



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 18.15 Thursday, April 12, 2012

Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

FREE

Sumpter to help with FEMA flood insurance mandate

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

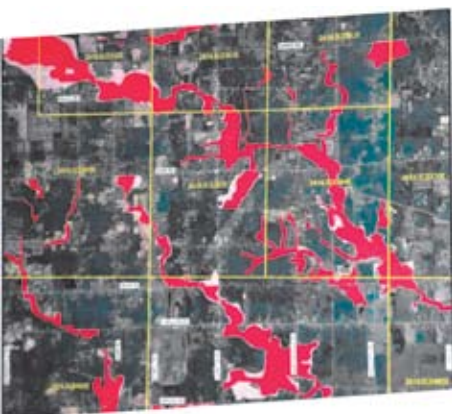
More than 100 frustrated residents attended a special meeting at the Sumpter Township Hall last Thursday to get information on how to deal with the unexpected expenses for flood insurance suddenly being required by FEMA.

The township's new consulting engineer John Hennessey fielded questions on floodplain maps and requirements by the Federal Emergency Management Administration for flood insurance.

Hennessey said his engineering firm works with 15 of the 43 communities in Wayne County and Sumpter is the only one of his 15 that is moving to help residents with the bewildering FEMA rules.

Sumpter Township and Hennessey are sharing the costs of shooting the elevation of township parcels, when requested by property owners. This is the first step in fighting the flood insurance demand from FEMA. If the property is under the elevation determined to be 100-year flood stage, there is nothing to do but buy the insurance.

If, however, the elevation is higher than what FEMA determines, the property owner can hire an engineer to produce an official certificate that would exempt the property owner from the insurance.



Independent photo by Rosemary K. Otzman

At last Thursday's meeting, Sumpter Township residents crowded forward to see the new FEMA flood plain designations on posters propped up against the board table. They were looking to see whether their properties fell in the red (floodplain) or green (not floodplain) which determines whether they need to buy costly federal insurance.

Property owners recently were alerted by letter from their banks or mortgage companies that flood insurance was needed and if they didn't buy it themselves, the bank/ mortgage company would buy it for them and add it to their mortgage.

One man said his bank told him it would cost twice as much if the bank got the insurance than if the individual did it himself. Some estimated policy premiums in the area of \$1,800 to \$2,000 per year.

If a property does not have a mortgage, the insurance is not required, Hennessey said, noting the insurance is to assure the replacement value of the residence. In the past it was to cover just the mortgage amount left.

If part of the property is in the flood plain and the house is not, the insurance is not required, but a sealed certificate from an engineer must be produced.

Hennessey said because of the Katrina disaster, FEMA decided to ramp up its flood plain determinations dramatically and remap certain areas of the country. In Michigan, the EPA Region 5 in Chicago

selected Wayne County, which has the densest population in the state. He said last year, Monroe County was remapped and the maps were disputed by the county.

Hennessey said the Army Corps of Engineers re-flew Wayne County and got new satellite maps of the properties. They

(continued on page 20)



Sgt. 1st Class Kyle Sessoms, a native of Belleville, inspects a Paratrooper's helmet during the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division's Jumpmaster of the Year Competition, March 29. The winners of the battalion-level competitions contended for the brigade title. Each participant was tested on their performance of jumpmaster duties, including rigging of equipment, practical work inside the aircraft, giving a sustained airborne training brief and personnel inspections. Sessoms won the competition and will advance to the Division-level competition in April. He is the assistant operations non-commissioned officer for 1st Squadron, 73rd Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team.

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SECOND FRONT PAGE

VBT Public Safety Committee hears brief report on Denton B&Es

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Van Buren Township Public Safety Director Carl McClanahan gave a brief report on forced-entry home invasions in the Denton area at the April 4 regular meeting of the VBT Public Safety Committee.

Trustee Phil Hart questioned him about the recent meeting with residents in Denton subdivision and asked for an update.

Director McClanahan said Lt. Ken Floro organized the meeting on March 17 and was accompanied by Officer Adam Byrd.

He said they discussed the recent rash of forced-entry home invasions and gave tips on crime prevention, noting the break-ins were crimes of opportunity.

McClanahan said his officers have been a presence in Denton Sub. since the first week of March. There has been one arrest.

He said it is the whole Michigan Avenue corridor that is seeing these break-ins and north of Michigan Avenue in Canton Township is getting the worst of it. VBT is getting a smaller part of the total, he said.

Committee member Richard Wardell said the officers involved should be commended.

In other business at the April 4 meeting, the committee:

- Heard Fire Chief Darwin Loyer announced 14 people passed tests to be on the eligibility list for hire as paid-per-call fire fighters and the first six will be sent to the academy. He also reported there now are 16 trainers;
- Discussed the fires at the "Christmas tree" farm where the smoke was reportedly coming down, not going up, according to Chairman Diane Madigan. Chief Loyer said agricultural burns are allowed by the state, but they are monitored and have to follow rules. He said a temperature inversion brings smoke back down and there is nothing to be done about that;
- Heard Madigan report on the shoe flinging she had questioned in the past. She said she asked VBT's former School Resource Officer Ryan Bidwell about whether the shoes hanging over Bemis Road near Rawsonville were evidence of gang activity in that area. She said Bidwell reported there has been no gang activity noted in that area. She called the road commission to ask about the shoes and they sent her to DTE and the two pairs of shoes finally are down;
- Discussed the painting on the side of the former Trac Pac market on Rawsonville Road at the railroad. McClanahan said it was more like graffiti, not gang tagging. Madigan said it is so big it would take gallons of paint and a roller to paint over it;
- Accepted the year-end report as prepared by Ramone Crowe, Reggie Miller, and



Photo courtesy Darlene Gerick

Van Buren Township Police Officer Carrie Traster recently gave the leaders and members of Girl Scout Daisy Troop #20414 of Edgemont Elementary School a tour of the VBT police station. From left in front are Lindsay Sandhu and Marina Gerick. In the second row are Sophie Harkle, Lauren Kimberly, Erionna Warren, Lilly Peters, Grace Donaubauber, Kayt LaMothe, Jayla Vasquez, Kursten vonHoffman, Alyssa June, Samia Walker, and Sophia Melidosian. In back are Alyssa Sandhus, Officer Traster, Kailey June, and Mari Asher.

Madigan;

- Discussed at length the hiring of two more police officers, as the committee had recommended to the township board earlier this year. The item will be considered as old business at the May 2 meeting. At that time, Trustee Hart will report on the board committee study into the hiring of more police;
- Agreed to send a statement to the township board in support of Fire Chief Loyer's \$25,000 worth of purchases for stage one of his Emergency Operations Center, which includes nine laptops, two projectors, and two LED large-screen TVs. The board already has approved the purchases;
- Postponed to an upcoming special meeting discussion on the fire department fee schedule. The committee does not want to charge residents for emergency runs, but supports recovery costs from those doing unlawful activity. Larry Fix said a fee for emergency equipment and crews would "scare away all the people". He said you don't want people with a kitchen fire not to call for help because they are afraid they won't have the money to pay township fees;
- Discussed Code Red, Nixle, and sirens as emergency communications. Since Code Red uses telephone lines the telephone trunk lines could be full during disasters, Madigan pointed out. When asked, McClanahan agreed to bring a report on township emergency communication needs to the next regular meeting;

- Set a special meeting for 5:30 p.m. April 18 at Fire Station #2 for a first-quarter public safety budget review. Treasurer Sharry Budd has agreed to attend to offer input;

- Discussed emergency sirens and asked Chief Loyer to get costs of new sirens. John Delaney suggested looking into the old sirens still at several locations in the township;

- Agreed to set a meeting in July, although a July meeting was not scheduled because it fell on Independence Day. The committee will consider alternate dates;

- Unanimously approved sending a recommendation to the township board to amend the Public Safety Committee bylaws so the order of business includes non-agenda items after new business. Non-agenda items have been included in the past, but the committee doesn't want to depend on precedent, and prefers to have it in the bylaws;

- Heard Wardwell compliment Jennifer Price on her work as secretary. He also announced Captain Ken Brooks is now officially retired and Captain Greg Laurain has taken complete charge of the Police Department; and

- Heard John Delaney ask when the seventh member of the committee will be appointed, to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Michael Miazga. Miller said she sent an email to Supervisor Paul White and he said it would be ASAP.

VBT police charge township man with Receiving & Concealing

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Thomas Michael Johnson, 51, of Van Buren Township was arraigned at 34th District Court on charges of Receiving and Concealing stolen goods after VBT police found him with a stolen flat-screened TV and other stolen items.

His bond was set at \$200. His preliminary exam will be held at 9 a.m. April 18 at 34th District Court in Romulus. Since he had other felony warrants for his arrest from other police departments, he remained in the VBT lockup.

VBT Police Captain Gregory Laurain said the TV Johnson had in his possession matched the one taken in a home invasion in the 51000 block of Old Michigan Avenue just before midnight on April 3.

The homeowner reported the break-in around 11:55 p.m. She noticed the back door was open and the screen propped open. It appeared that entry was initially gained through a bedroom window then the suspect or suspects fled through the rear door, Captain Laurain said.

Taken was a flat-screened TV, a camcorder, guitar amplifier, and about \$20 in change. A police evidence technician was called in to process the scene, Laurain said.

(continued on page 12)

OPINIONS

Editorial

Library question not likely to be on November ballot

The Belleville Area District Library Board doesn't have a site selected, so it doesn't have architectural drawings or a price for the proposed two new library buildings, so board members decided to "kill it" for the November ballot.

Actually, at Tuesday's meeting, they looked for a nicer word than "kill", although that's what they said initially.

Vice Chairman Christina Brasil put it into polite language to make a motion that the board will not apply for the November 2012 ballot until it get further information. This passed unanimously.

Board member John Juriga said the board is dealing with three branches of the state DNR on the property north of the bridge and that is practically impossible.

Also, the board (that celebrates its second anniversary on April 17) is waiting for questions from the City Council on a board request for city donation of property. The City Council is waiting for its new attorney to get fully on board.

Also, Brasil noted, three board seats will be up for election in November and she would like the board to be united when it goes for voter approval of a bond. (The seats up for election are now held by Juriga, Boelter, and Cichewicz.)

All the paperwork for a ballot question has to be filed by Aug. 15 and they agreed they are not ready. The November ballot is sure to be a long, long document. But, voters won't have to decide on a library, too, unless the board suddenly gets a site.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

Heidi Roberts of southern Van Buren Township reports that at about 4 p.m. on Good Friday she was driving through Five Points and saw a bald eagle soaring over the downtown area.

Heidi said this is not the first time she has spotted an eagle in the area.

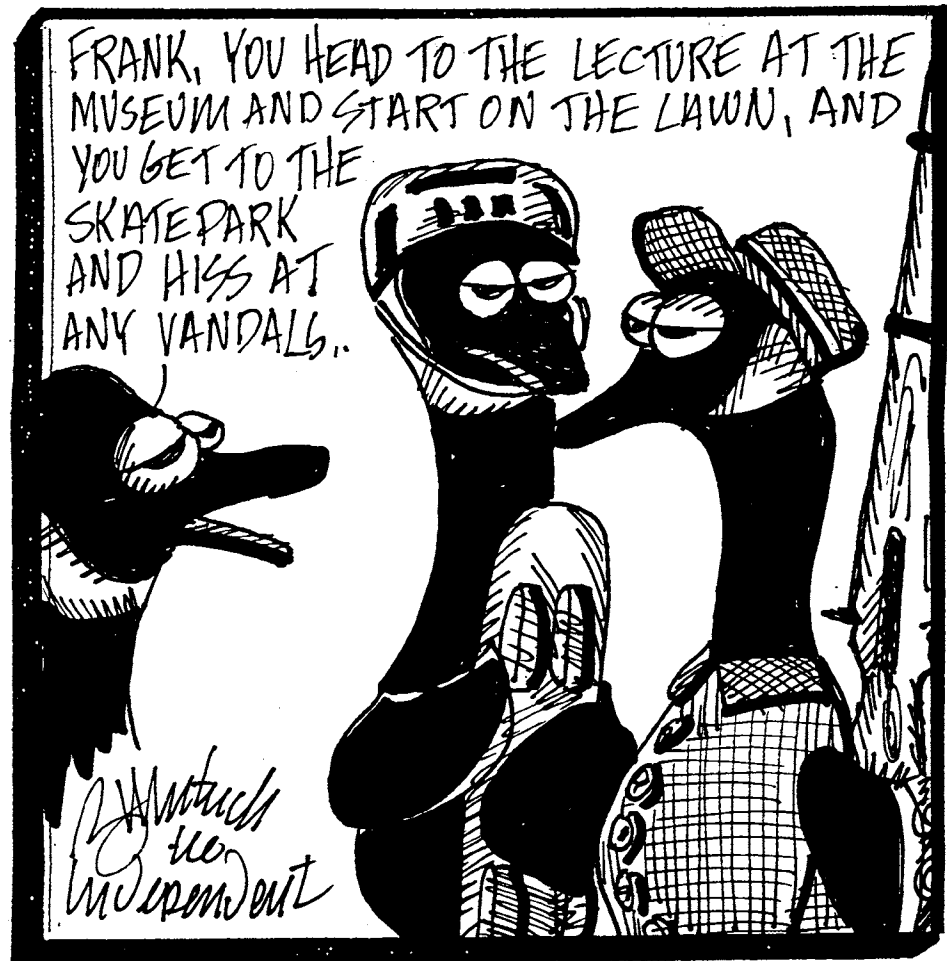
Heidi cautions that if you know where this eagle is nesting, to contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Also, she urges people not to disturb the nest since they are very fragile, although weighing in at more than 1,000 pounds. Also, it is a federal offense to disturb an eagle's nest.

We've seen an eagle over the downtown area before and also over the Independent office downtown. It is a real thrill.

On Saturday, a huge crowd of about 400 adults and children crowded into Victory Park for the free party with Flop E. Bunny.

That's what the Central Business Community wanted: a free party, with absolutely no charges. (Walmart provided candy and the CBC paid for the pictures with the Bunny.) The city council even refused to consider a fund-raising bake sale in Victory Station at the time of the Bunny event, to keep the free event totally free.

So, you can understand why the CBC volunteers were a little miffed (make that a lot miffed) to have a balloon vendor show up with a permit from city hall. The man had permission to sell balloons during the event, so there's not much the CBC could do about him, except banish him to the street-side parking area of South Liberty Street. We saw several families buying



balloons for their children.

One of our readers, who regularly checks out the police dispatch logs we publish for Belleville, Van Buren, and Sumpter, wanted to know the difference between "fraud" and "fraud all" in the listings.

I called VBT dispatch to find out. I was told with the Computer Aided Dispatch, there are category choices for dispatchers to choose to log in calls. The "fraud all" could be credit card fraud or other kinds of crimes, or retail fraud. Sometimes the original call changes once the officers get on the scene. They are still all fraud so I'm going to start just calling them all fraud, unless the listing is more specific.

As of Tuesday afternoon, the following (all Democrats) have been qualified for the VBT primary election in August: for Supervisor, Tim Szetela (married to attorney Rebecca Kessler who was active in the attempted recall) and incumbent Paul White; for Clerk, Karin LaMothe (active in the recall attempt) and incumbent Leon Wright; for Treasurer, incumbent Sharry Budd and former trustee John Herman; and for Trustees, incumbent Denise Partridge, (Howard) Daniel Wright (husband of township employee Jennifer Wright), and Diane Madigan (chairman of VBT Public Safety Committee).

More are out getting the 50 VBT

signatures required, that have to be verified before the candidate is certified.

In Sumpter Township the qualified candidates (all Democrats) are: for Supervisor, incumbent Johnny Vawters; for Treasurer, incumbent John W. Morgan; for Clerk, incumbent Clarence J. Hoffman, Jr.; for Trustee, incumbents Peggy Morgan and Bill Hamm. Others, are doing their paperwork.

The deadline for everyone is May 15.

Last week when we were out delivering *Independents*, a lady asked me if I had seen the terrible Ku Klux Klan bunny on Main Street. She was referring to the Angel Bunny in front of Main Street Flowers, that actually won top prize in the bunny decorating contest.

I told Jane Vesche, who designed the Angel Bunny, that someone thought it looked like a Klansman. She laughed, in a good-natured way, and said her floral designer, who is from Germany, said that very same thing.

Of course, it was an Angel in flowing, white robes, with bunny ears. And, Jane, the talented promoter of downtown business, would never put up anything she thought would offend a customer.



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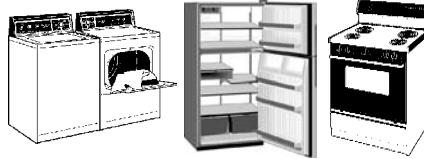
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Letters

Close the Skate Park, but care about the kids

To the Editor:

As I write this, I do realize it will be too late, and the emergency sessions will close the Belleville hot spot for teenage delinquency, the Skate Park. For some unknown reason, Keith Boc must have misread my letter two weeks ago in that I stated, I was for the closing of the park; not only that, he, misunderstood my writing to believe my words were a blueprint and go-ahead, for public property destruction.

I seem to remember, as I did write the letter, my reasons for the natural progression of why kids ride bikes on the park; I never said it was the thing to do, other than the fact, I did, a few times, ride my bike there, as well (oh the shame); I never wrote for the few bad apples to go ahead and vandalize the park and paint all over it, either. Even Rosemary Otzman went over and watched a few well-mannered kids riding in the park; oh heaven forbid they might be having fun; next thing you know, there will be smoking, drinking and god only knows, rock and roll music and dancing! Mable, lock up the kids, there are terrible dangers out there!

What is even funnier, in a later note, Keith Boc went on to say he was willing to help out the "Easter bunnies" along Main Street; what a heartfelt "awwww" moment; proves Keith Boc has a heart, even if many around here don't agree with that.

Now take yourself over to the Skate Park and ask the young adults there just how excited they are about "Floppy the Bunny"

and the Easter Bunnies on Main; I am willing to bet "none".

I pondered about two years ago, I considered starting a skateboard team, where I would sponsor the kids and give them free boards and lessons, but it was about the time the anti-fun police, Rick Dawson and then Mayor Richard Smith, decided to ban skateboarding on the main sidewalk as well as bikes; the writing was on the wall, the park would close.

You see, Keith, not every teen wants to be part of school-type activities, some wish to be different. But like Rosemary noted, it will be hard placed to find another source of energy for the young people around here; that Mr. Boc, is what I said and still stand behind. Close the park, but please understand not everybody will have something to do at that point.

Bob Balderston
Belleville

Main St. Flowers Bunny was tops in contest

To the Editor:

The Bunnies have hopped back to Easter Town for another year, but weren't they a sight to see while they were visiting!

Thanks to all who worked so hard to help us decorate Main Street for the season and congratulation to the very talented winners: 1st place - Main Street Flowers; 2nd place - Belleville Lake Current and 3rd place was a tie between Dazzle Designs Boutique, Austin and Carson Conley and the Conley Family.

As is always the case, events like this can't happen without the hard work and help of numerous people; thanks so very much to City of Belleville, Dazzle Designs Boutique, Frosty Boy, Pro Hardware, Brian, Mary and the gang at the Bayou Grill, Steve Jones, Angie Renaud, Don Swinson, Kim Tindall, and, of course all the talented folks who decorated a Bunny!

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Belleville Area Independent

More Letters

'I Remember Yesterday' available on website

To the Editor:

Our website www.irememberyesterdaymovie.com is back online, has a fresh face, and visitors can now order the DVD from the website! Hooray!

In the (hopefully near) future there will be some additional updates and changes to the website -- notably the DVD preview video, which will show people who are interested in getting a DVD what's on it.

We began making this movie two years ago, and with everyone's help we were able to accomplish a lot!

Now I want to make our DVD accessible to the rest of the world, and have it benefit a good cause by donating the profits to the Alzheimer's Foundation of America and the Fischer's Center for Alzheimer's Research Foundation

I think it would be a fantastic conclusion for this project to have a big impact and raise a lot of money for both charities.

Please help to spread the word and send our website to your friends and family!

Feel free to email me if you have any kind of questions or feedback!

Oliver Siegel

Director - Writer - Producer

The ill O Productions

<http://www.the-ill-o.com>

Editor's Note: This movie was shot through the cooperation of the Van Buren Township September Days Senior Center under the direction of Oliver Siegel, who was a German national doing volunteer work at the center.

State Rep. Dian Slavens Sets coffee hours April 16

State Rep. Dian Slavens announces her next coffee hours will be held Monday, April 16, from 8 to 9 a.m. at the Belleville Charhouse at 524 Main St. in Belleville. She will have a second coffee hour later that day from 5 to 6 p.m. at the Daydream Cafe at 47192 in Canton.

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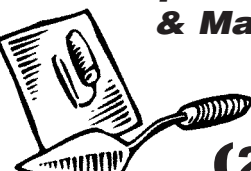
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Obituaries



Charlotte "Babe" Price

CHARLOTTE 'BABE' PRICE

(April 5, 1928 - April 6, 2012)

Charlotte Louise Price (nee Merrell) passed away Friday, April 6, 2012 at Superior Woods Healthcare Center.

Charlotte was born April 5, 1928, daughter of Frank and Mildred Merrell. Charlotte was always involved with children, as a Girl Scout Leader, Cub Scout Den Mother, Methodist Youth Fellowship Club Advisor, and Teacher. After retirement from the Romulus Community School District, she volunteered at the Belleville Area Museum and the Fred C. Fischer Library in Belleville.

Charlotte is survived by her daughters, Marcia (Jim) Price-Hyde and Charlene Tessmer, son Thom (Cynthia) Price, brother Bob Merrell, sister Frances (Robert) Suliman, seven grandchildren and many great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Norman Price and her son Jeffery (Cindi) Price.

Cremation rites have been accorded. A celebration of Charlotte's life will be forthcoming. Charlotte's family would like to thank the entire staff at Superior Woods for their wonderful care.

ELIZABETH LOIS MORGAN ARCHER

(January 20, 1924 - March 13, 2012)

A memorial service is set at 11 a.m. Saturday, April 21, at First United Methodist Church of Belleville, 417 Charles Street. Survived by son Jeffrey, daughter Lisa, 3 grandchildren, and sister Eleanor. David C. Brown Funeral Home.

MONTIE BISHOP

(October 25, 1951 - April 1, 2012)

Age 60. Survived by daughters Bunny (Mike) Souza and Kailey Young; three grandchildren; his mother Bobbie Bishop of Belleville; sister Pat and brother Mike. Celebration of Life held April 6. David C. Brown Funeral Home.

MARK HOMER MAYS

(December 8, 1957 - April 5, 2012)

Age 54 of Ypsilanti. BHS class of 1976. Survived by wife Maria; children Maria, Christie, Eric and Sara; eight grandchildren; mother Iris Mays; six siblings. Gathering 4-6 p.m. April 14, David C. Brown Funeral Home.

CLARENCE HAYES, JR.

(September 15, 1924 - April 7, 2012)

Age 87, in Hayti, MO. Faith Assembly of God minister, Ford retiree, veteran of WWII. Survived by wife Emma Ruth, son Dennis (Amy), daughters Brenda (Don) and Patricia (Barry); 1 stepson, 5 stepdaughters; 3 sisters; 9 grand, 9 great-grandchildren. Service April 11.



Jeanne "Bobbie" Gould

JEANNE 'BOBBIE' GOULD

(May 4, 1931 - April 8, 2012)

Jeanne "Bobbie" Gould, age 80, of Ypsilanti, MI, passed away Sunday, April 8, 2012 at her home. She was born May 4, 1931 in Berkley, MI, to the late Lester W. and Marjorie (Jones) Robinson.

Mrs. Gould attended Royal Oak High School. She retired from Frito Lay, Allen Park in 1988 after several years of loyal service as a fork lift driver. She had a very colorful personality and liked to socialize. She loved puzzles and especially enjoyed talking to her cat, Cindy Loo.

Jeanne is survived by friend Maggie Mitchell of Ypsilanti, MI, her loving cat, Cindy Loo, also numerous other friends including Moe, Freddie and Skip.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband John Gould in 1973, also her companion, Judy.

Cremation rites have been accorded. Arrangements have been made by David C. Brown Funeral Home in Belleville, MI. Please sign the on-line guest book and share a memory with her friends at www.davidcbrownfh.com.

WILLIAM 'BILL' KEITH HONEYCUTT

(July 4, 1940 - April 2, 2012)

Age 71 of Van Buren Township. Survived by two daughters, Denise and Carol Honeycutt; a son Billy Honeycutt of Las Vegas; and four grandchildren. Service was April 5 at David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville.



Elmer A. Korotney

ELMER A. KOROTNEY

(November 30, 1931 - April 9, 2012)

Elmer Arthur Korotney, age 80, of Belleville, MI, passed away Monday, April 9, 2012, surrounded by his family. He was born November 30, 1931 in Briston, Ohio, son of the late Albert Edward & Katheryn (Chippi) Korotney.

He proudly served his country in the United States Marine Corps. He retired from Ford Motor Company's Brownstown plant after 33 years of loyal service. He was a former member of the Belleville Moose and a member of the VFW Post #4434. Elmer was a hard worker who enjoyed wood-working and crafts and painting. He loved the outdoors; gardening, cutting grass, splitting wood, and snow-plowing for family and neighbors.

Mr. Korotney is survived by his loving wife of nearly 52 years, Marilyn Marie (Rose) Korotney, daughter Denise Korotney, granddaughter Tomarilyn Komora, all of Belleville; a stepson Craig (Martha) Sayer of Cincinnati, Ohio; a sister Joann Reid of West Branch, MI; also numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, also six siblings, Albert, Edward, Daniel and Willie Korotney, Katheryn Ann Levesseur and Viola Mae Korotney.

Visitation will be 5-8 PM Thursday and 12-4 PM & 6-8 PM Friday with an 11:00 AM Funeral Saturday, April 14, 2012 at David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville. Entombment will be in Michigan Memorial Park, Flat Rock, MI.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association and would be appreciated by the family. Please sign his on-line guest book and share a memory for them to cherish at www.davidcbrownfh.com.

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More Letters

Stark differences in VBT administrations

To the Editor:

I'd like to shine light on some stark differences in the governmental administration of Van Buren Township.

We all remember (sadly) the Visteon fiasco, right?

Well, thanks to the former King regime and their total abandonment of sanity, Van Buren Township is still indebted TENS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS (i.e. \$36,000,000)! Three "has-been" members of that King regime are still sitting on the Van Buren Twp. Board: namely: JAHR, BUDD, and HART.

Their judgment and tactics are still very much questionable. The bottom line is: The residents of Van Buren Township were lied to and robbed! Yet, these three King hold-overs sit in judgment and opposition of a more progressive and honest government. Their tactics and motives are obvious -- they cannot be trusted.

Let us compare the unwise and costly decisions made by the "King regime" to that of the present Paul White administration.

Supervisor White's opponents, on many occasions, following their three political losses, are guilty of the most blatant verbal abuse I have ever heard! The three "has-beens" are virtually unproductive as board members because of their constant criticism and opposition on just about every agenda item. They are seen gleefully encouraging such abuse from their rude and loud audience attendees.

There is an obvious contrast when considering the "has-beens" when compared with the Paul White administration.

Here is a man who never retaliates when scorned and yelled at -- he is a gentleman and an effective negotiator. Many thousands of people, both near and far, will benefit from his tireless and effective method of negotiating with Menards.

Supervisor White was loudly criticized and accused of being "secretive" while negotiating in the highly competitive process of bringing Menards to the old Farmer Jack property.

Menards has signed a purchase

agreement with the township and following the legal, necessary inspections, etc., opening day will probably follow a "shovel-ready" time of nine months.

CONGRATULATIONS to Supervisor White! YOU, alone, negotiated a purchase agreement with Menard's with NO concessions -- no promises -- no giveaways, in total contrast with the King/Visteon fiasco!

Note: I have yet to witness any acknowledgement or word of congratulations coming to you, Supervisor White, from the "has-been's" (Budd, Jahr, Hart).

Disgraceful, and it remains "sour grapes!"

Thank you,
(Mrs.) Ruth E. Bleeker
Belleville

It's wrong to misinform citizens of this state

To the Editor:

We are writing in regards to the informative town hall meeting held by Rep. Dian Slavens at the Canton Township Building Boardroom as reported on in "Belleville Lake Current" dated March 1-7, 2012. Attending were expert panelists Lois Beerbaum, PhD, Senior Tax Advisor at H&R Block and Kay Diggs of AARP Michigan.

After visiting the web site suggested in the article [www.michigan.gov/treasury], we are disheartened to see that the seniors and middle class public are being misled on the recent change in the tax structure passed in Lansing. We do not know anyone in our realm of friends, mostly retired persons, that meets the Household Income as stated on line 28 of the Michigan Homestead Property Tax Credit Claim MI-1040CR which is \$82,650. This means that each of us will still be able to get our Michigan Homestead Property Tax Credit.

We believe any retiree that is covered by a predetermined pension should realize that

this type of pension has not been taxed, but rather is a deduction for the company providing that pension. If your income comes from investment, that too is like interest. This money has not been taxed before you receive it.

By the way, as retirees we do not believe we should not be exempt from paying our taxes for the necessary services that should be provided to Michigan citizens as stated in our State Constitution.

In closing, we feel that it is wrong to

misinform the citizens of this state. We had hoped that our representatives would not play politics as usual; that was the impression we had gotten when our representative came to our door and asked for our backing. The persons from H&R Block and AARP should have known that. Do they?

Name withheld by request
Van Buren Township

Editor's Note: The printed story in question was a news release from the office of Dian Slavens.

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PET SPA 2, 970 Sumpter Rd., BELLEVILLE, Sun., April 15th, 4:30-6 p.m.
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PET SPA, 5260 Willis Rd., YPSILANTI, Sun., April 22nd, 4:30-6 p.m.

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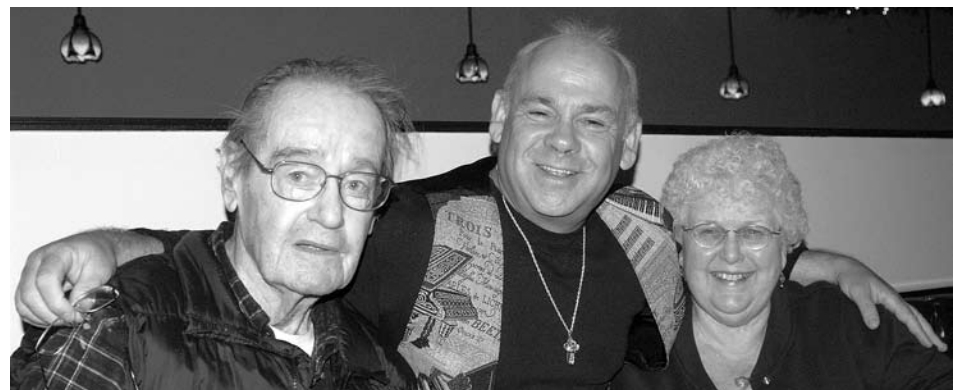
The Belleville Area Council for the Arts will hold its third **Dinner Fundraiser** this Sunday, April 15, from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Masonic Temple on Main Street. The cost is \$9 for adults; \$5 for children 10 and under. Ham with all the trimmings and desserts is the featured menu. Proceeds will go to BACA's new building fund. Call (734) 697-8123.

Doug Dalton Auctioneer is presenting an estate antique auction tonight and

tomorrow evening, beginning tonight at 6 p.m. and tomorrow at 5 p.m. at the **Romulus Progressive Club** hall on Ozga Road.

The items featured tonight include tool collections, woodworking machinery, antique furniture parts, fire fighter items, hardware items, and yard tools and equipment. Tomorrow night's sale includes items from the estate of **Shirley Eder**, featuring Hollywood, stained glass, advertising, military, and signed sports items, and much more. To see tons of photos and details, visit www.dougdaltonauctioneer.com.

It's **Fish Day** at the **Willis Feed Mill** in Willis on Tuesday, April 17, from 2 to 3 p.m. **Farley's Arkansas Pondstockers** will be providing channel catfish, largemouth bass, redear, bluegill, minnows, black crappie, if



Independent photo by Bob Mytych

Former Belleville resident Dan Martin, center, poses with Ralph Nodwell and his wife Arleen at Martin's book signing last Thursday at the Belleville Charhouse. Martin brought his first novel "Covenant" with him from Florida and spent Easter week in town with family and friends. He returned to Florida on Monday. The book is available at the *Independent* office during regular business hours for the reduced book-signing tour price of \$15.50. The book also is available on the Amazon website. Martin is the former advertising manager at the *Independent*.

available, and Koi. To order, call 1-800-247-2615.

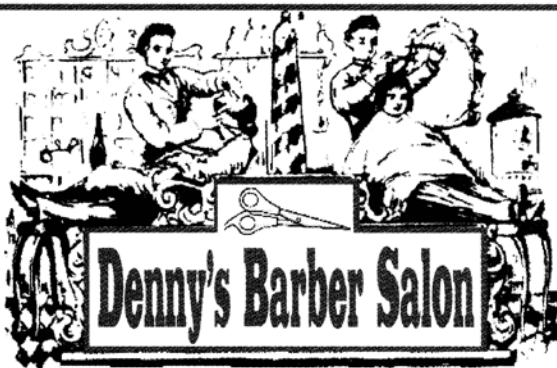
Tiffany Y. Donaldson and **Themes To Dreams** is a party, wedding, and events specialist that will help you with whatever your event might be. Call (734) 672-2353 or email her at themes_to_dream@yahoo.com.

Congratulations to the newly elected Board of Directors of the **Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce**. They include **Jim Chudzinski** (Sumpter Collision), **Michelle Mahaffey** (Open Arms/A&W), **Elisha Shelley**, (Cellular and More), and **Ted Wisniewski** (Jack Demmer Ford). Their

terms start in June.

St. Anthony's Church on West Columbia Avenue in Belleville will hold a baby shower from 2 to 5 p.m. April 22, with all donations going to benefit **Mary's Mantle**, a Home for Expectant Mothers (www.marysmantle.net). Food, games, and entertainment will be provided. For information, call **Rachel Faitel** at (734) 697-2988.

Main Street Flowers in Belleville will hold an in-store garage sale this week featuring baby clothes, pictures, books, and much more. Call (734) 697-7400.



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More Letters

Keep the State from infringing on religion

To the Editor:

I submit this letter to encourage others to keep this issue alive. We all need to contact everyone in a position to right this wrong: elected officials, bureaucrats, and fellow voters.

Our President and his administration seem to think that the Constitution is out-of-date and irrelevant. However, it is the document that he and each member of his cabinet have sworn to uphold and defend.

When he was running for office, our President promised he would bring FUNDAMENTAL change to this nation. I hope those words run a chill down voters' spines, rather than a thrill up their legs.

Apparently the FUNDAMENTAL change he means is the dismantling of the Constitution. By the way, anyone can register on-line to take a free college course on the Constitution through Hillsdale College.

March 24, 2012

Secretary Kathleen Sebelius

The U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services

200 Independence Avenue, S.W.

Washington, D.C. 20201

Secretary Sebelius:

Re: HHS Mandate requiring Healthcare Insurance to provide free contraceptives, sterilization, etc.

This issue of this mandate is NOT the Catholic Church vs. Women's Health; it IS THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION VS. THE FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Do you remember that document you swore to uphold when you took office? This mandate violates the free exercise of religion. Perhaps you have confused religion with worship. Religion is not confined to activities of worship; religion is the way one organizes one's ENTIRE LIFE around one's understanding of God and God's requirements of people.

I am not Catholic; I am a Christian in the Free Methodist denomination. Yet, I wholly agree with the Catholic Church in the matter of her teachings on human life. I am free to choose to follow that belief. The First Amendment guarantees this freedom. Even if I didn't agree with the teaching

of the Catholic Church, it is my duty as a citizen of the United States to speak up for the Constitutional rights of my neighbor. There is no liberty more fundamental than religious freedom. There is no violation of the Constitution more egregious than one of this type.

In case you believe the doctrine of Separation of Church and State justifies your position, I respectfully remind you that the phrase, "Wall of Separation between Church and State" was first used by President Thomas Jefferson in a letter to the Danbury Baptist Church. It is plain from the context of the letter that President Jefferson understood that the purpose of the First Amendment was to KEEP THE STATE OUT OF THE CHURCH. The intention of the founders was that each citizen would be free to exercise his or her religious beliefs in all matters, private and public.

Whoever pays healthcare premiums is the one who pays for whatever the insurance policy covers (in much the same way I pay your salary by paying my taxes). I will not pay for contraceptives, sterilization, or abortifacients. In the words of Patrick Henry (exactly 235 years before the signing of the Affordable Healthcare Act), "Give me liberty or give me death!" Know for certain that I am already active in my community and in every sphere of my influence to inform people and to urge them to defend the Constitution. This issue will not go away quietly.

I pray that you see the light of truth and the error of your ways while you still walk this Earth.

Elizabeth A. Verde
Belleville

Donate a book to Mr. Mouse's Book Project

To the Editor:

I would like to thank the Daisies and Brownies at Haggerty School for their contribution to Mr. Mouse's Book Project; they brought over 120 books to be given

away.

I would also like to thank students, scout leaders and faculty for their participation in this project.

If other schools and troops would like to help the book project go to www.mrmousenewsletter.com.

Children's books, new and gently used, can be dropped off at Garden Fantasy Florist in Van Buren or Paula's Home Cookin' in Belleville.

Sincerely,
Marion Caldwell and "Mr. Mouse"
Van Buren Township

Thumb area has enough wind to generate power

To the Editor:

In reading both volumes of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the planned licensing of a Fermi 3 nuclear reactor, there was good news and bad.

The bad news first: Fermi 2 is doing incredible damage to our bio-region. Such as, in one eight-month study, the Fermi 2 cooling water intake sucked up over 62½ million fish eggs and larvae, as well as over 3,000 adult fish; there's tritium in the water wells; cancer has gone up 31% since it began operations; some species have totally disappeared from the region; and some remaining are being seriously threatened; and so on.

The good news is that studies show Michigan's Thumb area has enough wind to produce electricity commercially. The Thumb area is already in Detroit Edison's "corridor" – which means they would not have to run any new transmission lines!

No need to destroy any wetlands or poison all of our relations to produce electricity. Once wind turbines are in place, there's little impact to the environment. It presents a win-win situation. Detroit Edison will be able to meet the needs of their aging plants due to close within their service area, and they can provide jobs in a sustainable way.

We'll all be happy.
Jessie Pauline Collins, Sumpter Township

Wayne County announces hazardous waste collection dates

Wayne County's Department of Public Services has scheduled the countywide Household Hazardous Waste collections for 2012.

The collections are scheduled for:

- Saturday, April 14, at the Romulus Civic Center, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus;
- Saturday, June 23 at Henry Ford Community College, 5101 Evergreen Road, Dearborn;
- Saturday, Aug. 25, at Westland Shopping Center, Warren Road at Nankin Blvd., Westland; and
- Saturday, Oct. 13, at Southland Shopping Center, 23000 Eureka Road, Taylor.

The Household Hazardous Waste Collections run from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. and are open to Wayne County residents only.

The collections are designed to accept unwanted household chemicals for proper disposal. Items that will be accepted include household paints, stains, floor care items, furniture polish, bathroom cleaners, lawn and garden chemicals, antifreeze, fluorescent and compact fluorescent light bulbs, old computers and TVs.

Pharmaceutical waste (non-controlled substances only) and medical sharps in puncture-proof containers also will be accepted. All waste must be from residential sources.

For more information, contact Wayne County's Resource Recovery Coordinator at 734-326-3936.

BHS Class of 1962 sets 50th reunion in July

The Belleville High School Class of 1962 is planning its 50th reunion in July and is trying to get classmates together. For information on the event, contact Burma (Carver) Wertz at wertzburma@comcast.net or Jack Lochrie at jlochrie@sprintmail.com.

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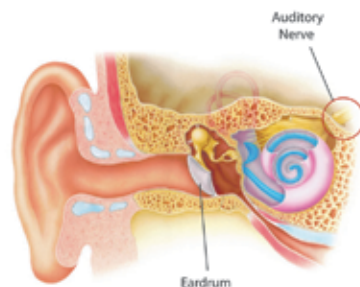
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Arts Council invites public to Antique Appraisal Fair April 28

By Kim Tindall, Corresponding Sec. Belleville Area Council for the Arts

So how *do* you know if that antique heirloom your grandpa left you is really worth as much as grandpa claimed? Internet searching can be very time-intensive and very frustrating, if you don't really know what you're looking at.

Only an antiques expert can really describe and define what you have and what it is worth.

Belleville-area collectors and the curious will have a rare opportunity to do just that at the "Antique Appraisal Fair" on Saturday, April 28. The discovery process run 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Grace Baptist Church Gymnasium. Doors open at 9:30am. Your first item costs \$10 and any additional items are \$5 (limit of five item per person, please).

Every dollar received will go toward promoting the antiques portion of "ArtAffair on Main" being held July 28-29 in downtown Belleville.

Doug Dalton, a local auctioneer, certified appraiser, and BACA member has recruited some serious talent to review your family treasures.

Chuck Schmidt of Schmidt's Antiques in Ypsilanti has over 40 years of experience, having worked in his family's auction house and retail antique shop his entire life. The Schmidt Family has been buying and

selling antique for more than 100 years and is well-known throughout the Midwest.

Another talented appraiser is Oscar "Oz" Zamora, a 25-year veteran of the antique auction business and member of the Warren Historical Commission. Zamora and wife Madelyn have filled an historic home in Warren with Victorian antiques and have been filmed during Warren's historic home tours.

Doug Dalton himself is a certified antique appraiser with more than 40 years involved in the antique trade. Dalton has also been an antique auctioneer for 30 years and has held appraisal events in Belleville at local churches.

"I'm always surprised at the diversity of items that are brought to these appraisal events," Dalton said. "Some items have values in the thousands of dollars, with most falling in the hundred dollars or less category."

"I'm hoping that someday, a real six-figure treasure comes in the door so I can be part of a great discovery."

So wrap up grandma's china, great uncle Fred's old guns and Aunt Betty's silver and bring them to the Grace Baptist Church Gymnasium (handicap accessible) at 164 Roys Street in Belleville, on April 28 to find out what your family treasures are really worth. Could be the best \$10 you've ever spent.

Van Buren Recreation offering Volleyball Skills Clinic starting May 18

By Bob Mytych

Independent Sports Editor

Grade school athletes who would like to learn the sport of volleyball at an early age can do so, thanks to the upcoming program put on by the Recreation Department at Van Buren Township.

Beginning May, 18 and continuing each Friday through June 22, a volleyball skills clinic will take place at the Municipal Center, covering the fundamentals such as passing, setting, attacking, and serving.

The class will be taught by Robin Paris and geared for participants in grades 3-8, from 5 to 6:15 p.m. each day.

The cost is \$45 for residents of Van Buren Township, \$60 for non-residents. Registration deadline is May 14. The clinic is expected to fill up quickly so participants are asked to register early. For information, call (734) 699-8921 or visit www.vanburen-mi.org.

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VBT Pub. Safety

(continued from page 3)

On April 4, while following up on prior home invasions in the area, Special Investigative Unit personnel came in contact with Johnson who had the TV from the most recent Old Michigan break-in.

Laurain said police obtained a search warrant on the man's residence and several items were seized that were believed to be stolen.

"Our officers have been constantly working these Home Invasion cases and we hope this latest arrest will uncover further leads into solving these break-ins in that area," Laurain said.

He referred to more than 40 break-ins over the past few months in the Denton Subdivision area, Old Michigan Rd. homes, and VBT homes just north of Michigan Avenue.

VBT Public Safety Director Carl McClanahan recently stated that Canton Township also has many forced-entry home invasions along the Michigan Avenue corridor.

Van Buren Street incident

Captain Laurain said an incident at around 9:13 p.m. April 4 at 10905 Van Buren Street in Haggerty Subdivision was a fight between two men. One man had a superficial wound to his arm, Laurain said. Captain Laurain said the incident remains under investigation, but police believe information is being withheld by the injured person.

Hold-Up Alarm

The hold-up alarm at 7:38 p.m. April 7 at 9556 Belleville Road (Millenium Wireless) actually was an error, according to the alarm company, and not a hold up, Captain Laurain said.

Upcoming Events

- Thursday, April 12 – Sumpter Township Planning Commission, 7 p.m. Also, Ginger Bruder gives presentation on men from Sumpter, Van Buren, and Belleville that served in the Civil War and what happened to them, at Belleville Area District Library, 7 p.m., free.
- Monday, April 16 – Van Buren Township Board of Trustees work/study, 4 p.m. Also, Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education work/study, 7 p.m., Administration Building. Also, Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, April 17 – Van Buren Township Board of Trustees, 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 18 – South Huron Valley Utility Authority, 10 a.m., Brownstown Township Hall. Also, Van Buren Township Planning Staff Review, 1-4 p.m. Also, Belleville DDA, 6 p.m. Also, VBT Environmental Commission, 7 p.m.
- Monday, April 23 – Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m., Rawsonville Elementary School
- Tuesday, April 24 – Van Buren Township Development Authority, 5:30 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township workshop at 6 p.m., followed by regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. Also, VBT Water & Sewer Commission, 7 p.m.

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Paul White announces re-election bid in Van Buren Township

Van Buren Township Supervisor Paul White has announced his campaign to seek reelection as Supervisor of Van Buren Township on the Democratic ticket.

His press release states that White worked 40 years in the retail supermarket industry, and retired from the Kroger Company in 2001.

After seven years of retirement, White ran unsuccessfully for the Supervisor position in 2008, and has faithfully served the residents during his current term, his press release states.

He has been appointed to the following positions: Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority (Primary Rep.), Joint Management Committee Vice Chair, Downriver Utilities Wastewater Authority (Executive Board), SEMCOG, Conference of Western Wayne, VBT LDFA, VBT Downtown Development Authority, and appointments to other committees.

While attending Michigan Townships Association Conferences, White has taken many classes, including Strategic Budgeting, Financial Forecasting, Intergovernmental Cooperation, Ethics Standards, Contractual Language, Risk Avoidance, Social Media, Open Meeting Act, Declining Revenues, Collaboration among Municipalities and many additional classes.

White has demonstrated the highest level of leadership, required accountability and training among staff, promoted ethical and professional standards, and courtesy to everyone, the news release said. Changing the structure and culture within VBT hall to more of a business attitude has been a priority, and progress has been made towards this important goal, the release said.

Supervisor White stated, "Living within our means has been the highest priority during this term. We MUST maintain the highest level of services at the lowest possible cost to our residents. The 2010 Budget demonstrated a savings of almost \$1.289M over the 2009 Budget, the 2011 Audited Budget Expenditures should be just over \$13M, with budgeted Revenues and Unreserved funding of \$14.2M. The 2011 Final Budget will show another \$1.2M estimated savings against the Proposed 2011 Budget. A Host Community Agreement negotiated with the EQ Landfill will generate additional projected revenue in 2012.

"There has been considerable progress in bringing business to VBT since 2008, including GE and Dana at the Grace Lake Complex, Belle Tire, Auto Zone, National RV, Twisted Rooster, and about 12 other businesses. The Menards Company has also signed a purchase agreement to buy



Paul White

the old Farmer Jack site to build a store. This is HUGE for our community, and I worked for many months to accomplish this project."

He added, "My leadership during one of the toughest economical climates in the history of Michigan is proven, and I want to continue the progress of improving the 'Quality of Life' for our residents while retaining the pastoral characteristics and aesthetics of our beautiful township and keeping our taxes as low as possible."

Paul White said he wants to thank residents for their help and support for reelection as Supervisor of Van Buren Township. To contact White, go to White4VBTSuper@aol.com.

Yankee Air Museum gears up for Italian Bistro Night fundraiser

By Bob Mytych
Independent Sports Editor

The Yankee Air Museum's Italian Bistro Night fundraiser will be held on Saturday, April 21, at the Yankee Air Museum's Collections and Exhibits Building at Willow Run Airport.

The cost is \$30 in advance for members, \$35 in advance for non-members. Tickets are \$35 at the door.

Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. with dinner starting at 6:30 p.m. There will be food, wine, swing dancing and music provided by The Couriers. Tickets can be purchased at the Yankee Air Museum during regular business hours or at the museum's website at www.yankeeairmuseum.org. Call (734) 483-4030 for information.

Huron Valley Conservation Assn. sets buffet at Eagles April 17

The Huron Valley Conservation Association will hold an all-you-can-eat Home-Style Buffet dinner from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. April 17 at the Van Buren Eagles, 9961 Beck Road, Van Buren Township.

The menu will be: fried chicken, roast pork loin, sauerkraut & sausage, ham, mashed potatoes, red cabbage, corn, carrots, gravy, salads, bread, and desserts.

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for those 12 and younger. Carry-outs will be available.

Proceeds will benefit the HVCA educational projects. For more information and/or tickets call Buddy Hamrick, 734-697-8616, or Kris Matthew, 734-662-7852.

Or, email: HVCA2010@aol.com.

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An estimated 400 children and parents came to Victory Park on Saturday to visit with Flop E. Bunny and scramble around in the straw for Easter treats. The parents were roped off from the children during the hunt, but the parents crowded up close to the boundaries to make sure their children were all right. The children also received about 135 free pictures with the Bunny and got to climb on a fire truck and make a wish. The annual event, manned by volunteers, was courtesy of the Belleville Central Business Community. Below, Jayln Young, 6, son of Rene Young of Belleville perches on the Bunny's lap.



Applefest invites all fiddlers to participate in Michigan State contest

The Huron Township Applefest invites all fiddlers to participate in the 27th-Annual Michigan State Championship Old-Time Fiddlers Contest on Saturday, Oct. 6, at

noon in New Boston.

The contest begins at noon to accommodate those who must travel a little farther.

Fiddlers register at 11 a.m. and draw for places at 11:30 a.m. There is a \$10 registration fee. Contestants will be required to play a waltz, a schottische, a jig and a reel, all in a manner suitable for Michigan-style, old-time dancing.

Arts Council to present Jack in the Beanstalk comedy on May 12

A cast of local students will present the comedy "A Hill of Magic Beans, or Here's Looking at You, Jack" at 3 and 7 p.m. on Saturday, May 12, at Belleville First United Methodist Church, 417 Charles Street.

Tickets are \$5 for adults, with children under five admitted free. Tickets are available from all members of the cast, who are to be announced later, from members of the Belleville Area Council for the Arts, and at Threads 'n' Treasures quilt shop in Belleville.

Alexis Tesner of Livonia is directing the production, according to Chris Spillman, chairman of the BACA theater committee.

The play is by Matt Casarino and produced by special arrangement with Playscripts, Inc. by the Belleville Area Council for the Arts.

The comedy, designed for the young (and young-at-heart), re-visits the story of Jack and The Beanstalk, starting with the time previous to Jack trading for the famous beans and telling how The Great Fairytale Wars affected the whole Fairytale world.

The Arts Council is offering patrons and businesses the opportunity to provide words of encouragement or place ads in the show program, starting at \$10.

For more information on the event, see bellevilleartscouncil.org or email info@bellevilleartscouncil.org.

Contestants will be judged on timing/tempo, intonation, expression and repertoire.

Complete rules can be found at the Applefest website: <http://www.huronapplefest.com/fiddlerscontest.php>

For more information, contact Jim McKinney at 734-753-8863 or stringt@charter.net

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VBT Board OKs second voting precinct at Savage Elementary School

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Since the Van Buren School District will be closing Haggerty Elementary School in June, Van Buren Township will move voting Precinct #8 from Haggerty to Savage Elementary School, a short distance away.

Savage already is the location for Precinct #9, so the two will be at the same school, but in different parts of the building.

At the April 3 meeting of the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees, Clerk Leon Wright explained the situation. He said there is precedent, since the township currently has more than one precinct at the township hall and in the past had two polling places at Belleville High School.

Clerk Wright said the two schools are in the same area of the township and Savage, at 42975 Savage Road, has a very large parking area.

Wright said currently Precinct #8 had 2,392 registered voters and Precinct #9 had 1,729 registered voters. Savage Elementary will be closed to students for both the August Primary and General Election, he said.

Wright said he worked with School Supt. Michael Van Tassel and Building and Grounds Director James Williams in determining the best site for the precinct.

The board unanimously approved

Wright's recommendation.

At the workshop session on April 2 when the item was discussed, Trustee Jeff Jahr said he lives in the area of Precinct #8 that is north of the lake. He said he would have liked to have a polling place north of the lake, closer to his home.

Wright said his next step will be to notify the Wayne County Clerk of the polling place change, update the Qualified Voter File, post signs at the current Haggerty Elementary School location, update the township website with updated maps and precinct polling location list, and mail out updated voter registration cards to the affected voters.

Wright also explained that due to state redistricting all registered voters in VBT will receive a new voter identification card with updated information for the changes to the following districts: U.S. Congressional, State Senate, State Representative, and for those voters in Precinct #8, a new polling place.

The voter identification card is for the voter to use to identify districts along with precinct number and location, Wright said.

In other business at the April 3 meeting, the board:

- Approved the second reading and enactment of a new Cemetery Ordinance for the operation of Denton, Soop, Otisville, and Tyler cemeteries. Board members thanked Clerk Wright and his office for their work, along with township historian Cathy Horste and the Cemetery Advisory Committee;

- Approved the proposal by Wade Trim engineers for field engineering (oversight and inspection) on the 2011-12 Water Project at a cost not to exceed \$15,500. The project scheduled for this summer will take 4-6 weeks and will be done by directional drilling, which will be less disruptive than open trenches. DVM contractors will connect the Country Walk dead-end water line to Lenmoore's dead-end line, close gaps and correct dead-ends on Bemis near Rawsonville, and make connections on Haggerty under Riggs Creek, aka Woods Creek;
- Heard Treasurer Sharry Budd cast the lone nay vote against approving the voucher list (to pay township bills) because she didn't want to pay for Supervisor Paul White's cable box in his office, which is \$2.16 a month. She said the police department should be the only one with more than basic cable. "It's for extra stations," Budd said. "I get basic." Budd also voted against the voucher list at the previous meeting because she disapproved of White having a township-paid leased vehicle for work (as did the previous supervisor);

- Heard Trustee Phil Hart ask if the board will hear presentations from Nixle and other companies, similar to the Code Red presentation on April 2. White said he would like to see presentations to the Public Safety Committee and Environmental Commission and he is open to suggestions about other presenters. Trustee Jeff Jahr said he was impressed with the Code Red presentation, but he would like the Public Safety Committee and Environmental Commission to decide what the township wants and then try to buy the best product. "We're not buying anything now," White replied. "We're just looking at what's available";

- Heard White announce that people are enjoying Van Buren Park now and entry is free until the first of May;
- Heard Adam Byrd, who identified himself as president of Mission Pointe Homeowners Association, say his subdivision is putting together welcome packets for Mission Pointe and the township should put together such packets, too. He said while the Chamber of Commerce has items to welcome new residents, he said he wanted to emphasize VBT, not the area;
- Heard Linda Stevenson, VBT Executive Assistant / Assessment Coordinator, explain that when new residents file their homestead affidavits, she gives them information and local maps and takes extra time if it is a resident new to the area. She said she explains to them the difference

between Belleville, Van Buren Township, and Sumpter Township;

- Heard Larry Fix announce that while he was out walking he discovered metal covers missing from drains at the Cobblestone development. He also asked for the attorney's opinion on White's email investigation, noted the break-ins in the township haven't stopped, the former Track-Pac party store had graffiti on the wall, and asked if the patrol units have to write a certain number of tickets each month;

- Heard Gordon Joe Komarmi warn about Smart meters because of privacy issues and the hazards of microwaves. He said he wanted to give the board a heads up because of the possible future installation of those meters;

- Heard Pauline and John Holeyton of Shelby Township warn about Smart meters. The Smart electric meters are being put in communities by DTE and the state is studying their use after several communities petitioned the state;

- Heard Byrd (who is also a VBT police officer) ask Public Safety Director Carl McClanahan if there are a certain number of traffic tickets patrol officers must write. McClanahan replied, "There is no quota in the Police Department." Byrd stated that the passage of the public safety millage last November shows the "public is very happy with the police department";

- Heard Hart announce that he and Trustees Al Ostrowski and Jahr will be looking into the details of hiring additional police officers; and

- Heard Victor Franzoi ask White if he got an opinion from the attorney on the emails and if he would make it public. White said it was up to the board whether the attorney's opinion would be made public.

The township board went into a closed-door session after the 4 p.m. workshop session on April 2 to discuss AFSCME contract negotiations.

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**Belleville City Council Agenda
Regular Meeting
Monday, April 16 at 7:30 p.m.**

1. Pledge of Allegiance, Moment of Silence
2. Roll Call
3. Presentations & Citizens' Comment
4. Approval of Agenda
5. Approval of Minutes
6. Public Hearing
7. Introduction of Ordinances
8. General Business
A. Canton Lions Club, White Cane
B. American Legion, Buddy Poppy
9. Accounts Payable and Departmental Expenditures
10-13. Officials' and Citizens' Comments
14. Action Items for Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting.
15. Adjournment.

This is a tentative regular meeting agenda based on information which was available as of Tuesday before the meeting. Items may be added or deleted prior to the official agenda being distributed. This is not an official meeting notice.

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Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES APRIL 3, 2012

Supervisor White called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. in the Board Room. Present: Supervisor White, Clerk Wright, Treasurer Budd, Trustee Hart, Trustee Jahr, Trustee Ostrowski and Trustee Partridge. Absent: None. Others in attendance: Parks and Recreation Director Wright, Public Safety Director McClanahan, Planning and Economic Development Services Director Carroll, DPW Director MacDonald, Executive Assistant/Assessing Coordinator Stevenson, Secretary Cline and an audience of twenty-eight (28).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Jahr moved, Partridge seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Carried.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: Budd moved, Wright seconded to approve the Consent Agenda [Work Study Session Minutes March 19, 2012; Regular Board Meeting Minutes March 20, 2012.] as presented. Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING: None.

CORRESPONDENCE: Trustee Hart stated he had received several emails regarding the presentation during Work Study meeting yesterday for CODE RED inquiring if the Board would be having other presentations on this subject. Supervisor White stated currently there are no other presentations scheduled, but is open for other presentations if requested. Trustee Jahr stated he would like the Environmental Commission and Public Safety Committee feedback for what they

thought the Township needs are for this type of service.

Director McClanahan read a letter on behalf of Edgemont Daisy Troop 20414 regarding recent tour of the Department of Public Safety and thanked Officer Traster for this educational tour.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Hart moved, Budd seconded to approve the second reading for adoption of General Ordinance 03-20-2012, an ordinance to amend the General Code of Ordinances, Charter Township of Van Buren by adding a Cemetery Ordinance. Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Partridge, Ostrowski, Jahr, Hart, Budd, Wright and White. Nays: None. Absent: None. Carried.

*(A synopsis of Ordinance 03-20-12 follows the minutes. A complete copy may also be obtained in the Clerk’s Office, Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Road during normal business hours.)

NEW BUSINESS: Budd moved, Ostrowski seconded to approve the adoption of Resolution 2012-07 changing precinct #8 polling place from Haggerty Elementary School to Savage Elementary School. Carried.

Partridge moved, Wright seconded to approve the 2011-12 Water Main Project Construction Administration and Inspection proposal from Wade Trim [\$15,500]. Carried.

VOUCHER LIST: Wright moved, Partridge seconded to approve the April 3, 2012 voucher list. Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Partridge, Ostrowski, Jahr, Hart, Wright and White. Nays: Budd. Absent: None. Carried.

REPORTS: Supervisor White ordered the January 2012 Budgetary Report received and filed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Trustee Partridge

announced the Belleville Area Museum currently has a Civil War exhibit. Also, the Museum will host on April 21st at 2:00 p.m. a lecture on “Michigan in the Civil War”. The Belleville Area District Library presents “The Tri-Community in the Civil War” with Ginger Bruder on Thursday, April 12th at 7:00 p.m.

Clerk Wright reminded residents the Township Administrative Offices will be closed on April 6th in observance of Good Friday.

Director Wright announced the Van Buren Parks and Recreation is offering a new program called Square Foot Gardening 201. The class will be held on Saturday, May 12th from 9:00 a.m. to noon at Van Buren Park. Also, the Recreation Department will be open this weekend with the following hours: Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. For more information contact the Recreation Department at 734-699-8921, township website www.vanburen-mi.org or visit the Recreation Facebook page.

Adam Byrd announced on May 5th Relay for Life will take place at Quirk Park and Atchinson Ford has formed a

group to participate in this Cancer Society fundraiser.

AUDIENCE (Non-Agenda Items): Comments were made from 8:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. by the Board and audience regarding the following topics: CODE RED presentation; Planning Commission; final site plan review process; welcome information packets for new township residents; missing sewer grates; outcome of investigation; attorney’s opinion on computer use policy; graffiti on building; patrol units in Public Safety Department; information regarding DTE Smart meters and requesting township opt out; posting of agendas; pay rates for electrical inspectors used by Township; Public Safety millage; number of Public Safety Department employees; attorney opinion concerning emails.

CLOSED SESSION: None.

ADJOURNMENT: Jahr moved, Partridge seconded to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Leon Wright, Township Clerk
Paul D. White, Township Supervisor
Publish: April 12, 2012

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN
COUNTY OF WAYNE, STATE OF MICHIGAN
ORDINANCE 03-20-2012

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE TOWNSHIP CODE OF GENERAL ORDINANCES, BY
ADDING A CEMETERY ORDINANCE

Second reading for adoption.

VAN BUREN CHARTER TOWNSHIP ORDAINS:

<u>Section 1</u>	Title
<u>Section 2</u>	Purpose and Intent
<u>Section 3</u>	Definitions
<u>Section 4</u>	Sale of Cemetery Plots; transfer of Plot Ownership
<u>Section 5</u>	Purchase Price for Cemetery Plots; Plot Transfers; Indigent burials
<u>Section 6</u>	Grave Opening Charges
<u>Section 7</u>	Markers, Memorials and Monuments
<u>Section 8</u>	Interment
<u>Section 9</u>	Disinterment’s
<u>Section 10</u>	Cremated Cremains
<u>Section 11</u>	Grounds Maintenance
<u>Section 12</u>	Disclaimer of Township Liability and Responsibility
<u>Section 13</u>	Records
<u>Section 14</u>	Vaults
<u>Section 15</u>	Cemetery Hours
<u>Section 16</u>	Prohibited Uses and Activities
<u>Section 17</u>	Fees
<u>Section 18</u>	Applicability of this Ordinance
<u>Section 19</u>	Interpretation/Appeals to the Township Board
<u>Section 20</u>	Authority of the Township to Remove Unauthorized or Unlawful Items from a Township Cemetery
<u>Section 21</u>	Penalties
<u>Section 22</u>	Township Officials Who Can Enforce Ordinance
<u>Section 23</u>	Severability
<u>Section 24</u>	Effective Date; Conflicts

This ordinance is hereby declared to have been adopted by the Township Board of the Charter Township of Van Buren, County of Wayne, State of Michigan at a Regular Meeting, called and held on the 3rd day of April, 2012.

YEAS: Partridge, Ostrowski, Jahr, Hart, Budd, Wright and White.
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: None.

This Ordinance shall be immediately recorded by the Township Clerk in the Township Ordinance Book as soon as it is adopted, which record shall be authenticated by the signatures of the Supervisor and Clerk and shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the Township within ten (10) days after passage. I hereby approve the foregoing Ordinance

Leon Wright, Clerk

Paul D. White, Supervisor

Adopted: 4/3/12.
Published: 3/29/12 & 4/12/12.
Effective: 4/12/12.

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP HALL
46425 TYLER ROAD

The Charter Township of Van Buren Board of Trustees will hold a Public Hearing in conjunction with the Regular Board meeting on Tuesday, April 17, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. in the Board Room at Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, MI 48111 to consider a request for an Exemption of New Personal Property pursuant to Act 328, Michigan Public Acts of 1998, as amended for Constellium Automotive USA, LLC 6331 Schooner Dr., Van Buren Township, Wayne County, Michigan. Following is the described parcel:

Parcel # 83-017-99-0014-703

05 H3 PT OF NE 1/4 SEC 5 T3S R8E DESC AS BEG S 88D 09M 00S W 1215.10 FT AND S 04D 28M 18S E 1011.81 FT FROM NE COR SEC 5: TH S 04D 28M 18S E 1149.42 FT TH S 77D 31M 39S W 1013.28 FT TH N 04D 28M 18S W 1079.12 FT TH ALONG A CURVE CONCAVE TO THE W RAD 430.00 FT CHORD N 09D 28M 52S E 207.36 FT TH N 04D 28M 18S W 10.09 FT TH N 85D 31M 42S E 953.42 FT TO POB. 27.93 AC.

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

Leon Wright, Clerk
Charter Township of Van Buren

Publish: April 5, 2012
April 12, 2012

Belleville Reserves honored for volunteer hours during 2010

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

Sixteen Belleville Reserve Police officers were honored for their volunteer service to the city at the Jan. 17 meeting of the City Council.

Police Chief Gene Taylor said the volunteers were honored through the President's Volunteers in Public Service awards program. Chief Taylor said the 2010 awards were delayed by a website being down and an election.

Only one officer – Edward Smith, who put in 444 volunteer hours -- was present at the meeting, since the rest have regular jobs that interfered with attendance at the evening session, Chief Taylor said.

Charles Syer won a gold medallion award for completing 928 hours of volunteer service to the city. Syer also earned a gold award for 1,281 hours of volunteer service in 2009.

The Belleville Police Reserves as a group earned a gold award with a total of 3,700 hours of service to the City of Belleville in 2010.

"The Strawberry Festival, parades, bunnies, scarecrows – we wouldn't have enough officers without them," Chief Taylor said. "Be proud of the folks who are keeping us safe."

The gold awards went to Syer and Nick Johns, who was an auxiliary member in 2010 and put in 296 hours. Because of his young age, he earned a gold in his category, Chief Taylor explained.

Earning silver awards were Brian Smothers, Edward Smith, and Shawn Farmer.

Earning bronze awards were Adam Barton, Brad Rossman, D'Ante Conover, Dorn Kirschweg, Ken Grant, Luther Taylor, Matt Raich, Mike Budai, and Steve Sexton.

"The majority of these people are working as we speak," Chief Taylor said at the meeting. "Some have moved on."

Besides a framed award, each officer also received a letter of appreciation signed by President Barack Obama.



Photo courtesy Martha Toth

Members of the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education enjoyed a private tour through the new Belleville High School on March 29. Here they look over the workout room at the back of the complex. BHS is expected to open to students next semester.

VBT's new Reserve Police officers are scholars, professionals

Van Buren Township's only Reserve Officers, Carl Powell and Earl Thompson, were sworn in by VBT Clerk Leon Wright on Nov. 14, and introduced to the community at the Nov. 15 meeting of the VBT Board of Trustees.

About a year earlier, the VBT Police Department actively started looking for police reserve candidates, according to a community newsletter written by Officer Adam Byrd.

Through that process the township received about 30 applicants. The department determined that eight of the candidates would move to the next level in the process, Byrd said.

Sgt. Barton Devos is the reserve officer

coordinator who worked with Officer Michael Long to get the best candidates for the department, Byrd wrote.

Reserve Officers Powell and Thompson were the first two candidates to complete the Schoolcraft Community College Police Reserve Training Course.

Reserve Officer Powell is employed as the Chief Information Officer for Eastern Michigan University. He is married and a resident of Canton Township.

Officer Powell has a bachelor's degree from the University of California, a master's degree from Kent State University, and a Ph.D. from Cleveland State University.

He is certified as an Emergency Medical Technician. He attended, and completed the Police Reserve Officer Training course at Schoolcraft where he achieved both the academic award for having the highest grade point average in the Reserve Officer Training class and the class leadership

award.

Reserve Officer Thompson is employed as the Forensic Security Supervisor, for Michigan Department of Community Health in Saline. Officer Thompson is married and a resident of the City of Belleville.

He has a bachelor's degree from Eastern Michigan University and a master's degree from the University of Michigan. Thompson attended, and completed the winter 2011 Police Reserve Officer Training course at Schoolcraft College.

Cougars football, cheerleading to register participants May 5, 6

The Belleville Cougars Football and Cheerleading teams are looking for players and participants for the 2012 season. Registration for both leagues will take place at the Van Buren Township Hall on Saturday, May 5, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., and on Sunday, May 6, from noon to 2 p.m.

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MEET SUPERVISOR PAUL WHITE

SUPPORT RALLY

Paul will be discussing his accomplishments as Van Buren Township Supervisor during the past 4 years including balancing the budget, reducing overtime payouts to township employees and improvements to community services. Paul would also like to get suggestions from residents on ways to make the township a better place to live and will be discussing his goals for the next 4 years. Some of the topics for discussion will be the new Detroit Area Aerotropolis legislation and its impact on development and new efforts to protect Belleville Lake. Bring your Family and Friends.

2:00 PM – 4:00 PM • SUNDAY • APRIL 22

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VBT Police recommend free online system to keep track of valuables

Van Buren Township Police Department encourages all residents to use a free, online system that will help keep track of valuable – and irreplaceable – personal property.

Report It is a free, secure online service allowing citizens to record serial numbers and upload images for phones, electronics, and other valuables.

Should those items ever be stolen, Van Buren Township PD said having the information will go a long way in accurately and quickly identifying your property.

Citizens can access the site at reportit.leadsonline.com.

"I encourage everyone in Van Buren Township to register property with Report It and know what they own. Being able to supply identifiable information such as pictures and serial numbers is critical to criminal investigations should property go missing," said VBT Public Safety Director Carl McClanahan.

"Residents can rest assured that the information they store in Report It is secure and not accessible by anyone without the username and password to an account," he said.

The Report It service is part of LeadsOnline, the online system that works with police across the country to track and recover stolen property. The VBT PD uses LeadsOnline to help track and recover stolen property – everything from jewelry to sporting equipment to electronics, computers, cameras, and others such as designer clothing, collectibles and other items with invaluable personal worth.

The system allows detective to search for the items using a variety of parameters, including item descriptions and serial numbers. When an item is sold to a pawn or secondhand shop, the product information is entered in the LeadsOnline database and is immediately viewable by participating law enforcement agencies across the country.

VBT Police recently began using LeadsOnline and has reported many successes using the online investigations system.

With information provided by

LeadsOnline, police track down thieves, develop leads in numerous cases, and make arrests.

Citizens can store an unlimited number of serial numbers, item descriptions, pictures, and scans of receipts so items may be more easily identified in the event of theft.

This record may also come in handy when filing claims with insurance providers in the event of loss. Citizens wanting to participate in Report It can register for the free service at reportit.leadsonline.com and begin building their personal property inventory list.

When discussing the Report It service at the Jan. 18 meeting of the VBT Public Safety Committee, Director McClanahan said he is very excited about the program and plans to use it himself.

LeadsOnline is the nation's largest online investigative system used by more than 4,000 law enforcement agencies to recover stolen property and solve crimes.

Each day, millions of items are added to the LeadOnline database by businesses including second-hand stores, scrap metal recyclers, pawnshops, and internet drop-off stores across all 50 states. These records are instantly available to law enforcement agencies, meaning crimes can be solved in seconds, not months.

LeadsOnline and Report It were suggested to the VBT Police Department by Diane Madigan, who serves on the VBT Public Safety Committee.

She told the committee she had been informed of the program by a VBT resident who works for a police department in another jurisdiction. Director McClanahan checked into the program and VBT signed up.

When Madigan brought the idea forward Nov. 2, she said that in the last 60 days across the country 585 items were sold at pawnbrokers by people with addresses in the 48111 zip code.

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APRIL 13TH AND 14TH 9:00AM – 3:00PM

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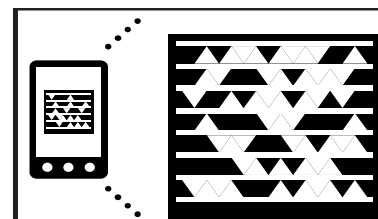
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REWARD - Lost our African Grey Parrott on March 16th from Lenmoore area. It flew toward Belleville. May have been captured by man with blanket. (734) 697-3689 4/12

1 yr. old TERRIER/Aust./Shepherd mix. Looks like Doberman Pinscher. Under 40 lbs. No collar. Vicinity Harmony Lanes Sub. Missing since 4-02-12. (734) 697-9446 4/19

LOST

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Flood insurance

(continued from page 1)

then issued the new floodplain panels.

Some properties that had not been in floodplains in previous years, now were designated as floodplain.

When residents started getting their letters from their banks and calling township hall with questions, they were asked to provide their addresses and the township engineer would produce the FEMA information for them.

At Thursday's meeting, digital pictures of the properties identified were put on boards with the color-coded FEMA determinations and the residents flocked around to see their pictures.

Bright red designated floodplain and green was trees and no flooding. Those with green pictures heaved sighs of relief. Those with red pictures, gave sighs of frustration.

"It's not an exact process for FEMA," Hennessey said of the floodplain determinations. He said a group in Chicago actually does the calculations without ever setting foot on the properties.

The whole process is driven by FEMA, Hennessey said, which turns over some of the details to the states. By state law, if a building permit is being sought for a flood plain site, the municipality must reject the request until the state grants a permit.

When some of the people started berating the county for not cleaning the drains, leading to flooding, Hennessey said the FEMA floodplain determination is independent of the drains.

He said the FEMA determination is for a 100-year rain over the entire watershed, plus a series of rain events for 25-year, 10-year, and so forth.

The determinations are based on sea level and the rains that could come would overwhelm any drains. He added that the county did not do anything to promote this and FEMA chose the most populated areas, which would bring in more insurance money.

A man in the audience said that FEMA just wants money to pay for Katrina and Hennessey agreed, adding that the conditions are what they are and, "We have to deal with what it is now" and follow the rules.

For those requesting it, the township board and Hennessey are splitting the cost to send Hennessey people out to shoot the next adjacent level to see if a parcel is in the floodplain. If it is, the property will need insurance and that's the end of it.

If it isn't in the flood plain, Hennessey will offer them the price of \$250, their cost, to do the work to get the floodplain certificate. He said individuals can use any professional engineer to get the certificate, but the going rate is \$500-\$600 apiece.

He said if an engineer was hired for the project and the first step found the property was in the floodplain, a homeowner would have to pay the cost to find out they had to get the insurance anyway.

He said FEMA has new data it considers and photographic evidence of the structure now is required.

Deputy Supervisor Craig Moody, who set up the meeting to address the concerns of residents, said Hennessey has been very cooperative.

"They're new and want us to keep them around," he said of the engineering firm.

Kathy Paige said she successfully fought the floodplain designation for her property years ago, which was very time consuming and costly. She asked if she had to do it again. She probably does, she was told.

She contended the drains were the problem and Hennessey replied FEMA is not concerned with the drains.

A property owner asked if his property tax assessment would go down. He suggested it would be harder to sell a house on a floodplain.

Dale Harrison said property owners have 45 days to get the insurance or the bank will do it. He said his agent wants the insurance zone classification.

Hennessey had people who wanted this zone identified sign their names and addresses on a list. He said he could have the information for them by Monday.

Another man said his house was built 15' above grade using fill dirt and FEMA told him he needed a Fill Dirt Exemption, which costs \$425 just to apply.

"They have you coming and going," he said.

"Thirteen years ago my property was not in the floodplain and now it is," a man said, asking how that could be.

Hennessey said now FEMA uses more

enhanced data and the triangulation used now has 50 points instead of 20 as in the past.

"There are no boots on the ground," Hennessey reminded them. "This is all done by computers."

Another man said the people can complain all they want, but "This is the government. We have to follow the steps."

As far as the drains go, Deputy Supervisor Moody said the county would love to clean the drains, but the county would assess the property owners. The county doesn't pay anything and the people pay it all.

"We're not out of the recession yet. We're losing homes," Moody said.

Moody said the Wayne County 1956 Drain Code has never been updated and it needs an update bad.

Hennessey said the drain cleaning is a user tax, in a sense.

After the discussion people lined up to sign up to get their insurance zone designation and/or to get an initial survey.

Meanwhile, 63 people signed a petition

being passed around "To Reject and Revoke FEMA's Flood Insurance Survey - Costing Sumpter Residents Thousands Per Year."

Residents said their insurance companies estimated a cost of \$1,800 to \$2,000 a year for flood insurance, which is split between the underwriter and FEMA.

On Jan. 25, the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees passed FEMA Resolution 2012-02 and Ordinance 109 which was to make way for residents to be able to buy less-expensive flood insurance through FEMA.

April Birthdays

April 8 - Johnny Vawters

April 10 - George Roman, Judy Fruit

April 14 - Dorothy Skszek, LaShonda Whitehead

April 18 - Ken Bleeker, Anthony S. Kuchta, Sr.

April 19 - Mary Lee Schaffer Kuchta

April 23 - Ann Kuchta Martin

April 30 - Glenn Silvenis, Barbara Miller



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Openings Include:

School	Grade Level	Vacancies
Brown Elementary	K	5
	1	1
	2	5
	3	1
	4	5
Miller Elementary	5	5
	K	5
	1	5
	2	5
	3	5
Renton Junior High	4	5
	5	5
	6	10
	7	5
	8	5
Huron High School	9	5
	10	5
	11	5
	12	5

Applications are available at the Huron School District Administration Building
Applications will be accepted between the dates listed below.
From May 7, 2012, through May 25, 2012.
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For more information please call 734.782.2441 or visit our website at
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Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

The following are selected runs for VBT Police.
For more detailed police logs, see www.bellevilleareaindependent.com.

Sunday, April 1:

0200 – loud party complaint, 43166 Pond Bluff Dr.
0230 – personal injury accident, Belleville Rd. / S. I-94 Service Dr.
0233 – fight, 19 Brandi Dr.
0242 – fight, 29 Maple Dr.
0747 – private property accident, 13000 Haggerty
0931 – assault & battery, 51341 W. Huron River Dr.
1427 – ATV/ORV complaint, 6748 Maurice Dr.
1429 – assault & battery, 51151 Old Michigan
1432 – unattended death, 50125 S. I-94 Service Dr.
1531 – property damage accident, O’Riley
1645 – fraud, 9701 Belleville, Meijer
1726 – shots fired, 46820 Hull Rd.
1734 – property damage accident, S. I-94 Service Dr. / Beckley Rd.
1755 – breaking & entering, Patty Lane
1908 – fraud, 9701 Belleville, Meijer
1938 – juvenile complaint, Ecorse/Sadie Lane
1938 – private property accident, 9701 Belleville Rd., Meijer
2034 – assault & battery, 63 Maple Dr.
2044 – assault & battery, 46994 Denton Rd.
2139 – malicious destruction of property, 6171 Rawsonville
2212 – malicious destruction of property, 7250 Rawsonville
2317 – fight, 10819 Oak Lane
2317 – fight, Southport

Monday, April 2:
0146 – suicide or attempt, 9450 Haggerty
1028 – malicious destruction of property, 6192 W. Adams
1124 – private property accident, 9701 Belleville, Meijer
1207 – agency assist, WB I-94 / Rawsonville
1239 – breaking & entering, 10509 Jackson St.
1300 – neighbor trouble, 42707 Leon Dr.
1447 – neighbor trouble, 7712 Kirkridge Park Dr.
1802 – malicious destruction of property, 10819 Oak Lane
1949 – trespassing, 242 Anaheim
1953 – disorderly conduct, 46145 Village Green
2121 – breaking & entering, 46080 Lake Villa Dr.
2158 – malicious destruction of property, 49251 S. I-94 Service Dr.
2205 – noise complaint, 6155 Western St.

Tuesday, April 3:
0241 – agency assist, Michigan Ave./Denton Rd.
0314 – noise complaint, 41500 bl. N. Bellridge Dr.
0720 – assault & battery, 14210 Pond Bluff Dr.
0758 – juvenile complaint, 11681 Meadows Lane
0843 – disorderly conduct, Independence / Haggerty
0925 – assault & battery, 48519 W. Huron River
1309 – malicious destruction of property, 13547 Country Walk Blvd.
1510 – malicious destruction of property, 11793 Meadows Circle
1620 – weapons violation, 7240 Belle Pointe Dr.
1627 – fraud, 11780 Belleville Rd.
1825 – juvenile complaint, Kirkridge
2052 – disturbance, 831 Huron River Dr., Moose
2153 – juvenile complaint, Haggerty Sub. Park
2231 – assault & battery, 9286 Parkwood Dr.
2353 – breaking & entering, 51303 Old Michigan

Wednesday, April 4:
0036 – breaking & entering, 24 Oak Blvd.
0239 – noise complaint, Southport
0241 – breaking & entering, 7565 Kirkridge
0303 – disturbance, 45501 S. I-94 Service Dr.
0309 – disturbance, 63 Park Estates
0338 – disturbance, 45707 S. I-94 Service Dr.
0716 – property damage accident, EB I-94/I-275
0931 – ATV/ORV complaint, 51207 Sylvia Dr.
0948 – larceny, 42806 Berkdale Dr.
1133 – warrant arrest, Belleville Transmission
1207 – private property accident, 9555 Haggerty, WCCC
1312 – felony assault, 120 Richard Run
1426 – larceny, 55 Maple
1459 – bomb threat, 9555 Haggerty, WCCC
1515 – assault & battery, 48450 Denton Rd.

1632 – fraud, 7891 Haggerty
1832 – larceny, 6533 Parkside Dr.
1922 – larceny, 75 N. Ponderosa Trl.
2024 – missing person, 51244 Assembly
2116 – agency assist, Village Park
2218 – fraud, 9701 Belleville, Meijer
2235 – suspicious vehicle, 995 Savage Rd.
2352 – operating while intoxicated, 47008 Denton

Thursday, April 5:

0024 – harassment call, 9894 Fairbanks St.
0822 – shots fired, 46131 Village Green Ln.
0823 – disturbance, 46131 Village Green Ln.
1130 – property damage accident, 44387 Hull Rd.
1304 – breaking & entering, 8849 Parkwood Dr.
1614 – malicious destruction of property, 42794 Patty Lane
1711 – ATV/ORV complaint, 51300 W. Huron River Dr.
2013 – juvenile complaint, Rolan Meadows/Tyler
2113 – juvenile complaint, Quirk/I-94
2118 – larceny, 25 Oak Blvd.
2120 – suspicious vehicle, Outer Dr./Old Michigan
2313 – assault & battery, 8034 Kirkridge Park Dr.
2336 – noise complaint, 41601 S. Bellridge Dr.

Friday, April 6:

0410 – disturbance, 31 Birch Dr.
0911 – personal injury accident, EB I-94 / Belleville
1321 – intimidation threat, 8034 Kirkridge Park Dr
1407 – disturbance, 12210 Westlake
1604 – property damage accident, Roulo/Chaney
1624 – fraud, 9015 W. Walden Dr.
1658 – retail fraud, 9701 Belleville, Meijer
1658 – property damage accident, Tyler/Belleville
1811 – intimidation threat, 46121 Village Green
1832 – intimidation threat, 41533 S. Bellridge
1951 – private property accident, 42350 Van Born
2037 – retail fraud, 9701 Belleville, Meijer
2127 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd./ S. I-94 Service Dr.
2156 – disorderly conduct, Kirkridge
2230 – juvenile complaint, Jackson/Buchanan
2303 – fraud, 9701 Belleville, Meijer
2308 – assault & battery, 117 Maple Dr.
2328 – suspicious vehicle, 15218 Elwell

Saturday, April 7:
0212 – assault & battery, 51079 Colony Ln.
1157 – assault & battery, 11829 Meadows Cir.
1157 – assault & battery, 6618 Maurice Dr.
1547 – harassment call, 73 Rose Blvd.
1755 – fraud, 9701 Belleville, Meijer
1808 – noise complaint, Wheeler St./Millard St.
1938 – holdup alarm, 9556 Belleville Rd.
2011 – juvenile complaint, Michigan/bypass
2024 – shots fired, 6245 Truman
2238 – operating while intoxicated, Haggerty/I-94
2309 – juvenile complaint, 6760 Maurice
2332 – noise complaint, 46080 Lake Villa Dr.

Also on this week’s log are 357 traffic stops, 60 of which were on the freeways: I-94 and I-275.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, April 1:

0242 – agency assist, 29 Maple
0344 – noise complaint, 250 N. Liberty
0419 – parking complaint, 126 Carmell
2036 – agency assist, 63 Maple
2146 – follow-up, 27 Carmell
2356 – suspicious person, 25 Main, minimart
Monday, April 2:
0316 – parking complaint, Carmell/Belle Villa
0913 – hospice, 275 W. Columbia, Columbia Ct.
0925 – background investigation, 485 E. Waterbury Ct.
0945 – suspicious person, 411 Victorian Lane
1450 – disorderly conduct, 3 Belle Villa Blvd.
1651 – traffic hazard, Belleville/Denton
1651 – E-911 cellular, lat/long
1833 – assist fire dept., 429 Victorian Lane
2042 – larceny, Lakeview
2055 – warrant arrest, 6 Main
2331 – parking complaint, 261 Victorian Lane
2343 – parking complaint, 519 Victorian Lane
2350 – parking complaint, 490 E. Waterbury Ct.
2355 – suspicious person, Main St./N. Liberty
2358 – suspicious person, Belleville/N. Liberty

Tuesday, April 3:

1132 – trespassing, 218 Belle Villa Blvd.
1232 – misc. complaint, 123 S. Edgemont Ave.

1411 – E-911 cellular, 207 Belle Villa Blvd.
1434 – intrusion alarm, 357 E. Columbia Ave.
1650 – assist fire dept., 178 S. Edgemont Ave.
1743 – assist citizen, Victory Park
1937 – assist citizen, BHS
1958 – shots fired, 117 N Edgemont Ave.
2019 – vehicle lockout, BHS
2058 – family trouble, 48 Loza Lane

Wednesday, April 4:

0131 – suspicious vehicle, 153 Carmell St.
0921 – private property accident, Citgo
1047 – suspicious situation, 256 Second
1212 – property damage accident, High/Main
1305 – warrant arrest, Belleville Transmission
1539 – traffic complaint, South St./W. Davis St.
1557 – PPO violation, 275 W. Columbia, Columbia Court
1623 – suspicious situation, Hillside
1641 – suspicious person, W. Columbia/Main
1720 – all other traffic, South St./Henry St.
1741 – vehicle lockout, 56 Henry
1748 – harassment call, Victory Park
2058 – suspicious vehicle, Village Park
2353 – operating while intoxicated, Main/Denton

Thursday, April 5:

0218 – suspicious vehicle, BHS
0827 – assist citizen, 46131 Village Green
1000 – welfare check, 36 Santa Clara St.
1037 – welfare check, 411 High St.
1256 – assist fire dept., 575 Sumpter Rd., Co-op
1307 – civil matter, 4 Belle Villa Blvd.
1531 – disorderly conduct, BHS
1709 – juvenile complaint, 40 Carmell St.
1719 – fight, Savage/RR tracks
1746 – malicious destruction of property, 160 Church St.
1833 – assist fire dept., 575 Sumpter Rd., Co-op
2153 – misc. complaint, Horizon Park
2202 – larceny, 59 Loza Lane

Friday, April 6:

0316 – agency assist, 11655 Meadows Lane
1145 – motorist assist, Main St./N. Liberty St.
1252 – PPO violation, 275 W. Columbia Ave, Columbia Court
1503 – intimidation threat, 106 South St.
1645 – civil matter, Hayward’s
1646 – vehicle lockout, Our Father’s Child Day

Care

1706 – larceny, 146 High St., Johnny’s
1754 – private property accident, Charter One
1947 – disturbance, Third St./Main St.
2102 – warrant arrest, 6 Main St.
2257 – disturbance, 404 Main, Bayou
Saturday, April 7:
0144 – follow-up, 400 N. Liberty St.
0304 – intrusion alarm, South Middle School
1115 – trespassing, 42 Carmell St.
1121 – noise complaint, 411 Estrada
1514 – agency assist, 300 Oxford Ct.
1600 – larceny, 279 Victorian Lane
1658 – noise complaint, 202 Belle Villa Blvd.
1714 – trespassing, 265 Sumpter
1744 – misc. complaint, Skate Park
1841 – parking complaint, 301 W. Columbia Ave.
1909 – trespassing, Belle Villa
2035 – warrant arrest, 6 Main St.

Also on this week’s log are 28 traffic stops.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, April 1:

0008 – suspicious vehicle, Karr/Arkona
0135 – alarm, 17000 bl. Sumpter
0157 – fire dept. assist, 22000 bl. Sumpter
0159 – 911 hang up investigation, 26000 bl.

Sumpter

0238 – assist other agency, Maple
0259 – suspicious vehicle, 19000 bl. Sumpter
0756 – fire dept. assist, Rustic Lane
0805 – animal complaint, 42000 bl. Judd Rd.
1339 – animal complaint, 20000 bl. Karr Rd.
1352 – threats complaint, 19000 bl. Sherwood
1355 – fraud complaint, 23000 bl. Martinsville
1653 – violation of park rules, 25000 bl. Sumpter
1738 – fire dept. assist, Sumpter/Oakville Waltz
1950 – fire dept. assist, 45000 bl. Harris Rd.
2050 – threats complaint, 45000 bl. Harris Rd.

Monday, April 2:

0329 – noise complaint, 46000 bl. Willis Rd.
0746 – fire dept. assist, 26000 bl. Karr Rd.

1140 – larceny report, Birch
1439 – suspicious incident, Bemis/Rawsonville
1510 – ordinance violation, 49000 bl. Willis Rd.
1548 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1727 – suspicious incident, Willow/Karr
1738 – reckless driving complaint, Sumpter/Willis
1819 – trespassing complaint, Pecan
1838 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter
2248 – breaking & entering report, 45000 bl. Judd
2307 – malicious destruction of property report, Rustic Lane
2352 – suspicious vehicle, New Mexico

Rustic Lane

Tuesday, April 3:
0902 – ordinance violation, 51000 bl. Judd Rd.
0926 – ordinance violation, 47000 bl. Judd Rd.
0955 – ordinance violation, 45000 bl. Judd Rd.
1005 – ordinance violation, 46000 bl. Judd Rd.
1014 – ordinance violation, 46000 bl. Judd Rd.
1025 – ordinance violation, 46000 bl. Judd Rd.
1031 – ordinance violation, 46000 bl. Judd Rd.
1041 – ordinance violation, 20000 bl. Griffin Ct.
1119 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1442 – suspicious incident, 20000 bl. Sherwood
1711 – fire dept. assist, Carriage Lane
2124 – noise complaint, Rustic Lane
2204 – suspicious incident, Rustic Lane

Wednesday, April 4:

0021 – family trouble, 22000 Sherwood Rd.
0814 – suspicious incident, Oakville Waltz/Karr
1101 – family trouble, 43000 bl. Wear Rd.
1112 – suspicious incident, Sherwood/Willow
1217 – threats complaint, Rustic Lane
1353 – recovered stolen vehicle, 27000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

1414 – civil dispute, Rustic Lane
1525 – well-being check, Pecan
1614 – juvenile complaint, Willis/Elwell
1904 – shots fire investigation, Judd/Martinsville
2015 – animal complaint, 43000 bl. Judd Rd.
2025 – malicious destruction of property, 21000 bl. Clark Rd.
2122 – suspicious incident, 40000 bl. Harris Rd.
2157 – threats complaint, Knollwood

Thursday, April 5:

0912 – fight, Pecan
0935 – assist other agency, 47000 bl. Wear Rd.
1106 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1323 – well-being check, 43000 bl. Willow Rd.
1353 – suspicious incident, Walnut
1508 – civil dispute, 41000 bl. Willis Rd.
1659 – disorderly person, Walnut
1701 – threats complaint, 40000 bl. Bemis Rd.
1746 – animal complaint, 45000 bl. Bontekoe
1935 – civil dispute, Walnut
2035 – suspicious vehicle, 25000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

Friday, April 6:

0500 – animal complaint, 43000 bl. Harris Rd.
1058 – larceny report, Nevada
1105 – 911 hang-up investigation, 40000 bl. Harris
1306 – alarm, 28000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1510 – assault, Redwood
1654 – suspicious incident, 45000 bl. Judd Rd.
1726 – alarm, 10000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
1857 – family trouble, 21000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
1900 – threats complaint, 45000 bl. Bemis Rd.
2015 – neighbor dispute, 29000 bl. Elwell Rd.
2026 – fire dept. assist, Birch
2131 – property damage accident, Bohn/Reed

Saturday, April 7:

0053 – suspicious incident, Rawsonville/Bemis
0933 – fire dept. assist, 21000 bl. Bohn Rd,
0949 – trespassing complaint, 24000 bl. Sherwood
1123 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1141 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1454 – fire dept. assist, Wyoming
1802 – suspicious person, 21000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1807 – shots fired investigation, 45000 bl. Willis
2032 – suspicious vehicle, Dunn/Sumpter
2116 – suspicious incident, 21000 bl. Elwell Rd.
2128 – suspicious vehicle, Bemis/Lohr
2134 – suspicious vehicle, 42000 bl. Judd Rd.
2259 – suspicious incident, 22000 bl. Karr Rd.
2348 – animal complaint, 28000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

Also on this week’s log are 23 miscellaneous details, 106 patrol checks, 42 traffic stops, and 13 follow-up investigations.

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Ask Angela

By Angela Nettro

I am here to answer questions pertaining to buying or selling real estate. Send your questions to "Ask Angela", c/o *Belleville-Area Independent*, 152 Main Street, Ste. 9, Belleville 48111 or send me an email at nettroandco@comcast.net. I'll answer questions each week in this column.

Question from Eddie in Sumpter Township: My neighbor just let me know of a letter he received from his home mortgage lender that informed him that he has to get flood insurance on his home, since his home in Sumpter Township is NOW in a flood zone.

Is this required of all property home owners in Sumpter Township and how did this start?

Answer: The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recently updated maps indicating high-risk flood zones, adding areas that have NOT BEEN considered flood zones in the past. Since flood insurance is more expensive to purchase than normal homeowners insurance and is required for a mortgaged home, some municipalities with areas of flood zones are adopting a required ordinance for Federal Flood Insurance.

The ordinance enables property owners located in the floodplain to qualify for federally subsidized flood insurance through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Effective April 3, 2012, FEMA requires municipalities to adopt the ordinance before residents can access the program that allows them to purchase flood insurance through FEMA at a lower rate than through their mortgage lender.

You can contact FEMA Map Service Center (MSC) -- customer service center at (877) 336-2627 to access community flood maps -- to verify if your home or all areas of Sumpter are in the Flood Zone. FEMA does have a process allowing homeowner's to CONTEST the flood hazard locations by requesting and submitting an application for a LETTER OF MAP CHANGE (LOMC). To protect your property value and relieve yourself of the higher cost of flood insurance research this important issue further.

--Angela

ANGELA NETTRO/Broker
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Email: nettroandco@comcast.net

VBT offers Tai Chi Chuan, Meditation on Fridays

The Van Buren Township Recreation Department is offering Tai chi Chuan and Meditation on Fridays, April 13 - May 18 (six weeks), from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the township hall. Cost is \$25 for Van Buren residents and \$40 for non-residents. For information, call 699-8921.

Tickets on sale for Civil War lecture at Belleville Area Museum on April 21

Tickets are now on sale for the first lecture of the Belleville Area Museum and Historical Society Civil War Sesquicentennial Series.

"Michigan in the Civil War," will be given by Al and Dave Eicher at the museum at 2 p.m. Saturday, April 21.

Ticket prices, which include admission to the Civil War exhibit, are \$8 for Historical Society members / seniors / students and \$10 for non-members. Limited seating is available. Appetizers and refreshments will be served.

Re-enactors from the 4th Michigan Volunteer Infantry will also be in attendance.

The museum is open Tuesdays from 3 to 7 p.m. and Wednesdays through Saturdays

from noon to 4 p.m. Special exhibit admission is \$2.

The 2012 Civil War Sesquicentennial Commemoration Series is hosted by the Belleville Area Museum and sponsored by the Belleville Area Historical Society and the Belleville Downtown Development Authority.



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Friday Night - April 13, 5 & 6pm

Preview 4:00 pm - Both Auction Days

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DIRECTIONS: Take I-94 to Haggerty Rd. Exit, (1st exit West of I-275) go South 1 mile to Huron River Drive, then East or left 1.5 miles to a 5 point intersection in Romulus. Turn sharp left, your there!

Thursday Night at 6pm: Huge Tool Collection including Wood-working Machinery, Cased Power Tools, Loose Power Tools, Hand Tools, Hardwoods, Lg. Collection Antique Furniture Parts and Hardware, Fire Fighter Items, Yard Tools & Equipment & More!

2 Auction Rings at 5 on Friday

Friday Night 5pm Ring #1 - Back of Main Room: Lg. Antique Lamp Part Collection inc. Shades, Fitters, Finials, Stems, Bases, Burners, Brackets, Sockets and More !

Friday Night 5pm Ring #2 - Club Room: Hollywood Book Collection from Shirley Eder Estate, Includes: Hollywood History, Silent Era Stars, Leading Men, Leading Ladies, Theatre, Broadway, Musicals & More. Approx. 800 Sold by the Box. Most are 1st Editions with Slip Covers, (An amazing collection!)

Friday Night 6pm Auction includes: Lg. Architectural Collection inc. Stained Glass, Fret Work, Porch Columns, Antique Furniture, Advertising Items inc. Display, Fine Art, Military Items inc. Guns & Swords, Nautical Group, Signed Sports Items, Musical Instruments inc. Guitars & Amps, Fine Gold Jewelry, Lg. Lamp Group, Scientific Items, Pin-up Pictures, Primitives, Toys & the Unique!



TO SEE LOTS OF PHOTOS & DETAILED LISTING, GO TO

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Belleville Area District Library sets special events during month of April

The Belleville Area District Library will have some special events during the month of April:

• **April 8-14 is National Library Week** and patrons will have a chance to win a Kindle Fire in a raffle. All library patrons aged 12 and up can earn raffle tickets during the week by getting a library card, checking something out, or telling why you love the library. There also will be daily library-themed trivia questions for small prizes;

• **On April 12 at 7 p.m., Ginger Bruder** will present "The Tri-Community in the Civil War" in the library program room. The first shots of the American Civil War rang out at Fort Sumter on April 12, 1861. It didn't take long for the men of the young state of Michigan to join the fight to preserve their country, including those who called Belleville and the townships of Sumpter and Van Buren home.

Bruder will help participants follow these brave young men — who walked the same streets and perhaps even lived in the same houses as you and your neighbors — as they joined the Iron Brigade and fought in such battles as Gettysburg or the Siege of Petersburg.

Bruder is a local genealogist and amateur historian. She will recount the lives and fates of our Native Sons: those who

survived to return after the war, those who returned home for burial, and those who never came home at all. This is part of the Homegrown Knowledge Series;

• **Saturday, April 14, 10 a.m., Friends of the Library meeting;** and

• **On April 21 from 10 to 11:30 a.m., "Introduction to Square Foot Gardening"** will be presented by instructor James Lee in the library program room. Square Foot Gardening is a simplified system of gardening which eliminates 80% of the space, work, weeds, watering, and waste of traditional row gardening while providing the gardener with 100% of the harvest and joy of gardening.

This class will provide participants with an introduction to the fundamentals of Square Foot Gardening, including building, planting, and maintaining your new raised garden beds. Come learn more about this natural gardening method that won't break your back or the bank.

Space is limited for this free program. Registration is under way at the library, 167 Fourth Street, Belleville, 699-3291.

St. Anthony Boy Scouts set scrapbooking, crafter workshop for April 21

Boy Scout Troop 793 will hold an all-day Scrapbooking & Crafters Workshop from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Saturday, April 21, at St. Anthony's Church Gymnasium, 409 W. Columbia Ave., Belleville.

All proceeds will go to support the Boy Scout Troop. Packages, which include meals and snacks, run from \$15 to \$30.

To register, mail or drop off cash, money order or check (payable to Boy Scout Troop 793) with registration form by Thursday, April 19 to: Pat Sobecki, Boy Scout Troop 793 All-Day Scrapbooking, 45065 Bemis Rd., Belleville 48111. For more information, call Pat Sobecki at 699-3290.

Arts Council sets third fund-raising dinner Sunday, 1-5 p.m.

This Sunday, April 15, from 1-5pm, BACA will hold its third fund-raising dinner to help fund its planned new building on Main Street.

The dinner will be at the Masonic Temple at the corner of Main and High Streets in downtown Belleville. Service is limited to 125 people and will be first-come, first-served. Dinner will consist of ham and all the trimmings, plus a selection of home-made desserts. Dinner will also be available "to go". Adult dinners are \$9 and children 10 and under are \$5.

A selection of items will be available for Chinese Auction bidding.

Pet of the Week Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue "ROBBIE"



Robbie came to us as a kitten and was a bit of a shy boy at first but has really started to come out of his shell as he's gotten older. We are positive in a home environment where there is less competition for attention he will continue to blossom into an outstanding kitty boy. With a little time to warm up, **Robbie** soon becomes a playful and friendly young cat with plenty of kitten enthusiasm ready to bat around the abundant cat toys whenever the urge strikes him. His sleek, shiny black fur and Siamese looking features make him a very handsome boy to top things off. Don't overlook meeting this one of a kind shy but delightful boy as he's very likely to be the most amazing friend you could ever find. **Robbie** is neutered, vaccinated, tested neg. for FeLuk/FIV and micro-chipped.
734 461-9458

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Ask Dr. Y!



Q: My pet was on heartworm prevention last year. Why does she need to be tested again this year?

A: The short answer is because nothing in this world is 100%. If your pet somehow got infected with heartworms last year, it will not show up on a test for 6 months. In addition, most preventive medicines also kill the heartworm microfilaria, or offspring. If your pet has microfilaria and takes the medication one potential reaction is shock which can lead to death.

How could your pet get heartworms if it was on prevention? Sometimes our pets gain weight and don't get the additional coverage for their size change if they aren't re-weighed. Sometimes our pets go outdoors, eat grass, and vomit the pill up. Sometimes we are late in giving the pill or don't get their spot-on product all the way down to the skin and there is a window of time when a mosquito could bite and infect them. After infected, it takes 6 months to show up on a test.

In the 20 some years veterinarians have been recommending annual heartworm tests and monthly prevention at least 9 months of the year, the incidence of this horrible disease has not dropped at all. It remains about 10% or one in 10 dogs and cats gets infected. Last year our small practice treated 8 dogs. In 2012 we have already treated 4 by February 29th. There is no treatment for cats!

In an effort to reduce this horrible disease in our area, we are now recommending both yearly testing AND monthly prevention all year long. Michigan weather is unpredictable and so is mosquito season. Get your dogs, cats, and ferrets started on heartworm prevention today!

Dr. Y (Yvonne) Craiger is the owner of Sumpter Pet Care, PLLC, on Sumpter Road near Willis Road. You can reach her at 734-697-4700 or sumpterpetcare@gmail.com. Clinic hours are 8-7 M,T,Th, and 8-1 W,F,St.

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