if the minimum lot area is 10 acres and the minimum lot width is 400 feet, Sloan said.

Thompson asked Akers what RM zoning is on the VBT map right now. She pointed out that they were meeting in the Otisville-Sheldon Room at township hall and couldn't look at the map on the wall of the township board meeting room because of renovations taking place there.

Akers said there were 40 acres off Tyler

Road by Hickory Woods, a small parcel by Parkridge, and several on the I-94 South Service Drive, one near Harbour Club.

Sloan said the township could do bi-plexes and tri-plexes, allowing less than large multi-family developments. He said he recommends the township consider a sliding scale that allows for smaller lot areas and lot widths.

Sloan also is a planning consultant for Garden City and Lyon Township who have had a recent demand for multi-family housing and he presented a chart showing the details of the multiple-family residential zoning rules for the two communities.

Commissioner Jeff Jahr said VBT doesn't want to align itself with other communities, but wants to have something individual.

Commission vice chairman Donald Boynton agreed and suggested a tiered system be set up, looking at density, green space, and amenities. He said Romulus used a one-and-a-half city block for seniors.

Rather than looking at changing the multiple zoning rules, chairperson Thompson suggested just focusing on senior housing.

Sloan said there are two in Lyon Township, which is one of the fastest-growing townships in Southeast Michigan. One is for active living and the other for assisted living.

The *Independent* said at a recent work/study session the township board had discussed how SEMCOG has estimated large growth of the senior population in the coming years and how the birth rate is down, but the township is building a splash pad for children.

Commissioner Atchinson said maybe they can make it so the seniors can stay in the community and be able to take their grandchildren to the splash pad.

"You are hearing our comments," Thompson said to Sloan and Akers. "We'll need your direction."

"We'll come up with options and discuss this again," Akers said.

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Paczki Day is coming up on Tuesday, March 5, and the folks over at the Bake Shoppe on Savage Road at Bemis are getting ready with their European-style recipe in flavors including apple, apricot, blueberry, custard, lemon, prune, raspberry, and strawberry. They're \$1.75 each, \$10.50 for a half-dozen, and \$20 for a dozen. They'll be available on Monday, March 4, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and then beginning at 5 a.m. on Fat Tuesday. Call (734) 699-2236 and see their ad in today's paper.

It's taco dinner night this Saturday at 6 p.m. at the Wayne County Fairgrounds on Quirk Road. The cost is \$12 per dinner and \$8 for children 8 and under. There will also be raffles for baskets and 50/50. Proceeds will go to the upkeep of the fairgrounds. Call (734) 697-7002.

The folks at Healthy Paws Veterinary Hospital on Belleville Road in the plaza behind Inspirations Salon, would like to let the public know that Dr. Tim Dobson, who retired from the now-closed Belleville Animal Hospital on Sumpter Road, is currently working at Healthy Paws. Call (734) 697-1400.

Spring sports are set to begin on March 11 at Belleville High School and there's still time for student athletes to join a team. Available sports include track & field, lacrosse, girl's tennis and golf, baseball, softball, and soccer. Visit the school district's website for the coaches contact info and the required forms at www.vanburen-schools.net.

The Belleville Area Women's Club is presenting its annual Spring Fashion Show on Tuesday, April 9, at Wayne Tree Manor on Van Born Road in Wayne. Tickets are \$40 per person at the door, \$35 if purchased through March 1. Cocktails will start the evening at 6 p.m., then dinner at 7 p.m., with the show itself at 8 p.m. Tickets are available from any BAWC member or by

calling Delaney Provencher, chairperson, at (734) 625-0919. Proceeds benefit the club's community and educational fund.

The half-off-everything-in-the-store sale continues at Threads & Treasures Quilt Shop, 129 South St., near 5 Points in Belleville. Items include fabrics, books, patterns, quilts, fixtures, shelving, and much more. Call (734) 697-9376.

Belleville High School is hosting the 2019 Graduation & Prom Expo this Saturday, Feb. 23, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at BHS. Vendors and exhibitors include caterers, florists, bakeries, tent and party rentals, decorators, DJs, prom dresses, make-up artists, and a whole lot more. Admission is free and open to everyone. There will also be door prizes and giveaways. Proceeds will benefit the BHS Class of 2019 Senior Party. Call (734) 697-9133 or Andrea Rainey at (313) 622-7601. See their ad in today's paper.

Paczki will also be available on Paczki Day, March 5, beginning at 6 a.m. at Keller's Farm Bakery at 23888 Haggerty Rd., between Judd and Wear roads. The cost is \$14 per dozen, with choices of strawberry, lemon, raspberry, and custard. Orders may also be placed for pick up on Monday, March 4, from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. Call (734) 753-4360. Walk-ins are also welcome.

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

Belleville Chorus hosts Baked Potato Dinner

The Belleville Community Chorus invites everyone to enjoy its 6th-annual Baked Potato Dinner on Saturday, Feb. 23, at Open Arms Lutheran Church, 7865 Belleville Road.

This popular, inexpensive, delicious meal is served from 4 to 7 p.m. For a minimum donation of \$7, the meal includes a large baked potato with a choice of favorite toppings, plus a beverage and dessert.

Tickets for the fund raiser may be obtained from any Belleville Community Chorus member prior to the event or at the door. For more information, call (734) 697-1763 or (734) 740-4165.

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VBT Clerk's Office passes Wayne County Election Audit with 'Perfect' score

On Jan. 29, the Van Buren Township Clerk's Office participated in an audit of the Nov. 6, 2018 General Election.

After every election, the State of Michigan randomly selects individual precincts in each county to be audited. The audits are performed by the county in which the municipality resides, which is the Wayne County Elections Division for Van Buren Township. The township's Precinct #4, located in the Township Hall gymnasium, was one of the precincts selected to be audited.

During the audit, ballots are hand counted with specific contests tallied to insure mistake-free results from the election equipment. The procedures that the Clerk's Office staff performed before, during, and after the election are also evaluated for accuracy and compliance.

The VBT Clerk's Office is proud to report that the County's remarks on the evaluation

were that the audit was "perfect" and "Election Inspectors and Election staff did an excellent job." The remarks praised the township on how well the election staff executed the election.

Clerk Leon Wright said he, "would like to thank the office staff, the hard-working election workers from all 10 precincts, and the dedicated voters who all made this past November election a success."

Chelsea Edwards named to U. of Alabama Dean's List

TUSCALOOSA, AL -- Chelsea Marie Edwards of Belleville was named to the University of Alabama Dean's List for fall 2018.

A total of 12,332 students enrolled during the 2018 fall term at UA were named to the Dean's List with an academic record of 3.5 or above on the President's List with an academic record of 4.0 (all A's).

Notice for Seniors

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Things to do in the Belleville area...

• **Thursday, Feb. 21** – GriefShare meetings will take place on Thursdays from 6 to 8 p.m. at the 5 Points Church in Romulus at 37300 Goddard and Huron River Drive beginning today and running through May 16. Registration is \$15. For information, call (734) 941-1511.

• **Friday, Feb. 22** – Sumpter Senior Center's annual Black History Month Celebration begins at 1 p.m. at the Community Center Gym, 23501 Sumpter Rd. Admission is \$5 per person. It's pot luck, so bring your favorite down-home, pot-licking, finger-licking dish.

• **Friday, Feb. 22** – You're invited to come play Bingo from 12:30 to 2 p.m. every Friday at the September Days Senior Center, 46425 Tyler Rd. Bring pennies.

• **Saturday, Feb. 23** – Girl Scouts are selling their cookies every Saturday through April 6 in front of Walmart.

• **Saturday, Feb. 23** – Come one, come all to the Baked Potato Dinner from 4 to 7 p.m. at Open Arms Lutheran Church, 7865 Belleville Rd., a fund raiser for Belleville Community Chorus. Minimum \$7 donation. Information: (734) 697-1763 or (734) 740-4165.

• **Saturday, Feb. 23** – Wayne County Fair Association presents a Taco Dinner at 6 p.m. at the fairgrounds, 10871 Quirk Rd., to earn money for upkeep of the fairgrounds. Adult dinners are \$12 each and for kids eight and under dinners are \$8 each. There will be a 50/50 raffle and basket raffle.

• **Sunday, Feb. 24** – Free Dental, Vision and Hearing Clinic, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., at Edgemont Elementary School Gym, 125 Edgemont St., Belleville. Michigan-licensed professionals will offer free, mobile dental services including cleanings, fillings and extractions as well as eye exams and glasses. (If you choose to have glasses made, you may select from our frames for a \$10 fee.) All services are free of charge and on a first-come, first-serve basis. All are welcome. Sponsored by Seventh-day Adventist Church.

• **Sunday, Feb. 24** – Free, live music at the September Days Senior Center, 2-5

p.m. Today it's Tommy New River Band. For information, call Jimmy Baleja, (734) 223-4824 or Lynette Jordan (734) 699-8918.

• **Wednesday, Feb. 27** – Community Sing at the Belleville Area District Library at 7 p.m. with WDET's Matt Watroba. All skill levels invited. Community Singing is not performing! Another Community Sing set for April 24. Information: (734) 699-3291.

• **Thursday, Feb. 28** – The Southwestern Wayne (County) Democratic Club invites you to its monthly meeting at 7 p.m. in the dining hall of the Wayne County Fairgrounds, 10871 Quirk Rd., Van Buren Township. All are welcome.

• **Friday, March 1** – You're invited to come play Bingo from 12:30 to 2 p.m. every Friday at the September Days Senior Center, 46425 Tyler Rd. Bring pennies.

• **Saturday, March 2** – Girl Scouts are selling their cookies every Saturday through April 6 in front of Walmart.

• **Saturday, March 2** – Country Breakfast, all welcome, 8-11 a.m., Belleville Freewill Baptist Church, 750 E. Huron River Dr. Donations appreciated. Biscuits & gravy, bacon, sausage, ham, bologna, fried potatoes, eggs and fried apples.

• **Sunday, March 3** – Free, live music at the September Days Senior Center, 2-5 p.m. Today it's Albert Munis Band. For information, call Jimmy Baleja, (734) 223-4824 or Lynette Jordan (734) 699-8918.

• **Sunday, March 3** – Bugles Across America at 7:15 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial in Horizon Park in Belleville. A brief ceremony honors those with past and present military service. The playing of "Taps" is always a part of the ceremony.

Upcoming Meetings

• Monday, Feb. 25 – Belleville Parks & Recreation Commission, 4 p.m. Also, Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m.

• Tuesday, Feb. 26 – Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority, 5:30 p.m. Also, VBT Water and Sewer Commission, 6:30 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township workshop at 6 p.m. and regular meeting at 6:30 p.m.

• Wednesday, Feb. 27 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m.

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Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Charter Township of Van Buren Board of Zoning Appeals will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, March 12, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.**, at the Van Buren Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, MI 48111 to consider the following variance requests:

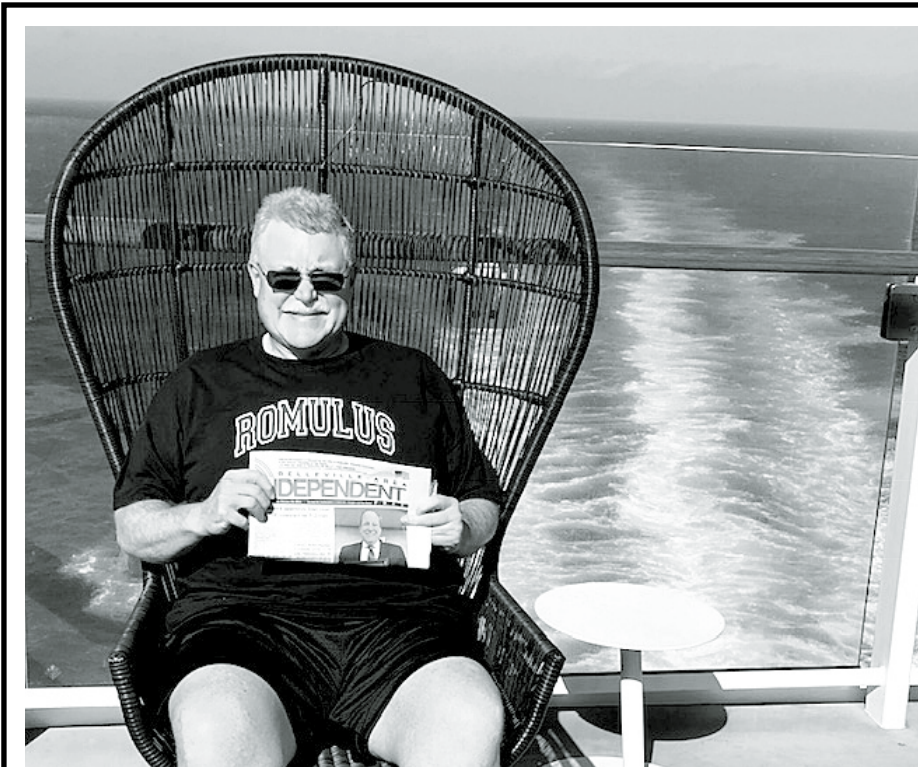
1. **Case # 19-001-** A request by Julian Beglin, 9000 Haggerty (Parcel ID# 83-044-99-0005-701), for a variance to exceed the maximum allowable height of a wall on the property.
2. **Case # 19-002-** A request by Lawrence Zelanka, 13125 Ormond Drive (Parcel ID# 83-080-01-0059-000), for a variance from the minimum width across the front and rear elevation of a single-family dwelling.

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

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

Published: 2/21/2019

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



They're reading the Independent everywhere

Jeff and Sue Kotlarek of Romulus were on the Celebrity Edge Eastern Caribbean cruise recently. Jeff reads his Independent.

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

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

VBT buys two Ford Explorers for Public Safety Administration

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

The Van Buren Township Board of Trustees approved the purchase of two, 2019 Ford Explorers for the use of Public Safety Director Greg Laurain and Police Chief Jason Wright. Cost is \$33,695.56 each.

The unanimous vote on the \$67,391.12 total purchase from Atchinson Ford was at the regular Feb. 5 meeting of the board.

Director Laurain said the two vehicles replace a 2007 Ford Expedition with 138,000 miles on it and a 2010 Ford Taurus with over \$90,000 miles.

Laurain said the purchase had been discussed in the budget talks last fall and put into the budget.

In other business at the one-hour-and-25-minute meeting, the board:

- Approved a resolution to proceed with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation's (MDEC) Redevelopment Ready Communities program. The township's baseline report has been received and the resolution is necessary to move forward on the project, which is without charge to the township. The RRC program can lead to grants and free consultation services;

- Approved the state-required Planning Commission Annual Report for 2018;

- Approved the Stormwater Maintenance Agreements with PI Tower Development, L.L.C. (Verizon), at the corner of Ecorse and Morton Taylor roads; with Menard, Inc., at 10010 Belleville Rd.; and with the VBT Downtown Development Authority at 10151 Belleville Rd., for its Placemaking Project;

- Heard a presentation on the Water and Sewer Department's SAW grant of \$777,000 with a 10% match. Township crews currently are recording the conditions of all the 2,538 sanitary system manholes on the GIS data base. Pipes older than 20 years are being televised. The SAW (Stormwater, Asset Management, and Wastewater) grant from the Michigan

Department of Environmental Quality is just for the study of the infrastructure so the township can set up a 20-year plan on procedures to take care of the most pressing problems first;

- Approved the supervisor's appointment of John Haase to the Board of Zoning Appeals with a term to expire Dec. 1, 2020; and approved the appointment of Carmen Stovall as an alternate to the BZA with a term to expire Dec. 1, 2019;

- Approved the supervisor's reappointments of Charles Coleman, Kimberly Nofz, Tammy Wall, Daniel Belanger, Todd O'Neill, and Denise Willoughby to the Recreation Committee with terms to expire Feb. 1, 2020;

- Heard Fire Marshal Dave McNally say he is on the board of the State of Michigan Community Risk Reduction Task Force, which was awarded a \$500,000 grant for smoke alarms and carbon dioxide detectors to be installed in Michigan communities free of charge to residents. McNally said the VBT Fire Department is going to first target those at the highest risk, such as seniors, with the township's allotted detectors. His goal is to receive enough funding to make sure every home in VBT has smoke alarms and carbon dioxide detectors no older than 10 years within the next three years;

- Heard letters from people praising VBT police officers for helping them. Officer Ryan Bidwell was praised for the way he helped a family after the father passed away and Officer Ryan Barry was praised for the concerned way he helped people in a traffic crash; and

- Heard Clerk Wright announce that governmental cable channel 12 will go off the air from Feb. 7 to March 1 as the cable department and township board meeting room are upgraded. No board or planning commission meetings will be cablecast during this time. Meetings will take place in the Sheldon Room across the hall from the township board meeting room.



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Sumpter Township board gives finance director \$5,000 raise

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

A proposal to extend Finance Director Scott Holtz's contract for two years and give him a \$5,000 raise each of those two years was considered by the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees at its regular meeting Feb. 12.

After extensive discussion, the board approved, on a 5-2 vote, giving Holtz a \$5,000 raise as of October 2019 and a standard raise for the second year of the contract which will end in November 2020 when a new board is elected.

He was hired in October 2017.

The township policy is to have all appointed positions end with each regular election so the new board can make appointments and not be saddled with appointments from a previous board.

Voting against the motion were Treasurer Ken Bednark and Trustee Tim Rush. Holtz was not present at the meeting.

Treasurer Bednark had asked the board to table any raise until after the upcoming budget meetings, so the budget can be scrutinized before spending any more money. He said the township has upcoming big expenditures that have to be considered.

Also, he had there are overlap duties between his office and Holtz.

"I can't attest personally if he is good, bad, or indifferent," Bendark said. He said he noted the number of 215 hours taken off over a 12-month period, which is almost six weeks worth of time.

He said the treasurer's office has an annual current budget of just \$133,000.

Bednark said Holtz was hired at a salary of \$60,000 and with a \$5,000 raise for the first year, it would grow to \$65,000 and with the proposed \$5,000 for the second year, that would put him at \$70,000.

This would give Holtz an 8.5% annual raise. Bednark said his deputy treasurer, with similar duties to Holtz, makes \$25.08 per hour.

"It's unheard of to ask for a \$5,000 raise in one year," he said.

Bednark said in preparation for the budget session, each department has been asked for a "pro-forma" projection of future costs for the next 24 months.

"We are having escalating costs and declining revenue," Bednark said. "It is poorly timed asking for a raise right now."

Clerk Esther Hurst said the \$5,000 raise doesn't come into play until October, after the budget hearings.

"I believe he deserves it," she said.

"I don't have any problems with Scott, but I'm very disturbed about upcoming needs," Trustee Tim Rush said.

He said there are major repairs needed on the main fire station, the water department needs work on its system, and other expenditures coming up.

"We could go through half of what's in

(continued on page 17)

INDEPENDENT CLASSIFIED ADS

AUCTION

PUBLIC AUCTION
U-Lock-It Self Storage LLC
6130 Rawsonville Rd.,
Belleville, MI 48111
(734)-482-1502

Notice is hereby given that on 2/28/19 at 12:00 P.M. thru 3/6/19 at 12:00 P.M. contents of the following storage unit(s) will be sold on line at:

Bid13.com

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Publish: February 14, 2019
February 21, 2019

ESTATE SALE

MARCH 1 & 2, 9am-5pm.
14080 Lenmoore, Belleville. Furniture, 2-large oak entertainment centers, bedroom sets, power tools, some antiques, china, antique glassware. 02/28

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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.

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INDEPENDENT CLASSIFIED ADS

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Duratech Systems in Redford is in need of any experienced Rubber Liner/Coating Specialist. If you have experience rubber lining or applying coatings of any kind for chemical resistance, please contact our office. Starting pay is negotiable with experience. Must have a drivers license, be willing to travel and pass a drug test. You may contact Norma by email or the phone 313-937-3300 or norma@duratechsys.com

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

HOME HEALTH AIDES. Openings in Belleville & surrounding area. Call Golden Home & apply 9am-1pm. (734) 697-0888 04/11

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"Gravitation is not responsible for people falling in love. "
- Albert Einstein

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HELP WANTED

Sumpter Twp.

(continued from page 16)

our budget," he said, asking why it would hurt to wait another couple of months to consider the October raise.

Supervisor John Morgan said that Holtz earned the time, but Bednark said he hasn't seen the original contract to know how much vacation and sick time he has coming.

"He gets over six weeks," said Supervisor Morgan, who recommended the raise and put the item on the township board agenda. He said a performance review was held in November by him, Clerk Hurst, and Human Resources Coordinator Michelle Bellingham.

Trustee Don LaPorte said he couldn't believe the township got Holtz for the cost it did and there is zero discipline in his record, showing he was not disciplined for violating any rules. Trustee LaPorte said he gives accurate reports and he spells things out so they can understand the reports.

"I agree with Mr. LaPorte," said Trustee Matt Oddy. "He was a deal at \$60,000. The last one was \$106,000 when he left. He's \$16,000 below other finance directors in the area. We don't want to lose the guy."

Resident Jay Bardell said this is an 8% raise and the police department does an excellent job and they get 1%. He pointed out Holtz has been at Sumpter Township just a year and a half.

"We don't need a speech," Supervisor Morgan snapped, cutting off Bardell's remarks.

Resident Adrian Slaughter said the previous director was at Sumpter for 10 years and started at \$40,000. Holtz started out at \$20,000 more than that.

"You're supposed to have some parameters," Slaughter said.

"There was ten years difference. I want

to make sure you understand," Supervisor Morgan said.

Slaughter replied she's having a hard time putting it together that you get six weeks vacation and sick time after one-and-a-half years. She said, however, everyone deserves a yearly raise or bonus.

Trustee Oddy said the reason the part-time person for the treasurer's office was discussed was because they wanted to make sure the township allocated the funds already scheduled for a part-time person.

Slaughter said to Oddy, "You are the one. Every time I say something, you are the only one who ever says something."

Bednark pointed out that he is the treasurer of the township and wants to be fiscally responsible and careful with spending township money.

"I do not want to saddle the new board with tentacles of this board," Bednark said. "There are much, much bigger issues here. When you start hearing what is happening you'll understand why I as treasurer am so frugal."

In a written report to the board, Holtz indicated the raise was not in the budget, but will be budgeted for future years, if approved.

In other business at the Feb. 13 meeting, the board:

- Approved having Christopher Brinkmeier of Royal Oak as back-up building inspector. Supervisor Morgan said the regular building inspector is going to be off for a while and this one will work the same schedule. He is highly qualified, Supervisor Morgan said;

- Approved the first amendment to the Sumpter Township Solid Waste Collection Agreement. Young reported it is two years with no increase to the \$2.04 per unit per month present fee and ten years with an increase of 2.9% per year, for a 12-year agreement;

- Approved creating a hiring committee for the half-time position in the Treasurer's Office, made up of Treasurer Bednark, Human Resources Coordinator Michelle Bellingham, Finance Director Scott Holtz, Clerk Esther Hurst, and clerk Anna Winter, who as a union member would have no vote;

- Approved the Guardian Alarm monitoring agreement for the township hall at a cost of \$117 per month, as recommended by Trustee Rush. "This will be a state of the art, digital system," Rush said;

- Approved formation of a committee for recommendations to the board for implementation of the new audio/visual system in the board room. Trustee Rush is chairman, serving with Public Safety Director Eric Luke and Karen Woodington from the supervisor's office;

- Heard Public Safety Director Luke say he attended a meeting of the consortium for the police department CAD system his department uses, it is SEMIA with an OSSI system. He said it originally had 13 members which has fallen to eight members. There has to be an increase in fees to cover the costs, for the members left.

(continued on page 18)

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.



Sumpter Twp.

(continued from page 17)

He said Central Square bought the OSSI system which will force Sumpter to pay \$10,000 to \$20,000 for maintenance and a share of \$100,000 for cost. The township needs to go with the CLEMIS system which started 40 years ago. Romulus pulled out of OSSI and Huron Township is looking at doing the same. Since, Huron Township does dispatch for Sumpter, Sumpter will be forced to join on their tail, Director Luke said. All departments at 34th District Court will be in CLEMIS. The cost will still be a lot, he said, \$88,000 compared to \$30,000, and there are costs for changing -- \$5,000-\$6,000 to get the information out and \$5,000 to \$10,000 to put it into CLEMIS. The brunt of the cost will be paid by Huron Township because they have the 911 system. LaPorte asked if forfeiture funds can be used and Director Luke said they haven't historically, but he will check into it;

• Heard Trustee Rush ask about the fatal accident of a Canadian truck driver on top of Carleton Farms landfill. Director Luke said now that citizens are allowed to go to the top of the hill it's an accident waiting to happen. He said when a worker with experience can be killed, what chance does an average Joe have? Wearing a hardhat wouldn't save you when you get run over by a truck, he said. Bednark asked why the dump can't set up a station at the gate to

stop residents from going to the top of the dump. Township attorney Rob Young said he had a conversation with the dump that has a temporary operator now. In a couple

of weeks they will have their new guy in place and, "We will sit down and address this," Young said;

• Heard Fire Chief Joe Januszyk report

that three new fire fighters passed their tests. And, another sprinkler line froze at the fire station and Belfor has to come out

(continued on page 19)

Van Buren Public Schools Public Notice

VAN BUREN PUBLIC SCHOOLS ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID

Van Buren Public Schools will receive sealed bid proposals until **2:00 p.m. EST on March 6, 2019**, for the Media Center Renovation Project at Owen Intermediate and McBride Middle Schools. Bids will be opened and publicly read aloud immediately following the deadline for submission. Van Buren Public Schools will not consider or accept a bid received after the date and time specified for the bid submission.

A non-mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at Owen Intermediate School Main Entrance, 45201 Owen Street, Belleville, Michigan 48111, on **February 20, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. EST**.

All bids must be addressed to: Van Buren Public Schools, 555 W. Columbia Ave., Belleville, Michigan 48111. Attention: James Williams, Director of Buildings and Grounds.

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

Bid documents may be viewed and downloaded at:

<https://app.e-builder.net/public/publicLanding.aspx?QS=542282812a5447a0bdc526c7734af35b>

Documents will be available for viewing on **February 13, 2019**. Any questions, contact Rob Kakoczki at Plante Moran Cresa at rob.kakoczki@plantemoran.com.

Publish: February 21, 2019; February 28, 2019

"You have to be odd to be number one."
— Dr. Seuss

City of Belleville Public Notice

POLICE VEHICLE AUCTION

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN BY THE UNDERSIGNED THAT ON **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2019 at 11:30 A.M.** at Great Lakes Towing, 42350 Van Born Road, Belleville, County of Wayne, Michigan, a public sale of the following vehicle will be held:

2009 KAWASAKI, MOTOR CYCLE, VIN: JKAEXVD169A114071

**DATE: FEBRUARY 18, 2019 BELLEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT
6 MAIN STREET**

PUBLISH: FEBRUARY 21, 2019 BELLEVILLE, MICHIGAN 48111

BY SHERRI SCHARF, CITY CLERK

City of Belleville Public Notice

POLICE VEHICLE AUCTION

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN BY THE UNDERSIGNED THAT ON **FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 2019 at 10:30 A.M.** at J&T Towing, 287 Industrial Park Drive, Belleville, County of Wayne, Michigan, a public sale of the following vehicle will be held:

2007 CHEVROLET, FOUR DOOR, VIN: 1G1AM58B477307774

**DATE: FEBRUARY 19, 2019 BELLEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT
6 MAIN STREET**

PUBLISH: FEBRUARY 21, 2019 BELLEVILLE, MICHIGAN 48111

BY SHERRI SCHARF, CITY CLERK



Sumpter Township Public Notice



SUMPTER TOWNSHIP 2019 MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW

NOTICE TO THE TAXPAYERS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF SUMPTER TOWNSHIP.

THE SUMPTER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF REVIEW WILL MEETING AT THE SUMPTER TOWNSHIP HALL, 23480 SUMPTER ROAD, BELLEVILLE, MI 48111 ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:

Tuesday, March 5, 2019 4:30 PM Organizational Meeting

Monday, March 11, 2019 1:00 PM - 9:00 PM Appointments

Wednesday, March 13, 2019 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM Appointments

All hearings are by appointment only and must be accompanied by a petition form. Please call one of the numbers below for an appointment. Petitions are available at the Sumpter Township Supervisors Office or download a petition for at www.michigan.gov/treasury: click on forms: type in form number L-4035.

Written appeals are accepted as well and must be accompanied by a petition form and received in the assessing department by Wednesday, March 13, 2019 at 4:00 pm. No postmarks are accepted. Mail petitions to: Sumpter Township Board of Review 23480 Sumpter Road, Belleville, MI 48111.

Hardship/poverty exemptions are accepted as well. Please call the assessing department for more information on this exemption.

Any questions regarding the Board of Review, contact the Supervisor's Office at (734) 461-6201 ext. 2229, or the Assessing Department, Tuesdays & Thursday at (734) 461-6201 ext. 2236.

Esther Hurst
Clerk

Posted: February 14, 2019

Publish: February 21st, February 28th, March 7th

Sumpter Twp.

(continued from page 18)

and clear out the wet insulation;

• Learned taxes will be collected at the township Treasurer's Office through Feb. 28 and then tax payers have to travel down to the county to pay. Treasurer Bednark said he would like to know the whys of the numbers at the landfill, with payments to the township declining for three years. [According to township records the landfill royalty fund receipts for fiscal year 2019 show a decrease of \$235,671.38.] He wondered if they were diverting trash to other landfills to cut the amount paid

Sumpter. Recycling would cut the amount, too, he said. Young said a lot of Canadian trash no longer comes to the landfill and "recycling is not something cost-effective." Redirection of the waste is possible, Young said. Bednark said he would like to see a landfill representative come to a township meeting to discuss this and Young said sometime it's the economy. "This township is like a one-company town," Bednark said. He said the landfill is the "mother's milk of the community" and Young added, or, "the narcotic...";

• Heard Supervisor Morgan say he wanted to change the official hiring date of Brad Wheelock for seniority purposes and the board approved that move;

• Also heard Supervisor Morgan say Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy came to meet with officials and her concerns are in a flyer in the back of the meeting room;

• Also heard Supervisor Morgan name himself as liaison to the Water/Sewer Department so he could work with Young on the 12th lawsuit filed by Sheldon Futernick, owner of Holiday West and Holiday Woods mobile home parks;

• Was informed that the New Boston bridge was expected to be completed in June;

• Heard Trustee Don Swinson announce that the Parks and Recreation Commission held a special meeting on Feb. 6 and after an hour of discussion voted it cannot donate anything to the Missoula Children's Theatre, originally scheduled to take place in the Sumpter Community Center gymnasium in May. He said the

commission said the funds it has already earmarked for what's in its budget;

• Heard Trustee LaPorte report that all the drains at the fire station have been eroding for 20 years and there is a serious trip hazard. He said the fire hall holds one of the township's largest voting precincts, Pcts. 4 and 6. Director Luke said he went to Southgate, which had a similar problem, and will make a slideshow to show the board. "It is a hazard. Drains have eroded," Luke said. LaPorte said it will take a substantial amount of money to repair;

• Heard Clerk Hurst announce that the Huron School District will have a May election and she is looking for election workers;

• Heard former Treasurer Peggy Morgan tell of her problems with getting her retirement pay. She said it is a problem for all the employees;

(continued on page 20)

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

VAN BUREN CHARTER TOWNSHIP 2019 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 5th, Tuesday
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
(Organizational Meeting)

No Appeals Heard at this Meeting

March 11th, Monday
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

March 13th, Wednesday
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

March 14th, Thursday
5:00 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 13, 2019.

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 12, 2019.

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 21, 2019
Thursday, February 28, 2019
Thursday, March 7, 2019

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

POLICE VEHICLE AUCTION

On February 27th, 2019, the Van Buren Township Police Department will conduct a public auction of impounded and abandoned vehicles. The auction will begin at 10:30am, at **J&T Towing** and Storage, 287 Industrial Dr. Belleville MI, County of Wayne, where the following will be offered for sale to the highest bidder.

2012	HONDA	4D	1HGCP2F69CA09494931	18-22808
1999	FORD	PU	1FTYR14V2XPA22104	18-21636
2000	FORD	SW	1FMPU16L3YLA25233	18-23087
2005	CADILLAC	SW	3GYFK66N05G193094	19-0231
2004	GMC	SW	1GKDT13S342216712	19-0536
1996	FORD	4D	2FALP74W5TX191829	19-0537

At 11:30am, the auction will move to **Great Lakes Towing** and storage, 42350 Van Born Rd. Belleville MI, County of Wayne, where the following vehicles, will be offered for sale to the highest bidder.

2007	DODGE	SW	1D8GU58K37W614670	18-23168
2001	FORD	SW	1FMYU011X1KA26413	19-0033
2004	GMC	SW	1GKFK66U64J191753	19-0099
2009	CHRYSLER	SW	2A8HR54139R633712	19-0587
2008	FORD	SW	1FMCU93178KA05525	19-0587
2003	DODGE	4D	1B3ES56C73D213038	19-0587
2000	FORD	PU	1FTR14V5YTA83486	19-0587
1999	FORD	PU	1FTRX17W2XNB80386	19-0587
2002	JEEP	SW	1J4GW48S52C313504	19-0587
2005	DODGE	4D	1B3EL46X45N506595	19-0587
2008	CHRYSLER	4D	2C3KA53G98H304080	19-0587
2014	CHRYSLER	4D	1C3CCBBG0EN192691	19-0587
2014	RAM	PU	2C4RRGAG4ER384363	19-0587
2008	CADILLAC	4D	1G6DF577280149251	19-1104
1998	STOUGHTON	TR	1DW1C532XWE239423	19-1562
2007	PONTIAC	DR	2CKDL63F476067996	18-21234

All vehicles are sold in "as is condition." Bidding on all impounded vehicles will start at the amount due for towing and storage. Vehicles may be deleted from this list at any time prior to the start of the auction.

Leon Wright, CMC, Van Buren Township Clerk,
Published: Feb. 21st, 2019

Sheldon Futernick sues Sumpter Twp. for over billings on water, sewer

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

Sheldon Futernick, owner of two mobile home parks in Sumpter Township -- Holiday West at 50333 Willis Rd. and Holiday Woods at 20749 Martinsville Rd. -- has filed suit against Sumpter saying the township is overbilling his parks for sewer and water service.

The complaint was filed Feb. 4 in Wayne County Circuit Court and was assigned to Judge Leslie Kim Smith as case number 19-001611-CZ. The amount sought exceeds \$25,000.

Sumpter has 21 days to respond.

Futernick's attorney is Stephen T. McKenney of the lawfirm of Neuman Anderson Grieco & McKenney of Birmingham.

According to the complaint, Sumpter maintains the "publicly owned treatment works" which operate the water and sewer systems servicing the township. The township is served by YCUA (Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority) for its sewer service and is granted authority by

township ordinance to manage, install, and maintain the wastewater system.

Sumpter Township is directly charged by YCUA for the services that it provides to the township and the fees charged by YCUA to the township are significantly less than the township charges Holiday West and Holiday Woods for sewer services, the complaint states.

Sumpter ordinance requires all properties connect to the public sewer that are within

200 feet of a township sewer line. However, while Sumpter has enforced this ordinance against Holiday West and Holiday Woods, the township has not enforced this ordinance against other similarly situated mobile home parks in the township, the complaint states.

On Feb. 13, 2018, Sumpter passed Resolution 2018-6 which increased water and sewer rates and capital benefit charges and allowed the township board to

unilaterally require a separate sewer flow meter be installed for any mobile home park, commercial, or industrial user for customer billing.

Sumpter required Holiday West to have a separate sewage flow meter that purports to measure the water and sewer usage by Holiday West. Holiday Woods, however, has only a water meter on its property, the complaint said.

(continued on page 21)

Charter Township of Van Buren Downtown Development Authority Public Notice



Charter Township of Van Buren

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Request for price quotes

DDA Ground Maintenance at Belleville and Ecorse Roads

Proposal Due Date: Time: 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 14, 2019

Project: The Charter Township of Van Buren Downtown Development Authority (DDA) is accepting quotes for the Belleville and Ecorse Intersection Landscape Yearly Maintenance for:

2019 and 2020 with an option to renew in 2021

Commencement Date: Approximately May, 2019 as agreed upon by the DDA and landscaper

Specifications are attached or the proposal may be downloaded from the Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority website: www.vanburenDDA.com. Or a proposal may be obtained at the Downtown Development Authority Offices, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, Michigan 48111 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Submittal: Please submit quotes by e-mail to sireland-dda@vanburen-mi.org or mail/deliver to the Van Buren Township DDA, 48425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, MI 48111 no later than 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time on March 14, 2019.

Quote Review: Quotes will be reviewed at the Regular DDA meeting on Tuesday, March 26, 2019 during the regular meeting @ 5:30 p.m. The DDA reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids and to waive irregularities that are in the best interest of the DDA.

For additional contact: Susan Ireland, Van Buren Township DDA at 734-699-8941 or by e-mail @ sireland-dda@vanburen-mi.org.

Publish: February 21, 2019

business pure and simple

46425 Tyler Road
Van Buren Township, MI 48111
734.699.8941
734.699.8958
VanBurenDDA.com

Sumpter Twp.

(continued from page 19)

- Heard Adrian Slaughter say a friend of hers in Grand Rapids told her about the backhoe stolen off Clerk Hurst's property in November. "I was totally shocked," she said. "That's the type of information this community needs to know about. Thieves stealing our equipment? We need to know." She said people could be on the lookout for the missing items. Hurst said she filed a police report. Slaughter also noted the cable station still is not up. Trustee Rush said he took over responsibility for the AV and that evening's meeting is being recorded and will be shown three times the next day. Slaughter said they used to have announcements on cable. The cable channel has been down for over a year;

- Heard former Trustee Sheena Barnes ask if the township will be getting its \$62,000 worth for the cable upgrade. "That's a lot of money," Barnes said, noting they paid \$32,000 to put it into the supervisor's office. (Actually, the equipment has been moved to another location.) "My cellphone does more for me than \$62,000 ... It's taxpayers' money ... It's sad we can spend it on the board, not residents ... If it's not printed in the paper -- and we almost got rid of it -- we don't know what they're doing";

- Heard Trustee Rush say the equipment purchased by the township is a mini television station. "Eventually, we'll get it right";

- Heard a resident say he is helping to form the route for the June 3 Ride for a Reason. He said he expects 2,000 motorcycles to come through Sumpter for the charity ride; and

- Went into closed-door session to discuss pending litigation -- the pending Futernick case.

Futernick sues

(continued from page 20)

The meter installed by the township on the Holiday West property is unusual in that it is an outflow meter that is designed to solely measure the outflow of liquid and not its inflow, the complaint said. So, the meter only measures the water leaving Holiday West.

The property on which Holiday West sits is more than 200 acres and measuring all outbound water flow from such a large

property does not accurately measure the water and sewer use of Holiday West, the complaint states.

The complaint states the sewer and water charges that Sumpter charged the two mobile home parks were inconsistent with the township's ordinances and resolutions setting fees for those services.

The complaint also states the township ordinances and resolutions setting sewer and water rates and classifications have the following attributes:

- They were designed to single out

Futernick's properties and treat them differently than all other properties in the township, including treating them differently than other mobile home parks;

- They were designed to raise general revenue for the township and not to recoup fees for specific services; and

- They raise significantly more in revenue for the township than the cost of the service, as applied to Futernick and his Holiday West and Holiday Woods properties.

The complaint states Sumpter charges Holiday West and Holiday Woods for more

water and sewer usage than either property actually uses.

Sumpter continues to overcharge these properties and to place those overcharges on property tax bills for the properties.

The complaint has three counts: Unjust Enrichment, Violation of Constitutional Right to Equal Protection, and Violation of the Headlee Amendment.

Sumpter Twp. resident appeals jury conviction on ordinance violation

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

Ronald Barrington Robinson, a Sumpter Township activist who ran unsuccessfully for trustee in 2016 and treasurer in 2018, is appealing a district court jury conviction of an ordinance violation, claiming, among other things, that the charge was political payback.

Robinson routinely speaks out at township board meetings, raising concerns about Sumpter's leadership. He is vitally concerned about the emergence of the KKK in Sumpter, according to his attorney's brief in support of the appeal.

The appeal is currently pending before Circuit Court Judge Vonda R. Evans and the Circuit Court issued an order staying the Oct. 12 sentencing order by 34th District Court Judge David Parrott.

The Circuit Court order was signed Dec. 3 by Judge Parrott, Sumpter Township attorney Robert P. Young, and Robinson's attorney Ronald Reese Ruark.

Robinson stipulated that he would not have any RVs of any type brought onto, or allowed, on his property at 27325 Martinsville Rd. in Sumpter Township, but all other parts of his sentencing are stayed until Circuit Court is done with the case.

Robinson currently stores his RV at Mitchell Storage at a cost of \$53 a month. He said for many years he had parked his RV at the rear of his almost four acres that holds his two horses, a large vegetable garden which he harvests for a soup kitchen to feed the homeless, and two flower gardens. There are five structures on the property, a chicken coop, a run-in for the horses, and three sheds.

He said he goes to the property every day to care for his horses and chickens.

His horses were poisoned during his first run for office and he still has a reward offered to find those responsible.

His neighbors to the north and south are separated by woods and in the summer you cannot see them, testimony said. Across the road is vacant land.

Robinson and his wife live elsewhere in Sumpter and testimony showed occasionally they would spend a weekend or an even longer period on their secluded country property, enjoying the wildlife.

Sometimes they take the RV on vacations to Cedar Pointe, Muskegon, and Ludington, as well as Mackinac Island, Mackinaw City, and Belle Isle.

(continued on page 23)

Charter Township of Van Buren Downtown Development Authority Public Notice



Charter Township of Van Buren

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Request for price quotes

DDA Streetscape along Belleville Road from the City of Belleville north to Tyler Road.

Proposal Due Date: Time: 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 14, 2019

Project: The Charter Township of Van Buren Downtown Development Authority (DDA) is accepting quotes for the Maintenance of the DDA Streetscape along Belleville Road from the City of Belleville north to Tyler Road for:

2019 and 2020 with an option to renew in 2021

Commencement Date: Approximately May, 2019 as agreed upon by the DDA and landscaper

Specifications are attached or the proposal may be downloaded from the Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority website: www.vanburenDDA.com. Or a proposal may be obtained at the Downtown Development Authority Offices, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, Michigan 48111 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Submittal: Please submit quotes by e-mail to sireland-dda@vanburen-mi.org or mail/deliver to the Van Buren Township DDA, 48425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, MI 48111 no later than 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time on March 14, 2019.

Quote Review: Quotes will be reviewed at the Regular DDA meeting on Tuesday, March 26, 2019 during the regular meeting @ 5:30 p.m. The DDA reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids and to waive irregularities that are in the best interest of the DDA.

For additional contact: Susan Ireland, Van Buren Township DDA at 734-699-8941 or by e-mail @ sireland-dda@vanburen-mi.org.

Publish: February 21, 2019

46425 Tyler Road
Van Buren Township, MI 48111
734.699.8941
734.699.8958
VanBurenDDA.com

business pure and simple

Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

Out of the 472 dispatch calls for service reported by Van Buren Township police for these past seven days, the following are selected for this column.

Sunday, Feb. 10:
0126 – suspicious person/vehicle, E. Huron River
0353 – domestic, Denton Rd.
0941 – disorderly, Ash Dr.
1042 – assault & battery, Bemis Rd.
1131 – disorderly, Van Buren St.
1147 – fraud, E. Sadie Ln.
1313 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd.
1441 – harassment call, Ayres Ave.
1604 – abandoned auto, Denton Rd.
1623 – suicidal person, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1651 – malicious destruction of property, Ironwood Dr.
1740 – suspicious person/vehicle, Hannan/I-275
2007 – property damage accident, Michigan Ave. / Denton Rd.
2114 – animal complaint, Country Ln.
2118 – suspicious person/vehicle, Wheeler St.
2127 – operating while intoxicated, Michigan Ave. / Denton Rd.
2320 – suspicious person/vehicle, Maple Dr.
Monday, Feb. 11:
0023 – noise complaint, Oak Ln.
0053 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.
0103 – mental subject, Rogers Ave.
0143 – domestic, Hull Rd.
0215 – domestic, Van Buren Ct.
0624 – domestic, S. Bellridge Dr.
0934 – disorderly, Belleville Rd.
1015 – holdup alarm, Belleville Rd.
1029 – vehicle impound, Hardwood/Empire Ct.
1205 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.
1227 – ordinance violation, Winding Pond Dr.
1446 – property damage accident, Ecorse/Denton
1449 – mental subject, Bentley Dr.
1616 – suspicious person/vehicle, E. I-94 / Belleville Rd.
1718 – sexual assault, Kirkridge Park Dr.
1815 – suspicious person/vehicle, Lake Point Blvd.
1813 – suspicious person/vehicle, Victoria St.
1817 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / N. I-94 Service Dr.
1851 – road hazard, Tyler Rd./Belleville Rd.
1926 – suspicious person/vehicle, N. Purple Sage Ct. / Sage Cir.
1932 – suspicious person/vehicle, N. Purple Sage Ct. / Sage Cir.
2153 – suspicious person/vehicle, Edison Lk.
2307 – property damage accident, Stratford Dr.
Tuesday, Feb. 12:
0053 – suspicious person/vehicle, Winchester St.
0807 – parking complaint, Belleville Rd.
0900 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1204 – larceny from auto, Denton Rd.
1231 – larceny from auto, Denton Rd.
1238 – property damage accident, I-94/rest area
1342 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.
1400 – property damage accident, Montague Ave.
1534 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1626 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1954 – fraud, Westlake Cir.
2103 – unauthorized driving away of auto, W. Archwood Dr.
2219 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.
2340 – K9 call out, Ecorse Rd.
Wednesday, Feb. 13:
0040 – domestic, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0130 – noise complaint, Parkwood
0320 – suspicious person/vehicle, Denton Rd. / Old Denton Rd.
0554 – property damage accident, Haggerty Rd.
0728 – suspicious person/vehicle, Riggs Rd.
0825 – suicidal person, Thornwood Dr.
0845 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / Ecorse Rd.
0913 – private property/property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1051 – personal injury accident, Rawsonville Rd. / Martz Rd.
1140 – suspicious person/vehicle, Ecorse/I-275
1202 – property damage accident, Ecorse Rd. / Visteon Way
1251 – threat, Oak Ln.
1257 – missing person, Denton Rd.
1315 – noise complaint, Parkwood Dr.

1354 – domestic, Westlake Cir.
1429 – animal complaint, Anna Dr.
1609 – parking complaint, Rawsonville Rd.
1658 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1706 – animal complaint, Hull Rd.
1828 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / N. I-94 Service Dr.
2025 – noise complaint, Martinsville Rd./Savage
Thursday, Feb. 14:
0146 – suspicious person/vehicle, N. I-94 Service
0504 – private property impound, J&T Towing
0906 – family trouble, McBride Ave.
1007 – larceny from auto, Lake Villa Dr.
1037 – private property impound, Denton Rd.
1048 – 911 welfare check, W. Sadie Ln.
1300 – private property impound, S. I-94 Service
1314 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1403 – 911 welfare check, Belleville Rd.
1419 – found property/child, Sumpter Rd./Hull Rd.
1502 – noise complaint, Parkwood Dr.
1506 – animal complaint, Parkwood Dr.
1523 – trespassing, Fret Rd.
1525 – animal complaint, Hull Rd.
1658 – suspicious person/vehicle, Morton Taylor Rd. / Ecorse Rd.
1853 – follow up by officer, Victoria St.
1901 – threat, Forestdale Dr.
2132 – suspicious person/vehicle, Visteon Way / Ecorse Rd.
Friday, Feb. 15:
0012 – domestic, Mott
0020 – noise complaint, Oak Ln.
0107 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Arthur
0833 – domestic, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0927 – ordinance violation, Pond Bluff Dr.
1036 – road hazard, Visteon
1057 – suspicious person/vehicle, Savage Rd.
1122 – suspicious person/vehicle, Ventura Dr.
1123 – private property/property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1208 – fraud, Denton Rd.
1214 – assist other dept., Brookside Dr.
1347 – fraud, Bemis Rd.
1704 – harassment call, Savage Rd.
1845 – threat, Village Green Ln.
1933 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / Ecorse Rd.
2334 – private property impound, N. I-94 Service
2346 – suspicious person/vehicle, Haggerty Rd.
Saturday, Feb. 16:
0020 – suspicious person/vehicle, Hardwood Dr. / Vine St.
0218 – disorderly, Rawsonville Rd.
0237 – domestic, Oak Ln.
0526 – disorderly, America
0731 – parking complaint, McBride Ave.
1017 – private property/property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1029 – animal complaint, Jackson St.
1030 – fraud, Pond Bluff Dr.
1117 – assist other dept., Ayres Ave.
1232 – animal complaint, Togowtee Pass
1339 – shooting, Harmony Ln.
1420 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1448 – suspicious person/vehicle, S. I-94 Service Dr. / Rawsonville Rd.
1457 – threat, Truman
1549 – fraud, Lighthouse Dr.
1855 – animal complaint, Haggerty Rd.
1928 – personal injury accident, Rawsonville/Bog
2048 – family trouble, Sumpter Rd.

Also on this week's log are 197 traffic stops with 72 of them being on the I-94 and I-275 freeways.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Feb. 10:
0113 – domestic, Loza Ln.
0137 – noise complaint, Main St.
0952 – harassment call, Loza Ln.
1009 – civil matter, Astor Pl.
1128 – assist fire dept., Charles St.
1147 – traffic offense, E. Huron River Dr.
1312 – warrant arrest, Clarence St.
1732 – larceny, Henry St.
2227 – welfare check, Second St.
Monday, Feb. 11:
0205 – follow up by officer, Main
1352 – assist fire dept., San Carlos St.
1400 – missing person, Anaheim

1423 – assist fire dept., Henry St.
1444 – vehicle lockout, W. Columbia Ave.
1855 – assist fire dept., Loza Ln.
Tuesday, Feb. 12:
0104 – warrant arrest, Rawsonville Rd.
1336 – assist fire dept., Menlo Park Dr.
1405 – assist fire dept., N. Edgemont Ave.
1559 – vehicle lockout, Light Tower Dr.
Wednesday, Feb. 13:
0203 – assist fire dept., Belle Villa Blvd.
0755 – assist fire dept., Church St.
1249 – motorist assist, Main St./Denton Rd.
1439 – intrusion alarm, Church St.
1501 – follow up by officer, Church St.
1644 – trespassing, Main St.
2157 – intrusion alarm, Wexford Ave.
2353 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
Thursday, Feb. 14:
1528 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Belle Villa Blvd.
1543 – 911 welfare check, E. Columbia Ave.
1651 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
Friday, Feb. 15:
0049 – personal injury accident, Belle Villa Blvd.
0203 – malicious destruction of property, Belle Villa Blvd.
1028 – assist fire dept., San Carlos St.
1344 – threat, Main St.
1453 – suspicious person/vehicle, E. Huron River Dr. / N. Edgemont Ave.
1516 – assist fire dept., N. Edgemont Ave.
1603 – assist other dept., N. Edgemont Ave.
1939 – suspicious person/vehicle, Carmell St.
2041 – welfare check, Loza Ln.
2113 – vehicle lock out, Main St.
2228 – follow up by officer, Walmart
Saturday, Feb. 16:
0555 – assist fire dept., Carmell St.
1023 – welfare check, N. Biggs Ave.
1530 – assist fire dept., Capistrano Ct.
Also on this week's log are 55 traffic stops.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Feb. 10:
0117 – suspicious incident, Rustic Ln.
0928 – fire dept. assist, 41000 bl. Wear Rd.
1319 – 911 hang up, 46000 bl. Arkona Rd.
1444 – harassment complaint, 18000 bl. Savage
1749 – citizen assist, Martinsville/Willis
1915 – traffic hazard, Sumpter/Harris
2212 – 911 hang up, 25000 bl. Karr Rd.
Monday, Feb. 11:
0026 – warrant arrest pick up, New Mexico
0648 – fire dept. assist, 20000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
0723 – fire dept. assist, 49000 bl. Willis Rd.
0754 – assist other agency, 49000 bl. Willis Rd.
0902 – suspicious vehicle, 48000 bl. Wear Rd.
0906 – fire dept. assist, 44000 bl. Bemis Rd.
1314 – animal complaint, 46000 bl. Willis Rd.
Tuesday, Feb. 12:
0059 – threats complaint, Carriage Ln.
0316 – civil dispute, 24000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
1406 – suspicious incident, Redwood
1446 – suspicious vehicle, 25000 bl. Karr Rd.
1818 – family trouble, New Mexico
1843 – fire dept. assist, 42000 bl. Willis Rd.

2327 – family trouble, Second St.
Wednesday, Feb. 13:
0153 – alarm, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
0732 – fire dept. assist, 29000 bl. Elwell Rd.
0819 – fraud complaint, 18000 bl. Savage Rd.
1227 – citizen assist, Harris/Elwell
1337 – well-being check, Rustic Ln.
1549 – reckless driver complaint, Oakville Waltz / Sumpter
1603 – civil dispute, 22000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1728 – well-being check, 9200 bl. Rawsonville
1832 – property damage accident, 50000 bl. Willow Rd.
2105 – 911 hang up, 44000 bl. Willow Rd.
2222 – juvenile complaint, New Mexico
Thursday, Feb. 14:
0030 – mental health commitment, 25000 bl. Elwell Rd.
0339 – property damage accident, Rawsonville / Willow
0851 – disorderly person, New Mexico
0908 – suspicious incident, 44000 bl. Paris Dr.
0945 – civil dispute, 43000 bl. Willis Rd.
0957 – fire dept. assist, 45000 bl. Bemis Rd.
1223 – disorderly person, 17000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1336 – fire dept. assist, 17000 bl. Savage Rd.
1800 – 911 hang up, 25000 bl. Karr Rd.
Friday, Feb. 15:
0915 – well-being check, Wayside Dr.
1632 – 911 hang up, 21000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
2156 – suspicious person, Bohn/Judd
2344 – civil dispute, Hampshire Dr.
Saturday, Feb. 16:
0747 – operating while intoxicated arrest, 48000 bl. Willis Rd.
1007 – mental health commitment, New Mexico
1418 – breaking & entering, 43000 bl. Dunn Rd.
1612 – fire dept. assist, 45000 bl. Harris Rd.
1709 – property damage accident, Sherwood/Judd
1723 – threats complaint, Hampshire Dr.
1927 – fire dept. assist, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2332 – suspicious incident, Willis/Rawsonville
Also on this week's log are 11 follow-up investigations, 27 miscellaneous details, 76 patrol checks, and 44 traffic stops.

BHS at-home games

- Thursday, Feb. 21: Belleville is hosting the KLAA East Boys Swim Division Meet starting at noon.
- Monday, Feb. 25: Belleville is hosting the MHSAA Boys Districts. Saline vs. Ann Arbor Huron at 5 p.m. and Belleville vs. Ypsilanti at 7 p.m.
- Wednesday, Feb. 27: Belleville hosts round two of the MHSAA Boys Districts. Game times 5 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Diane Kiessel
Belleville High School Athletic Secretary

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- **Strawberry**
- **Raspberry**
- **Lemon**
- **Custard**

\$14⁰⁰
Per
Dozen

With glaze or powdered sugar topping.

PACZKI HOURS
MONDAY, MARCH 5TH, 2PM-8PM
TUESDAY, MARCH 6TH, 6AM-6PM



23888 HAGGERTY RD., BELLEVILLE BETWEEN JUDD & WEAR ROADS

Injuries Illness X-rays In-House Labs Physicals

HOURS

MON-FRI
9 AM - 9 PM
SAT-SUN
12PM - 6 PM



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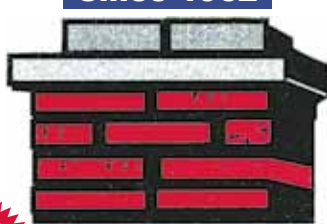
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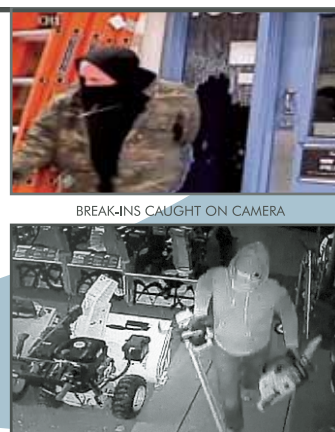
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Robinson appeals

(continued from page 21)

Robinson was charged with a misdemeanor violation of the Sumpter Township Zoning Ordinance that includes: "Storage or parking shall not be permitted on vacant lots or parcels, except as approved by the zoning administrator."

Testimony in the trial stated none of his neighbors on Martinsville complained about the RV -- or any other Sumpter citizen -- and it was the township clerk who directed the ordinance officer to investigate Robinson for an ordinance violation and ticket him.

In the trial, Sumpter Ordinance Officer Peter Gregory testified that the ordinance didn't keep anyone from bringing an RV to his property "for a weekend or a couple weeks max." He just can't keep it there all the time. There was no evidence presented that Robinson kept the RV there longer than two weeks.

Gregory testified there were sheds on the lot and horses and "a little corral up in the front."

He also testified there are gardens on the lot and that "it looks pretty nice... it looks like somebody takes care of it, for sure" and the property is "kept up."

Robinson said Judge Parrott, approving a motion by attorney Young, did not allow his attorney Ruark to enter the issue of political payback in the trial or to enter pictures of all the blighted recreational vehicles throughout the township that are not working but not targeted for ordinance

violations.

In his appellant's brief, attorney Ruark cited cases that say a key function of a jury is "to prevent oppression by the Government" and "to protect against unfounded criminal charges brought to eliminate enemies..."

Ruark's appeal argues there was insufficient evidence to support the jury verdict, the Sumpter ordinance is void for vagueness, the ordinance infringes on Robinson's constitutional rights, and the court improperly restricted Robinson's arguments at trial.

He asks Circuit Court to set aside the conviction.



Feb. 17 – David Dybicki

Feb. 22 – Chris Warren

Feb. 26 – Connie Chudzinski, Sheila Patton

Feb. 27 – Gerald McKelvey, Dennis Davidson

March 1 – Jennifer Price

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