



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 19.46 Thursday, November 14, 2013 Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren FREE

VBT Board switching to Romulus Animal Shelter to save money, time

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

As of the first of the year, stray dogs picked up in Van Buren Township will be going to the Romulus Animal Shelter, instead of the Michigan Humane Society in Westland.

At the Nov. 5 regular meeting of the VBT Board of Trustees, the switch to the Romulus Shelter was approved unanimously.

In 2011, VBT closed its shelter and started taking strays to the Humane Society at a cost of \$850 a month. Romulus will charge \$650 a month, a savings of \$2,400 a year.

On Nov. 4, Romulus Animal Control Officer Kim Matthews attended the VBT work/study session to answer questions on Romulus' services.

VBT Trustee Reggie Miller had gone on a tour of the shelter and reported, "It was excellent. It was clean. They have plenty of room to expand."

Miller said she was impressed with how involved the community is with the Romulus shelter.

VBT Supervisor Linda Combs said from an economic standpoint alone it makes sense. She said it also is a good partnership with a neighboring community.

VBT Public Safety Director Greg Laurain, who recommended the switch to Romulus, noted the shelter at 12300 Wayne Road was closer than Westland, has 24/7 access for officers to drop off dogs, and has status as an EVIP qualifying project for 2014. The EVIP is the Economic Vitality Incentive Program that can bring grants from the state for cooperative projects.

The Romulus Shelter also serves Inkster and Garden City. The participating communities bring their dogs to the shelter, except in special situations.

Laurain pointed out VBT is required by its agreement with the Humane Society to provide 30 days' notice of intent to terminate the contract, which would require notice be provided by Dec. 1.

Laurain said people can volunteer with the animals and read to them from a library at the Romulus Shelter.

Matthews invited everyone to come to the shelter in Romulus to check it out. She said there are two full-time animal control officers and one part-time, with office hours 8-10:30 a.m. and 2:30-4 p.m. The rest of the day they are out on the road.

She said they just got a brand-new chip reader that reads four or five kinds of identification chips a dog may carry.

Matthews said it costs \$35 to adopt and they put the adoptable pets on Facebook and would link that to the VBT site.

Diane Madigan, who was chairman of the VBT Public Safety Committee when Supervisor Combs disbanded it, read a statement asking about follow ups on dog hoarders.

"I think any contract with Romulus needs to include investigations and follow-ups," she said and Matthews replied that was possible for an additional fee.

Madigan said as a result of a resident's complaint at a Public Safety Committee meeting, the committee hosted a work-study session on hoarding in July 2011.

The complaint was regarding a neighbor's house on Buchanan Street where 69 dogs were surrendered to the township Animal Control Officer in 2006.

Madigan said the committee asked the township to develop an ordinance requiring all animals returned to owners, rescued or surrendered to have a license and rabies check and a premises check to insure adequate care is being provided.

Madigan said *The Detroit Free Press* did an in-depth study on hoarders that concluded that without intervention, recidivism in animal hoarding cases is thought to be nearly 100%.

"And, this is exactly what is happening on Buchanan: In May 2011 another 18 dogs were surrendered," Madigan went

(continued on page 14)



Independent photos by Rosemary K. Oztman

On Saturday, Joan.z Budny of New Boston talked with Van Buren Township Police Officer Louis Keele during the Coffee with a Cop event at Leo's Coney Island. In back, Public Safety Director Greg Laurain talks with other residents. This is the second Coffee with a Cop event this year.

Saturday fire damages 40 units at U-Lock-It self-storage facility

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

About 40 units were damaged by a fire that erupted Saturday after the U-Lock-It self-storage facility at 6130 Rawsonville Road closed for the day.

U-Lock-It site manager Geri Dockter said the business had closed at 3 p.m. and the fire was reported between 5 and 5:30 p.m.

Dockter said fire departments from Ypsilanti, Van Buren, and Augusta townships came out to battle the blaze.

Dockter said the maintenance man noticed the fire and called the fire department. Then, he called Dockter and she hurried right over.

She said there was a lot of smoke.

On Monday, the business was open, but people were not being let inside the yard.

Dockter said the Ypsilanti Township Fire Department is still investigating the cause of the fire.

U-Lock-It is independently owned and operated and was built by its current owner



Kathy Tuer of Van Buren Township talks with VBT Police Officer Alexander Schultz at Saturday's Coffee with a Cop event at Leo's Coney Island.

in 2001. Besides manager Dockter, Ryn Rupprecht is the site's customer specialist and Don Kirschke maintains the yard and buildings.

Dockter said there are ten buildings on the site, with 40 units in nine of the buildings and 79 units in one, making 439 total units.

Contents are only covered by the renters' own insurance and U-Lock-It does not offer insurance of any kind.

The units are generally used by people to store household items, but vehicles also are kept on the site.

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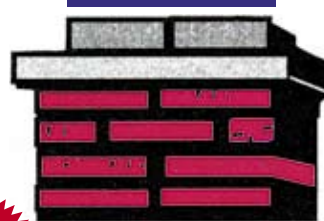
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SECOND FRONT PAGE

Court Watching:

Accused armed robber has preliminary exam adjourned until Nov. 20

By Rosemary K. Otzman

Independent Editor and

Diane Madigan, Court Reporter

A preliminary exam in 34th District Court has been adjourned until Nov. 20 for the man charged with the Oct. 24 armed robbery of the Health Smart Pharmacy on Belleville Road.

Michael Earl-Chavis Lee, 29, of Lincoln Park was charged with three counts of armed robbery, one count of assault with a dangerous weapon (felonious assault) and one charge of weapons – felony firearm.

On Nov. 6, the date set for his preliminary exam, the attorney Lee's girlfriend hired to defend him, Ronald McDuffie, was in circuit court in Detroit and couldn't be present.

McDuffie sent attorney Charles Longstreet to fill in and ask for an adjournment, so McDuffie could appear. Judge Bryan Oakley granted the request after Lee waived his right to a preliminary exam within 14 days.

Lee had been held without bond since his arraignment on Oct. 26 and Judge Oakley set his bond at \$250,000 or 10%.

Lee's alleged accomplice that day was a 15-year-old male from Inkster, who was lodged in the Wayne County Youth Detention Center pending a Family Court hearing.

Anton Lamar Floyd

Also present for a preliminary exam on Nov. 6 was Anton Lamar Floyd, who was charged with home invasion – 2nd degree, of an occupied home in Sumpter Township on Aug. 4, 2011.

His fingerprint was found at the scene of a burglary where an X-Box, 10 video games, and other items were taken while the home occupants were away, said Sumpter Township Police Detective John Toth.

Floyd waived his preliminary exam and Judge Oakley scheduled the case for a Nov. 20 appearance at the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice in Detroit.

Floyd's court-appointed attorney was Luke Skywalker.

Since Floyd has no felony record and said he didn't know he had a warrant out for his arrest, Judge Oakley reduced his bond from the \$75,000/10% to personal bond of \$5,000.

Jessie Aurelias Williams

The preliminary exam for Jessie Aurelias Williams, 28, of Ypsilanti was held before Judge Oakley on Nov. 6 and Van Buren Township Police Officer Alexander Schultz testified.

Williams is charged with two controlled substance offenses: possession of cocaine

less than 25 grams and possession of marijuana.

He also was named an habitual offender. He was released from prison on April 14 after serving nine years for two drug charges, three armed robberies, and one unarmed robbery, all in Washtenaw County.

Officer Schultz testified he was in uniform standing behind Williams in line at the BP gas station at 11175 Haggerty Road on Oct. 18 and detected a strong odor of marijuana.

He said after Williams paid and turned around he seemed surprised to see a uniformed officer behind him.

Officer Schultz said Williams was standing in the general area of the front door when Schultz exited the store. Williams was near his patrol car and Schultz called to him to come over to him, and Williams did. Schultz said he was within one foot of Williams and the smell of raw marijuana was strong around Williams' person. He acted nervous, Schultz said.

Schultz said he asked Williams if he had a medical marijuana card and he said he didn't. Schultz said he saw a large bulge in the front pants pocket that he thought might be a weapon and so he searched Williams.

He said he found \$1,400 in cash and a large bag of what he suspected to be crack cocaine in the side pocket and a small amount of marijuana. There was no weapon. Schultz placed him under arrest as Williams' friends started to get out of their car.

Schultz said backup came to help him with the arrest and Williams' friends drove off.

Schultz testified that Williams said the "crack cocaine" found was not real, but fake and that he said if he had had real drugs on him he wouldn't have let the officer search him.

It was noted that a preliminary test at the police station showed it was cocaine. Schultz said the material was sent to the Michigan State Police lab for identification, but that might take six weeks.

Schultz emphasized the overwhelming odor of marijuana led to the arrest.

Williams' attorney said the probable cause of arrest being the smell of marijuana would be taken up at the next level of the court.

Judge Oakley bound Williams over to a Nov. 20 court date at the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice for an arraignment on the information.



Independent photo by Rosemary K. Otzman

A large crowd of friends and Ace Hardware store customers and employees turned out Saturday evening to honor store owner Lee Targgart, who is battling ALS. Raffles were held benefitting research for Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), often referred to as "Lou Gehrig's Disease." Friends stood in line to hug Targgart and tell him how much he has meant to them over the years. The event was held at the Sumpter Township Community Center, where a free meal was served to all who attended. Everyone attending was required to put on a name tag since Targgart said he had trouble remembering names.

Bankruptcy Court approves taking White's house out of Chapter 7

By Rosemary K. Otzman

Independent Editor

Last Thursday, U.S. Bankruptcy Court Judge Thomas J. Tucker signed an order "Granting Relief from the Automatic Stay and Waiving the Provision of FRBP4001 (a)(3)" in the matter of Thomas A. White's house.

White, the disbarred attorney who filed Chapter 7 bankruptcy to fend off his many creditors, lives in a house at 41305 Savage Road in Van Buren Township.

The judge's order means White's house has been taken out of the automatic stay on creditors ordered by the bankruptcy proceedings and the usual provision that the judge's order takes effect after 10 days is waived.

Now the owners of the house, Robert and Gloria Coppock, can move forward immediately under applicable state procedures to get the money White owes

them for unpaid land contract payments or to get their property back.

Judge Tucker's order said the approximate market value of the property is \$260,000 and the current debt owing is about \$306,688, which includes unpaid property taxes and the Coppocks' attorney fee and costs for filing the motion.

Any surplus on the sale of this property shall be distributed under state procedures and any deficiency in the sale shall be treated as an unsecured debt, the order said.

The Coppocks' bankruptcy attorney Walter H. Czeizler of Livonia said the judge signed the order on Nov. 7 and now that the order is entered, the issue goes back to the Coppocks' regular attorney Steven Robinson of Romulus.

Czeizler said the Coppocks now will choose whether to seek a *forfeiture* or a

(continued on page 14)

OPINIONS

Editorial

Library Board starts trek toward Aug. bond vote

On Tuesday, the Belleville Area District Library board took steps towards next August's election to finance a new library. Paul Stauder, of Stauder, Barch & Associates, gave the board a lesson on bonds. He is with the firm that specializes in library bonds and he was very gentle with the neophytes.

Board members asked some legal questions so he suggested they get bond counsel to address them. Stauder said payment for his bond work would come out of the bond funds and he wouldn't be sending them a bill.

Then, the board approved Spicer Engineers of Belleville to do the topographic and boundary survey of the DNR and Spencer properties, the proposed sites of the dream library, as well as the Quirk Road intersection and properties north and south of Belleville Road. Architect Dan Whisler, who needs the surveys for his drawings, said the library may want to put in a different kind of sidewalk along its site. Hourly, Spicer is not to exceed \$10,350, and take no more than 5 weeks. Spicer will have to add extra to address trees on the site.

Whisler has to produce drawings to help estimate the cost, so the bond process can proceed. Drawings also are necessary for the DNR to assess the fishing site in the library's front yard. Then ballot language has to be written for an April approval by the board. Hold on to your hats. We're on our way to an election campaign.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

Jet's Pizza is still serving up pizzas at 243 Main Street in downtown Belleville, although the big "For Lease" sign has been in the window.

The neon "Open" sign goes on, so it's confusing.

I called on Friday and was told Jet's will be moving to another Main Street location about the first of the year. The new location is yet to be announced.

Belleville Area District Library Director Deb Green telephoned us on Thursday afternoon after reading an item in this column in last week's paper. She wanted to tell us that Mr. and Mrs. Parmelee of Sumpter were welcome to come to the library to use the library restroom any time.

She said, anyway, her restrooms are warmer and cleaner than the ones at the parks.

Let me back up to remind you of the story we published last week about Junior Parmelee, aged 80, and his wife, 77, who were disappointed that all of the public restrooms in the city were locked up for the winter already.

He said they come to town to use the bank, the drug store, and the hardware store, and sometimes have to use the restrooms at Horizon Park or Victory Park.

I called the Parmelees to pass on Deb Green's offer and Mrs. Parmelee wanted to know what the library hours are.

They are: Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; closed Sunday.



We read in *The Detroit News* last week that an SUV stolen in VBT at 8:45 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 5, crashed into a fur shop in West Bloomfield Township early Wednesday morning, Nov. 6. It was a 2002 Chevy Tahoe.

The vehicle did not penetrate the metal security door and the driver was gone when police responded. It does not appear any merchandise was taken from the store. Police are reviewing surveillance footage.

VBT Police Lt. Ken Floro reported last Thursday that police have located the car that was stolen from the VBT Walmart oil change on Oct. 17 and have forwarded a warrant request to the prosecutor.

It was cold in the BHS Commons as we waited for the school board meeting to start on Monday. It did warm up a bit once the heat was turned up as the one-hour meeting proceeded.

I was talking with BHS Principal Abdul Madyun and someone reminded him of how cold his office is.

He said he has learned to adjust and gets to work early, opens all his doors to let the heat in, and then walks briskly around the halls to get his blood moving around to warm up. He says he does all right.

He said it has something to do with his office being the furthest room from the heat source. I know the bond money for the \$79 million high school building project has

\$1,790,731 left over and the board will be deciding what to do with it soon.

Maybe they could buy a space heater for the principal with some of that.

As far as that goes, School Supt. Michael Van Tassel's office at the administration building is a really frigid one, too. It also is the room farthest from the heat source. Maybe we could buy him a space heater, too, now that it's getting colder out.

The school board was talking about the budget and Trustee Scott Russell asked about the fund balance, which is expected to be 10% by the end of the school year.

Supt. Van Tassel said 10% is the magic number for the district, since that means they won't have to borrow next summer and pay interest.

Trustee Russell asked about the artificial turf on the football field and said it is expected to need replacement in 10-12 years. Are we setting money aside for that, Russell asked, noting he is getting that question out in the community.

Van Tassel said the district is setting aside from \$15,000 to \$20,000 a year and, "Making it so it's not on the back of the taxpayers." Long-range planning is good.





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**Letters****Who owns the local
school system? We do!**

To the Editor:

It was with a great deal of disgust that I read the accounting of cost for our local high school. I have trouble believing someone was employed with so little knowledge of cost estimating that they missed the total estimate by \$14,000,000. Purely incompetent. Or, was this intended as a sort of slush fund to buy all the items we have been hearing about for the last six months?

What is this owner-directed \$14,500,000 spending? We, the taxpayers, are the owners. We are the ones paying for this school. We did not direct anyone to spend this \$14,500,000 over cost on the school board's dreams. This \$14,500,000 should have been used to reduce our taxes on the bonds intended to build the school.

Now this auditor suggests the remaining \$1,700,000 be put in a debt service fund. Somehow I find this to be a mixing of funds, which may not be legal.

I also find it repulsive that someone in the school system wants to charge us taxpayers \$5 for a one-hour swim. Let me state that again. We taxpayers are paying thousands of dollars per year for various and sundry school taxes for which we receive little or nothing in return. I, for one, do not have nor have I ever had any children in this school system. Now, I have nothing against any employee of the school system and many do not even live in the district, but, I have a hard time believing they would be charged \$5 to swim.

Don Bosman

Van Buren Township

**Comment from VBT
meeting clarified**

To the Editor:

I wanted to clarify my comments that I made at Monday, Nov. 4, 2013 Van Buren Township Work Study Session in regards to the discussion relative Country Walk 3 & 4 and Victoria Park.

In the meeting, I referred to both subdivisions as "dead subdivisions". I apologize for any hard feelings or resident concerns about how the township views their communities.

I was using an industry term for

subdivisions that have not been substantially completed with no developer or builder actively working to complete them. This situation is found all across the country due to fallout of the housing bubble, and the term was coined.

In no way were my words to be construed as an opinion about the residents or the communities that the residents have built despite these trying economic conditions. I applaud what they've been able to accomplish.

Again, I apologize for any anger or frustration that my comments may have caused. I clarified my point in the Work Study meeting last week, and I wanted to do the same in writing.

Sincerely yours,

Arthur F. Mullen, AICP

Director, Van Buren Township Planning and Economic Development Department

**Great, professional
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To the Editor:

There's something to be said for living in a small town. Thursday night the Belleville police pulled up to my house, got out and walked to my door and let me know my garage door was open, which faces the street (now 6 p.m. and dark).

As luck would have it, I was just ready to walk out the door 45 minutes earlier, pressed the garage door button, opened the house door and my phone rang ... nice timing.

I was then on a long call and it now was dark out. The Belleville Police were courteous enough to stop and walk up to my door and let me know my garage door was open in the dark.

How often does that happen in a big city?

Thank you, Belleville Police and Officer Steve Sexton! We have a wonderful Police Department!

Thank you.

Jeffrey Riggs, Potter Drive

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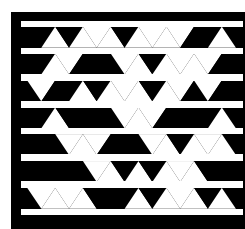
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Obituaries



Celia Ruth Orr

CELIA RUTH ORR

February 23, 1947 - November 11, 2013
Celia Ruth Orr, age 66, a lifelong Sumpter Township, MI resident, passed away on Monday, November 11, 2013 at her home. She was born on February 23, 1947 in Jackson, MI, daughter of the late Sibbert and Albertina (Wilson) Bennette.

Celia is survived by her husband of 25 years, James Orr, 1 daughter, Corinna (Gilbert) Evans of Ypsilanti, 7 grandchildren, Benjamin Owens II, Krystal (Kevin) Varner, Robert (Crissy) Owens, Albertina Evans, Gilbert Evans III, Corrina Evans II, Arthur Evans and 9½ great-grandchildren, Brandon Owens, Bradley Owens, Brice Owens, Benjamin Owens III, Hannah Owens, Kevin Varner II, Robert Owens, Connor Dove, Sophia Owens and Alexis Owens is on-the-way. Also, her former son-in-law, Benjamin Owens I.

Mrs. Orr was a 1965 Belleville High School graduate and a member of the marching band, 4-H Fair and Orchestra. She will always be remembered by her family as being the "World's Best Friend", Grandma, Wife & Mom. She loved to color, have tea parties and had a great love for animals.

Cremation rites have been accorded. Arrangements by David C. Brown Viewing Chapel, 500 E. Huron River Drive, Belleville, MI.

Memorial contributions may be made to the wishes of the family. Please sign her on-line guest book and share a memory for her family to treasure at www.davidcbrownfh.com.



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Obituaries



Robert A. Suliman

ROBERT 'BOB' A. SULIMAN

October 4, 1927 – October 26, 2013

Beloved husband, father, and grandfather passed away and left an enormous hole in many lives.

A graduate of Belleville High School, Class of 1946, he was the captain of the football team and held several track and pole vault records that remained unbroken for several decades. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1946 to protect and defend our nation, serving aboard several ships, including the battleship, the U.S.S. Wisconsin. Upon completing his service with the Navy, he returned home to marry his sweetheart, Francis Merrell. They had a long and happy life together, celebrating their 62nd anniversary this past August.

He is survived by his devoted wife, Francis Suliman; his four children, Robert 'Mike' Suliman and his wife Judy, Timothy Suliman and his wife Lisa, Diane Suliman Ramsey and her husband Craig, and Julia Spears and her husband Jim. Grandchildren include Laura Ramsey, Bryan Suliman, Chelsea Karolak, Nick Ramsey, Lindsey Suliman, Lauren Mackenzie, Elizabeth Jones and Tom Spears.

He was a wonderful man with a big heart that helped those when he could and even when he couldn't. He never sat back, took things as they came, and cared for his family through adversities and setbacks. He was a backyard inventor of more than one useful tool, but mostly of things to entertain his children and those in the neighborhood that we still allowed to come over! Although some of his projects weren't always the safest, they were always fun and gave us memories to fill our lives.

WALTER COX

March 27, 1930 -- November 4, 2013

Mr. Walter Cox passed away at his home on Monday, November 4, 2013. He was born on March 27, 1930 in West Point, Mississippi a son of Ellis and Pearl Lee (Nash) Cox, Jr.

On April 4, 1949 he was married to Elizae Mae Powell in West Point, Mississippi, moving to Belleville from Detroit in 1971. Mrs. Cox preceded him in death on May 28, 2005.

Mr. Cox attended area Baptist churches. He enjoyed fishing, farming and hunting. Mr. Cox was a man who put family first. It was not uncommon for him to work 2 to 3 jobs to support his wife and children. Prior to his retirement in 1993 he had been employed by General Motors as a Job Setter for 41 years.

Mr. Cox is survived by his 11 children: Jimmie Cox, Bonnie Knott, Pearl (Harvey) Ross, Annie Graham, Elizabeth Priester, Shirley Cox, Shelia (Michael) Reese, Marlene Cox, Charlene Cox, Antoinette Cox and Trasha (Galvin) Anderson and daughter-in-law Beatrice Cox. Fond grandfather of 51 grandchildren and over 70 great-grandchildren and great-great grandchildren. Loving brother of 2 brothers and 2 sisters. Mr. Cox was preceded in death by 3 children: Ellis Cox, Dorothy (the late Charles, III) Wesley and Walter Cox, Jr. and 5 brothers and sisters.

A memorial service was held at 11:00 A.M. on Saturday, November 9, 2013 at the Higgeson & Neal Funeral Home, 209 Main St., Belleville (734-697-9400).



Willa Mae Gaston

WILLA MAE GASTON

(June 25, 1918 - November 8, 2013)

Willa Mae Gaston, age 95, a Sumpter Township area resident since 1952, passed away on Friday, November 8, 2013 at Oakwood Hospital Annapolis Center, Wayne, Michigan. She was born on June 25, 1918 in Sandusky, Ohio, daughter of the late, James A. and Mary (Young) Mahon.

She is survived by 3 children, William Mack of Belleville, MI, Martha Bradford of Sumpter Township, MI, Mary Hampton of Boca Raton, FL; and 8 grandchildren, Sean Holt, Veronica (Walter Clayton) Richardson, William Mack, Jr., Daniel (Andrea) Bradford II, Turusha (Stacy) Gordon, Lee (Ann) Bradford, Shawna Hampton, Louis Singleton; 13 great-grandchildren and 1 great-great-grandchild.

Ms. Gaston was a member of The Spiritual Israel Church and Its Army. She worked at Detroit Metropolitan Airport as a custodian for many years, and for most of her life as a church Secretary, and for a number of years as a Reverend. She enjoyed reading and being around young people, to keep her lively. She loved traveling and visited Florida, New York, and St. Maarten/St. Martin. Preceded in death by her husband, Louis Gaston, Sr., in 1961, 2 sons, Thomas Gaston and Louis Gaston, Jr., 1 brother, Eugene Mahon Woodson and 1 sister, Mabel Wilson.

Visitation was on Friday, November 15, from 5-8 PM with a funeral service on Saturday, November 16, 2013 at 2:00 PM with an hour prior visitation at David C. Brown Viewing & Funeral Chapel, 500 E. Huron River Drive, Belleville, MI. Bishop Harvey Beavers, Jr. and Elder Isaac Brown officiated. Burial followed at Metropolitan Memorial Gardens, Belleville, MI.

Memorial contributions may be made to the wishes of the family. Please sign Willa Mae's on-line guestbook and share a memory for her family to cherish at www.davidcbrownfh.com

JOHN LEON WALKER

January 25, 1938 - November 7, 2013

Age 75. Retired from General Motors after 22 years. Survived by five children, 16 grandchildren, and 17 great-grandchildren. Services were held Nov. 10 at Higgeson & Neal Funeral Home, Belleville.



Pamela Lynn Knudson

PAMELA L. KNUDSON

(January 13, 1965 - November 6, 2013)

Pamela Lynn Knudson, age 48, passed away Wednesday, November 6, 2013 at her home in Romulus, MI. She was born January 13, 1965 in Detroit, MI, daughter of Walter and Carolyn (Johnson) Kasenow.

She is survived by her husband Lance Knudson of Romulus, MI, step-daughter Melissa (Mike) Bromwell, step-grandson Aiden, two sisters; Sandra (Adam) Berry of Taylor, MI, Denise from Alabama, Aunt Patricia Kasenow, Special friend Julie Micakovic, and Cousin Robert Coutts.

Pamela was a member of St. Anthony Catholic Church in Belleville, MI. She had a Master's Degree in Business, a Bachelor Degree in Science with a concentration as a Clinical Dietician. She loved to cook and bake.

Visitation was Friday, November 8, 2013 from 9-11 A.M. followed by an 11:00 A.M. funeral service at David C. Brown Temporary Viewing Chapel, 500 E. Huron River Drive, Belleville, MI with Father Thomas H. Cusick officiating. Burial followed at Romulus Memorial Cemetery, Romulus, MI.

Memorial contributions may be made to the family. Please sign her on-line guest book and share a memory for her family to cherish at www.davidcbrownfh.com.

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More Letters



From left, Counselor Jacob Sweets, Principal John Leroy, Dean of Students Andrew Lindsay and Counselor Slavica Vidojevski. Not pictured, Assistant Principal Rod Fisher.

McBride Middle School loves its parents

To the Editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to submit the attached photo for publication consideration.

Yesterday morning at McBride student drop off, I was greeted by several smiling administrators and counselors handing out Tim Horton's coffee curbside to parents as we passed through the drop-off lane.

They had a sign that read "McBride Middle School loves its parents. Have a cup of coffee and have a great day!"

Thank you for your consideration.
Sandy Hardy

FMAR grateful for community support

To the Editor:

Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue would like to thank the community for supporting all our October events. FMAR held Meet and Greet adoption events at Ann Arbor's Pet Emporium and Westland's Petco. Pet portrait donations came from Canton's Poochie Parlor. FMAR was able to give back to the community by passing out treats from the Higgerson-Neal Funeral Home on Halloween night. Vintner's Winery in Canton sponsored a wine-tasting event last Saturday night for us which was a sold-out event.

Please note Nov. 24 on your calendars. That is the FMAR dining to donate fund raiser at Haabs restaurant on Michigan

Avenue in Ypsilanti.

FMAR is proud to report our TNR program has neutered and spayed 480 cats to date in 2013. One hundred and twelve of them have been kittens. Forty of those are still in the shelter waiting for their forever homes. We are thankful to the community for considering adopting these orphans.

FMAR is in need of more volunteers. Please think about becoming a Dog Walker or Kennel Technician in the dog and/or cat area. Various shifts are available. It is a heart-warming experience to help care for these at-risk pets. Call Sandy at (734) 417-5117 if interested.

As the holidays approach and the year winds down, FMAR wishes you a cornucopia of blessings.

Linda Luke, Fund Raiser
Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue

How about the Affordable Car Act?

To the Editor:

Now that Obamacare has had a smooth rollout, all but about 4 million are unhappy or maybe not so happy. It's now time for the wise men and a few wise women in Washington to solve another problem that doesn't exist.

How about every American is entitled to a car? I'm sure with all their wisdom this bill will be so complicated that they'll have to pass it before they read it.

It could be called the Affordable Car Act. Someone in Washington that could be trusted could utter those now-famous words. "If you like the car you have, you can keep it. (Believe me.) If you are happy with your mechanic, you can keep him. (Trust me.) I'm here from the federal government and I want to help. God bless you and God bless America."

I'm sorry, can't say that any more. How about, "Good night and lots of luck. You'll need it."

Mickey Widener, Van Buren Township

Thanks to voters who came out for election

To the Editor:

I want to thank all the voters who came out for the city council elections; we had a 10% turnout for 318 votes total. I may have not been elected, but I feel we made an impact on city politics.

Bob Balderston, Belleville

Thanks for helping with Sumpter Craft Show

Dear Friends,

Sumpter Senior Center's annual Craft Show was held Nov 1 and Nov 2.

Special thanks for all the wonderful vendors for the variety of craft items.

Special thanks to Sue Pennington for the donation gifts for the seniors bingo prizes.

Congratulations to Lou Stewart from Garden City for winning the quilt raffle.

This year Cornerstone Church on Willis road rented the kitchen and the food was delicious, Thank you.

Our Annual Craft show proceeds go to the Senior Christmas party.

Happy Holidays from the Sumpter Senior Center Staff!

Karen Mickens
Craft Show Chairperson
Sumpter Township

VBT 2014 budget woes: No millage without cuts

To the Editor:

It's time for the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees to face the facts before we become a Detroit with an Emergency Manager. They have not lived within the budget for 12 years. Keep taking from the landfill money; owe \$47 million on Visteon Bonds.

They continue to give raises and hire more

people that they do not have moneys for. It's time they all take pay cuts. The public will not support a new millage without major cuts.

Van Buren Township Resident

Thanks for supporting BHS Football Boosters

To Our Friends at the Independent:

From its inception 2 ½ years ago, you have been supportive of the BHS Tiger Football Booster Club and we thank you. Publishing our events and spreading the word to the community has aided in our endeavor to provide for our boys.

Regards,
Julie Walker
Booster Club president

Upcoming Meetings

• Thursday, Nov. 14 – Keystone Academy school board, 6 p.m. Also, Belleville Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m.

• Monday, Nov. 18 -- Van Buren Township work-study, 4 p.m. Also, Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education work-study session, 7 p.m., Administration Bldg. Also, Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.

• Tuesday, Nov. 19 -- Van Buren Township board meeting, 7 p.m.

• Wednesday, Nov. 20 -- South Huron Valley Utility Authority, 10 a.m., Brownstown Township Hall. Also, Van Buren Township Staff Review, 1-4 p.m. Also, Belleville Downtown Development Authority, 6 p.m. Also, VBT Environmental Commission, 7 p.m.

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More Letters

Issues at flag placing too upsetting to let go

To the Editor:

Today (Saturday Oct. 26) my wife and I participated in the placing of the flags at Hillside Cemetery. We have done this many times before and it has always given us a good feeling.

We try to get section D because Pat's first husband (James Stacey) is buried there and she can place his flag. He was killed in Viet Nam in 1969, two weeks after their son was born.

Unfortunately, this time was not a good experience. Let me start by saying that I know organizing events like this is a lot of thankless, unpaid work and I appreciate those who step up to take the job on.

However, the issues we faced were just too upsetting to just let them go. The first concern was that when we requested the section that Jim is buried in, we were told that it had already been done even though we got there over half an hour before the starting time and the gates were locked.

It turns out that "the people who normally do that section could not be here today" and were permitted to place them on a previous day.

That was upsetting enough, but when we went to Jim's grave, his flag had not been replaced, nor had MANY of the ones in that section. What was even MORE upsetting

was that I found a stack of obviously older flags piled on the ground at the end of one of the rows.

Because we could not do section D, we were assigned to another section. When it became apparent that we were running out of flags and were not even half done, I went back to get more. I was informed that they had run out and was asked how many we still needed. When I told them that we were only about half done I was told that they would need to go get some more flags.

I came back in about 15 minutes to ask for more flags and I was given the same answer. I asked when they might be getting them I was told again that they guessed they would have to go get some more.

After my third trip back, they said they would bring them to me. This was because we were toward the back of the cemetery and the flags were given out near the front and I was becoming quite tired from the trips back and forth.

We did finally get the needed flags and were even able to go through section D and replace many of the older flags that had not been replaced.

I only hope that the next time we are given the privilege to honor our fallen heroes that it is a better experience.

Charles Reavis
Belleville

Editor's Note: For several years, Mary Jane and Rick Dawson have been allowed to place flags in their favorite section of the cemetery ahead of the Saturday session announced to the public.

Food Closet has Wish List for holiday meals

To the Editor:

She might be the waitress that topped off your coffee this morning ... or the young guy that towel dried your car at the car wash this weekend ... or the child that sat next to your son to daughter on the bus to school the other day ... or perhaps she was the elderly widow who sat next to you at church this past Sunday. Any one of these people could be someone who depends on the Food Closet at the First United Methodist Church for that bag of food to help get them through the week.

Hunger in our community is a real thing. With the holidays right around the corner your help is urgently needed to make sure that the hungry in our midst will have enough to eat on Thanksgiving and Christmas. With your help, over 200 families will receive all the fixings for Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners this year.

Below is our Wish List for the distribution of these meals. Would you please consider "sponsoring" a part of this meal by donating any quantity of the following by Monday, Nov. 11, to the First United Methodist Church?

Applesauce (plastic), 400; boxed mashed potatoes, 400; cake mix, 200; corn, 400; corn muffin mix, 400; cranberries, 200; cream of mushroom soup, 200; creamed corn, 400; egg noodles, 200; evaporated milk, 200; sweet potatoes, 400; \$10 gift cards (for holiday meat), 400; frosting, 200; fruit cocktail, 400; gravy (canned chicken or turkey), 400; green beans, 400; Jell-O (large box), 400; Jiffy Pie Crust Mix, 200; microwave popcorn, 400; canned pumpkin, 200; canned peaches or pears, 400; fried onions, 400.

If you would prefer to donate funds, we will do the shopping. We intend to acknowledge all contributions in the holiday message that will included in the food bags

For further information, please call Sandy Askew at (734) 483-5529.

Many thanks and have a wonderful holiday season!

Sincerely,

Sandy Askew, First United Methodist Church Food Closet

Goodfellows' food/toy registration started Nov. 4

Dear Friends:

The Belleville / Van Buren Goodfellows will begin taking registrations for our 2013 Christmas Food and Toy distribution program on Monday, Nov 4, at 9 a.m. This assistance program is open to residents of the City of Belleville and Van Buren Township.

Registration location is the Van Buren Township Police Department: 46425 Tyler Road, Belleville. Forms will be available at the Van Buren Township Police Department or printable forms will be available on the township's website at

www.vanburen-mi.org. Just print them, fill in your information and bring them to the police department to register.

You must register "In Person." No phone-in, mail-in or e-mailed registrations will be accepted. Proof of residency must be presented at time of registration (valid driver's license, state ID or current utility bill showing name and address).

You may register or pick up registration forms any time 24/7 at the Police Department after Nov 4.

Registration will close on Friday, Dec 6, at 4 p.m.

If you have any questions, you may call Pam Fleming at 734-699-8934, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Thank you,

Pam Fleming, Coordinator
Belleville / Van Buren Goodfellows

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47530 HARRIS, SUMPTER TOWNSHIP
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9502 HAGGERTY, VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP
LOTS TO LOVE! 5+ acre brick ranch offering 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, finished basement with large living room and bar. Paved street and 2 huge pole barns. Possible re-zoning to commercial use. It's clean and neat with new carpet and fresh paint. This one shows great! **\$239,500**

SOLD



7055 SHELTON, VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP
ALL YOU'D EXPECT AND MORE! 5+ acres and minutes from expressways and shopping. Sky high windows in the living room plus family room with fireplace. Finished Basement, wet bar, and half bath. Possible 4th bedroom in the bonus room-hobby room. 2.5 car attached garage, 2 story barn/garage(24x30), deck with gazebo. Love the land and the house will love you back! **\$300,000.**

NEW LISTING!



15015 HARRISON, ROMULUS
A MOST IMPRESSIVE COLONIAL! Three bedroom brick and vinyl charmer plus 1-1/2 baths, open kitchen to family room, fireplace, large basement, 2-1/2 car attached garage, corner lot, large fenced yard and much more. Close to shopping and expressways. This home is super clean and move in condition. Priced at **\$100,000**

GREAT LIVING!



15685 BROOKSIDE, VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP
CHARM YOU CAN LIVE IN! Stunning colonial in a best neighborhood featuring a kitchen with a breakfast area, 4 bedrooms, 2-1/2 bathrooms, large unfinished basement, central air and more. Large family room and the large master bedroom has separate tub and shower. Private yard backs up to woods. A true reflection of good taste! **\$225,000.**

SUPER CLEAN!



50667 HURON RIVER DRIVE, VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP
COTTAGE APPEAL PLUS! This home can only be described as adorable and in ultra move in condition. 2 bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths and extra clean with 1,116 sq ft. Large sunroom overlooks an open rear yard with detached garage, storage building, .62 acres and more **\$100,000.**

FOR SALE OR LEASE!



1163 ROULO, VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP
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School Board approves students' trip to France and Spain in 2015

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

They don't know how many Belleville High School students will be going yet, but the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education approved a 2015 Spring Break trip to Europe.

Students will be paying their own way at a cost of \$4,863 each for the 12-day trip to France and Spain, which begins March 31. The 2015 trip is two days longer than past programs.

The passport fees of about \$96 and lunch and personal spending money is on top of the travel fee.

There are FLAG scholarships up to \$600 available for qualifying families.

BHS students have been heading for Europe every two years since 2001.

At Monday's meeting of the school board, the trips to France and Spain were approved through WorldStrides International Discovery Programs.

Traveling with the students will be teachers Stacey Buhro, Matt Davenport, and Daryl Niner.

In the paperwork presented to the board it was noted that Niner's daughter (2005) and son (2007) travelled with the BHS students to France and Spain and their European experiences took the place of formal high school graduation parties.

Davenport's younger brother went in 2007 and Buhro's son went in 2013.

The trip starts off with an overnight flight to Paris, followed by trips to Versailles, Nice, Monaco, Provence, Carcassonne, Barcelona, Madrid, and then home to the U.S. on April 11.

The trip will give students a chance to practice their language skills, visit museums and historic landmarks and develop interpersonal skills as they travel together.

Board Treasurer Sherry Frazier said years ago her daughter took the trip and she said it gives students a new perspective on the world.

Trustee Scott Russell said when his daughters grow up he would like to see them take the trip, but he's got to start saving up because it is expensive.

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

- Formally received \$1,500 as a donation from the Van Buren Civic Fund to match the \$1,500 grant from the Van Buren Public Schools Education Foundation to help get equipment for the new transition program at Haggerty School;

- Approved hiring Michelle Feury as a kindergarten teacher at Edgemont as of Nov. 1;

- Approved termination of Andrew Monteleone, a custodian for seven years, as of Oct. 31;

- Heard a presentation on academic activities and programs at Belleville High School;

- Approved the 2013-14 budget amendments as presented by Director of Finance Karen Moffitt, who noted the revenue is expected to go up to \$47,278,550 this year and expenditures down to \$46,440,063, which pushes the amount of revenue over expenses up to \$837,587. Adding that to last July's fund balance will push the fund balance up to \$4,224,378. She said that makes the fund balance about 10% of the general fund budget, which School Supt. Michael Van Tassel said was the magic number for the district. Now they won't have to take out a loan next summer and pay interest, to tide the district over until the state's late payments arrive;

- Heard School Supt. Michael Van Tassel announce that at next Monday's 7 p.m. workshop session at the administration building, the board will discuss the \$1,790,731 bond reserve fund balance from the bonds sold to build BHS. He said "the clock is ticking" and they have to decide what to do with it at the Jan. 15 meeting. Monday's meeting is open to the public; and

- Noted the next school board meeting will be 7 p.m., Dec. 9, at the BHS Commons.

Things to do in the Belleville area...

- Thursday, Nov. 14** – Theresa Moore will speak at 7 p.m. at the Belleville Area District Library on "Three Weeks in Valencia, Spain" as part of the Homegrown Knowledge Series. Free.

- Saturday, Nov. 16** – The public is invited to McBride Middle School's third-annual BelleVelocity 5K run/walk from 9 a.m. to noon at the BHS track. Join in for a \$10 donation to McBride PTO. Lots of activities and food.

- Sunday, Nov. 17** – Free Country and Bluegrass music from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Van Buren Senior Center. Information: Hugh, 485-7241, or Lynette, 699-8918.

- Sunday, Nov. 17** – Bring your pug to SE Michigan Pug-N-Play at 2 p.m. at the Wayne County Fairgrounds, 10871 Quirk Rd. Off-leash playtime with other friendly pugs and pug owners. Free, but donations accepted.

- Monday, Nov. 18** – Teresa Irish, author of "A Thousand Letters Home," will tell the story of her father's 1,000 letters from World War II that she found in a family trunk. She will speak at Romulus Public Library, 11121 Wayne Road at 6:30 p.m.

- Tuesday, Nov. 19, through Saturday, Dec. 28** – The Belleville Area Museum is presenting its Festival of Holiday Trees.

- Friday, Nov. 22** – You're invited to have coffee with State Sen. Pat Colbeck from 8 to 10 a.m. at George's Senate Coney Island, 39430 Dun Rovin Dr. near Six Mile and Haggerty roads, Northville.

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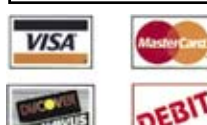


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Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce Business of the Year 2013

VBT Board discusses 2014 budget in Nov. 6 work/study session

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

A special, grumpy, two-and-a-half-hour, work/study session of the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees was held last Wednesday, Nov. 5 to discuss the budget for 2014 -- again.

Supervisor Linda Combs, who is responsible for putting a balanced budget together by the end of the year, had sought opinions from board members on the budget and got varying responses.

Trustee Jeff Jahr refused to put suggestions in writing, because he accused Combs of using his words against him, but offered to give opinions on any subject verbally.

After more than two hours of wrangling, former Supervisor Paul White advised Combs from the audience that she was legally responsible for the budget and she should just put it together and present it to the board for a vote.

On Friday, it was announced a public hearing on the amended 2013 budget and the proposed 2014 budget has been set for 7 p.m. Dec. 3, during the regular board meeting.

At the Nov. 5 work/study meeting much of the discussion was on how much was proper to take out of the landfill fund for township operations.

Trustee Jahr said he had no problem with using the \$3.2 million that comes in each year from the landfill for operations, but the reserve funds should be used for something like a recreational center or something else to compensate the community for having a landfill in its midst.

But, Clerk Leon Wright compiled a packet of information to support his contention that the township should use the landfill funds as needed so services don't have to be cut.

When discussing Clerk Wright's proposal for a full-time Human Resources Director, Cline said four out of the seven board members favor a full-time employee and two a part-time.

Trustee Jahr said he favored a part-time

employee, joining with Treasurer Sharry Budd and Trustee Reggie Miller in the part-time opinion.

"I don't favor a full-time Human Resources person, but if the board wants to go full-time, then budget it," Trustee Jahr said.

"We need someone," said Trustee Phil Hart. "I'm OK if we contract it out."

"Four out of seven want full-time with benefits," Jahr said.

Combs said there were suggestions from six board members on how to save money, such as eliminating longevity pay for board members.

She said also, there was a suggestion not to give payment in lieu of insurance for part-time employees and no health care for part-time.

Combs said a suggestion was to decrease the township board budget's "other" designation by \$10,000, which this year had payment for Princess Laura cleanup and purchase of property.

In the Supervisor's office they could reduce the "other" line item to \$1,000 from \$1,500, Combs said.

Trustee Miller said the supervisor wants a full-time executive assistant, a confidential secretary, and a full-time Human Resources person.

Jahr said Combs wants to add a full-time assistant and full-time Human Resources person.

"We're maintaining what we had: four full-time and one part time," Combs replied, referring to her office.

Jahr said her assistant was supposed to handle the Human Resources, referring to when Combs hired Karin LaMothe and first said she would do Human Resources work and then removed that designation when it was found LaMothe didn't have the credentials necessary. LaMothe has since given her resignation.

Miller asked what the confidential secretary does and Combs said she answers the telephone, greets people, and routes telephone calls to other departments. Miller

said she thought that could be restructured with ease.

"We can't afford to have all these people on board," Miller said. "I think we could do without a confidential secretary."

Combs suggested they not fill the position of account clerk in the supervisor's department for next year. The employee is retiring as the end of the year and Assessor Linda Stevenson has asked that she come back part time for 16 hours next year.

When asked what he thought, Jahr refused to comment on the staffing of the supervisor's office.

"The last time I gave a suggestion, it was a donnybrook. You said I was interfering with your power," Jahr said.

Combs said board suggestions included three who said eliminate the assistant clerk. She said that was the suggestion of Clerk Wright, Treasurer Budd, and Trustee Miller.

"I'll go with the majority on this," Hart said.

Assessor Stevenson said due to the changes in the personal property law, the work load is increasing. She said \$13 an hour times 16 hours a week is \$9,000 a year. She said the confidential secretary is \$13 an hour times 20 hours a week. The

executive assistant is \$60,000.

Stevenson said if they take the assessing account clerk away, she will be using her 24 years of experience in the field doing account clerk work, doing paperwork.

Clerk Wright said if the township is in a deficit, "We've been in a deficit for the last 12 years that we've been taking money from the landfill."

He said the township says it's in a deficit, so it cuts, cuts, cuts.

"Even when we cut, we can't get away from the budget using landfill funds," Wright said, adding there is a huge, huge balance in the fund.

"Your proposal is no cuts? Just spend all the landfill money?" Jahr asked. "We know we have \$8 million, so let's just spend."

Wright said that the board has to come up with a budget everybody can digest. "Cut, cut, cut and not use the landfill funds?" he

(continued on page 14)

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



Our **Chevy** is built strong so he can play all day long! **Chevy** is a 1 1/2 year old Australian Cattle dog mix with a friendly and fun personality and a slight obsession with playing fetch. There is nothing better in **Chevy's** book then repeatedly running after a slobbery tennis ball so we highly suggest his fur-ever family might want to invest in an automatic ball thrower to keep him happy. Along with fetch, this high-energy boy will need daily long-walks and mental stimuli to meet his activity needs and keep any naughty behaviors from surfacing. His excited greetings filled with happy tail wags and puppy-like enthusiasm will be a delightful addition to any family ready to include a very active pup into their lives. His adorable face always looks as if he's asking you if you're ready to play and together with his muscular physique and speckled multi-colored coat make him a very good-looking pup. Go ahead and stock up on the tennis balls and then call today to meet **Chevy**. He's neutered, vaccinated and micro-chipped. **734-461-9458**

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Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN BOARD MEETING MINUTES November 5, 2013

Supervisor Combs called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room. Present: Supervisor Combs, Clerk Wright, Treasurer Budd, Trustee Hart, Trustee Jahr, Trustee McClanahan and Trustee Miller. Absent: None. Others in attendance: DPW Director Taylor, Director Parks and Recreation Wright, Deputy Director Parks and Recreation Zaenglein, Public Safety Director Laurain, Fire Chief Besson, Planning and Economic Development Director Mullen, Secretary Cline and an audience of thirty-four (34).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Jahr moved, Hart seconded to approve the revised agenda as presented with the following amendments, as discussed at November 4, 2013 Work Study Meeting. To remove New Business Item #4 "Consider awarding 2013 Beck Ball Fields Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Improvements Phase 1 contract(s)."; to add Consent Agenda Item #9 "Approval of Romulus Animal Shelter contract."; to add New Business Item #6 "Consider approval of agreement between Van Buren Charter Township and Wayne County for the use of \$20,000 from the Wayne County Parks Millage for the construction of the second phase of ADA walking/bike path at Van Buren Park [Resolution 2013-19]."; to add New Business Agenda Item #7 "Consider approval of contract with Blue Ribbon Contracting, Inc. for the installation of the second phase of the ADA walking/bike path at Van Buren Park in the amount of \$19,900 and authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to execute the contract."; to add New Business Agenda Item #8 "Consider approval of request for Special Use Approval for proposed expansion at Bethany Bible Church located at 810 E. Huron River Drive."; to add New Business Agenda Item #9 "Consider approval of request for Special Use Approval for installation of Pipeline Inspection Point for parcel #V125-83-045-99-0001-701 at Ecorse and Hannan Roads for DTE's subsidiary, MichCon." Carried.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: Budd moved, Wright seconded to approve the Consent Agenda [Work Study Minutes October 14, 2013; Closed Session Minutes October 14, 2013; Regular Board Meeting Minutes October 15, 2013; Budget Preparation Meeting Minute October 16 & 17, 2013; Adoption of Resolution 2013-18, health care opt-out for 2014; Approval of one additional year of the Cemetery Advisory Committee per the By-Laws and reappointment of Marc Littleson, Marie Krouse, Robert Gerick and Connie Etter to the Cemetery Advisory Committee with terms to expire December 12, 2014; Reappointments of David Brownlee, Norman DeBuck and Anthony Gibson to the Environmental Commission with terms to expire October 1, 2016; Appointment of Joan Franzoi and reappointment of Carol Thompson to the Planning Commission with terms to expire October 1, 2016; Approval of Romulus Animal Shelter contract; Voucher List of November 5, 2013.] as presented. Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING: None.

CORRESPONDENCE: Supervisor Combs stated a resident called to thank the Township for addressing her traffic complaint on West Huron River Drive. A letter addressed to Fire Chief Besson from DTE Energy for his recent presentation on fire prevention to DTE Energy employees.

Clerk Wright stated last year the Board of

Trustees Proclaimed November as "Veteran's History and Appreciation" month in Van Buren Township. Clerk Wright on behalf of the Board of Trustees recognized and thanked all Veteran's for their service and introduced representatives from Polish Legion of American Veteran's (PLAV) Post 167 and Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 4434 Robert Krouse and Richard Dawson who also acknowledged all veterans for their service. Clerk Wright also stated a Veteran's Day Lunch will be held on Friday, November 8th in the Seniors Dining room and the Township Administrative Offices will be closed in honor of Veteran's Day on Monday, November 11th.

Public Safety Director Laurain stated "Coffee with a Cop" will be held on Saturday November 9th from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at Leo's Coney Island.

Supervisor Combs read a Proclamation to establish November 15, 2013 as America Recycles Day in Van Buren Charter Township and recognized Waste Management for their partnership with the Township in the recycling program.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: Budd moved, Hart seconded to adopt Resolution 2013-17 the 2013-2018 Capital Improvement Plan. Carried.

Wright moved, Hart seconded to approve the first reading of Rezoning Ordinance 11-5-13 to amend the Township Zoning Ordinance 06-02-92, as amended, by rezoning parcel V125-83-086-99-0002-000, also known as 45109 S. I-94 Service Drive, from R-1B (Single Family Residential) to C-1 (General Business). Carried.

*(A copy of Rezoning Ordinance 11-05-13 follows the minutes. Copies may also be obtained in the Clerk's Office, Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Road during normal business hours.)

Budd moved, Jahr seconded to approve the automatic mutual aid agreement for fire responses between Van Buren Charter Township Fire Department and Sumpter Township Fire Department. Carried.

Wright moved, Miller seconded to approve acquiring services from Wade Trim to prepare SAW (Stormwater, Asset Management and Wastewater) Grant application to the State of Michigan Department of Environmental Quality for the lump sum of \$6,000. Carried.

Jahr moved, McClanahan seconded to approve agreement between Van Buren Charter Township and Wayne County for the use of \$20,000 from the Wayne County Parks Millage for the construction of the second phase of ADA walking/bike path at Van Buren Park; Resolution 2013-19; and to amend the budget to reflect these changes. Carried.

Jahr moved, McClanahan seconded to approve contract with Blue Ribbon Contracting, Inc. for the installation of the second phase of the ADA walking/bike path at Van Buren Park in the amount of \$19,900 and to authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to execute the contract. Carried.

Budd moved, Hart seconded to approve the request for Special Use Approval for proposed expansion at Bethany Bible Church located at 810 East Huron River Drive. Carried.

Budd moved, McClanahan seconded to approve the request for Special Use Approval for installation of Pipeline Inspection Point [Pig Trap] for parcel #V125-83-045-99-0001-701 at Ecorse and Hannan Roads. Carried.

REPORTS: Supervisor Combs ordered the September 2013 Budgetary Report received and filed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Supervisor Combs

made the following announcements. The Goodfellows "2013 Food and Family Essentials Drive" began October 25th and runs through December 6th to collect donations for "No Child Without A Christmas". Collection boxes are located in Van Buren Township Hall and Belleville City Hall, monetary donations may be dropped off at Van Buren Police Department or mailed to Belleville/Van Buren Goodfellows, c/o Pam Fleming, 46425 Tyler Road, Belleville, MI 48111. Registration began November 4th and runs through December 6th. Information is available online at www.vanburen-mi.org or contact Pam Fleming at 734-699-8934 weekdays between 9 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.; Yard Waste ends the last full week of November and resumes the first full week of April; residents with concerns regarding dirt roads contact Wayne County Roads at 888-762-3273; Applications are available for Van Buren Township residents who are eligible for Community Development Block Grant housing rehabilitation assistance program for information contact Developmental Services Department; Township Administrative Offices are closed in honor of Veteran's Day on Monday, November 11th; Belleville Area Museum and Belleville Area Historical Society annual Holiday Tree Silent Auction will include a "Rivalry Tree Auction" to showcase a University of Michigan and Michigan State trees to be bid on and are looking for decorations; on Wednesday, November 6th PAWS with a CAUSE will be at the Belleville Area District Library program room at 7:00 p.m.; on December 7th the Winter Fest Parade will be held in downtown Belleville.

AUDIENCE (Non-Agenda Items): None.

ADJOURNMENT: Hart moved, Wright seconded to adjourn at 7:44 p.m. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Leon Wright, Township Clerk

Linda H. Combs, Township Supervisor

Publish: November 14, 2013

Tree of Remembrance ceremony set for 7 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 25

The annual Tree of Remembrance memorial ceremony will be held outside the Brown Family Center, 678 E. Huron River Drive, Belleville, at 7 p.m., Monday, Nov. 25.

Those wishing to honor a loved one at the ceremony are directed to bring a weatherproof ornament to place on the tree and dress appropriately for the weather.

Refreshments will be available inside beginning at 6:30 p.m. For more information call 734-697-5090.

Mark your calendar: Next Belleville Day in Florida is Feb. 5, 2014

The annual Belleville Day in Florida will be on Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2014 in Hernando, FL. Anyone wishing more information is invited to call Sam Vicchy at 352-726-9132 or Agnes Cook at 734-697-8822.

BHS Drama Dept. to present 'Noises Off' comedy Nov. 21-23

The Belleville High School Department will present a comedy, "Noises Off," for three performances, Nov. 21-22, at the BHS auditorium, all beginning at 7 p.m.

The biggest challenges of the show are the difficulties of a rotating set as well as the rather difficult slapstick comedy. The set is designed and crafted by Yvette (Ihlenfeldt) Kashmer and her student crews.

The main character of Dotty Otle, the middle-aged actress, is played by student Magdalena Rieder, and the part of Director, Lloyd Dallas, is played by Ethan Klobucar.

Tyler Kearns plays Gary, the energetic actor who can never quite finish his thoughts. Belinda, the character who is the glue that holds the show together, is played by Justine Bradley, and her sidekick and male counterpart, Frederick, is portrayed by Andrew Attard.

Brook, the daft, yet attractive actress, is portrayed by Kailyn Gray. Austin O'Neil plays the sauced, aged actor Selsdon, and the backstage director is played by Alexis Hatchard.

Jair Legget completes the ensemble as Tim, the stagehand and stand-in actor. Student directors for the production are Brittney McGlynn, Alexa Porcaro, and Mathilde Burchardi.

Larry Koch is the BHS play director.

Tickets are \$6 for students and senior citizens, \$7 for adults. Tickets will be available Nov. 14, one week before the opening night performance in the school auditorium lobby, between 3 and 5 p.m., and on performance dates in the auditorium lobby, 45 minutes before the 7 p.m. curtain.

Erika Geiss announces for 12th House District seat, sets Nov. 15 event

Erika Geiss announces her candidacy for the open seat for State Representative for Michigan's House District 12.

The seat is currently held by her husband, Doug Geiss, D-Taylor, who is term-limited out at the end of 2014.

Erika Geiss filed to run for the seat in August, but has waited to announce formally to not distract from the municipal elections in Taylor and Romulus.

Michigan House District 12 includes the cities of Romulus, Taylor and a part of Van Buren Township. (The odd-shaped part of VBT that is in District 12 has Hannan Road on the east, Van Born is the north, Morton Taylor on the west, jogging down to Tyler and west again to Belleville Road, south to I-94 and back to Hannan. This is part of the 2011 redistricting.

A campaign kick-off event is planned from 6 to 10 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 15 at the Local 26M Hall at 12305 Beech Daly Road.

VBT budget

(continued from page 12)

asked.

"We all know we're going to transfer funds ... Whether we make cuts today or not," Jahr said. "I don't want to transfer more out than goes in."

"I totally agree with you," Wright said.

"We're in agreement?" Jahr asked.

Wright said the township has two funds, general and landfill, and 60% of the budget is in the landfill fund, with designation for a bond payment and a few other planned allocations. He said the state recommends a 16.7% fund balance, with 25% considered outstanding. He said VBT's 60% fund balance is unheard of.

In the 2012 audit, it was announced that due to new government accounting standards the township now has to report the landfill fund in with the general fund. As of December 2012 the fund balance total was \$8,348,000.

Combs said it is her belief that for the past five years the township has been cut, cut, cutting and shortchanging directors when they can comfortably give more.

"We haven't looked at other revenue," Miller said.

Combs replied that yes they have and when, "I gave it to them, they threw it down and said I don't care." Later she said that was what Jahr did and Jahr denied it.

Clerk Wright said there is from \$1.2 million to \$1.3 million discrepancy in the budget and cutting part time people "isn't going to get us there."

Combs said she asked for suggestions from employees and Hart read from the list, but noted none had figures attached to the suggestions for him to consider.

Hart suggested they start with one suggestion, that of LED lights.

Combs said an energy analyst lives in the township and would be glad to sit down with the board.

"Set a meeting," Jahr said. "Leon says we don't have to make cuts."

"I didn't say that," Wright replied, adding, "I don't agree on sitting on money and cutting services to our constituents."

Jahr said he doesn't want to spend \$1 million a year extra and then be broke in five years.

After more discussion, Wright said, "If

the landfill shut down this township would be devastated."

Jahr pointed out under this administration the township is spending \$1.4 million more than in 2012.

Former Supervisor White gave a statement on the finances and said the township could use the \$3.2 million that comes in yearly from the landfill and, "I will fight any increase in millage as long as we have that."

Budd said this year what needs to be funded in the budget is \$3,000,024. Wright estimated the amount at \$1,357,013.

After yet more discussion, the board talked about rejecting requests for full-time assistants for the director of planning and economic development and director of the senior department in favor of part timers.

They also discussed merging the IT department with the cable TV department, which left Cable Department Director Ally McCracken looking perplexed.

Senior Director Lynette Jordan said she has almost twice as many people who are coming through the door this year – 28,000 – compared to 2009 when the number was 15,000. She said she really needs full-time help.

Board members also talked about financial problems at the museum, with Hart saying the museum director is more than \$5,000 over budget and may have to shut the museum down before the end of the year.

Combs said Sumpter Township doesn't contribute to the museum and the City of Belleville doesn't pay its fair share.

"We're holding up our end of the bargain," she said, adding it has been suggested to cut the director to part time because it doesn't look like the other communities can step up.

Jahr asked about public safety and Combs said it's been suggested the board cut \$469,000 in wages.

After more discussion, after almost two and a half hours of discussion, Trustee Miller said she was tired and made a motion to adjourn. The rest of the board agreed and the session ended.

Trustee Brenda McClanahan was absent and excused.

White's house

(continued from page 3)

foreclosure on the property.

He explained in simple terms that a *forfeiture* would be filed at 34th District Court. He said it is a "pay and stay" option that gives White a chance to catch up on what he owes and stay in the house with reinstated monthly payments.

If White doesn't pay what he owes, the district court judge can turn the property over to the Coppocks, he said.

The procedure starts with a pre-suit notice explaining how the land contract was broken, giving White 15 days to respond. Then there is a hearing at district court before a judge or jury. If the Coppocks prevail, an order is then given that allows no less than 90 days for White to leave the property.

Czeizler said the *foreclosure* option is filed in Circuit Court and the whole balance of the contract is due. If it isn't paid, the house is sold at a sheriff's sale.

Robert Coppock said on Monday that he and his wife have chosen the *forfeiture* option because it takes less time to complete. He said the *foreclosure* option could take years.

In a related matter, White was scheduled to appear in 34th District court on Nov. 13 for a preliminary exam on five felony charges concerning money taken from Leland and Judith Jordan of Belleville.

VBT animals

(continued from page 1)

on. "This year, 19 dogs from the Buchanan hoarder's house were surrendered, using the township as a birth-control service."

Madigan said the township needs more than a drop-off station. It needs help to enforce state laws and township ordinances.

Matthews said every three months there will be a report on the dogs to VBT, which will tell where they came from, what happened to them, if they are vaccinated. She said she follows up on enforcement efforts, but they start with a warning that gives the dog owner 10 days to get rabies shots, a license, etc.

After that, they get tougher, she said.

More Letters

Thanks for donating to Halloween Candy Loop

To the Editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the wonderful businesses who generously donated their time and candy to the Van Buren Township Recreation Department Halloween Candy Loop:

Culver's, Environmental Quality Co., Fantastic Sam's, Fifth Third Bank, Hungry Howie's, Jitterbugs Elite Dance, Mammoth Video, Prime Time Fitness, Remerica Main Street Realty, TCF Bank, and Boy Scout Troop 231.

It was so awesome to see all the hundreds of children who walked through the recreation department doors in all their fantastic costumes. Without the assistance of the local businesses the event would not have been possible. Thank you to all who participated and made the event such a wonderful success!

Sincerely,

Jennifer Wright

Director of Parks and Recreation

Van Buren Township

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:

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

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



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Understanding the Law




By Jason Goldman, Esq.
and Bryan Suliman, Esq.

Goldman Suliman, PLLC, is a Belleville law firm that was started by Jason Goldman and Bryan Suliman in order to serve the Belleville-area community. In this and future articles we will be covering legal issues commonly faced by Belleville-area residents. Our goal is to help you better understand the law.

This week we will taking a short break from estate planning to discuss something perhaps even less exciting: contract drafting. Before you decide to skip this article, we ask that you hear us out.

Time and time again people come into our office with a pretty common dilemma; they entered into an agreement with someone and something went wrong and now they are out of money or have been damaged. As you can imagine, the first thing Bryan and I ask to see is the contract. However, most of the time there was no contract, or if there was, it was written on a piece of loose-leaf paper and practically unenforceable. And FYI, just because it is notarized does not necessarily make it any more valid.

Oftentimes, especially in a small town like Belleville, business is still conducted with a handshake, or a handwritten contract. Although it feels neighborly to conduct business with such ease, we strongly advise both parties to an agreement to: (1) reduce the agreement to writing, and, (2) type up the agreement including all of the necessary contractual terms, such as the obligations of each party and the remedies available in the event of a breach.

We strongly advise that each party meet with their Attorney before entering into the contract. Your attorney can review the contract and/or draft the contract according to your wishes, while including legal provisions that protect you and your wallet. Hiring an attorney is not as expensive as you think, and it is certainly cheaper than the fallout from a contractual dispute where there was no enforceable contract.

If you would like further information regarding this issue, or any other issues that you are having, please contact us at (734) 699-7360.

GOLDMAN | SULIMAN, PLLC
ATTORNEYS

287 INDUSTRIAL PARK DRIVE
BELLEVILLE, MICHIGAN 48111
TELEPHONE (734) 699-7360
FAX (734) 699-7365

Notice to Advertisers:

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

INDEPENDENT CLASSIFIED ADS

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

1991 CARROLLTON 14 X 70 single wide in Presidential Estates. 2BR, 2 bath, roomy kitchen. Great starter home. \$5,500 obo (734) 649-9380 11/14

HANDYMAN SPECIAL - 1980 Derose Mobile Home in Holiday West. Call for details. (734) 461-1350 11/21

2 BR., 1 BATH Mobile Home in Belleville Manor. All New appliances, windows & hot water tank. A/C, Lg covered porch. Quiet dead-end street. \$7,000 obo (734) 883-1027 11/21

LOST

CELL PHONE lost in area of Aberdeen & Victoria Lane in Victoria Commons Sub. REWARD - No questions asked. Return to 229 Aberdeen Ct. 11/14

FOUND

FOUND - DOG. Want to find owner. Must describe. Vicinity of Tyler Rd. (734) 777-6744 11/21

FREE

DUANE BONNER BRADLEY 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

LAND FOR SALE

1.25 ACRES. Light industrial in back. City water, Sewer & Gas. Perked. \$35,000 (734) 699-2221 11/14

FOR RENT

BEAUTIFUL HOUSE. 2 BR., 1.5 Baths, Jacuzzi style tub, A/C, W/D. Water & Trash included. \$799/mo. plus security (734) 796-3033 TFN

WOODBURY GREEN Condo. 2 BR. 1.5 baths, Newly remodeled. Gas & water included. \$800/mo. \$800 security deposit. Credit check & Income verification required. Please call (734) 699-1972 for additional information. 11/14

FOR RENT

FREE RENT UNTIL DECEMBER!
MOVE IN FOR ONLY \$398!!!*

Lincoln Schools
Call Sun Homes
Today
888-235-4695

Or apply online
www.4lakeview.com
*some restrictions apply. WAC, EHO
Expires 11/30/2013. NMLS #33675

3 BR., 1 BATH RANCH HOUSE, no garage, 3/4 acre. You pay all utilities. New siding & windows. Call for details. \$850/mo. (734) 394-6733 11/14

1 BR. MOBILE HOME. Quiet Country Setting. Mature person or couple. No Pets. \$450/mo. plus security deposit. (734) 697-8984 11/14

3 br. HOME. 1.5 ACRES. Van Buren Twp. \$875/mo. plus security. (734) 697-3888 11/21

MANUFACTURED HOMES FOR SALE

FALL SPECIAL!
2 Bed, 1 Bath
For as little as \$9,995!*

Call Sun Communities
Lakeview Today
888-219-5958
Or apply online
www.freemobilehomes.net
WAC, EHO. Expires 11/30/2013
*some restrictions apply. NMLS #33675

SERVICES

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

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

SERVICES

Take Advantage Of Early Bird Rates!

Call **FIRST CLASS LANDSCAPING**
(734) 699-4711
FREE ESTIMATES!!!
YEAR ROUND SERVICES
Weekly Mowing, Aerations,
De-Thatching, Seed & Sod,
Tree, Bush & Stump Removal
And Much More!
www.FIRSTCLASSLANDSCAPING.net

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

Pick-Up/Delivery Service Available



Gerry's Small Engine and Equipment Repair

Snow Blowers, Tractors, Lawn, Garden & Small Construction Equipment
Gerry Gentz Willis, MI 734-461-0158

JNG Auction Services
881 Sumpter Rd.

Live & Online Auctions
Commercial, Estate & Consignments
*Christmas Spectacular
*Outdoor, Furniture, More

Accepting quality items & new clients
www.JNGauctions.com
734-489-4636

DEPENDABLE LAWN SERVICE. COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL. Lawn Cutting - Fall Clean-Up - Aerating - Mulch - Shrub Trimming - Pruning - Brick Pavers - Power Raking - Sod & Seeding. (734) 587-2410 or (734) 693-4712 11/28

PRIVATE PIANO LESSONS. 5 yrs. old thru adult. Experienced teacher. (734) 697-9628 11/14

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

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

Mark Twain

INDEPENDENT CLASSIFIED ADS

CRAFT SALE

ARTIST SHOW - HOLIDAY SALE!
Snacks, Beverages, Shopping. Sunday,
Nov. 17th, 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. BYC (formerly
Moose Lodge), 831 E. Huron River Dr.
Open To Public. 11/14

FOR SALE



**FOR
SALE**
**Roll Top
Desk**
(734)
788-0629

HAY FOR SALE
Square Bales Only.
Leave Message.
734-587-2344

2001 FOREST RIVER 5th Wheel
toy hauler. 38 ft., everything
works. Can't go camping any
more. Hunters Special. \$6,500
(734) 818-6068 or (734) 699-3452 11/28

COMPUTER Chair, nice, \$45. Sewing
machine cabinet, \$30. (734) 697-0292 11/14

HOSPITAL Bed, semi electric, mat-
tress, pad, 2 full length side rails, like
new, \$800. La-Z-Boy recliner, \$50.
(313) 406-2807 11/14

32" John Deere Snow Blower, \$400.
(734) 699-2004 11/14

WOOD TV Entertainment center, 57" x
35.5" x 19.5 deep, excellent condition.
\$35 obo (734) 699-7881 11/14

WESTERN Horse saddle, \$75. Pony
saddle, \$25. Child's chest, \$20. Old
wicker laundry basket, \$39. Misc. old
buttons & marbles. (734) 697-9628 11/14

GAS WHIRLPOOL Duet dryer, front
load. \$100 (313) 610-6151 11/21

18' HEAVY DUTY Flat bed trailer, elec-
tric brakes. Crestliner boat 22.6 walk
around, trailer & accessories. Needs new
floor. Make offers. (734) 699-2715 or
(734) 645-2250 11/21

G.E. WASHER & ELECTRIC DRYER.
About 5 yrs. old. \$250 both.
(734) 595-3330 11/28

FOR SALE

24 FT. CAMPER. 2 DOOR, DOUBLE
axle, Electric hitch. Excellent condition.
(734) 788-8966 11/28

VEHICLE FOR SALE

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

2001 WINDSTAR SE Van. 116,000
miles, loaded, both sides sliding doors.
\$1,795 (734) 383-3000 Wayne 11/14

FIBERGLASS CAP for Ford F-250 or
F-350. Year 2000 or newer, 6' short box,
white. \$650 obo (734) 787-4027 11/14

2001 SILVERADO 2500 HD, 4 WD,
Crew cap. High miles but runs good.
\$5,000. (734) 697-2786 11/21

WANTED

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

WANTED:
JUNK CARS
Running or Not. Top \$
Paid. Call For Free
Pickup. Drive In For
Extra Dollars.
734-282-1700

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

WANTED - ROOMMATE to share Apt.
Single female over 30 preferred. No
smoke or drink. Ask for Cherie. Call
before 12 noon. (734) 308-8569 11/28

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

HELP WANTED

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

PART TIME HELP WANTED at
Belleville Child Care Center. Monday-
Friday. (734) 697-4523 11/14

Drivers CDL-A: Lots of Miles. Great
Pay/Benefits & Bonuses. Home Week-
ly No slip Seat. No Touch. Newer
Equipment. (877) 723-8932 11/21

BODY TECH - Light to Medium
repairs wanted with your own tools.
Apply in person. Sumpter
Collision, 21585 Sumpter Rd.
(734) 699-7758 Jim TFN

PART TIME ON-SITE Maintenance,
own tools required. To apply, con-
tact Cathy Gilstorff at (734) 699-2066,
10 a.m. - 2 p.m., T-Fri. 11/28

ATCHINSON FORD is looking for an
EXPERIENCED detailer for our new de-
tail shop. Please apply in person or call
Eric Carter at (734) 697-9161 11/14

OFFICE ASSISTANT WANTED. Com-
puter knowledge necessary. Week days
only - No week-ends. (734)
790-5750 Nancy 12/05

SEEKING FENCE INSTALLERS
& Laborers for year round work.
Call (734) 397-9790 or come in
44955 Michigan Ave. 11/28

"Reality leaves a lot to the imagination."
- John Lennon

HELP WANTED

There's a good chance we're right in your
neighborhood. We're looking for **Direct Care**
Assistants to support persons we serve in their
homes in the Belleville & Romulus communities.
\$8.25 total per hr. plus good benefits.
Call (734) 699-3808 or (734) 699-6543
Email resume to: recruiter@questserv.org

DIRECT CARE ASSISTANT

Feel great about the work that you do helping people
we serve in residential settings. Country home. Training
provided. **\$8.40 total per hr. plus good benefits.**
Call (734) 753-4804 New Boston
Email resume to: recruiter@questserv.org

HELP WANTED

WANTED: Laborers
for local excavating
company. Immediate
openings. Full & part
time positions available.
To apply, call
1-800-566-6626

Caring, mature, enthusi-
astic people needed to
work with women who
have disabilities. Part
time call-ins could lead
to full time. Will train the
right person. \$7.90/hr. to
start with paid for
training. Please call
(734) 461-2204

WANTED: CDL Drivers
for local excavating
company. Full & part
time positions
available.
To apply, call
1-800-566-6626

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

HELP WANTED

Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

The following are selected calls for VBT Police.
Sunday, Nov. 3:
0012 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / N. I-94 Service Dr.
0040 – juvenile complaint, 9612 Dalton Dr.
0129 – disorderly conduct, 50521 W. Huron River Dr., Pine Creek
0619 – disturbance, 12732 Lake Point Pass
0655 – shots fired, 13215 Lakeview Dr.
0941 – malicious destruction of property, 14469 Haggerty Rd.
1237 – property damage accident, E. Huron River Dr. / Haggerty Rd.
1244 – shots fired, 7100 Sheldon Rd.
1250 – ATV/ORV complaint, Outer Dr./Old Michigan Rd.
1345 – assault & battery, 41480 W. Archwood Dr.
1356 – hospice, 44401 S. I-94 Service Dr.
1418 – private property accident, 10760 Belleville
1444 – property damage accident, Belleville/Tyler
1449 – fraud, 112 Chaney Ave.
1501 – private property accident, 750 E. Huron River Dr.
1807 – larceny, 43054 Bradley Dr.
1813 – fight, 18 Brandi
1831 – trespassing, 8750 Hardwood Dr.
1857 – intimidation threat, Arby’s
Monday, Nov. 4:
0246 – agency assist, Denton Rd./Bayshore Dr.
0908 – trespassing, 10341 Westlake
1243 – property damage accident, Haggerty Rd. / E. Huron River Dr.
1452 – disturbance, 10562 Belleville, Walmart
1513 – holdup alarm, 6820 Anna Dr.
1512 – juvenile complaint, 51300 Michigan Ave.
1646 – private property accident, Meijer
1848 – disturbance, 50778 Michigan Ave.
1854 – narcotics crime, Kmart
2024 – missing person, 41422 Coolidge St.
2212 – hospice, 43063 Tyler Rd.
Tuesday, Nov. 5:
0833 – malicious destruction of property, 42158 N. Cumberland Dr.
0845 – unauthorized driving away of auto, 41470 E. Archwood Dr.
0906 – larceny from auto, 6201 Haggerty, L&W
0925 – larceny from auto, Walmart
1019 – fraud, Meijer
1056 – fraud, 146 Cherry
1234 – larceny from auto, 6201 Haggerty, L&W
1302 – larceny from auto, 6201 Haggerty, L&W
1302 – larceny from auto, 6201 Haggerty, L&W
1303 – larceny from auto, 6201 Haggerty, L&W
1728 – fraud, Kmart
2352 – assault & battery, 15721 Brookside Dr.
Wednesday, Nov. 6:
0008 – noise complaint, 158 Aspen
0927 – personal injury accident, Rawsonville Rd. / S. I-94 Service Dr.
1142 – private property accident, 43650 Ecorse
1443 – private property accident, 51300 W. Huron River Dr.
1457 – intimidation threat, 9250 Parkwood Dr.
1505 – intimidation treat, 9860 Haggerty Rd.
1539 – fraud, Walmart
1620 – disorderly conduct, Valero
1653 – property damage accident, Belleville / EB I-94
1836 – personal injury accident, 16800 Lohr
2145 – suicide or attempt, 48571 Denton Rd.
2351 – property damage accident, 41500 Belleville
Thursday, Nov. 7:
0001 – noise complaint, 41555 S. Belleridge Dr.
1003 – larceny, 6430 W. Sadie Ln.
1022 – mental, 9772 Sawgrass Ct.
1054 – trespassing, 1016 Roulo St.
1057 – property damage accident, Tyler/Haggerty
1651 – malicious destruction of property, 45131 Jeanette
1735 – disorderly conduct, 397 Industrial
1820 – retail fraud, Meijer
1837 – assault & battery, 9217 Parkwood Dr.
1855 – shots fired, 7102 Amanda Dr.
1901 – breaking & entering, 41430 Bellridge Dr.
2011 – juvenile complaint, 48592 Purple Sage
2013 – fraud, Meijer
2014 – retail fraud, Kmart

2105 – noise complaint, 6578 Outer Dr.
2111 – disturbance, 6539 Parkside Dr.
2346 – noise complaint, 49050 Denton Rd.
Friday, Nov. 8:
0808 – property damage accident, Belleville / Ecorse
0824 – property damage accident, Haggerty/RR tracks
0932 – unauthorized driving away of auto, 11637 Meadows Circle
1016 – intimidation threat, 6331 E. Schooner Dr.
1039 – harassment call, 10667 Oak Lane
1150 – assault & battery, 83 Rose Blvd.
1213 – juvenile complaint, 7497 Kirkridge Park Dr
1255 – missing person, 42200 Tyler
1305 – fraud, 10 Locust Dr.
1453 – property damage accident, Belleville/I-94 N. Service Dr.
1632 – malicious destruction of property, 48651 S. I-94 Service Dr.
1658 – property damage accident, Ecorse/I-275
1910 – juvenile complaint, 600 Sumpter
2038 – property damage accident, 10760 Belleville
2209 – private property accident, Westlake
2347 – assault & battery, 11649 Meadows Ln.
Saturday, Nov. 9:
0104 – assault & battery, 103 Maple Dr.
0149 – fight, 9961 Beck Rd.
0401 – assault & battery, 41441 S. Bellridge Dr.
1412 – dumping complaint, Hannan/Price
1540 – property damage accident, W. Huron River Dr. / Elwell
1731 – miscellaneous complaint, Belleville Bridge
1812 – fight, Kmart
1823 – shots fired, 9858 Fairbanks St.
1834 – hospice, 9997 Hamilton Ct.
2024 – disorderly conduct, 49345 S. I-94 Service
2147 – disorderly conduct, 49345 S. I-94 Service
2212 – disturbance, 45501 S. I-94 Service Dr.
2225 – retail fraud, Meijer
2303 – assault & battery, 41781 Riggs Rd.
2322 – intimidation threat, 200 S. Ponderosa Trl.
2325 – shots fired, 12 Oak Blvd.
This week’s log also carried 216 traffic stops, 61 of which were on the I-94 and I-275 freeways.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Nov. 3:
0039 – suspicious person, 193 W. Columbia Ave.
0423 – malicious destruction of property, Main/4th
0822 – p.b.t. alcohol, 6 Main St.
0955 – malicious destruction of property, 104 Bedell St.
1152 – welfare check, 43 Biggs Ave.
1459 – miscellaneous complaint, 6 Main St.
1559 – intrusion alarm, Belleville High School, 501 W. Columbia
1811 – assist citizen, 450 Main St.
Monday, Nov. 4:
0245 – all other traffic, Denton/Main
0401 – suspicious situation, 454 Breakwater Ct.
1133 – intrusion alarm, 494 Waterbury
1619 – parking complaint, 458 Main St.
Tuesday, Nov. 5:
0500 – suspicious situation, 48 Carmell St.
0744 – assist fire dept., 275 W. Columbia, Columbia Court
0815 – civil matter, 35 Carmell St.
1804 – intrusion alarm, 525 E. Huron River Dr.
1812 – suspicious person, Water Works
1818 – intrusion alarm, 324 Oxford Ct.
2232 – vehicle lockout, Citgo
2353 – agency assist, 15721 Brookside
Wednesday, Nov. 6:
0736 – follow up, 112 Bedell St.
0849 – mental, 112 Bedell St.
1334 – mental, 112 Bedell St.
1352 – larceny, Minimart
1431 – neighbor trouble, 112 Bedell St.
2009 – noise complaint, 413 Harbour Pointe Dr.
Thursday, Nov. 7:
0249 – intrusion alarm, 573 Main St.
1107 – assist citizen, 112 Bedell St.
1159 – domestic assault, 48 Carmell St.
1249 – vehicle lockout, 50 South St.
1319 – noise complaint, 112 Bedell St.
1508 – private property accident, 407 Estrada
1722 – abandoned auto, Belleville Hardware

1913 – suspicious vehicle, South St./W. Davis
1939 – juvenile complaint, 339 Victorian Ln.
1951 – civil matter, St. Anthony’s
Friday, Nov. 8:
0029 – assist citizen, Main/High
0310 – assist fire dept., 275 W. Columbia Ave., Columbia Court
0921 – breaking & entering, 611 Estrada Dr.
1100 – prisoner transfer, 46425 Tyler
1134 – welfare check, 138 Menlo Park Dr.
1634 – private property accident, 45201 Owen St., school
1710 – assist citizen, 43275 S. I-94 Service Dr.
1735 – suicide or attempt, E. Huron River Dr. / Biggs Ave.
1954 – welfare check, 224 Church St.
Saturday, Nov. 9:
0425 – assist fire dept., 110 Henry St.
0507 – suicide or attempt, Victory Park
0539 – suspicious person, 327 Sumpter
0705 – intrusion alarm, 45 S. Edgemont Ave.
1148 – fight, Higgerson Funeral
1327 – missing person, 200 N. Aberdeen Ct.
1531 – found property, 496 Main St.
1901 – suspicious situation, 201 Henry St.
1907 – follow up, 58 Loza Lane
1931 – assist fire dept., 35 Loza Lane
2231 – suspicious situation, 6 Menlo Park Dr.
Also on this week’s log are 41 traffic stops.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Nov. 3:
0032 – suspicious incident, Walnut
0106 – suspicious person, 47000 bl. Willow Rd.
0129 – child abuse/neglect, 22000 bl. Bohn Rd.
0626 – fire dept. assist, Nevada
0633 – fire dept. assist, Utah
1141 – well-being check, 47000 bl. Harris Rd.
1237 – fire dept. assist, 22000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
1342 – fire dept. assist, 13000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
1609 – well-being check, Washington
1737 – 911 hangup, 40000 bl. Willis Rd.
1752 – fire dept. assist, Washington
2251 – assist other agency, 9000 bl. Rawsonville
2337 – suspicious incident, 47000 bl. Willow Rd.
Monday, Nov. 4:
0238 – suspicious vehicle, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
0623 – harassment complaint, Washington
1001 – death investigation, 27000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1255 – animal complaint, Arkona/Sumpter
1401 – breaking & entering, 47000 bl. Wear Rd.
1618 – suspicious incident, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1628 – animal complaint, 48000 bl. Willis Rd.
2022 – family trouble, Stonecrest
2122 – violation public health code, 11000 bl. Rawsonville
2148 – fire dept. assist, 48000 bl. Judd Rd.
Tuesday, Nov. 5:
0924 – fire dept. assist, 13000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
1024 – suspicious vehicle, Haggerty/Willis
1254 – fire dept. assist, Carriage Lane
1423 – ordinance violation, 45000 bl. Judd Rd.
1533 – animal complaint, 23000 bl. Clark Rd.
1551 – animal complaint, 46000 bl. Traskos
1613 – fire dept. assist, 24000 bl. Karr Rd.
1738 – fire dept. assist, Birch
1952 – trespassing complaint, 45000 bl. Willis Rd.
2236 – fire dept. assist, 19000 bl. Sharon Ct.
Wednesday, Nov. 6:
0815 – animal complaint, 6700 bl. Oakville Waltz
0932 – fire dept. assist, 47000 bl. Bemis Rd.
1105 – suspicious person, 25000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1204 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1341 – fraud complaint, 27000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1445 – civil dispute, 8200 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
1543 – larceny report, 22000 bl. Clark Rd.
1654 – subpoena service, 21000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1740 – shots fired, 41000 bl. Judd Rd.
1742 – suspicious incident, 45000 bl. Harris Rd.
1811 – fire dept. assist, 43000 bl. Willow Rd.
Thursday, Nov. 7:
0423 – fire dept. assist, 48000 bl. Judd Rd.
0433 – death investigation, Oregon
0843 – malicious destruction of property report, Walnut
1101 – animal complaint, Judd/Haggerty
1140 – larceny report, 43000 bl. Judd Rd.
1238 – animal complaint, 19000 bl. Sharon Ct.

1448 – 911 hangup, 48000 bl. Wear Rd.
1517 – reckless driver complaint, Wear/Clark
1523 – well-being check, Edgewood
1549 – civil dispute, 27000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1640 – suspicious incident, 20000 bl. Clark Rd.
1741 – property damage accident, Arkona / Rawsonville
1821 – well-being check, Edgewood
2003 – suspicious incident, Walnut
2107 – suspicious incident, Redwood
Friday, Nov. 8:
0108 – runaway juvenile, 8900 bl. Rawsonville Rd
0407 – animal complaint, 10000 bl. Rawsonville
1052 – juvenile complaint, Mulberry
1135 – animal complaint, 41000 bl. Willis Rd.
1150 – breaking & entering, 45000 bl. Harris Rd.
1154 – parking complaint, Wear/Carleton West
1741 – harassment complaint, Delaware
1926 – ordinance violation, 50000 bl. Judd Rd.
1955 – warrant arrest, 25000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2036 – property damage accident, 10000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
2359 – suspicious incident, Sumpter/Bemis
Saturday, Nov. 9:
0216 – operating while intoxicated arrest, 8300 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
0602 – suspicious incident, 44000 bl. Willis Rd.
0749 – fire dept. assist, 28000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1137 – fire dept. assist, 24000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
1433 – suspicious incident, 50000 bl. Willis Rd.
1545 – fire dept. assist, 21000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1821 – citizen assist, 45000 bl. Judd Rd.
1929 – property damage accident, Rawsonville / Bemis
2013 – juvenile complaint, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2236 – juvenile complaint, 49000 bl. Willis Rd.
2328 – assist other agency, Bemis/Lohr
Also on this week’s log are 35 miscellaneous details, 80 patrol checks, 47 traffic stops, and 13 follow-up investigations.

Van Buren Education Foundation gives out grants to teachers

At the Oct. 28 meeting of the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, Steve Quinn, president of the Van Buren Education Foundation, announced \$23,217 in grants given by the foundation to school district teachers.

Belleville High School: Kim Bargardi, William Spinks, Stefanie Halliday, Marcia Kennedy, Maliya Phillips, Jennifer Garland and Connie Testorelli.

McBride Middle School: Kathy Innes, Norma Richards, Stephanie Gomez, Laurie Hoffman, Robin Evans.

Owen Intermediate School: Dave Bargardi, Peter TenBroeck, Melissa Taub-McNabb, Cyndi Spurlock, Deborah Johnson, Deborah Fitzgerald, Kathy Kratz, Mary Larbee, Matt Kazmierski, Jim Parcha.

Savage Elementary: Julie Harden, Susan Diane Pinter, Jason Cooper, Pam Ray, Rebecca Tennis, Kristy Hickson, Kimberly Glime.

Tyler Elementary School: Christine Roperti, Racheel Hatcher, Jami Wiese, Nicole McCraight, Antoinette Kurash.

Rawsonville Elementary: Deborah Mounsey, Mary Ellen Vago, Holly Sullivan, Elizabeth Elster, Stacy Porzondek.

ECDC at Haggerty School: Lee Stamper, Kari Cadeau, Beth Chie, Holly Ulrich, Geri Sifton.

Special Education Adult Transition at Haggerty School: Eve Wright.

Owen Sixth Grade Camp: Fred Abel.

Samantha Valenti wins 'Stylist of the Year' award at Fantastic Sams

Samantha Valenti, store manager of the 6044 Rawsonville Road Fantastic Sams hair salon, won the chain's top Stylist of the Year Award in the recent Artistic Styling Awards competition. She also won four other awards.

There is only one Stylist of the Year named in the nation by Fantastic Sams each year. There were 700 entries this year and they were judged by top professionals in the industry.

Valenti earned a trophy, \$500 and a trip to the Fantastic Sams convention in Las Vegas next September.

Valenti also was named finalist and overall winner in the Multicultural Makeover, earning two more trophies, \$200, and another trip to the convention.

She also won honorable mentions in the Female Cut and Style and in the Artistic Glamour categories.

Jennifer Wolan of the shop also won an honorable mention in the Glamour category.

Tony Fry is owner of seven salons in the area and two of his shops entered the contest, those in Rawsonville and Whittaker.

In Whittaker, Danae Seward was named finalist and overall winner in the Artistic Color category. She earned two trophies, \$200 and a trip to the convention.

Other entries from the Rawsonville salon came from Mary Daily, Autumn Brown, Alex Weaver, and Jenni Ryckman.



Samantha Valenti

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Belleville to work on long-term solution for Harbour Pointe traffic

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Belleville Fire Brian Loranger told the city council at its Nov. 4 regular meeting that Harbour Pointe subdivision was crowded again by trick-or-treaters and their parents in cars on Halloween.

"If there was a fire in the back of the subdivision, we wouldn't have gotten there. We need to take out parking on one side [of the street]," Chief Loranger said.

Mayor Kerreen Conley, who lives in that subdivision, said they are working on a solution, but there is a problem with where mail boxes are situated.

Police Chief Gene Taylor reported on Halloween throughout the city, saying there were no incidents. "No tricks. A lot of treats. A very successful event."

Mayor Conley said there were sprinkles, but no downpour, so the children came out for the downtown trick or treating.

The free hayride, that was offered by The Lunch Box, was cancelled.

In other business at the Nov. 4 meeting, the council:

- Approved a budget amendment that OKed payment of fire expenditures established in the 2012-13 budget that were invoiced and received after June 20, 2013. These were a pressure blower at \$2,500 and turnout gear at \$9,000, which was taken from the Capital Purchase Fund fund balance. That now leaves the fund balance to be \$4,491.40 as of June 30, 2014. This is the last memo to the council from financial consultant Molly Goike of Plante Moran,

since she has taken another position with another company. The new consultant for the city is named Kelly;

- Approved adding restaurants, banquet halls and child-care facilities to the list of permitted uses in the B-3 zoning district, as recommended by the planning commission. The commission held a public hearing on the change Oct. 10;

- Noted that Girl Scout Troop #71190 did not send a representative to appear before council to support the Girl Scout request to sell candy and nuts in the city from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 9. Since it is required that someone attend the meeting when asking the council for something, no action was taken on the request. (It was later learned the scouts cancelled their request and decided to sell their items inside buildings instead of out in the cold); and

- Approved accounts payable of \$53,860 and one departmental purchase in excess of \$500: to FireCatt, \$2,275 for the annual fire department hose testing. Fire Chief Loranger said in the past the department has done its own hose testing, which takes a couple of weeks. He said this is the only firm that is available in this area, with others out of state, and Fire Catt takes one day and certifies the hoses at once.



Photo courtesy of Pam Pollard
A group of boarders and friends of Rail Acres Horse Farm on Hull Road purchased a beautiful flowering crab apple tree in the memory of Ruth Pollard, who died Oct. 4 at the age of 82. They also provided an engraved stone indicating the tree was planted for her. The stone includes a musical treble clef to honor her many years of musical contributions. At left is her son Paul Pollard and, at right, her husband of 60 years, Jim Pollard.

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