



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 19.47 Thursday, November 21, 2013 Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren **F R E E**

Belleville area hit by storm, raging winds, falling trees on Sunday

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

On Sunday night, a strong storm blew into the Belleville area, toppling trees, turning off electricity to 8,000 in the Belleville and Canton areas, and generally making life miserable.

At the Wayne County Fairgrounds, the Pug 'n' Play dog party ended around 4 p.m. and, next door at the fairgrounds, the Democratic session to introduce party candidates wrapped up at 5 p.m. By the time all those participants were headed home, the winds got stronger and the rain started pelting.

Power started sputtering out across the area and people with generators turned them on.

A person in Country Pond Estates in Van Buren Township was taken to the hospital with carbon monoxide poisoning on Monday morning, after putting his generator in the attached garage with the door up just a bit for circulation Sunday night.

Fires erupted and were battled, including one at the Five Star Market in Sumpter Township.

Fire crews in Van Buren Township sawed up trees that blocked roadways on Haggerty near Bemis, Hannan near the freeway, and other locations.

A big, old tree blew down in the old part of Hillside Cemetery. Another grand old tree was toppled on Bak Road between Hull and Bemis.

Generators kept emergency services going in the Sumpter Township and City of Belleville police departments. North of I-94, power was interrupted here and there, but the Van Buren Township Hall was open as usual on Monday.

The VBT Board held its work/study session as usual on Monday afternoon, followed by a special Downtown Development Authority meeting to select a contractor for the fence it is putting up along Belleville

Road near Harmony Lane.

Sumpter Township Hall was without power on Monday and Belleville City Hall employees worked in the cold building until about 1 p.m. and then went home. Monday's Belleville City Council meeting was cancelled and reset for Wednesday night.

All the Van Buren Public Schools and Keystone Academy were closed Monday for lack of power. Monday night's VBPS school board work/study session was cancelled.

Downtown Belleville businesses were closed with some saying it looked like a ghost town.

Andrew's Drugs, however, pulled out its generator by its back door and put out a sign saying it was open for business.

News reports say Willow Run Airport had gusts of 70 mph winds on Sunday.

Sunday fire damages Five Star Market on Willis Road in Sumpter

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

A fire erupted in the front of the newly remodeled Five Star market on Willis Road in Sumpter Township at about 6:45 p.m. Sunday.

Chelsea Schultz said she was making a pizza at the adjoining Benito's Pizzeria when a customer started shouting out that there was a fire in the front.

Store owner Roy Atcho tried putting out the fire in the bottle return storage area part of the store with a fire extinguisher, but it couldn't be put out and they called 911.

Sumpter Township Deputy Fire Chief Rick Brown said he was helping Van Buren Township fire fighters with a downed wire on Elwell Road, when the call came in.

Van Buren and Sumpter townships recently



Independent photo by James Otzman

The front of Roy Acho's newly renovated Five Star Market in Sumpter Township erupted in flames during Sunday's ranstorm. The attached Benito's Pizza shop suffered water damage. Acho said the businesses will reopen soon.



Independent photo by Diane Madigan

A big, old tree came down at the Kolodziej farm, 16555 Bak Road, Van Buren Township, during Sunday's storm.

signed an automatic mutual aid agreement and so VBT sent its ladder truck to the fire.

Augusta Township also was sent to a store fire on Willis Road, but went west instead of east on Willis from Rawsonville and then saw the fire at Five Star and turned around to join the other fire fighters.

Deputy Chief Brown said Augusta Township also has automatic mutual aid with Ypsilanti Township so Ypsilanti Township fire fighters were soon on the scene, as well.

Brown said that the winds from the south and heavy rain actually helped them fight the fire by blowing the flames out of the north side of the building while fire-fighting efforts continued.

Brown said there is smoke and water damage to the market and Benito's Pizza has water damage. The adjoining hair salon and nearby Kneads Dough bakery in the strip mall were not damaged.

Brown said the fire was under control within 45 minutes to an hour and fire departments were able to clear in about two hours.

The cause of the fire remains under investigation.

Brown said Acho is working with his insurance company and hopes to be able to reopen soon.

EARLY DEADLINES
Due to the upcoming
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Holiday, **ALL** ads must be
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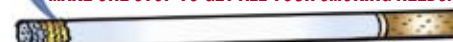
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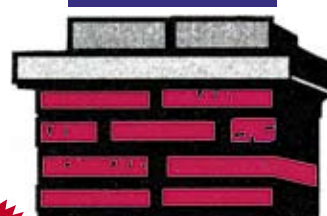
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SECOND FRONT PAGE

Belleville DDA hears good news about grant from Michigan DNR

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

On Friday, the Belleville Downtown Development Authority got the good news that its grant application to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for funds to upgrade Horizon Park is rated #1 of all the applications received statewide.

DDA Coordinator Carol Thompson received the news in a letter on Friday and on Wednesday, at the regular DDA meeting, members were enthusiastic over the looming grant.

The recommendations for matching grants from the Natural Resources Trust Fund go before the fund board on Dec. 14 and its recommendation goes before the state legislature for final approval. It is unclear when that would happen.

The proposed Horizon Park lakeside upgrade project is expected to cost about \$172,400.

At its Feb. 20 meeting the Belleville Downtown Development Authority voted unanimously to offer matching cash funds of 30%, to help get the state grant.

The lakeside project wouldn't be ready for construction until 2014 and DDA Coordinator Thompson said they could put the matching amount of \$51,720 in the 2013-14 budget or take it from the fund balance at that time.

After the DDA made this commitment to matching funds, the project went back to the city council which had to be the entity filing the grant application with the state.

The original proposed improvements called for an ADA-accessible, ramped floating pier attached to a fixed boardwalk, 10 new day slips for boaters/shopper docks, an ADA-accessible canoe/kayak launch, and amenities such as a canoe/kayak slide, an additional ADA parking space, signage, landscaping, benches and trash receptacles, and a concrete pad for an ADA-accessible picnic table.

Spicer Engineering, which brought the grant to the DDA's attention, was paid \$3,500 to design the grant project.

Chris Matson of Spicer said the project had been upgraded to have a fixed platform attached to the floating platform, and now it is all ADA-accessible. The proposed personal watercraft slips have been removed, he said.

The grant application was supported by the Huron River Watershed Council's Water Trail and River Up! programs and Van Buren Township. A representative of an organization for disabled veterans at the University of Michigan spoke in favor of the kayak launch at the city's public hearing.

Some \$6,900 worth of upgrades to the structure of the present kiosk also includes a Huron River canoeing and kayaking map.

Thompson said if Belleville doesn't get the full grant from the state, the DDA will reduce the amenities proposed. She said those seeking grants get higher up on the funding list by offering more in cash-matching. The minimum for the grant is 25% cash match and Spicer suggested going with 30%, which they did.

The Natural Resources Trust Fund consists of mineral royalties the state collected from 1976 to 2011, when the revenue source was diverted to a fund for state parks. The fund is restricted to spending \$25 million to \$35 million in annual interest earnings on land acquisitions and recreational development projects, according to fund manager Steve DeBrabander.

Grant applications were due April 1.

VBT Supervisor Combs announces LaMothe has decided to stay

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

At the end of the 10-minute work/study session of the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees on Monday, Supervisor Linda Combs announced that her executive assistant Karin LaMothe will be staying on in that position.

At the VBT Downtown Development authority meeting that followed, Supervisor Combs announced again that LaMothe has decided to stay on as her executive assistant.

She said it was a mutual decision.

Combs said, "She is a great help to me and I'd hate to lose her."

LaMothe had resigned for personal reasons effective Oct. 18 and then agreed to stay on until Combs hired a replacement.

LaMothe ran unsuccessfully for township clerk in 2012 and was hired by Combs as her executive assistant in January 2013, promoted to deputy supervisor in June, and demoted to executive assistant in August, after members of the township board criticized her sudden appointment as deputy supervisor.

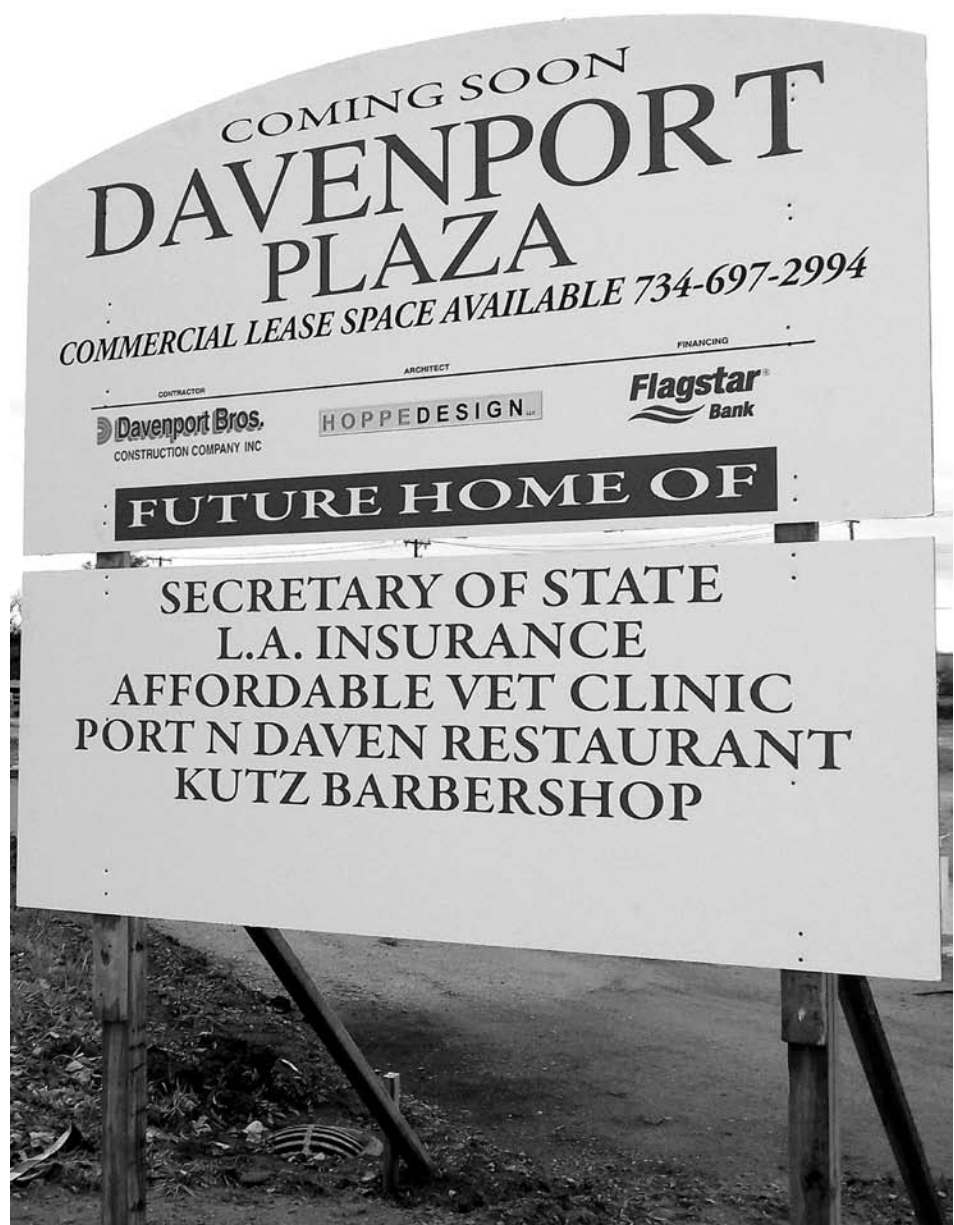
VBT has never had a deputy supervisor in its history, except for this brief, two-month span.

In October Combs tried to put together a job description for LaMothe's replacement, but the board had lots of questions on it so she took it off the agenda until the budget could be studied.



Photo courtesy of Toni Hunt

On Nov. 11, the Van Buren Civic Fund donated \$1,500 to match the Van Buren Public School Foundation's \$1,500 for equipment needed for an adult transition program at Haggerty School, starting off its first year. The announcement was made at the Van Buren Public Schools' board meeting. Bob Thorne, left, and Mark Laginess, representing the Civic Club, stop for a photo with the program's teacher, Eve Wright. Wright said they are buying a washer/dryer to show the participants how to clean and care for their clothes. They have acquired a used stove and refrigerator and a pull-out bed to teach bed-making. The adults are being prepared for living on their own in group homes.



Over the week end a new sign was erected at the Davenport construction site on Savage Road in the City of Belleville. Port n Daven restaurant is the Charhouse. Footings were poured on Tuesday.

OPINIONS

Editorial

Cobblestone Ridge Homeowners' pres. just beginning ...

Julianne Chard is making sure elected and appointed officials in Van Buren Township know what the taxpayers in Cobblestone Ridge are worried about.

At last week's planning commission and Tuesday's regular board of trustees' meeting, Chard told officials how word has gotten back to her about VBT considering changing the Planned Residential Development (PRD) agreements in subdivisions where building has stopped for some time.

Chard is president of the Cobblestone Ridge Estates Homeowners Association. She also is an architect and knows how to research properties. She's found that those open basements with fences around them at the front of their development are now owned by the county since no taxes were paid on some of them since 2006.

The developer who should be paying association dues on the empty lots is \$20,000 in arrears because he's using that cash to pay off tax liens so he can reclaim the basements. Chard said those cattail-filled basements are considered blight and the township should petition the county to demolish them.

Chard said she and her neighbors paid full price for their homes in the unfinished sub and if the township is going to change the PRD, the homeowners should sign off on any changes. There are other issues and Chard is not giving up. Her neighbors are depending on her to protect their investments. She's off to a good start.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

A Van Buren Township resident of Tyler Road called to tell me about a "prank" phone call she received last week. It started with a young man asking, "Grandma?" and her saying yes. The youth said, "You probably don't recognize my voice. I was in a car accident and I have stitches in my lips."

That's when the lady said, "I don't have any grandsons," and the caller fumbled a bit and then hung up.

She said two of her grandsons were at work and the third was in Sumpter.

"How can anybody do this?" she asked. "It's outrageous."

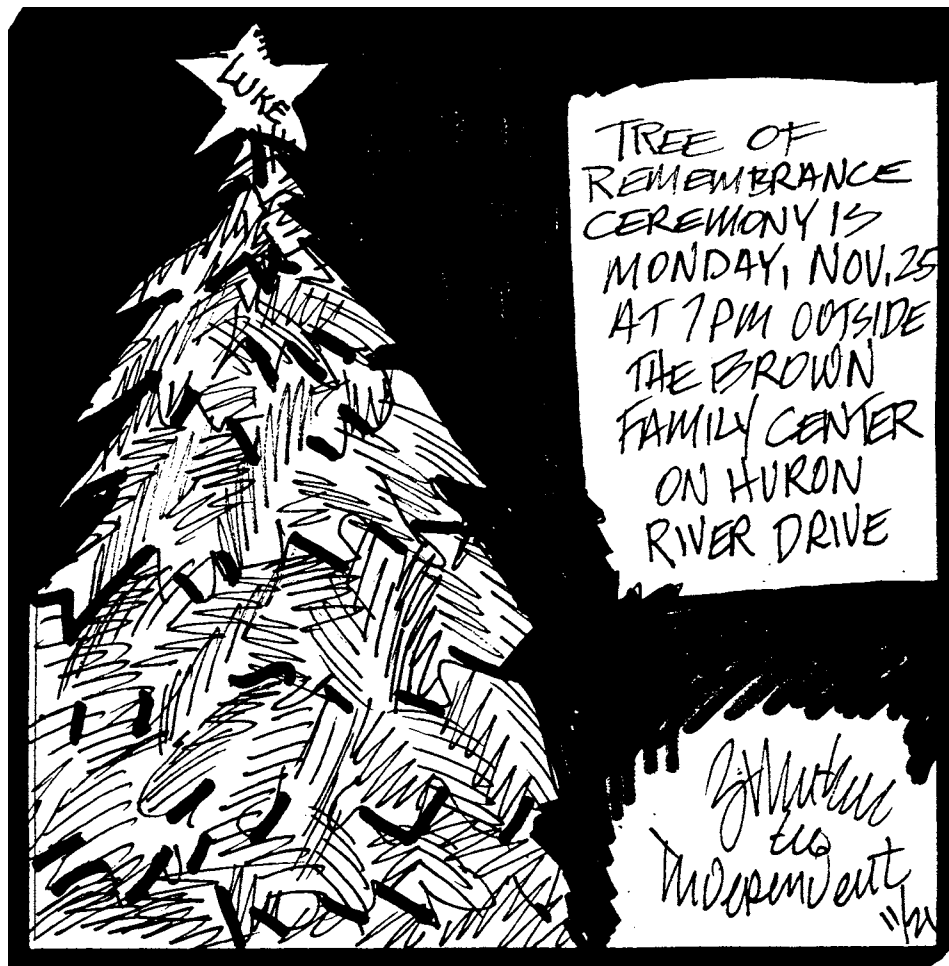
She said she assumed at some point the boy would ask for money to be sent and some, who weren't as skeptical as she, would send money to help their "grandson" who is injured.

She said when calling, her grandsons would identify themselves at once and if they wanted money would ask to talk to grandpa.

A man who lives on High Street in the City of Belleville said he was interested in the details about the senior citizens who wanted to use the city's public rest rooms, but they were locked.

He said the doors of the restroom at Horizon Park are locked, all right, but the city leaves the lights on inside 24/7. He suggests people drive by after dark and see for themselves.

It was very strange to be creeping around in my dark, Main Street office on Monday without any electrical power. I sort of remembered where I put my flashlight and finally found it in my desk's bottom drawer – way in the back.



First we had to unload from our car a bunch of presents for Toys for Tots we got over the week end. We carried them into the darkened building and put them in the Toys for Tots box.

Then, we had to call DTE to find out when power might be back. They said around 11 p.m. (Actually, it came on shortly after 3 p.m., but who knew?)

Monday morning we dismantled our main production computer and carried it home so work could continue. My laptop was no problem. We had power at home. I kept on with my newspaper routine, but in a different place.

When I went to the 4 p.m. work/study meeting at Van Buren Township there were lots of stories about what had happened over the past 24 hours.

One of our customers called on Tuesday and had another story.

She said she was flying into Detroit from Colorado on Sunday and their plane had to land in Chicago because of the winds.

O'Hare was really crowded and finally, Sunday night they put her on a plane to Metro Airport, but it was so bumpy everyone onboard was sick. After flying around a bit, the plane had to land in Lansing because it couldn't in Detroit.

She said a relative who lives in Lansing picked her up at the airport there at 11:30 p.m. and she could barely hold her head up she was so sick. It was the worst plane trip

she has ever taken, she said.

Belleville Police Chief Gene Taylor has discussed with me in the past what will happen when a large solar flare hits the Earth and knocks out all the electronics. He reads a lot and learns about scary stuff like that, as well as a lot of history.

On Monday, I remembered my conversations with the chief, since our area really suffered and pretty much ground to a halt in some locations, just by being without electrical power for a day.

Can you imagine what it would be like to be without cell phones and computers and new automobiles and televisions and cash registers in stores? They would be burned out, so they would be gone for much longer than one day.

That's why kids should learn to do their sums without computers so in case they need to figure something out in the future, they can just use their own brains.

Some people are a little perplexed about the "Christmas in Hawaii" theme of the upcoming night time parade in downtown Belleville during Winterfest. The parade is on Saturday, Dec. 7, which is celebrated across the U.S. as Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. Will some of the floats be decorated as sinking battleships?



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152 Main St., Suite 9,
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734-699-9020
FAX 734-699-8962

Editor: Rosemary K. Otzman
Home: 697-8290

Advertising Manager: Bob Mytych

Sports Editor: Bob Mytych

Bookkeeper: James Otzman

Production Manager: James Otzman

Office Manager: Jackie Garner

Business Manager: Gerald McKelvey

Editorial Cartoonist: Bob Mytych

Writers: Diane Madigan, Angela Netro

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**Letters****Congratulations to staff
of Belleville Independent**

To the Editor:

Congratulations to the staff of the *Belleville-Area Independent* newspaper for the recent awards in the 2013 Michigan Press Association Better Newspaper Contest. Winning two awards from 3,108 newspaper contest entry submissions from 114 Michigan newspapers is certainly commendable.

This recent newspaper industry recognition continues the long tradition of the *Independent* winning awards over many years of publication.

Perhaps some of the local popularity of the newspaper is due to the paper also reporting on the broader, more significant and adult stories in the Belleville area.

I suspect the editor's long association with and participation in the local community influences and adds to the personal touch of the "Extra Things I Know" column.

When I do not pick up a copy of the *Independent* on Thursday, many times it is no longer available on Friday at a local business. The *Independent* is the newspaper patrons of local businesses pick up to take home.

Again, congrats.

Don Houtakker, Van Buren Township

**Congratulations to
Independent for awards**

To the Editor:

Congratulations to the *Belleville-Area Independent* on your recent Third Place award in the News Enterprise Reporting category. Specifically when it pertains to crimes in and around your community, the *Court Watching* series is a wonderful way of providing your readers with outcomes

and endings to the stories.

I am sure you are filled with enormous personal and professional pride on the Honorable Mention recognition you received on your *Extra Things I Know* column. Many of the larger dailies don't always report on the great things that occur in our smaller communities. Clearly your column offers this positive perspective to your readers.

Once again, congratulations to you and all of the staff. I applaud your leadership and dedication to your readers.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Ficano

Wayne County Executive

**Things to do in the
Belleville area...**

• **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.

• **Friday, Nov. 22** – Free Friday Movie begins at 7 p.m. at the Friends Youth Center, 7890 Tuttle Hill Road at Bemis in Ypsilanti. This week: "Anything is Possible" and "The Sky's the Limit to Prove Courage" Info: (734) 482-5074

• **Saturday, Nov. 23** – Community United Methodist Church in Romulus is holding a craft fair and bazaar from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 11160 Olive Street, across from the Romulus Police Department. Artist Dewey Faulkner and author Marian Caldwell will be among those on hand. Free entry and plenty of free parking.

• **Sunday, Nov. 24** – 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.

• **Monday, Nov. 25** – The Tree of Remembrance ceremony begins at 7 p.m. outside Brown Family Center, 678 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville. Bring a weatherproof ornament to place on the tree for your loved one. Refreshments inside beginning at 6:30 p.m. Info: 697-5090

• **Monday, Nov. 25** – State Senator Pat Colbeck is hosting a free seminar for area seniors at 6 p.m. at the Northville Library, 212 W. Cady Street. The Attorney General's Senior Brigade will discuss identity theft and scams. Sen. Colbeck will tell about investment fraud. Info: Penny Crider at (517) 373-5713.

• **Friday, Nov. 29** – Free Friday Movie begins at 7 p.m. at the Friends Youth Center, 7890 Tuttle Hill Road at Bemis in Ypsilanti. This week: "Bullied" and "A Story Where 2 Worlds Come Together" in Real 3D. Info: (734) 482-5074

• **Sunday, Dec. 1** – A brief ceremony called Bugles Across America honors soldiers fighting now and veterans of past wars at 7:15 p.m. at the Veterans Monument in Horizon Park on High Street in Belleville.

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The **Belleville Jingle Bell 5K/1K Run** to benefit the **Van Buren Public Schools Public Education Foundation** is coming up on **Winterfest** Saturday, Dec. 7, and participants can register online at www.wactive.com. Register by tomorrow and get a free, commemorative long-sleeved tech shirt, along with an entry fee discount for signing up early. Costumes are highly encouraged. Visit the website for pricing, awards, race and walk categories and other details.

Al's Smoke Shop on Belleville Road in the former Farmer Jack Plaza is your one-stop shop for all your smoking needs such as low prices on cigarettes, tobacco, roll-your-own supplies, lighters, glass pipes and other accessories. They've been doing business in the same location for over 15 years. Hours are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Call (734) 697-5374.

The **Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue** is holding a Dine & Donate event on Nov. 24, all day, at **Haab's Restaurant** in downtown Ypsilanti. A portion of the proceeds will go to the no-kill shelter in Sumpter. Call (734) 461-9458 for details.



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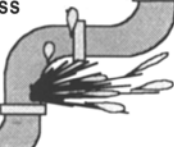


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White case adjourned again to wait for additional charges

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

The preliminary exam on five felony charges for disbarred attorney Thomas Andrew White, 46, of Van Buren Township, was set for Nov. 13, but has been adjourned for the third time.

The exam now is scheduled for Dec. 18 at the 34th District Court before Judge Brian A. Oakley.

White's criminal defense attorney Michael Vincent said he wanted the exam scheduled for 11 a.m. that day, but the court clerk told him she cannot schedule an exam for any other time than 9 a.m. on another judge's docket.

Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Daniel Joseph Williams said there was more evidence coming in other cases about to be filed against White and so he needed another three weeks. He said the banks were not expediting the police search warrants.

Williams said the first case was filed early because it was facing a statute of limitations.

He said there are from 12 to 20 additional victims under investigation and he hoped to get the additional warrants with additional charges around Nov. 27.

Vincent interrupted to say they were "alleged victims."

When they were discussing a proposed Dec. 11 date for the exam before Judge

David Parrott, Vincent said any preliminary examination will be substantial, perhaps two weeks, and he would have to ask for more time if he got the discovery information on Dec. 10.

Judge William Szlinis, who was filling in for Chief 34th District Court Judge Tina Brooks Green, said that would be if the charges were litigated at district court.

Judge Szlinis gave Vincent an extra week, saying Vincent will have a week at least to go over the evidence for the charges.

"We're likely to have a warrant by then," Williams said.

Scott Danyl Vanburen
Michael Paul McCombie

A preliminary exam had been set for Nov. 13 for Scott Danyl Vanburen, 21, and Michael Paul McCombie, 23, but Judge Szlinis adjourned the exam to Dec. 18 to give McCombie's newly retained attorney, Bill Colovos, a chance to review the evidence.

Attorney Michael Vincent has been retained by Vanburen to defend him.

The two are co-defendants on controlled substance charges for delivery / manufacture of methamphetamine / ecstasy.

The alleged offense was July 26 and the charges were filed Oct. 4.

Andrew John Draper

Andrew John Draper, 22, who was charged with possession of narcotics or cocaine less than 25 grams, waived his preliminary exam and Judge Szlinis said to appear at 9 a.m. Nov. 27 at the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice for arraignment on

the information. Bryon Kelley is Draper's attorney and Draper's \$2,000 personal bond was continued. The warrant was filed Aug. 15 for a July 3 alleged offense.

Thomas John Strunk

Thomas John Strunk, 42, who was due for a preliminary exam on Nov. 13 on four felony charges, instead had the charges against him dismissed when the complaining witness did not show up for court and was unable to be contacted.

Strunk had been charged with: assault by strangulation, assault with a dangerous weapon (felonious assault), domestic violence, and assault or assault & battery. He also was dubbed an habitual offender.

Court files show seven charges against Strunk since 1991, including controlled

substance, felonious assault, breaking & enterings, assaulting a police officer, and four domestic violences. The Offender Tracking Information System shows Strunk had four prison sentences, with him last being released June 6, 2012.

On his latest charge, Strunk had been in jail since Oct. 18 because he couldn't post the \$25,000 cash bond set. He told Judge Szlinis that the alleged victim wrote to him one time while he was in jail, but he did not respond to her.

Judge Szlinis asked if the witness would have felt threatened? Since there was no witness the charges were dismissed without prejudice, meaning they could be reinstated in the future. Van Buren Township Police Det. Ken Toney was the officer in charge.

Obituaries

PAULA MARIE LaROWE

(April 1, 1953 - November 13, 2013)

Age 60, of Saline. Survived by three sons, five grandchildren, four siblings. Services Monday at David C. Brown Temporary Funeral Chapel, Belleville. Interment was at Michigan Memorial Park, Flat Rock.

BETTY AMELIA PAMPREEN

(July 1, 1915 - November 15, 2013)

Age 98, at her home in Zephyrhills, FL. Survived by one daughter, two sons, 17 grandchildren and 23 great-grandchildren. Services were held Wednesday at David C. Brown Temporary Funeral Chapel, Belleville.

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15685 BROOKSIDE, VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP
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Correction: We spelled VBT Officer Alex Schulz's name wrong

A reader who is a longtime proofreader of the *Independent* after it is printed each week points out that Alex Schulz's name has no "t" in it.

His name is under his picture on the front page and in the court report on the Second

Front Page in the Nov. 14 edition.

"He and his brother attended Edgemont when I was secretary there," said our informed source.

We regret the error and apologize.

-- Rosemary K. Oztzman, editor

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Public invited to Rotary meeting when Robert Ficano visits Belleville

Wayne County Chief Executive Officer Robert A. Ficano will visit the Belleville Rotary Club on Tuesday, Dec. 3, and will be the featured speaker.

The public is invited to attend. The meeting will begin with dinner at 6:15 p.m. in the basement of the First United Methodist Church, 417 Charles St., Belleville, and dinner is \$11.

Ficano will address the club after dinner regarding issues affecting Wayne County and will conclude around 7:30 p.m.

Reservations are required by Dec. 1 and can be made by contacting Debbie Juchartz at (734) 697-0206 or belleville.rotary@gmail.com.

This year the Belleville Rotary Club celebrates its 75th anniversary, Diamond Jubilee. The club will hold an April 11 celebration at the BYC.



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Holiday socks collection to benefit First Step

To the Editor:

New socks for children and adults may be dropped off at Trinity Episcopal Church on Belleville Road. Socks will be donated to First Step. This organization helps many people in need in the area.

Thank you for new socks donation to help

keep feet warm.

Thank you from Mr. Mouse and Marian Caldwell.

M. Caldwell

Van Buren Township

Editor's Note: First Step has been helping victims of domestic and sexual violence since 1978, offering help for residents of Western Wayne County and Downriver.

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

POLICE VEHICLE AUCTION

On Wednesday, November, 27th, 2013, the Van Buren Township Police Department will conduct a public auction of impounded and abandoned vehicles. The auction will begin at 10:30am, at **J&T Towing** and Storage, 287 Industrial Dr. Belleville MI, County of Wayne, where the following will be offered for sale to the highest bidder.

1998	DODGE	SW	1B4HS28Y4WF104240	13-19052
2000	MITSUBISHI	4D	JA3AY26C1YU004006	13-21207
1998	SAAB	4D	YSDD58B6W2009896	13-22995
2004	HONDA	4D	2HGES16564H504743	13-23449

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

2000	CHEVROLET	SW	1GNCS18W8YK260904	13-17023
1997	CADILLAC	4D	1G6KY5292VU845140	13-19479
1992	FORD	4D	1FAPP36X3NK157457	13-24117
1992	FORD	4D	1FACP5243NA275293	13-24227
1999	CHEVROLET	4D	1GNEK13R1XR104963	13-24710

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

Leon Wright, CMC
Van Buren Township Clerk

Published: November 21, 2013

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

Charter Township of Van Buren Board of Trustees Notice of Public Hearing

Tuesday, 7:00 p.m., December 3, 2013
Board Room – Van Buren Township Hall

Agenda: Discussion regarding:

2013 Amended General Fund Budget 2014 Proposed General Fund Budget Special Revenue Funds:

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
Downtown Development Authority (DDA)
LDFA Fund
Landfill Fund
Lohr Road Project, Special Assessment District
Belleville Area Museum
9-1-1 Service Fund
Federal Forfeiture Fund
State Forfeiture Fund

The Property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of the hearing.

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

For additional information, call the Supervisor's Office at 734.699.8910

Published: 11/21/2013

Posted: 11/20/2013

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

The Charter Township of Van Buren Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Wednesday **December 11, 2013** at 7:30 p.m., in the Board of Trustees Room, 46425 Tyler Road, Charter Township of Van Buren, Wayne County, Michigan.

The Public Hearing is to request to amend the Zoning Ordinance 6/2/92 by rezoning the following described property from **C Local Business to C-1 General Business under Section 18.09 Rezoning with Conditions.**



This parcel is tax ID number **V-125-83-129-99-0002-002**, also known as **15400 Sumpter Road**. It measures approximately 1.01 acres. This property is located at the Southwest corner of Sumpter and Hull Roads.

The following conditions have been proposed by the Applicant:

- 1) Closure of the North driveway into the parcel from Sumpter Road;
- 2) Construction of a gabled roof building clad entirely with brick and stone that matches the appearance of the Van Buren Township Fire Station across Sumpter Road;
- 3) Installation of landscaping improvements based upon the discretion of the Township and in compliance with its ordinances;
- 4) Installation of 210 feet of paving on Hull Road west of the centerline of the intersection at Sumpter Road, to Wayne County specifications;
- 5) Retainage of a 15 foot setback between the rear of the new building and the property line;
- 6) A gas station with convenience store will be the only commercial use allowed under the C-1 Zoning classification; and
- 7) The existing gas station canopy will remain in its existing location only setback 33 feet from the Sumpter Road right-of-way instead of the 75 foot required setback.

Written comments will be accepted at the Department of Developmental Services until 4:00 p.m. on the hearing date.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals with a disability should contact the Department of Developmental Services, at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the meeting, if requesting accommodations.

Published: **November 21, 2013**



Ask Angela
By Angela Nettro

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

Question from Robert in Sumpter Township: My wife and I bought a foreclosed home for cash a few years ago. We have done some improvements, but want to do some major repairs and don't want to use up the rest of our savings.

We are looking at either refinancing or a Home Equity Loan. Can you explain the Home Equity Loan and what way would be our most affordable option?

Answer: Robert, refinancing will be a more complicated and longer process. An appraisal is required. There are higher closing costs and interest rates. Some banks also finance a minimum amount for a mortgage loan.

There is a Home Equity Loan which is less in costs, but the full amount of the loan is paid to you at closing and with a fixed interest rate. The monthly payments will usually be amortized over a 15-year mortgage. You may not need all of this lump sum of money for your projects for many months or even some years, but will be paying interest on the full amount of loaned money from the day of closing, with a mortgage lien attached to your property.

The Home Equity Line of Credit is the third option, which I feel is the best for your needs. There normally is NO upfront costs and the interest rate is a lower rate and it allows you to take the money you need from your equity credit line as you need it for improvements.

A book of checks or a credit card with the full line of the credit/equity line amount can be taken in increments when and if you want to. You only pay the interest on the amounts you have taken. You also can pay back amounts you have taken with the interest to replace the equity balance line.

The Home Equity Line is a good way for you to just do the improvements you need it for and not to pay interest or bank closing costs on a full mortgage that is costing you whether you are using the money or not.

Check with your accountant. Most Equity Loans or Equity Lines interest fees are usually tax-deductible.

Happy Thanksgiving to all!

-- Angela

Angela Nettro/Broker

Real Estate

(734) 697-6655

Email: nettroandco@comcast.net

"Being powerful is like being a lady. If you have to tell people you ARE, you AREN'T."

-- Margaret Thatcher

British Prime Minister, 1925-2013

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"Sometimes I wonder whether the world is being run by smart people who are putting us on or by imbeciles who really mean it."

Mark Twain

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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

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

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2000 CHEVY S-10 PICK-UP. 4.3 Engine, Auto., 160,000 miles, 2 WD, Everything works, Runs great. \$1,600 obo (734) 306-3433 12/05

FOUND

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

SIAMESE CAT, long haired, tan-ish, beautiful blue eyes. Found Nov. 10th vicinity Sumpter & Harris Rds. (734) 697-2182 12/05

FREE

JULIA JOHNSON BEMIS RD. 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

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

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

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

Van Buren Twp. Board OKs \$45,733 payment

On the voucher list approved during the Nov. 19 meeting of the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees there were two payments totaling \$45,733 for a consent judgment and for payment to the Wayne County Prosecutor's office.

VBT Police Lt. Kenneth Floro said this was from a 2012 drug case where Eddie Kwon Patterson was originally charged with possession with intent to deliver marijuana and eventually plead guilty to just possession.

VBT Police had confiscated Patterson's 2001 Buick LeSabre and \$60,025 in U.S. Currency.

Patterson filed on Sept. 9, 2012 to get his forfeited items back and, after almost a year, on Aug. 29 the final consent judgment was signed.

Patterson was to get \$43,425 back and the Wayne County Prosecutor was to get \$2,308 for its part in the case.

Lt. Floro said as part of the agreement, the VBT police retained \$17,500 and Patterson's vehicle.

HELP WANTED

PART TIME ON-SITE Maintenance, own tools required. To apply, contact 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 detail shop. Please apply in person or call Eric Carter at (734) 697-9161 11/21

OFFICE ASSISTANT WANTED. Computer 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

Drivers: Regional, home daily. Stable Growing Company. Awesome Benefits. New pay package & Newer Trucks. Grocery Hauler. CDL-A 2 years exp. (855) 429-8442 11/21

HELP WANTED

Apartment Communities in Belleville, and Ypsilanti are looking to fill several full, and part time positions with fair pay, and benefits to **Experienced, Dependable, Enthusiastic** people ready to work in Management, Maintenance, Leasing, and Grounds. Must have a valid drivers license. Maintenance positions requires the knowledge of basic plumbing, electrical, and HVAC preferred. If you have experience in one of the above areas please send your resume to tuscanmanor@att.net, fax to (734) 699-2651, or drop it off at Tuscan Manor office in Belleville.

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

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

HELP WANTED

Van Buren Township
Police Dispatch Log

The following are selected calls for VBT Police.

Sunday, Nov. 10:
0034 – malicious destruction of property, 49345 S. I-94 Service Dr.
0051 – disorderly conduct, 49345 S. I-94 Service
0118 – malicious destruction of property, 45501 S. I-94 Service Dr.
0147 – fight, 50778 Michigan Ave.
0708 – trespassing, 7829 Beck Rd.
1208 – intimidation threat, 1 Brandi
1213 – shots fired, Alden Ave./Haggerty Rd.
1441 – malicious destruction of property, 10667 Oak Lane
1457 – shots fired, 13660 Martinsville Rd.
1630 – agency assist, 501 W. Columbia, BHS
1754 – malicious destruction of property, 45125 Harmony Lane
1757 – fight, 10850 Belleville Rd.
1841 – agency assist, RR track/Savage
1859 – assault & battery, 46131 Village Green Ln.
1902 – missing person, 1041 W. Huron River Dr.
2025 – retail fraud, 2095 Rawsonville, Kmart
2034 – loud party complaint, 10 Brandi

Monday, Nov. 11:
0614 – breaking & entering, 16894 Haggerty
0726 – property damage accident, E. Huron River Dr. / Metro Park
0922 – fraud, 13293 Lake Pointe Pass
1209 – weapons violation, Shell gas
1553 – larceny, 47097 McBride Ave., middle schl.
1658 – shots fired, 48 Maple Dr.
1731 – fraud, 133241501 N. Bellridge Dr.
1752 – malicious destruction of property, 50841 Michigan Ave.
1833 – property damage accident, 818 Sumpter
2023 – assault & battery, Southport
2028 – malicious destruction of property, 9589 Dalton Dr.
2259 – violation public health code/violation controlled substance act, 45707 S. I-94 Service Dr.
2333 – property damage accident, Ecorse/Beck
Tuesday, Nov. 12:
0112 – shots fired, Ecorse/Hannan
0700 – personal injury accident, Tyler/Walden
1115 – private property accident, 391 Sumpter Rd.
1636 – assault & battery, 10808 Belleville Rd.
1721 – intimidation threat, 46000 Lake Villa Dr.
1728 – narcotics crime, 50345 Bog Rd.
1744 – assault & battery, 45707 S. I-94 Service Dr.
1950 – assault & battery, 43933 Crowley Ave.
2054 – larceny, 45501 N. I-94 Service Dr.

Wednesday, Nov. 13:
0157 – felony assault, 39555 S. I-94 Service Dr.
0752 – property damage accident, 7401 Rawsonville Rd.
0829 – larceny from auto, 48031 S. I-94 Service
1203 – larceny, 6379 Greenwood Ct.
1332 – property damage accident, Belleville/I-94
1359 – unauthorized driving away of auto, 10800 Hannan Rd.
1450 – juvenile complaint, Tyler School
1518 – larceny from auto, 48860 Denton Rd.
1522 – malicious destruction of property, 48651 S. I-94 Service Dr.
1554 – property damage accident, Ecorse/Haggerty
1611 – personal injury accident, W. Huron River Dr. / Rawsonville Rd.
1628 – malicious destruction of property, 42022 Filmore St.
1628 – trespassing, 32 Oak Blvd.
1745 – malicious destruction of property, 41873 Ecorse Rd.

Thursday, Nov. 14:
1416 – private property accident, Meijer
1612 – juvenile complaint, 15732 Martinsville Rd.
1643 – harassment call, 41123 S. Woodbury Dr.
1733 – juvenile complaint, 9602 Hamilton St.
1801 – property damage accident, Michigan Ave. / Dellor St.
2134 – disorderly conduct, 11875 Quirk Rd.
Friday, Nov. 15:
0255 – assault & battery, 9226 Parkwood Rd.
0513 – agency assist, 42501 Owen, school
0609 – hospice, 14 Daisy
0802 – shots fired, 14088 Burlwood Ln.
0915 – property damage accident, E. I-94 / Rawsonville

1046 – child abuse, 41649 Van Born
1321 – larceny, 33 Rose Blvd.
1414 – private property accident, 51005 Michigan
1453 – trespassing, Cobblestone Creek sub.
1505 – disorderly conduct, 48649 S. Schooner Dr.
1557 – disorderly conduct, Woodbury Green
1614 – child abuse, 46000 Lake Villa Dr.
1724 – suspicious situation, 15841 Elwell Rd.
1739 – PPO violation, 8 Maple Dr.
1948 – operating while intoxicated, Ecorse / Haggerty
2224 – fraud, Meijer
2339 – assault & battery, 41137 S. Woodbury Dr.

Saturday, Nov. 16:
0156 – noise complaint, 158 Aspen
0607 – larceny from auto, 9200 Hannan
1351 – mental, 13323 Ormond Dr.
1609 – hunting complaint, 474 Sumpter Rd.
1702 – mental, 10686 Borgman Ave.
1839 – property damage accident, Belleville / North I-94 Service Dr.
2036 – private property accident, Westlake
2059 – fire investigation, 14702 Wildbrook Dr.
2110 – property damage accident, 11530 Belleville
Also on this week’s log are 132 traffic stops, 36 of which were on the I-94 freeway.

Belleville Police
Dispatch Log

Sunday, Nov. 10:
0153 – agency assist, 50521 W. Huron River Dr., Pine Creek
0311 – agency assist, 18893 Haggerty
0406 – assist fire dept., 275 W. Columbia, Columbia Court
1203 – animal complaint, 21 Carmell St.
1407 – suspicious person, 370 Edison Ave.
1459 – intrusion alarm, 501 W. Columbia, BHS
1816 – suspicious situation, 575 Sumpter, Co-op
1841 – suspicious situation, RR tracks/Savage
1842 – suspicious situation, E. Columbia/High
1846 – suspicious vehicle, Sumpter/Belle Plaza
2023 – warrant arrest, 6 Main St.
Monday, Nov. 11:
0422 – intrusion alarm, 496 Main St.
0542 – intrusion alarm, 58 Carmell
1300 – disorderly conduct, 47097 McBride, middle school
1302 – disorderly conduct, 47097 McBride, middle school
1731 – vehicle lockout, 89 Menlo Park Dr.
1918 – animal complaint, 58 S. Biggs St.
2337 – agency assist, Westlake/Belleville

Tuesday, Nov. 12:
0108 – E-911 cellular hang up, 509 Liberty St.
1052 – property damage accident, 391 Sumpter
1300 – disorderly conduct, 501 W. Columbia, BHS
1524 – suspicious vehicle, 506 Harbour Pointe Dr.
1525 – assist fire dept., 113 Carmell St.
1637 – background investigation, 6 Main St.
1727 – assist fire dept., 6 Main St.
1753 – assist fire dept., 66 Carmell
1819 – assist fire dept., 275 W. Columbia, Columbia Court
1834 – suspicious vehicle, 213 Victorian Ln.
2046 – E-911 hangup/investigation, 329 S. Industrial Park Dr.
Wednesday, Nov. 13:
0119 – information, 6 Main St.
0339 – assist fire dept., 476 W. Columbia Ave.
1011 – found property, 285 South St.
1418 – disorderly conduct, 501 W. Columbia, BHS

Thursday, Nov. 14:
1649 – E-911 cellular, 548 Sumpter Rd.
1726 – harassment call, 25 Owen
2043 – civil matter, 136 Biggs Ave.
2318 – agency assist, Huron River Dr./Pine Creek
Friday, Nov. 15:
0228 – intrusion alarm, W. Davis St./South St.
0346 – suspicious situation, Sumpter Rd. / Industrial Park Dr.
0507 – intrusion alarm, 45201 Owen, school
0859 – E-911 hang up/investigation, 112 Bedell
1231 – suspicious situation, 79 Carmell St.
1343 – property damage accident, South St. / W. Wabash Ave.
1443 – larceny from auto, 678 Greylock St.
1603 – property damage accident, Belleville / Bridge
1655 – neighbor trouble, 429 Victorian Ln.

1832 – animal bite, 6 Main St.
2237 – assist fire dept., 57 Loza Lane
Saturday, Nov. 16:
0007 – suspicious vehicle, Chase
0808 – sexual assault, 6 Main St.
1033 – suspicious situation, Clarence/Greylock
1558 – hunting complaint, Light Tower Dr.
1622 – intrusion alarm, 501 W. Columbia, BHS
1726 – intrusion alarm, 282 Harbour Pointe Dr.
1741 – agency assist, 1000 Sumpter
2123 – domestic assault, 206 Main St.
2148 – warrant arrest, 6 Main St.
Also on this week’s log are 32 traffic stops.

Sumpter Township
Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Nov. 10:
0214 – warrant arrest, Willis/Sumpter
0307 – alarm, 18000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
0551 – alarm, 2000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
0953 – ordinance violation, 28000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
0959 – fire dept. assist, 20000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1054 – follow-up investigation, 23000 bl. Sumpter
1105 – suspicious person, 44000 bl. Wear Rd.
1212 – juvenile complaint, 46000 bl. Willis Rd.
1237 – traffic hazard, 20000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1325 – ORV complaint, Willis/Haggerty
1510 – suspicious incident, 43000 bl. Wear Rd.
1727 – family trouble, 44000 bl. Harris Rd.
1944 – citizen assist, 17000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2009 – civil dispute, 18000 bl. Savage Rd.

Monday, Nov. 11:
0755 – larceny, 48000 bl. Willis Rd.
1103 – follow-up investigation, 23000 bl. Sumpter
1103 – fire dept. assist, 45000 bl. Willis Rd.
1130 – fire dept. assist, Rustic Ln.
1144 – breaking & entering, Montana
1257 – fire dept. assist, 47000 bl. Willis Rd.
1313 – malicious destruction of property, 24000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
1351 – suspicious incident, 50000 bl. Willis Rd.
1515 – fight, 25000 bl. Karr Rd.
1550 – alarm, 47000 bl. Harris Rd.
1646 – juvenile complaint, 22000 bl. Martinsville
1704 – threats complaint, 48000 bl. Willow Rd.

Tuesday, Nov. 12:
0617 – fire dept. assist, 50000 bl. Judd Rd.
0713 – follow-up investigation, out of township
1129 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1156 – malicious destruction of property, Texas
1220 – follow-up investigation, Montana
1254 – fraud complaint, 40000 bl. Wear Rd.
1435 – suspicious vehicle, Rustic Ln.
1752 – larceny, 29000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
Wednesday, Nov. 13:
0303 – alarm, 21000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1157 – harassment complaint, Rustic Ln.
1239 – death investigation, 23000 bl. Clark Rd.
1452 – fraud complaint, 47000 bl. Bemis Rd.
1840 – alarm, Montana
2057 – alarm, 18000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
2356 – fire dept. assist, Rustic Ln.

Thursday, Nov. 14:
0756 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
0907 – alarm, 47000 bl. Executive Dr.
1355 – fire dept. assist, 47000 bl. Judd Rd.
1437 – parking complaint, Wear/Carleton West
1520 – animal complaint, 48000 bl. Wear Rd.
1650 – animal complaint, 29000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1704 – breaking & entering, Texas
1753 – shots fired, 20000 bl. Crandell Ct.
2103 – ordinance violation, 44000 bl. Willis Rd.
2114 – follow-up investigation, Oregon
2349 – follow-up investigation, California

Friday, Nov. 15:
0740 – property damage accident, Sherwood/Judd
0957 – warrant arrest, 22000 bl. Bohn Rd.
0958 – property damage accident, 21000 bl. Bohn
1356 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1450 – missing person, Wyoming
1527 – unauthorized driving away of auto, 19000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1612 – reckless driver complaint, Sumpter/Arkona
1757 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1801 – citizen assist, 44000 bl. Willow Rd.
1842 – operating while intoxicated arrest, Rawsonville/Judd
2036 – fire dept. assist, Wyoming
2144 – citizen assist, 25000 bl. Clark Rd.

2210 – suspicious vehicle, 28000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
Saturday, Nov. 16:
0146 – family trouble, Timberlane
0205 – fireworks complaint, 20000 bl. Crandell Ct.
1007 – civil dispute, 28000 bl. Karr Rd.
1200 – breaking & entering, 44000 bl. Willis Rd.
1339 – mental health commitment, Country Club Blvd.
1609 – suspicious incident, 22000 bl. Prince Rd.
1659 – alarm, 46000 bl. Kozma
1820 – suspicious incident, 22000 bl. Prince Rd.
1859 – follow-up investigation, 19000 bl. Sumpter
2035 – shots fired, 23000 bl. Carleton West Rd.
2150 – shots fired, 44000 bl. Willow Rd.
Also on this week’s log are 27 miscellaneous details, 103 patrol checks and 46 traffic stops.

Sumpter Police arrest
17 year old carrying
loaded handgun

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor
Dominic William Rubino, 17, of the Milan/Washtenaw County area is facing a charge of carrying a concealed weapon, a five-year felony, after being arrested in Sumpter Township.
Rubino was arrested by Sumpter Police on Nov. 11 and was arraigned Nov. 13 in 34th District Court. His preliminary exam is set for Nov. 27 at the court.

Sumpter Detective John Toth said Sgt. Jim Cayce and Officer Jerry Cox responded at 1:51 p.m. to a call reporting a fight on Texas in Holiday West mobile home park.
As they traveled to the scene, the officers got additional information over the radio. There was a man in a truck and he was armed with a gun, the caller told police. The caller also reported the dispute started in Washtenaw County.
The caller told police the gun “may have been used against people in the park” then, that two vehicles were leaving the park at an accelerated speed.
Officer Cox was able to stop both vehicles and to retrieve the 9 mm Smith & Wesson handgun, which was loaded, from Rubino, Det. Toth said.
He said police learned the gun was not brandished in the park by Rubino, but its presence allegedly was implied in the confrontation.

Need new tutors for
expanded literacy prog.

To the Editor:
How would you like the satisfaction of knowing that you changed a person’s life?
The Belleville Area District Library is looking for volunteer tutors to join our expanding Adult Literacy Program. All it takes is just a few hours of your time each week volunteering to help someone improve their reading skills.
The following steps are what you need to do to become a tutor:
• Attend 15 hours of training. We scheduled a new set of tutor training for five nights in January and February.
• Pay \$25 for your training book.
If you are interested in becoming a tutor and would like more information, then please attend our Tutor Informational Meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 11 at 7 p.m. at the Belleville Area District Library.
Daniel Lodge

The chill is in the air which means it's time to...

Wrap up a little EXTRA CASH in time for the HOLIDAYS

Look no further than UCFCU for the extra cash you need for the holidays! Right now you can borrow up to \$3,000 for one full year at our SPECIAL LOW RATE!

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November 1 through December 31, 2013!*



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734-697-4800



Independent photo by Rosemary K. Oztman

Carl Pederson, right, of the Southwestern Wayne County Democratic Club, gives advice to governor-hopeful Mark Schauer during Sunday's special meeting to introduce 2014 Michigan Democratic candidates. Schauer is collecting petition signatures to get on the ballot as a candidate against Michigan Governor Rick Snyder. An enthusiastic crowd of candidates and supporters met at the Wayne County Fairgrounds in Van Buren Township, including Congressman John Dingell, who praised the local club for working from the grassroots to train and support Democratic candidates. Also attending were Wayne County Executive Bob Ficano, County Commissioner Kevin McNamara, and many state and local officer holders. In his keynote speech, Schauer said it is not easy to unseat an incumbent governor, but the Democrats need to work hard to fire Snyder and get Democratic candidates in the House and Senate, "so we can change the direction of Michigan." On Monday, Schauer was in the news for promising to raise the minimum wage from \$7.40 to \$9.25 per hour if elected governor.

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