

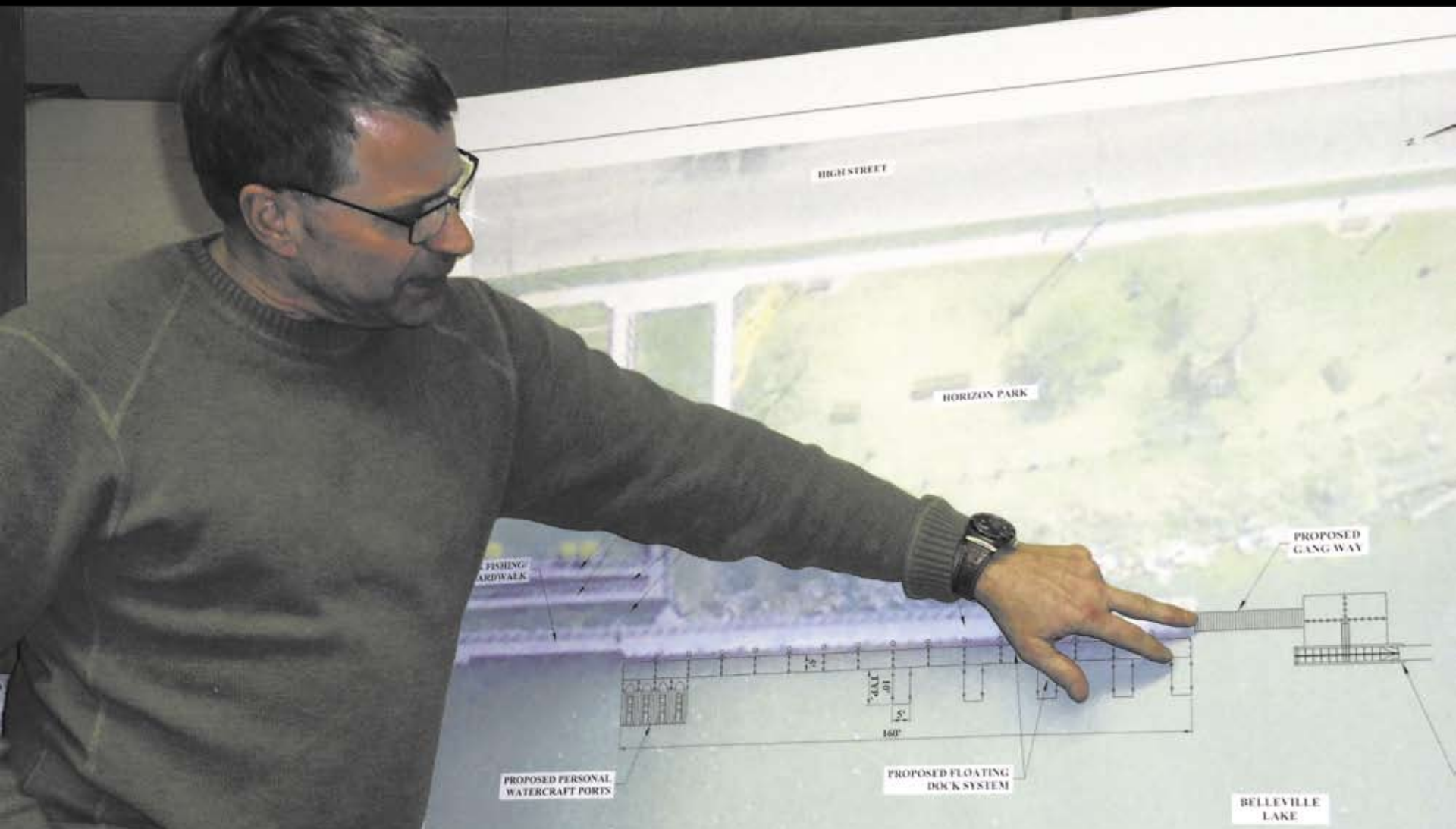


BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 19.5 Thursday, January 31, 2013

Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

FREE



Independent photo by Rosemary K. Oztzman

Dave Vallier of Spicer Engineers explains the plans for upgrades to Horizon Park if a proposed grant is obtained. He explained the plans at the Jan. 22 public hearing before the Belleville City Council. After discussion, Vallier agreed the proposed canoe/kayak launch, planned for the far end of the dock, should be moved closer to the handicapped parking area. The Belleville Downtown Development Authority proposed the project and will be coming up with the matching funds if the grant is obtained.

City Council listens to public on proposed grant for Horizon Park

By Rosemary K. Oztzman
Independent Editor

The Belleville City Council held a public hearing at its regular meeting Jan. 22 to hear public input on proposed upgrades to Horizon Park by way of a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant.

The Natural Resources Trust Fund consists of mineral royalties the state collected from 1976 to 2011, when the revenue source

was diverted to a fund for state parks. The fund is restricted to spending \$25 million to \$35 million in annual interest earnings on land acquisitions and recreational development projects, said fund manager Steve DeBrabander.

The proposal came to the city council from the Belleville Downtown Development Authority since the official application for the grant must come from the city.

But, after the public hearing, the project went back to the DDA, which must decide how much matching funds it can contribute. The more matching funds from the applicant, the more likely it is to be approved. At least 10% is required and the project is estimated to cost \$123,000 in its current incarnation. There are likely to be changes as engineers further research the rules for use of the shoreline.

A floating covered gazebo was taken from the plans earlier when it was learned the DNR won't allow anything covered floating in the lake. Also, the proposed number of boat slips was reduced to 10, the maximum allowed by the DNR.

DDA coordinator Carol Thompson presented the project to the council at its Jan. 22 public hearing. She said it came from shared issues presented at the joint meeting of the city council and DDA last year.

Those ideas include improved access to the water and better access to the land for those on the water. She said they heard of the problem with the dock at Horizon Park where the height makes it hard to tie up.

She said Spicer Engineers brought the DNR grants to the attention of the DDA with a potential plan to solve some of the problems. The grant application is due

(continued on page 11)

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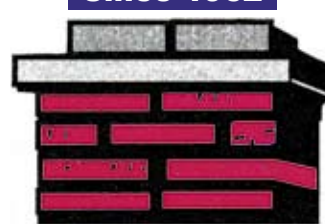
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SECOND FRONT PAGE

School Board asked to sell furniture, items from Elwell Elementary

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

At Monday's meeting, Reg Ion of Van Buren Township asked the School Board to sell items from Elwell Elementary School which it is demolishing rather than trashing everything like it did when Belleville High School was demolished last summer.

Ion, who retired from the district as head custodian, said when the high school was being torn down he was among others who had seen all the furniture that was a part of the rubble.

Ion said he and others would like the district to sell the furniture and other items from Elwell before it is torn down.

School Supt. Michael Van Tassel said Building and Grounds Director James Williams is almost done pulling out the furniture from Elwell for an on-line sale.

On Tuesday, Williams explained that the furniture has been stored at Haggerty School and other places. He said he planned an online auction to sell school-type items like desks and chairs. He said he would alert the *Independent* when that has been set up so people can visit the site.

Williams said he also plans a sale in the spring, once the weather breaks, where everything can be in one place for people to see. He said it will take a lot to get it organized and sorted.

Flags

As long as he had the floor at the meeting, Ion mentioned that the new flag pole in

front of Belleville High School's main entrance is crooked and, "It's either been put in wrong or backed into."

Speaking of flags, Ion said a few years ago he petitioned the district to have Prisoner of War/Missing in Action flags at all the schools and the veterans provided them.

"A lot of people died for us," Ion said, adding, "I'd like them hung back up at the school. If you lost it, we can get another one."

Exit Interviews

Another person to speak under public comment was Michael Gentz of Van Buren Township who said he would like to have exit interviews for employees leaving the district.

He said there has been a lot of turnover in the schools and he and others believe there is something fundamentally wrong in the district. Exit interviews could identify the problem, he said.

"Currently, we do not do it," said Human Resources Director Shonta Langford-Green, adding sometimes when people leave they provide a long letter.

She said some employees have been called back to their old districts and pay is a concern, since sometimes their former pay is higher.

Gentz asked if Green could sit down with the employees who have resigned and talk to them and Green said that time is an issue and sometimes the employee just resigns and is gone.

School Board meeting videotaped, but isn't scheduled for showing

Monday's meeting of the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education was videotaped using three big cameras, but the tapes are not yet scheduled for showing.

On Tuesday, Angela Stroud, executive secretary to School Supt. Michael Van Tassel, said the meeting was recorded because Van Tassel had said it would be.

But, they are working on public access, she said.

"There is still the final question of where they will be shown," Stroud said of the tapes.

Gentz said the turnover has been so much that he and his friends are concerned.

"I hate to lose any of those good teachers," he said.

"I, too, am concerned," said Board Treasurer Sherry Frazier. "We lost nine administrators this year and too many quality teachers."

"That is a concern... We have to look at staff morale and build up a feeling of belonging and loyalty ... They need to feel appreciated," Frazier said, noting she has brought this up many times at the

meetings.

She said constructive information could be gathered at exit interviews so improvements could be made.

In other business at Monday's meeting, the board:

- Approved Financial Director Karen Moffitt's proposal to apply for a line of credit through the state for up to \$3.5 million from March through September so funds could be withdrawn as needed instead of borrowing all of it at once with a note, as has been done in the past. Money is borrowed from the state each year to provide cash flow for operations in the months when the state aid funds aren't immediately at hand. Moffitt said she estimated saving \$10,000 by using the line of credit (with interest of 1.12%) over the state aid note (with interest of 1.14%) with "a total interest savings from the prior year of approximately \$35,000." Moffitt said the line of credit is a variable rate, but the bank doesn't think it will go up;

- Heard a presentation on Watch D.O.G.'s, a program instituted at Tyler Elementary School using father volunteers to stay at the school during class time, presented by Principal Aleisa Pitt, parent Brian Roberson, and social worker Rachel Hacker. Fathers are asked to volunteer one day a year and only 25 days for the whole school year are not signed up for. A recent meeting for fathers drew 181, when only 20 were expected. The dads ate 60 pizzas;

- Heard a presentation on the \$445,116 Carnegie Math program approved by the board last March 15, presented by Carnegie Math consultant Nicole Crockett. When asked if student math scores would be better this year, she said no because the state tests have changed, but they will be better next year and better the year after that. Computers are a big part of the program and Frazier asked, as she has asked in the past, if they knew how many of the students had access to computers at home. She was told there was no estimate;

- Approved the employment of Jessica Phillips as a mathematics teacher at BHS as of Jan. 22; Charla Ross as a social worker at McBride as of Feb. 4; and Scott McMillan as a science teacher at McBride as of Feb. 4;

- Approved the employer termination of Transportation Supervisor John Bojanowski after five months of service as of Jan. 11, and the requested termination of Tamarra Getty after 1.5 years as a food service worker as of Feb. 5 for other employment; and

- Received certificates of appreciation from State Rep. Diane Slavens and School Supt. Van Tassel to mark the annual School Board Recognition Month.

Exit Interview: Former transp. director says VBPS in 'chaos'

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

John Bojanowski, the Van Buren Public Schools Transportation Supervisor who was hired two weeks before school began last summer, was fired Jan. 11, just 17 weeks later.

He said the situation he came into was "pure chaos" and he had no direction, other than to work from 5 a.m. to 5 p.m. and then bring work home. There was no policy manual for his department and no manual for the bus drivers. He said he spent six to eight weeks just dealing with discipline.

He said kids were breaking the bus windows, tearing up the seats. The phone numbers listed for the parents were incorrect and he couldn't call them.

"It was just crazy, a chaotic mess. It took 12 hours a day to straighten that out and I had to take home my other work."

He said the 7-8 grade students from the former North and South middle schools had longtime rivalries and putting them together in one school and on the same buses was explosive.



Bojanowski

He said with the closing of two schools and the changed population of what were renamed McBride and Owen schools, there were all new routes and all new schools for the kids.

There was a two-tier system instead of three. The school hours were changed.

"It wasn't set up right from the beginning and instead of saving money, it was costing more," Bojanowski said.

"It was mayhem."

Also, he said, the shuttle buses put together by former Transportation Director Rhonda Lyons-Manning and School Supt. Michael Van Tassel were a disaster. He referred to the children who were hours late coming home from school on the first two days. Parents were livid.

They got rid of the shuttle buses.

Manning resigned early last summer to work for the smaller Huron School District in New Boston, but she was brought

back over the summer to work on the transportation plan that turned out to be chaos, Bojanowski said.

"I'm tired of people running me over. That's why I'm spilling my guts," said Bojanowski in a recent interview.

"The drivers just want to do their jobs, but they can't control the kids."

"One of the drivers told me a child said to him, 'I don't have to listen to the bus driver' and that his mother would go to the administration building and get him fired."

"When I heard that I was shell-shocked," Bojanowski said.

"I talked to the parents to get the kids to listen and 99% of the parents agreed to talk to their kids. They weren't taken off the bus, unless it was a fight."

He said one teacher told him he retired at 27 years of service instead of 30 because he couldn't work with School Supt. Van Tassel.

"Van Tassel shoots from the hip before he thinks," Bojanowski said.

"He wanted transportation changed now.

(continued on page 15)

OPINIONS

Editorial

Exit interviews could tell the stories of lost educators

Officials of the Van Buren Public Schools have been asked to conduct exit interviews to explain the large number of well-loved educators who have left the district in the last year.

On Monday, parent Michael Gentz called for such interviews to help explain the loss of good teachers from the district.

School Board Treasurer Sherry Frazier, who has asked for exit interviews for at least the last year, joined in to support Gentz's request.

They both said such interviews could bring constructive information to the fore that could be used to make this a quality district.

Frazier spoke about staff morale and how they need to build up a feeling of belonging and loyalty in the teaching staff.

"They need to feel appreciated," Frazier said Monday.

Frazier is a retired teacher and she knows what it feels like to teach. She also obviously listens to teachers in the district who bring her their concerns, which she brings out during board meetings.

It takes time to do exit interviews, especially since so many have left or are leaving, but it would be quite informative.

We recently interviewed the head of transportation who was fired after a short time on the job.

You'll find his "exit interview" on page 3. One less interview for the staff to do.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

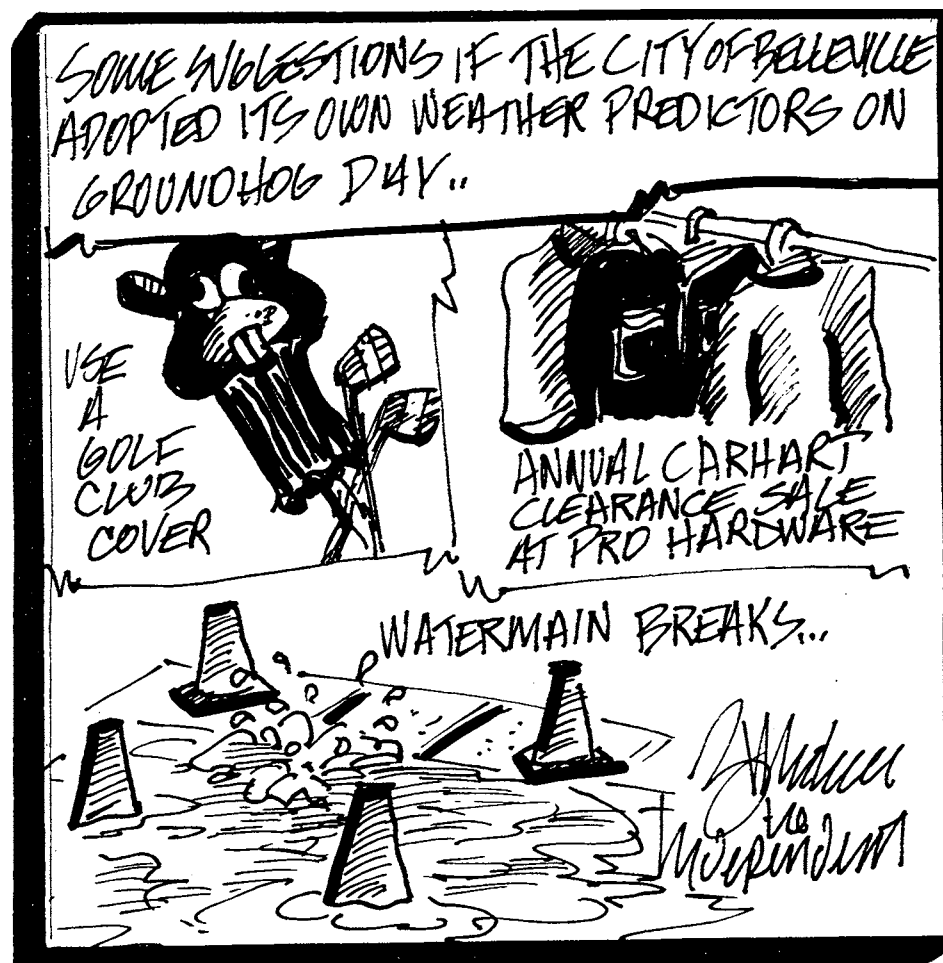
Brad Traskos came to a Van Buren Township meeting on Oct. 4, 2011 to point out the dead trees along Sumpter Road between Hull and Bemis roads that were sure to start falling into the roadway, causing a dangerous hazard.

He said there were probably two dozen dead elm and ash trees along the west side of Sumpter Road, north of Bemis, that may fall in the roadway over the winter since the prevailing winds are from the west. He asked the board to get the dead trees removed so they don't cause a lethal problem for motorists.

Paul White was supervisor at the time and he said he would give Brad the number to Wayne County Commissioner Kevin McNamara's office and White would call McNamara, as well, to see what could be done. McNamara not only was the commissioner for this area, but was chairman of the county's roads committee.

Brad, who was a well-loved VBT Fire Chief back in the day, now lives in Sumpter and he recalled an accident near his home where a man on a motorcycle hit a branch in the roadway and died. He was injured in the crash and the main problem was that he was on blood thinners for a heart condition and they couldn't get him to stop bleeding.

Brad doesn't want to see another accident caused by branches in the road so he went to that VBT meeting to warn them about the problem. Then he called County Commissioner McNamara, too, and he said Kevin told him he would turn the situation over to the county Forestry people. Nothing happened to clear the trees from the county



right of way, Brad said.

Brad came into my office last week to report the trees have started falling onto Sumpter Road. He asked me to write about it so people will keep their eyes open when traveling on that stretch of Sumpter Road to avoid falling trees and big branches.

We've been told there was a time, years ago, when fire fighters would grab their axes and saws and just get rid of dangerous situations themselves. Can't do it now. Too much red tape these days.

Watch out for falling trees.

Ed Pipesh, who has a boat at the Cape, in the West Huron River Drive and Rawsonville Road area, called to say he was interested in the information on the Belleville DDA/City Council seeking a grant from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund to increase access for boaters to Belleville Lake and Horizon Park.

He said he can't get his boat into the main part of Belleville Lake because of the prop damage from that growing field of leafy algae in his part of the lake. Although kayaks and canoes can get through where the Huron River runs through the lake, boats can't get through the algae.

Last July the BYC, a local boaters' club, issued a press release urging elected and appointed area officials to promptly address the Eurasian Water-Milfoil found in Belleville Lake. The sea of algae continues to grow in the lake and, "It's choking the

lake," Ed said.

He'd like to see the DNR cut it back a few feet and asks what can "we as boat owners do?"

We received a report on Monday that an eagle was seen flying south over the I-94 and Haggerty intersection at about 2 p.m. on Friday during a storm. Our tipster said since the weather was so bad, he thinks the eagle was flying back to the wetlands.

Speaking of flying things, during Monday's School Board meeting in the new Commons area of Belleville High School, I saw something fly by at the far side of the area. Reg Ion was seated next to me and I asked him if it was a bird.

He had seen it, too, and said it was a bat. The School Board business continued without comment, but Trustee Scott Russell seemed to be eyeing the area where the bat had flown by.

Reg is retired head custodian at the school and he told me they used to have bats all the time. He said they are just "mice with wings" and get under the siding and head for the warm areas.



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Letters

BHS readies for Coming Home festivities

To the Editor:

Even though Christmas is over and the days are growing colder, the BHS Tigers are heating things up in preparation for the Coming Home basketball game against Fordson High.

We kicked it off with our spirit week attire, which consisted of "Cozy Day," its opposite "Summer Day," a "Twin Day," "Class T-Shirt Day," and the favorite of all BHS alumni, which will be Friday's "Black and Orange Day."

In combination with our special dress and fun and games, the Tigers are also showing their generosity with a week-long fundraiser entitled "Teens for Jeans." Participants have donated gently used jeans they no longer need to homeless shelters across the country. (If you are interested in donating jeans of any size, you can contact Mrs. Chelsey Strickland at cstrickland@vanbureschools.net for further details.)

Tomorrow, the final day of Coming Home week, is the culminating event: the battle of the classes. Each graduating class will compete in an assembly of events (from a relay race to "musical yoga balls") to determine the most spirited group, which is awarded the coveted Spirit Drum.

The rivalry continues as the varsity basketball team battles the Tractors in the brand new BHS gymnasium at 7 p.m. We invite all to come to support our talented and hard-working team.

In addition to a great game, spectators will also hear the announcement of the 2013 Coming Home King. Homecoming Queen Breana Lewis will crown this lucky gentleman with a special halftime presentation.

King, Queen and court members will also be present at the annual Coming Home

dance, themed "Winter Wonderland," on Saturday from 6 to 10 p.m. in the BHS cafeteria. With the option to dress down or glam up, the dance offers something for everyone. Tickets will be available at the door, but students must bring their IDs to enter.

We encourage everyone in the community to show their Tiger Spirit on Friday. The students, teachers, and administration at BHS thank you for your continued support of our learning and growing in this wonderful city the Tigers call home!

Go Tigers!

Belleville High School Student Council

Get your next pet from FMAR in Sumpter Twp.

To the Editor:

I wanted to share my appreciation for those who work so hard at the Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue.

I have now adopted my second pet from them in the last two years, and I am encouraging anyone looking for an addition to their family to please always consider the shelter rescues FIRST.

I know first-hand that the animals at FMAR are very well-loved, and are worked with to make them as adoptable as possible, including some basic training, and a regular visit to the "spa" where they get a bath and hair wash, nails clipped and so on.

Your new friend will probably be treated for fleas and other pesky critters, long before anyone allows them to go home with a new family.

The whole experience has been fun for me. I often choose the pet of the week, and bring my current pet over to the shelter to meet and greet, then come back with the family again to see how they all feel about my choice.

Also, I like to know the choice is a good fit, since I always have current pets at home!

Pete, Marci, Linda, and all the other people who make this shelter one of the best places for misplaced pets, you are the best! I really appreciate what you do.

Sincerely,
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Sumpter Township

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More Letters

Employees should leave parking for customers

To the Editor:

We have so often heard or read about "Shop in Belleville!" Or, "Buy in Belleville!"

The Downtown Development Authority and the City of Belleville are doing their hardest and I think the public is attempting to find stores that fill their needs. It's the stores, the owners and their employees who are sabotaging the efforts.

I don't think it's a conscious act. It's just that the proprietary mentality creeps in and "this is my place of business so I'll park right in front."

"Well, OK, not in front but the first row in the parking lot!"

"Oops, not there, just down the street in front of another business's front door!"

Lazy proprietors and employees are making downtown look too busy! There's no place for customers to park.

Proprietors and their employees should be parking in the rear of the store, the rear of the parking lots, and not in front of other businesses.

The city could put up "Parking Two Hours" on all business streets. These signs were there at one time and it's a shame "me-ism" is becoming a subliminal detriment to City and DDA efforts.

It used to be that proprietors and employees were the ones who parked in back of the place of business or were the furthest in the back of the parking lot.

So many little things could make the City of Belleville a place to shop. Unfortunately the planning commission and regulations keep making "Davenport Industrial Park" a more viable, less regulated, less expensive location than downtown, ergo, so much for "planning?"

Sincerely
Cornell Anton, Jr.
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Obituaries



Michael D. Hampton



MICHAEL DAVID HAMPTON

(January 24, 1949 - January 23, 2013)

Michael David Hampton, 63, passed away at his home in Arlington, Texas, on January 23, 2013, after a short illness.

He was a graduate of Belleville High School in 1968. Mike served his country during the Vietnam War in the Army Air Corps. In 1973 he became employed with American Airlines where he met his wife Sharon, also an American Airlines employee. Mike retired from American in 2003 and spent his retirement at their home in Arlington, Texas.

Besides his wife Sharon, he is survived by his father Robert Hampton of Belleville, two brothers Steven and Doug, and a sister Karen.

His ashes will be buried in Arlington National Cemetery later this year.

RICKY JAMES SWORD

(February 24, 1959 - January 25, 2013)

Ricky James Sword, age 53, of Belleville, passed away January 25, 2013. Beloved husband of Nancy. Loving father of Rachel, Ricky and Jack. Dearest brother of Sandy Graser and uncle of Chris, Eric, Brett, Brian and Stephanie.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Percy and Carol Sword, his brothers Daniel and Joseph and his nephew Matt.

Funeral service was Tuesday, Jan. 29, at 11 a.m., at Michigan Memorial Funeral Home, (next to Michigan Memorial Park) 30895 Huron River Dr., Huron Twp., (734) 783-2646. Visitation was Monday, Jan. 28, 4-8 p.m.

www.michiganmemorialfuneralhome.com

HELEN PUROLL

(December 17, 1922 - January 26, 2013)

Age 90 of Belleville. Survived by her granddaughter Carolyn Ann (James) Puroll of Belleville. A private burial took place Jan. 29 at St. Hedwig Cemetery Dearborn Heights. David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville.



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VBT Public Safety Director McClanahan resigns Jan. 23

By Rosemary K. Otzman

Independent Editor

Van Buren Township Public Safety Director Carl McClanahan resigned on Wednesday, Jan. 23, with the resignation taking effect that same day.

McClanahan, VBT's first black public safety director, was named as interim director in the summer of 2009 after former director Jerry Champagne was fired.

McClanahan went on to be named full-time director by former Supervisor Paul White, who was defeated for reelection last August by Linda Combs, who now is supervisor.

"I've been doing this for 30 years now," McClanahan said Jan. 23, referring to his police career. "It's the right thing at the right time."

He said the job never was about him as far as he was concerned, although others thought so.

"This time it's about me," he said, adding, "Actually I'm pretty excited."

McClanahan agrees he is not ready for a rocking chair, so something else will turn up. He said he plans a trip to Arizona soon.

McClanahan, who lives in VBT with his wife Brenda, retired from the Detroit Police Department after 25 years of service.

Brenda McClanahan, who also retired from the Detroit PD, was elected to a four-year term on the VBT Board of Trustees last November. She also served one term on the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education.

VBT Supervisor Combs said Tuesday that McClanahan told her he wanted to take a different direction, get reacquainted with his grandchildren, play golf, and travel.

Supervisor Combs said McClanahan has always been very professional in his dealings with her and she appreciated that.

When the *Independent* asked if the resignation had anything to do with the recent arbitration ruling that restored Officer David Champagne to his job after McClanahan fired him last February, Supervisor Combs replied, "Not at all."

She said Captain Greg Laurain will be in

charge of the department as he has been in the past when they were missing a public safety director.

Supervisor Combs said the township board will be meeting soon and will decide what they want to do about the vacancy.

Six Van Buren Township fire fighters promoted to rank of lieutenant

After successfully completing rigorous written and oral examinations, six Van Buren Township fire fighters have been promoted to the rank of lieutenant.

VBT Fire Chief Dan Besson announced Friday that the new lieutenants are Ryan McCormick, Michael Shores, Bruce VanGemert, John Henderson, Curtis Lundsford, and Charles Dewitt.

Their promotions become effective Monday, Feb. 4, and they will be formally introduced to the VBT Board of Trustees at its Feb. 5 meeting.

"Please join me in congratulating these six men as their hard work has paid off," said Chief Besson in his written announcement to the VBT Public Safety Department.

"They will help eliminate a critical shortage of command staff members as well as maintaining a better internal span of control," he said.

The competition process consisted of a written exam, consisting of management, training, and safety topics, and a comprehensive oral board, as well as a 15-minute presentation to the oral panel highlighting their research and implementation plan.

The oral review board consisted of three outside fire chiefs and two internal staff members, Chief Besson said, adding that the board was very impressed with the caliber of candidates interviewed and spoke highly about the candidates and the direction the fire department is headed.

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More Letters

Thank you for donations to children's party

To the Editor:

I would like to extend a grateful thanks to those who donated to the 2012 Annual Children's Christmas Party.

As always, this event would diminish without those who volunteer, contribute, and sponsor this event to ensure its mainstay.

They include the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees, the Sumpter Township deputies, the Sumpter Township Parks and Recreation Commission, and numerous volunteers.

And those who sponsored are: Kellers Bakery; F.M.A.R.; Joe Fox; The Bake Shoppe; Post, Smythe, Lutz & Ziel; Benito's; Johnny and Pam Vawters; Utilities Management; Public Service Credit Union; and Hughes Auto Service.

Supervisor Johnny Vawters
Sumpter Township

We gave away 2 vehicles to needy families

To the Editor:

All of us at Auto-lab of Canton South, located at 44744 Michigan Ave., can't be more overjoyed then we have been this

past Christmas when we had the honor of presenting two wonderful families with a car. Beginning Nov. 1, we had begun receiving nominations for people/families that are in need of a vehicle.

The two vehicles that were so generously donated were a Pontiac Aztec from Shawn Murphy and a PT Cruiser from Bill Springer. With the help of Advance Auto Parts, Mark Chevrolet and our crew here at the shop, the vehicles were reconditioned to look and run like new.

The family chosen to receive the Pontiac Aztec was single mom, Nikki, with her four children who have been without a car for the past 6 months. The PT Cruiser was received by single mom, Tyah, and her triplet daughters.

Words cannot express the joy that our Auto Lab family has felt, knowing what a difference these vehicles will make to everyone involved. We are so thankful to everyone who sent us nominations.

We only wish we had more cars to be able to give. We will keep every family that was nominated in our thoughts and prayers.

You can see all pictures of the car giveaway both on our website at www.cantonautolab.com and on our Facebook page at Auto Lab - Canton South.

The family at Auto Lab - Canton South

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More Letters

Atchinson Ford supports VB Public Schools

To the Editor:

My name is Amy Pearce and I am the Secretary for the Van Buren Public Schools Education Foundation.

I wanted to advise you of a recent event held at Atchinson Ford that benefitted the Van Buren Public Schools Education. The event, called "Go Further with Ford Night" was a fabulous event with a dual purpose.

Members of the community had the opportunity to come out to Atchinson Ford and enjoy the unveiling of the brand new 2013 Ford Fusion, enjoy appetizers provided by Twisted Rooster, and even enter for a chance to be a guest judge on American Idol! It was a fun event for all who attended.

More importantly, in celebration of the Fusion launch, Ford Motor Company and the Atchinson family teamed up to provide a \$1,000 grant to the Van Buren Public Schools Education Foundation. 100% of this incredibly generous gift will go directly back into our schools to provide reusable and sustainable items for our teachers and students.

Atchinson Ford has been a huge supporter of our Foundation and we applaud them for their focus on helping to provide increased educational resources in our community.

They are annual supporters of all of the Foundation's fundraisers and it's local businesses like theirs that really set the example of what it means to give back to the community.

Craig and Medina Atchinson have pledged to make their support of the Van Buren Public Schools a priority from both a personal and business standpoint and we would like to publicly thank them for that commitment.

We hope that other local businesses will follow their lead and realize that by providing the best educational environment we can for our students now, we are ensuring the growth of our community for years to come.

Thank you very much for your time.
Amy Pearce, secretary
Van Buren Public Schools Education Foundation

BHS: Thank you to Atchinson, Tim Hortons

To the Editor:

The students and staff at Belleville High School would like to thank Atchinson Ford and Tim Hortons - Rawsonville for their sponsorship of the grand opening of The

Eye of the Tiger - Belleville High School's student-operated store.

Staff enjoyed coffee and donuts in the morning courtesy of Atchinson Ford and Tim Hortons. Atchinson also provided give-aways to students and staff during The Eye of the Tiger opening.

Students enjoyed free pencils, pens, oil changes and the community stopped by for tire rotation vouchers. It's a great feeling when the community is involved with the education of area students.

Belleville High School is grateful and looks forward to the continued partnership with Atchinson Ford and Tim Hortons.

Angie Mazurek
Belleville High School
Marketing Education
Work-Based Learning Coordinator
CTE Data Supervisor



Holly Rhodes and Medina Atchinson served coffee (donated by Tim Horton's) and donuts (donated by Atchinson Ford) for the grand opening of the Belleville High School "Eye of the Tiger" school store and to show appreciation to all the teachers and staff working hard at the high school. The store is student-managed under the direction of marketing teacher Angline Mazurek. The grand-opening event was such a success that it was suggested that they do a grand opening of the school store yearly and have a teacher/staff appreciation day yearly, as well.

Amanda Yax named to Lewis University's Fall 2012 Dean's List

Amanda Yax of Belleville was among those honored on the Lewis University Deans' List for fall semester 2012. Yax was studying air traffic control management at Lewis University in Romeoville, IL.

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Psalms 33:12a

If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

2 Chronicles 7:14

Parents face involuntary manslaughter charges in baby's drowning

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

Angelina Mae Perry, 39, and Raymond Thomas Hunt, 34, the parents of a baby who drowned in the family pool on Aug. 20, are facing involuntary manslaughter charges.

Sumpter Township Police Detective John Toth said the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office issued warrants for the two parents and they were arraigned Jan. 17 and had a pre-exam conference on Jan. 23. They were held in the Wayne County Jail on bond of \$50,000 or 10% each.

Perry is also being held on two charges of retail fraud and Hunt on one charge of retail fraud, both out of Van Buren Township. They are accused of taking their baby to Meijer's and putting items to steal in their baby's stroller.

The two were due to be in 34th District Court for a preliminary exam at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 30.

Det. Toth said involuntary manslaughter carries a penalty of up to 15 years in prison.

Toth said it took two months to get the autopsy report from the Washtenaw County Medical Examiner. The case was handled in Washtenaw County because the baby was en route to St. Joseph Mercy Hospital as an emergency and then diverted to the

University of Michigan Hospital where he was pronounced dead.

Toth said police interviews continued into December and then police waited until after the holidays to file the request for warrants with the prosecutor's office.

Sumpter Police were called to the 45000 block of Bontekoe Drive at 11 a.m. Aug. 20 for an 11-month-old boy who had drowned in the family pool.

In the days after the incident, Sumpter Police Lt. Eric Luke said the preliminary investigation showed somehow the child was able to exit the house, approach the above-ground pool in the back yard and make his way up the steps, where he

VBT sets workshop, closed door session for 4 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 31

The Van Buren Township Board of Trustees will hold a workshop session at 4 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 31, in the Denton Room in preparation for the Feb. 5 regular meeting.

Workshop sessions have been held the Monday before the Tuesday meeting in the past.

After the Jan. 31 workshop, the board will go into closed-door session to consult with the township attorney regarding settlement strategy in the circuit court law suit of Louis Kovach vs. Terry Carroll, Tom MacDonald Linda Stevenson and The Charter Township of Van Buren.

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City Council

(continued from page 1)

April 1.

Dave Vallier of Spicer explained the EZ Launch that improves launching of kayaks and canoes. He said because it works so well, it is approved as a sole-source by the DNR for launches, instead of having to go out for bids.

Vallier said the present plans call for extension of the boardwalk, slope restoration at Horizon Park, signage, an additional handicap parking space in the parking lot, and access for more boats to tie up, including jet ski slips.

Elizabeth Riggs of the Huron River Watershed Council spoke at the public hearing. She is managing the new RiverUp

program to encourage a renaissance of the Huron River, of which Belleville Lake is a part. She said the Huron River is an under-used resource.

She said a Huron River Water Trail -- a paddling trail -- has been set up on the Huron River. It is 104 river miles long, starting at Proud Lake State Recreation Area and meandering down to Lake Erie, right through Belleville Lake.

Riggs said if it was easy to get off and on at Horizon Park, paddlers could stop there for lunch and then go on their way, or even stay overnight, if that's possible.

"About 100,000 people a year get on the Huron River to paddle," Riggs said. "We support your improvements and will share ideas to improve with Dave and Carol."

She said because of the increased safety and accessibility, she can offer a letter of support for the grant application.

Riggs said there will be a new website on the water trail in a few months.

"I'm excited," she said, referring to the DDA's plans that will bring more people downtown and on the river.

Chris Casteel, who started the University of Michigan amputee support group to get people to help themselves, was present to talk about "Adaptive Paddling" and his work as a limb-loss advocate with Wounded

Warriors. He was in support of the EZ Launch and showed pictures of launches Downriver with amputee paddlers getting into their kayaks.

He said Extremity Games for people with limb loss have been set up for soldiers who came back from the war to compete.

He said he is a supporter of launches "wherever we can get them ... and clean water."

He suggested details to consider, including the possibility of renting kayaks.

Mike Renaud asked if the city had a plan for rentals and Mayor Kerreen Conley replied, "The first step is to make it accessible and available."

Vallier said upgrades to Horizon Park are on the city's Recreation Master Plan, which is required before seeking a grant.

When asked how paddlers stay on the Huron River with dams in the way, Riggs said there are 11 portages along the Huron River, including Ford Lake Dam and French Landing Dam.

Riggs said they were working with Ypsilanti Township to improve its portage and she is talking with Van Buren Township for French Landing portage improvement.

Councilman Brian Blackburn questioned the plans that call for the kayak/canoe launch way down at the end of the dock,

since getting there may be difficult.

Vallier said this is the first draft of the layout and he's looking at moving the launch closer to the parking lot at the other end.

At the end of the 40-minute public hearing, Mayor Conley thanked the DDA for "taking the lead on a project that will be exciting in our community."

In other business at the 59-minute meeting, the council:

- Approved filing the 2014 SMART Specialized Services Operating Grant request for \$3,651 to help with elderly and handicapped transportation;

- Approved the mayor's reappointment of Denise Baker to the Downtown Development Authority with a term to expire Dec. 31, 2016;

- Heard City Manager Diane Kollmeyer tell council members they had the "audit reports" although there was no discussion;

- Heard discussion on the water meters, with Renaud saying the city put in a new meter at his house and then came back and put in another new one. "My last year's bill was a record high. I hope the new meter makes it lower," Renaud said. DPW Director Keith Boc said when they went from the ¾" Elster meter to the 1" Badger, they had hoped the ¾" that had been put in 10 houses could stay but they had to be changed. Renaud's house was one place it had to be changed;

- Heard Randy Brown ask about an ordinance to require snow plowing in private parking lots. He said the lot by the Lunch Box was a skating pond before Christmas. Fire Chief Brian Loranger said, "One slip and fall will solve it," referring to an expensive law suit if someone was injured on the private property. Mayor Conley told Boc to let the property owner know that the city has had complaints. "We don't have the right to tell you what to do on private property," Conley said;

- Heard Renaud point out there have been more breakdowns of the brick crossings on Main Street, especially at High and Main and at Denton Road, which was fixed last year. Mayor Conley said the DDA maintenance budget will pay for that. Renaud urged them not to deal with the original contractor, who tore it down to nothing last year, and rebuilt it. "I don't think it should be falling apart now," Renaud said. Mayor Conley said they would turn the situation over to Thompson at the DDA; and

- Approved \$349,356.95 in accounts payable and the following departmental purchases in excess of \$500: to J&T Aggregate \$985 for concrete disposal / aggregate, paid with Water/DDA funds; to Morton Salt \$4,398.90 for salt from Major/Local street funds; to Oakland County Treasurer \$2,046.75 for quarterly CLEMIS membership / maintenance from General Fund/PD; to Red Holman GMC \$1,239.28 for truck repairs (2008 truck with 18,000 miles, battery & solenoid) from General Fund; and to Wayne County AR \$700 for prisoner lodging, General Fund/PD.

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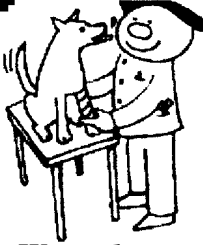
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PET SPA 2, 970 Sumpter Rd., BELLEVILLE, Sun., Feb. 17th, 4-6 p.m.
PET RESORT, 50425 Bemis Rd., BELLEVILLE, Sun., Feb. 24th, 3-6 p.m.

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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 in this column.

Question from Nancy in Van Buren Township: My mother recently died. About a year ago, she signed a quit claim deed on her home to herself and me as both owners. I have another sister and brother, who were not given any interest on the quit claim deed from my mother. Does the quit claim deed my mother signed, give me the home exclusively?

Answer: Nancy, if the quit claim does designate title from your mother to you and she has passed -- as joint tenants with full rights of survivorship -- then the home is yours. The deed should have been recorded or if you have the original fully executed deed to record.

If your mother's quit claim deed did not provide the language of "Joint Tenants," then your siblings and spouses would have rights through the probate court for the estate. You also did not mention if your deceased mother had a will or trust which would clarify other possessions of your mother's estate. If you have further concerns, it might be a good idea to talk with an attorney who handles wills, trusts, and probate.

Best of Luck to your family. -- Angela ANGELA NETTRO/Broker
Angela Nettro & Co.
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Email: nettroandco@comcast.net

Upcoming Meetings

- Thursday, Jan. 31 -- Van Buren Township Board of Trustees work/study session at 4 p.m. in the Denton Room at township hall. Followed by executive session to consider settlement strategy in the Louis Kovach vs. VBT lawsuit.
- Monday, Feb. 4 -- Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, Feb. 5 -- Van Buren Township regular board meeting, 7:30 p.m.

Notice to Advertisers:

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

Minding Your Business

with Bob Mytych



Tiffany Q Intimates, located in the Kmart Plaza on Rawsonville Road, is taking orders for a special Romance Package, when you place your order by Feb. 8. Quantities are limited. They're open Tuesday through Saturday, from 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Visit their website at www.tiffanyqintimates.com or call (734) 547-0477.

Main Street Flowers in Downtown Belleville is gearing up for Valentine's Day, which is only a few weeks away. Place an early order today and get a special discount. Call (734) 697-7400.

Beltone Hearing Centers, 889 Sumpter Road, is offering a **One...Two...Free** promotional event, now through the month of February with free comprehensive hearing evaluations, in-office trials featuring the newest technology, and a buy one get one free on battery pack. To schedule an appointment, call (734) 732-4394. They're open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visit: www.beltonehearingaid.com.

The **Jackson Hewitt Tax Service** location on Sumpter Road in the Secretary of State Plaza is now open for the tax season and will give you \$50 off your tax return with their ad in today's paper. Offer expires April 15, 2013. Call (734) 252-2100.

The **Belleville Charhouse** is getting ready for Valentine's Day with a free **Dinner for 2 & Red Roses**, provided by

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:

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

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



Garden Fantasy Florist. No purchase is necessary to enter to win. Simply fill out an entry form at the front counter. The drawing will be held Monday, Feb. 11 at 5 p.m. Their menu on Valentine's Day will feature appetizers and entrees, such as Surf & Turf, Stuffed Cornish Hen, Lobster Ravioli, Orange Glazed Chicken, and Stuffed Pork Loin. See their ad in today's paper for the details. Reservations can be made by calling (734) 699-9959.

The **Bayou Grill** on Main Street is featuring an all-you-can-eat boneless wings eating contest this Sunday, Feb. 3. Simply eat their Super Sunday Bowl of Wings for \$10.99 within 15 minutes or less and they're free. See their ad in today's paper for the details. Call (734) 697-2300.

The *Independent* is giving away free color. Simply advertise with us for the next 52 weeks (one year) and get free color. If you're a customer who's been advertising with us for the whole time anyway, you might want to consider this.

On top of the free color, one year of advertising will get you 35% off the entire series. Since 1995, we've been offering discounts of 25-35% off. We have a discount program for everyone. To learn more call me at (734) 699-9020.

We're sorry to report that the auto repair and oil change at Five Points in downtown Belleville closed last week. The property owners are seeking to get new tenants there to service local customers.

Victory Used Cars on Belleville Road, right next to Atchinson Ford, is gone and the township reports a sale is in the offing. Stay tuned for more information.

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

Things to do in the Belleville area...

• **Thursday, Jan. 31** -- The African American Book Group will meet at the Belleville Area District Library to discuss "Family" by J. California Cooper.

• **Saturday, Feb. 2** -- Snow Ball Book Sale at the Belleville Area District Library. Buy one, get one free. 11 a.m. to noon, Friends members only (you can join at this time). Noon to 3 p.m., public welcome.

• **Wednesday, Feb. 6** -- It's Belleville Day in Hernando, Florida at the Citrus Hills Golf & Country Club. Call Sam or Sandy Vicchy for information at 352-726-9132 or 352-400-0069. Reservations must be received no later than Jan. 25.

• **Thursday, Feb. 7** -- The Evening Book Group meets at the Belleville Area District Library at 7 p.m. to discuss "The Vanishing Act of Esme Lennox" by Maggie O'Farrell. You're invited to join them.

• **Saturday, Feb. 9** -- Polar Plunge at Belleville Moose Lodge. Come watch the frigid fun that raises money for Michigan Special Olympics. Jumps into Belleville Lake start at noon.



RED ROOSTER PIZZA

461-6533

Corner of Willis & Rawsonville Roads
Open: Mon-Wed 10:30am-1:30am Thurs-Sat 10:30am-2:00am
Sunday Noon-1:30am
Now Smoke Free • Affordable Family Dining

PIZZAS HALF OFF ALL DAY MONDAYS!

~ DINE-IN ONLY ~

DINE-IN, PICK-UP OR TAKE DELIVERY OF THIS UNBELIEVABLE FREE PIZZA

FREE SMALL ONE ITEM DEEP DISH SICILIAN STYLE SQUARE PIZZA*

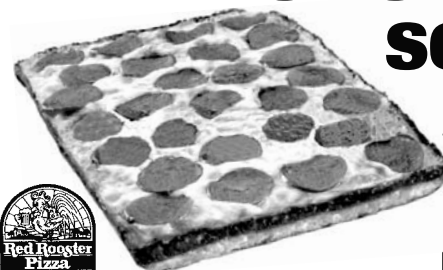
INCLUDES BREADSTICKS!

*With any \$10 Food Purchase
Not good with any other coupons or promotions. Expires 4-30-13

Name: _____
Address: _____

JOIN OUR MAILING LIST FOR MORE GREAT OFFERS!

GIVE TO SERVER




INDEPENDENT CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE

ASSORTED HARDWOOD - Seasoned Firewood. Free delivery, small and large orders. Call or Stop by anytime. 45721 Ecorse Rd. (734) 636-3971 2/14

KENWOOD SURROUND SOUND Stereo system w/7 speakers, receiver, dual cassette player, 6 disc. CD changer w/remote & manual. \$350 Call Jessica (734) 788-8082 2/14

32" TOSHIBA TV and all wood entertainment center (61"L x 56"H) (38"W x 34"H TV opening). \$150 (734) 697-0746 1/31

STEVE'S SERVICES - Seasoned Firewood. All Hardwood. Pick-up or delivery. Going Fast - Call Now. (734) 635-6307 2/14

2010 EXMARK RIDING MOWER. Turn radius, 217 hours, 60" cut, 29 H.P., Kawasaki engine. \$7400 (734) 635-6307 2/14

VEHICLE FOR SALE

C.T.S. AUTO Engines, Transmissions Discount Prices - Guaranteed! (734) 282-1700 TFN

WANTED

WANTED: JUNK CARS

Running or Not. Top \$ Paid. Call For Free Pickup. Drive In For Extra Dollars.

734-282-1700

WE BUY JUNK CARS

7 Days A Week For \$300 & Up! **Cash Paid!** (734) 787-1444

PRIVATE COLLECTOR

Pays Cash For Sports Cards And Comic Books. I Prefer Items 1975 & Older, But Will Consider Anything. Mike 697-3546 Eves.

"Fiction is obliged to stick to possibilities. Truth isn't."

Mark Twain

WANTED

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

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

FREE

GWEN ASHE REEDGRASS ST. YOU'VE Won a dozen free roses. Pick them up at Main St. Flower's downtown, Belleville. (734) 697-7400 or www.mainstreetflowersbelleville.com TFN

HI-BOY TV CONSOLE. Holds 36" flat screen TV. Toshiba 27" TV with built in VHS, CD & DVD. (734) 699-2330 2/07

FOR LEASE OR SALE

FAST OIL CHANGE. Formerly known as Ed's or Veteran's Oil Change 50 South St. at 5 Points. (734) 699-2166 2/21

FOR RENT

BEAUTIFUL 2 BR. TOWNHOUSE. Enclosed private yard/deck, pool & Free storage. See It Now. \$800/mo. Plus security. (734) 697-8529 1/31

LAKEFRONT - 1 BR. APT. Newly re-modeled. 91 Potter St. #1. No Pets, No Smoking. \$675/mo. Includes heat. (734) 287-6619 (Garner Properties) or www.garnerproperty.com 1/31

MOBILE HOME FOR SALE

RAWSONVILLE WOODS

Bankruptcy, Foreclosures and bad credit ok. Handyman Homes starting at \$1. Rental homes available Ask about our specials 734-461-6700

LESSONS

SENIOR CITIZENS, ADULTS & Children. 2 Free Piano Lessons if you enroll by Feb 28, 2013 for a minimum of 1 month of 4 paid lessons. Experienced teacher. Reasonable rates. (734) 697-9628 1/31

"Many a small thing has been made large by the right kind of advertising."

Mark Twain

MANUFACTURED HOMES FOR SALE

HURRY ONLY 1 LEFT!
\$398 MOVES YOU IN!
FREE RENT TILL APRIL 1ST!

Beautiful 3 bedroom
2 bath home
Starting as low as \$769/month
Call Sun Homes Today
888-235-4695

Or apply online
www.4lakeview.com
EHO Expires 2/28/2013
*Some restrictions apply

FREE HOMES!
FREE HANDYMAN SPECIALS!
FREE 3 BED 2 BATH HOMES!

Call Sun Communities
Lakeview Today
888-219-5958
Or apply online
www.freemobilehomes.net
EHO Expires 2/28/2013
*some restrictions apply

"I fear the day that technology will surpass our human interaction. The world will have a generation of idiots."
— Albert Einstein

SERVICES

Take Advantage Of Early Bird Rates!
Call **FIRST CLASS LANDSCAPING**
(734) 699-4711
FREE ESTIMATES!!!
YEAR ROUND SERVICES
Landscaping Maintenance
Snow Removal Garage, Basement & Attic Clean-Ups*
Removal Of: Unwanted Home Items, Inside Or Outside Debris.

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

SERVICES

LOCAL HANDYMAN - SOME Jobs too LARGE - NO JOB too SMALL. Residential Snow Plowing. LICENSED & REFERENCES. (734) 765-9224 TFN

C.T.S. AUTO Engines, Transmissions Discount Prices - Guaranteed! (734) 282-1700 TFN

HELP WANTED

HIRING IMMEDIATELY

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

PART-TIME AND FULL-TIME POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Wood Renewal Technicians. No experience needed. Cleaning experience a plus. Attention to detail and effective communication skills. Candidates must have a valid driver's license and be able to pass background check and drug test. Entry level. \$9/hour. Call 734-787-3387.

WAIT SERVERS

Apply in Person
Tin Pan Restaurant
19350 Sumpter Rd.
(Next to Sumpter Ace Hardware)

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

HAIR STYLIST - LOOKING FOR A fun, friendly environment to work. Please Call (734) 697-7007 2/07

THE BELLEVILLE INDEPENDENT NOW ACCEPTS CREDIT CARDS!
(Minimum \$5 Purchase, Classified Ads Excluded)



Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

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

Sunday, Jan. 20:
0236 – disturbance, 41358 Ecorse Rd.
1206 – malicious destruction of property, 9592 Revere Dr.
1214 – malicious destruction of property, 41358 Ecorse Rd.
1240 – agency assist, 139 N. Liberty
1253 – fraud, 2145 Rawsonville Rd.
1323 – malicious destruction of property, 48021 S. I-94 Service Dr.
1342 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / N. I-94 Service Dr.
1518 – juvenile complaint, 8850 Hardwood Dr.
1625 – shots fired, 43852 Stonebridge Dr.
1627 – private property accident, Meijer
1638 – harassment call, Belleville/Tyler
1842 – retail fraud, Walmart
1856 – suspicious situation, Belleville/Van Born
2036 – property damage accident, 45707 S. I-94 Service Dr.

Monday, Jan. 21:
0109 – assault & battery, 9600 Hannan Rd.
0359 – mental, 179 Spencer Ave.
0657 – agency assist, 73 Menlo Park
0941 – malicious destruction of property, 49311 Peninsular Dr.
1137 – agency assist, EB I-94/west of Haggerty
1158 – motorist assist, WB I-94/west of Haggerty
1222 – property damage accident, Belleville/N. I-94 Service Dr.
1230 – property damage accident, Belleville/VB Plaza
1651 – narcotics crime, BP gas
1657 – malicious destruction of property, 9282 Parkwood Dr.
1751 – property damage accident, 8701 Belleville
1801 – property damage accident, 6210 W. Adams
1846 – assault & battery, 67 Park Estates
2135 – fraud, Meijer
2148 – intrusion alarm, 2041 Rawsonville Rd.
2211 – mental, 6775 Sadie Ln.

Tuesday, Jan. 22:
0156 – disturbance, Walmart
0344 – disturbance, 11199 Oak Lane
0434 – breaking & entering, 7033 Amanda Dr.
0728 – larceny from auto, 45945 S. I-94 Service
0858 – fraud, 6476 Briarwood Dr.
0942 – trespassing, 46141 Village Green Ln.
1010 – fight, I-94 S. Service Dr./Harbour Club
1234 – larceny, 1 Locust Dr.
1623 – fraud, 50968 Union St.
1719 – private property accident, 9555 Haggerty, WCCC
1731 – harassment call, 12864 Nautica Dr.
1852 – fraud, Meijer
2111 – breaking & entering, 100 Richards Run
2152 – violation public health code/violation controlled substance act, 46425 Tyler Rd.
2214 – suicide or attempt, 3309 Westlake

Wednesday, Jan. 23:
0358 – property damage accident, 9645 Belleville
0939 – holdup alarm, 10784 Belleville Rd.
1232 – larceny from auto, 41358 Ecorse Rd.
1238 – larceny, 9257 E. Walden Dr.
1247 – private property accident, 48761 Denton
1516 – mental, 42901 Tyler Rd.
1559 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd. / S. I-94 Service Dr.
1606 – trespassing, 46928 Denton Rd.
1658 – assault & battery, Ecorse/Haggerty
1738 – narcotics crime, 46425 Tyler Rd.
1934 – property damage accident, EB I-94 / Belleville
2308 – retail fraud, Kmart
2326 – property damage accident, S. I-94 Service Dr./Kouza Ct.

Thursday, Jan. 24:
0010 – assault & battery, 10895 Oak Ln.
0032 – assault & battery, 46145 Village Green Ln.
0407 – sexual assault, Comfort Inn
1033 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / S. I-94 Service Dr.
1240 – noise complaint, 146 S. Ponderosa Trl.

1355 – assault & battery, 47048 McBride Ave.
1425 – fraud, Meijer
1758 – narcotics crime, 46425 Tyler Rd.
1827 – fraud, 47221 Lauren Ct.
1900 – assault & battery, 49120 Denton
2025 – fraud, Walmart
2132 – breaking & entering, 41577 S. Bellridge
2151 – assault & battery, 15486 Pebblebrook Dr.
2335 – liquor violation, 41500 N. Bellridge Dr.

Friday, Jan. 25:
0818 – property damage accident, Tyler/Quirk
0903 – domestic violence, 46020 Lake Villa Dr.
0928 – fraud, 10989 Jackson Ct.
1014 – property damage accident, 50521 W. Huron River Dr., Pine Creek
1046 – larceny from auto, 1053 Savage Rd.
1152 – property damage accident, 10276 Belleville
1449 – property damage accident, N. I-94 Service Dr. / Haggerty Rd.
1651 – fraud, 49891 W. Huron River Dr.
1701 – mental, 44401 S. I-94 Service Dr.
1752 – property damage accident, Haggerty Rd. / Independence Lane
1958 – agency assist, BHS
2333 – property damage accident, 129 S. Ponderosa Trail

Saturday, Jan. 26:
0037 – operating while intoxicated, Rawsonville Rd. / W. Huron River Dr.
0040 – operating while intoxicated, EB I-94 / Belleville
0119 – malicious destruction of property, 11530 Belleville Rd.
0131 – hospice, 40589 Alden Ave.
0143 – noise complaint, 9655 Wildflower Ct.
0234 – noise complaint, 49080 Denton Rd.
1036 – shots fired, Van Born/Beck
1123 – personal injury accident, Ecorse/Belleville
1126 – larceny, 44469 Bramblewood Ct.
1128 – intimidation threat, 8088 Kirkridge Pk. Dr.
1304 – private property accident, Southport Apts.
1902 – unauthorized driving away of auto, 10702 Oak Lane
1941 – shots fired, 6307 Monroe Ct.
2325 – noise complaint, 9672 Sawgrass Ct.
2328 – assault & battery, Meijer

Also on this log were 159 traffic stops, 20 of which were on the I-94 and I-275 freeways.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Jan. 20:
0056 – intrusion alarm, 300 W. Davis St.
0304 – traffic hazard, E. Columbia Ave./S. Liberty
0456 – suspicious person, 168 N. Liberty St.
0720 – fraud, 124 W. Wabash Ave.
1219 – mental, 139 N. Liberty St.
1238 – property damage accident, Sumpter Rd. / Industrial Park Dr.
1326 – welfare check, 92 Carmell St.
1827 – unauthorized driving away of auto, 380 N. Liberty St.
2110 – warrant arrest, 6 Main St.
2211 – serve warrant, 181 Church St.

Monday, Jan. 21:
0246 – intrusion alarm, E. Huron River Market
0352 – parking complaint, 112 Carmell St.
0645 – domestic assault, 73 Menlo Park Dr.
0855 – suspicious situation, 45201 Owen, school
1216 – assist fire dept., 33 Santa Clara St.
1338 – traffic complaint, Liberty/Huron River Dr.
1617 – warrant arrest, 36th District Court
1637 – intrusion alarm, BHS
1733 – traffic complaint, E. Huron River Dr. / N. Liberty St.
1944 – suspicious vehicle, 326 Bay Pointe Dr.

Tuesday, Jan. 22:
0052 – parking complaint, 99 Carmell St.
0202 – suspicious person, 58 Wexford Ave.
0249 – welfare check, 275 W. Columbia Ave., Columbia Court
0744 – suspicious person, Wabash/Columbia
1005 – water leak found, 5 Points
1041 – panic alarm, 232 N. Aberdeen Ct.
1732 – civil matter, 73 Menlo Park Dr.
1858 – agency assist, 167 Main St.
1927 – parking complaint, BHS

Wednesday, Jan. 23:
0051 – intrusion alarm, 559 E. Thornhill Ct.

0630 – intrusion alarm, 525 E. Huron River Dr.
0635 – assist fire dept., 351 W. Columbia Ave.
0818 – welfare check, 275 W. Columbia Ave., Columbia Court
1114 – animal complaint, E. Columbia/Madelon
1309 – property damage accident, E. Huron River Dr. / Madelon St.
1654 – background investigation, 6 Main St.
1702 – background investigation, 6 Main St.
2122 – serve warrant, 73 Menlo Park Dr.

Thursday, Jan. 24:
0137 – noise complaint, 152 Carmell St.
0304 – unauthorized driving away of auto, 73 Menlo Park Dr.
0907 – breaking & entering motor vehicle, 131 N. Edgemont Ave.
0923 – civil matter, 590 E. Huron River Dr.
0956 – sexual assault, 6 Main St.
0957 – disorderly conduct, BHS
1214 – private property accident, 271 Henry St.
1433 – assist fire dept., 275 W. Columbia Ave., Columbia Court
1913 – suspicious situation, 275 W. Columbia Ave., Columbia Court

Friday, Jan. 25:
0357 – suspicious vehicle, Belleplaza
0937 – breaking & entering motor vehicle, 275 W. Columbia Ave., Columbia Court
0948 – larceny from auto, 6 Main St.
1307 – assist fire dept., 275 W. Columbia Ave., Columbia Court
1419 – trespassing, BHS
1517 – animal complaint, N. Liberty St. / E. Huron River Dr.
1649 – fraud, 737 Bell Cove Ct.
1745 – bank drop, 6 Main St.
1957 – disturbance, BHS

Saturday, Jan. 26:
0809 – assist fire dept., 43 Biggs Ave.
0919 – civil matter, 500 N. Liberty St.
1750 – assist fire dept., 491 E. Waterbury Ct.
2008 – assault & battery, 87 Carmell St.

Also on this week's log are 67 traffic stops.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Jan. 20:
0050 – alarm, 8200 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
0116 – follow-up investigation, 8200 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
0125 – follow-up investigation, 36000 bl. S. Huron Rd.
0411 – assist other agency, Sumpter/Bemis
0415 – down wires, Clark/Judd
0524 – alarm, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
0745 – citizen assist, Utah
0948 – alarm, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1123 – family trouble, 48000 bl. Judd Rd.
1245 – follow-up investigation, 20000 bl. Sumpter
1417 – civil dispute, Birch
1558 – citizen assist, 11000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
1647 – assist other agency, 40000 bl. Harris Rd.
1927 – alarm, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2022 – alarm, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2052 – civil dispute, 17000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

Monday, Jan. 21:
0137 – follow-up investigation, 36000 bl. S. Huron Rd.
0605 – citizen assist, 39000 bl. Willow Rd.
1001 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1748 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1755 – warrant arrest, Redwood
1832 – fire dept. assist, 25000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
1855 – suspicious incident, 21000 bl. Bohn Rd.
2016 – follow-up investigation, 23000 bl. Sumpter
Tuesday, Jan. 22:
0644 – alarm, 46000 bl. Wear Rd.
1621 – property damage accident, Birch
1655 – animal complaint, 45000 bl. Judd Rd.
1849 – follow-up investigation, 23000 bl. Sumpter
2023 – well-being check, 50000 bl. Arkona Rd.
2151 – fire dept. assist, 26000 bl. Karr Rd.
2337 – suspicious vehicle, 24000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
Wednesday, Jan. 23:
0057 – fire dept. assist, 20000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
0417 – suspicious incident, 51000 bl. Willis Rd.
0931 – fire dept. assist, 49000 bl. Willis Rd.
1035 – malicious destruction of property, 48000 bl. Wear Rd.

1059 – follow-up investigation, 25000 bl. Sumpter
1127 – fraud investigation, 42000 bl. Judd Rd.
1157 – larceny, 27000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
1253 – assist other agency, Utah
1320 – fire dept. assist, 23000 bl. Bohn Rd.
1354 – civil dispute, Birch
1432 – identity theft report, 20000 bl. Haggerty
1700 – 911 hangup, Birch
2007 – animal complaint, 50000 bl. Willis Rd.
2102 – fire dept. assist, Rustic Lane

Thursday, Jan. 24:
0043 – fire dept. assist, Iowa
0139 – recovered stolen vehicle, 50000 bl. Judd
0603 – follow-up investigation, 36000 bl. S. Huron Rd.
0818 – operating while intoxicated arrest, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1050 – warrant arrest, 48000 bl. Wear Rd.
1410 – juvenile complaint, Martinsville/Bemis
1414 – suspicious incident, 22000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1453 – suspicious incident, 19000 bl. Martinsville

Friday, Jan. 25:
0830 – property damage accident, 50000 bl. Willis
1144 – alarm, 50000 bl. Willow Rd.
1150 – citizen assist, 47000 bl. Arkona Rd.
1159 – fireworks complaint, 25000 bl. Martinsville
1200 – fire dept. assist, 26000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1306 – property damage accident, Rawsonville / Willow
1352 – suspicious vehicle, 17000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1407 – fire dept. assist, 45000 bl. Bemis Rd.
1621 – animal complaint, 20000 bl. Karr Rd.
2142 – alarm, 8200 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
2206 – abandoned vehicle, 51000 bl. Willow Rd.
2338 – well-being check, 43000 bl. Willow Rd.

Saturday, Jan. 26:
0103 – property damage accident, Judd/Fenster
1402 – animal complaint, Sumpter/Clay
1456 – fire dept. assist, Arizona
1520 – suspicious person, 48000 bl. Judd Rd.
1616 – follow-up investigation, 23000 bl. Sumpter
1705 – suspicious person, Sumpter/Willis
1802 – well-being check, 45000 bl. Kozma
2125 – death investigation, 24000 bl. Bohn Rd.
2323 – follow-up investigation, 24000 bl. Bohn Rd.
2323 – follow-up investigation, 36000 bl. S. Huron
Also on this week's log are 26 miscellaneous details, 138 patrol checks, and 73 traffic stops.

Woman charged with felony for painting her license plate tab white

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Sumpter Township Police Officer Brian Steffani made a routine traffic stop at 11:21 p.m. Friday on Sumpter Road at Arkona.

But, the situation turned out to be anything but routine.

Officer Steffani ran the license plate on the LEIN network and it came back expired, but the tab on the plate was white, the current tab color.

When Officer Steffani looked closer he found that last year's green tab had been painted over to be white, this year's color.

If an officer was in a police car behind the vehicle, it would look valid, said Sumpter Police Detective John Toth, who said the offense was, obviously, to save spending \$75 for a new tab.

Barbara Jean Yielding, 56, of Flat Rock has been charged with Forgery of a License Plate, a felony which could bring her 1 to 5 years in jail. She also was cited for Driving While License Suspended.

She is due to appear at the 34th District Court at 9 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 6 to face the charges.

Exit interview

(continued from page 3)

He wasn't nice, not polite."

Bojanowski said it would take time to

Pet of the Week

Friends of Michigan
Animals Rescue

"KENYA"



Kenya keeps two things on her mind at all times, enjoy life and live each moment to its absolute fullest. She's a 4 year old German Shorthair/Labrador mix with a free-spirited and friendly personality eager to share her outlook on life with whoever she meets. **Kenya** greets each new adventure and person life brings her with eager and excited gusto that's hard to not envy. We imagine it to be like a 24/7 party in her head! In the midst of her excitement she can sometimes forget some of her finer doggie manners like keeping her kennel clean of dinner, water and outside mud as well as walking nicely on a leash but you know from her honest enthusiasm she's giving it her all. Outside this girl likes to go, go, go and moves like a speeding bullet leaving everything behind in her dust. We'd suggest a fenced in yard and leashed walks only for **Kenya** since her hearing gets selective and her recall ability goes out the door when she's after an exciting new scent. **Kenya** also appears to be quite reactive to smaller creatures including cats so cat buddies may not be in the picture for her without some work. There is no doubt in a stable home with consistent training and patient, loving caretakers this full of life pup will make a fantastic addition that will happily teach her wisdom for living life to its fullest. She is spayed, vaccinated and micro-chipped so call today to make a play date with **Kenya**. 734-461-9458

work out a safe program for the students.

He said the administration is targeting a man in the bus garage who has been there 35 years. Bojanowski said the man does good work, is not lazy, but is just not organized. He worked with the man on organization skills.

"I was written up for calling in sick because my child was sick," Bojanowski said. He said he was written up because he didn't call the administration building as well as his office.

"I got written up because I couldn't stop parents from calling the administration building," he said, adding, "How in the heck can I stop someone from calling?"

He said there are cameras on all the buses and when there is a problem, they have to check the videos and it takes two to three days to look at all the video.

"One child hit another and it took us a couple days to sort it out... They used to have one person dealing with discipline, but now we're doing it all."

He said he liked to do in-service training for the new drivers who are getting used to

the job and to work with the kids instead of throwing them off the bus. Those in the Administration Building tell him to throw them off the bus, he said.

He said he was given three days to put a handbook together and Human Resources Director Shonta Langford-Green gave him the Ann Arbor handbook and said to just use that. He said he wanted to put it together written specifically for Van Buren and he got it done in late November and turned it in. He said he never got it back or had a meeting to discuss it.

"Drivers had no direction," he said, recalling he had been directed to fire two because they weren't conducting their buses right and were still on probation. He said all the drivers have to go through a Wayne County training course and those drivers hadn't even had the course yet. They shouldn't have been fired, he said.

"You can pull the videos of any senior driver or new driver and you'll find the kids out of control," Bojanowski stated.

He said kids are throwing things at the driver while they are driving and

the administrators wouldn't let them do anything about it.

He said when he investigates and says what happened, the parents call him a liar even though it's on the videotape.

Bojanowski said he got written up when he showed a parent a videotape. It was discovered the district suspended the wrong kid because there was a mix-up in names.

"I didn't know you couldn't show it," Bojanowski said, adding he believes it could be requested under the Freedom of Information Act.

"There was nothing that I did to deserve a write-up. If anyone else was in my shoes they would have done the same thing. I wouldn't put the district in liability.

"And, they wanted me to apologize," Bojanowski said of the administrators.

His immediate supervisor is Finance Director Karen Moffitt.

He said she directed him to prepare a policy and procedure handbook for parent call-in procedure, safety procedures for drivers, and a school emergency plan for drivers when there's a knife or gun on the bus.

It was due Jan. 10 and he said he emailed it to Moffitt at 10 a.m. Jan. 10 and she sent back a reply saying she had received it and would review it.

On Jan. 11, Bojanowski said he walked into Moffitt's office and she was printing off what he had sent. She hadn't looked at it yet.

That's when Human Resources Director Green walked in and said he was fired.

He said when he asked why, she replied "It doesn't matter. You're terminated."

Bojanowski said he didn't do anything wrong and she said he didn't get his assigned work in on time.

"They're all from Ann Arbor," said Bojanowski, noting Supt. Van Tassel lives in Ann Arbor, Green is from Ann Arbor and Van Tassel's private secretary Angela Stroud is Green's friend.

"Moffitt said nothing in my defense," he recalled sadly. "Maybe she was worried about her job."

"When the discipline got heavy, I asked for help and was told to fire a mechanic to get the funds," Bojanowski said.

Bojanowski said the people in his office were nice to parents on the phone -- he could hear them -- but the parents said the opposite and he was told to discipline them.

"They never set foot in our office except when coming over to discipline me. They don't know how the operation runs," he said of the administration.

Bojanowski, 45, started at Northville as a bus mechanic and then was supervisor for 15 years until Northville privatized.

"I wrote the Request for Proposals and wrote myself out of a job," he recalled.

He worked for Farmington for eight months dispatching and routing, but he wanted to get back into supervision so he came to Van Buren after Manning left.

Bojanowski said this Van Buren situation has ruined his name.

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