



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

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Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

FREE

Belleville sets public hearing on vacation of part of S. Liberty St.

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

A public hearing will be held at 7:30 p.m., Monday, May 20, at Belleville City Hall to hear public comments on the city's proposal to vacate South Liberty Street between East Columbia Avenue and the rear property lines near the railroad tracks.

The resolution setting the hearing said it is "to improve a proposed development of the property."

The former Amerman Lumber property is now owned by Davenport Brothers. When the *Independent* asked Mayor Kerreen Conley what kind of development is proposed during discussion of the issue during the meeting, she said she didn't know.

Others told the *Independent* that Davenports want to build a shopping strip.

The public street that runs through Davenport's property is unimproved and currently full of mud puddles, but used by motorists as a short-cut between Savage Road / East Columbia Ave. and South Street / Sumpter Road.

Those who cannot attend the public hearing, which is part of the regular city council meeting, may file written comments with City Clerk/Treasurer Lisa Long by the close of the public hearing.

The public hearing was set during Monday's regular City Council meeting.

At Monday's meeting the council also:

- Passed a resolution to implement the monthly 20% healthcare premium contribution for all city employees eligible for healthcare coverage, which is already under way. The resolution is necessary to comply with Public Act 152. Mayor Conley said the 20% is in the police union contract, which she said the council had approved but not "ratified," and the city's other union contract is not yet settled. The 80/20 agreement is not for retirees and civil

service employees yet, she said;

- Approved the fund raiser for the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4434 and Polish League of American Veterans 167 to sell Buddy Poppies May 9, 10 and 11 on city street corners to raise money for their good works;

(continued on page 7)

District Library Board limits treasurer role to 3 years, on 5-1 vote

By Diane Madigan
Independent Special Writer

On a 5-1 vote at its regular meeting April 9, the Belleville Area District Library Board voted to limit the person holding the office of treasurer to three, consecutive, one-year terms.

The board member who proposed the term limit was Treasurer Elaine Gutierrez, who was not present at the meeting because of intense work on income tax returns at her job with Belleville Tax and Accounting Service.

Because the email she sent to alert the board that she couldn't attend the meeting did not go through because of some computer glitch, Gutierrez was marked with an unexcused absence.

At previous meetings, Gutierrez had urged the board to put in term limits for the office of treasurer because it is such a sensitive role and has the most risk for fraud. Since she has a business background, she has accepted the office from the beginning, but would like to see others in that position.

In January a move to have term limits for the board president, as well, was not acceptable to President Mary Jane Dawson, who has been president from the time the board was appointed as an interim board

(continued on page 7)



Independent photos by Rosemary K. Otzman

Tasha Carter, at right, manager of the Van Buren Township McDonald's restaurant on Belleville Road, was honored with a certificate of appreciation by the Belleville City Council at Monday's meeting. Presenting the award was Mayor Kerreen Conley. She praised Carter for the special Tuesday Night programs she puts on that have benefitted the city fire department, schools, seniors and others. "Giving back is not her job, it is her passion," Mayor Conley said. Carter also was congratulated on her 10th anniversary at McDonald's.



Sumpter Township Police Lt. Eric Luke, center, introduced two new part-time police officers to the township board and the public at the April 9 meeting. Both were unanimously approved by the board. At left is Joseph Balowski and at right is Scott Cutcher. Both officers have family in Sumpter. Balowski lives in Flat Rock, graduated from the police academy in 2009 and currently works as an officer for the Metroparks. Cutcher lives in Romulus, finished the academy recently, and currently works for the University of Michigan.

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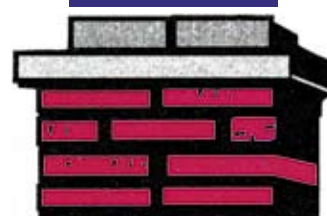
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SECOND FRONT PAGE

Sumpter Township Board adopts balanced budget for 2013-14

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

After a thank you from Sumpter Township's accountant to everyone for keeping the belt tightened and a public hearing on the proposed \$3,930,512 budget, the township board unanimously approved the balanced budget at its March 26 meeting.

Jim Glahn, CPA, thanked the board members and employees "for making conditions possible in order for us to continue.

"Without an understanding of our changing fiscal environment, we would be like other municipalities, unable to pay our obligations," Glahn said.

"As more and more communities have Emergency Managers appointed, Sumpter Township has maintained a fiscal discipline necessary to balance its budget.

"Appointment of the Emergency Managers means these communities failed to manage the funds that were available," Glahn said.

He said the lack of a balanced budget at the federal government level will make local governments like Sumpter suffer.

"It will be another six months before we know the true cost coming from the federal level," Glahn said.

"All I can say at this point is that we will be affected by this. It's just determining by how much," he said.

"Our township will be able to pay all obligations as long as we continue to be vigilant," Glahn said.

He recalled that the township began the belt tightening close to six years ago and there were those at that time who didn't believe there would be problems.

He said it was Sumpter Township then who sought out other communities for consolidation of services and now other communities are approaching Sumpter.

"If the board hadn't taken steps then, we would have problems now," he said.

He explained that the budget is a financial plan to be used as a road map with projected income and expected costs.

He said the fiscal year runs from April 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014 and, "Sumpter is operating in a fiscally sound manner."

Glahn said the landfill revenues are the highest revenue to the township and will be \$1.4 million this year, up by \$170,000 from the prior year.

He reminded them at one point the landfill revenue was over \$4 million.

He said the Water Fund continues to receive \$400,000 in landfill funds annually to pay bonds.

The tax revenue has dropped from

\$470,000 to about \$390,000 for the coming year.

State revenue has declined because there are 17-18% fewer people in Sumpter, he said.

But, Sumpter Township has been informed it will get \$190,000 from the state to reimburse the township for expenses in consolidating its dispatch services with Huron Township.

This consolidation will offer \$182,000 in savings every year, Glahn said.

The Fire Fund, which received \$400,000 in local tax revenue years ago, now gets \$315,000. But, the Fire Fund will get \$100,000 as its share of the state dispatch grant, he said.

The Fire Department is getting a new fire truck this year, he said.

Glahn said the township has fully paid off the fire hall bond and the last new fire truck.

Glahn also said the Water Department is operating more efficiently now and the recent rate increase pays associated costs of the Water Department.

Glahn said the township now has three bonds outstanding. It wasn't long ago, he said, the township had 11 bonds and 10 were for water, with \$70,000 for interest on one.

"I am very pleased with the operation of this department," he said.

"It's in the best interests of all to maintain our fiscal discipline," he concluded.

Mary Ban asked during the public hearing if the revenue from Carleton Farms landfill was up and Glahn said the township got \$170,000 more this year than last year and he expects the same this coming year.

He said to get the revenue up to \$1.4 million this year is good.

Fire Chief Joe Januszyk said the new truck the department is getting carries 3,000 gallons and pumps as much as three trucks. He said the one truck replaces three vehicles.

He referred to the truck that didn't pass the DOT inspection because of a bad frame and two other trucks out of service.

It was estimated the new truck would cost in the area of \$325,000. Glahn said they would make a down-payment and make payments.

Ban asked about whether former Sumpter dispatchers were working at Huron Township now and Malissa Baker said there are no Sumpter dispatchers at Huron now. A few worked there for a short time and then went on to other careers, she said.



Wally Steinaway is 33 and the father of three children. He also is fighting Stage 3 testicular cancer with the help of his family and friends. On April 5, Brian Copsey, owner of the Bayou Grill, presented family members with a check of \$1,000. The restaurant also will be doing a Dining to Donate event for this family from 4 to 8 p.m. on May 22. Donations can also be made at the TCF bank or at www.giveforward.com. Three of four of Wally's aunts are pictured: Tiffany Partido, Debbi Gale, Thereasa Bailey, and Katrina Howard.



Photo courtesy Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce
Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce President Keith Johnston, left, presented Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano with a certificate of appreciation during its member luncheon April 11 at the Holiday Inn Express. More than 35 guests were present to hear Ficano give updates on legislation and Aerotropolis.

Robert Chapman graduates from military training

Robert Forest Chapman of Belleville has graduated from Basic Combat Course at Fort Knox, KY and Army Engineering Equipment Repair Course at Fort Leonard Wood, MO.

Chapman, a member of the 1072nd Support Maintenance Company, Detroit, Michigan Army National Guard, attended

the courses for 17 weeks.

In civilian life, Chapman works for Menards as a Conveyor Mechanic.

Chapman has one son, Rodney Raymond Chapman.

Chapman is the son of Evlin Beaudry and John Chapman of Belleville.

OPINIONS

Editorial

VBТ pulling out of Wayne County assessment services

As of May 1, Van Buren Township will be doing its own assessments on industrial and commercial valuations and signing its own assessment roll.

At Tuesday's VBT Board meeting, township officials voted unanimously to pull out of Wayne County Assessment and Equalization services.

VBT Assessment Coordinator Linda Stevenson said Wayne County is actually surprised the township stayed with them as long as it did. Of the 43 communities in Wayne County, only 13 are still using the county's assessment services.

Besides saving some money this year and an estimated \$14,000 next year, the township residents will get better services, Stevenson said, noting the county has become short-staffed.

"They do the best they can with the staff they have," Stevenson told the board.

Robert C. Brandmier, a Michigan Master Assessing Officer, works two days a week for VBT and has for a few years. He now will be able to work on industrial and commercial properties and sign the assessment roll. He earns \$4,800 a month and his pay and hours remain the same.

Stevenson presented her proposal to leave the county during last fall's budget sessions, but waited until after the election to push for a break with the county so the newly elected township board could make the decision. She said Wayne County is in full support of the move.

Sounds like a good decision for VBT.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

A very unusual thing happened to me in Judge Dana Hathaway's courtroom at the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice in Detroit last week.

Before court went into session, the Wayne County Sheriff's Deputy in charge of keeping order in that courtroom, came over to me and Diane Madigan, who were sitting quietly, and asked us what we were there for. We told her.

Then, she demanded to see our press credentials, saying, "Anybody can say they are with the press."

After we produced our credentials, she was satisfied and left us alone.

I was quite concerned about this encounter. In our country, ANYONE can sit in a courtroom for ANY REASON to view our justice system at work.

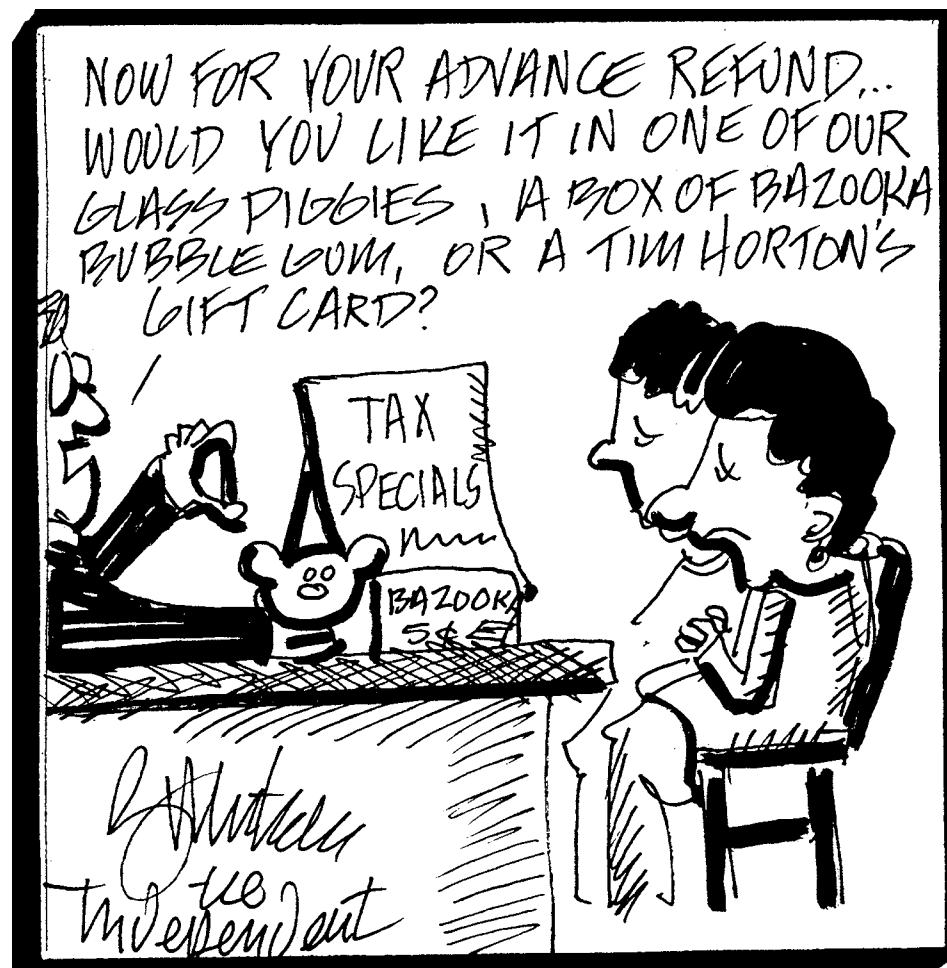
I have been covering court cases on and off for more than 50 years and have never been challenged in any way. And, I have never seen anyone else challenged like that.

The officer came over and chatted with us in a friendly manner after court was over, but that still didn't make her challenge any less disconcerting.

Over the years I have talked to retired people who go to court just to see what's going on. For some it's a hobby. They have no credentials and need none. Anyone can go in for any reason without fear of being expelled for not having some kind of ID.

This encounter was very strange.

We received a report on Saturday afternoon that there were about 100 Red Hatters at the Cracker Barrel restaurant in Van Buren Township.



Chris at the Cracker Barrel said the ladies filled up two dining rooms and they were wearing their red hats and purple tops and one lady wore purple pajamas. They had a great time, he said, but he didn't know where they were from.

Over the weekend Carol Smith and her husband Don painted and redecorated the lobby of the Belleville Police Department at their own expense and with their own hard work.

It looks pretty spiffy now. Carol works there and she thought it was time for a do-over. Chief Gene Taylor gave them public thanks at Monday's City Council meeting.

Also at Monday's City Council meeting, Mayor Kerreen Conley was talking about the Conference of Western Wayne meeting that the city hosted at Van Buren Township last Friday.

She said Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette dropped by and talked about some state items and invited anyone to call him. The supervisor of Redford Township asked him for his cell phone number and Schuette asked for hers first. She gave him her number and so Schuette gave out his cell phone number publicly at the meeting.

Anyone who was there has Attorney General Schuette's cell number, Mayor Conley said.

This year's induction of Belleville High

School Distinguished Graduates is on a Saturday instead of a Sunday, the way it has been in the past.

It will be held at 2 p.m. on May 4 at the BHS Auditorium, where the portraits of all past Distinguished Grads are hanging in the lobby. Induction ceremonies for the BHS National Honor Society is conducted jointly.

VBT Trustee Jeff Jahr asked VBT Supervisor Linda Combs just how much severance she gave Terry Carroll after she fired him and she replied "a little over \$31,000."

This was during Monday's work/study session at VBT. I've been trying to get that total from her for weeks and she has refused to answer my appeal to my turnaround for FOIA information from Clerk Leon Wright.

If I would have known it would be so easy, I should have asked her in an open meeting rather than going the FOIA route.

There actually was about \$9,000 in payments he would have gotten anyway, said Treasurer Sharry Budd, so the actual payoff was more like over \$20,000.

Jahr wasn't happy because Carroll's severance wasn't discussed with the board before it was given to him.



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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

Last day to sign up for Sumpter T-Ball

Dear Editor

I would like to remind everyone that this Saturday, April 20, is the last day for Sumpter Township children to sign up for the newly formed Little League T-Ball.

The newly chartered league will hold a registration sign-up at Graham Park in the Parks and Recreation Building from 12 noon to 1 p.m. Registration is open for boys and girls ages 4, 5, and 6.

The Recreation Building is located at the corner of Sumpter and Wear roads next to the ball diamond.

For more info please call Craig Moody at (734)-461-6201 ext. 2226.

We hope to see you there!

Craig Moody
Sumpter Township

Where are complaints? The Pitchforks?

Dear Editor

The President is back to work after a nice Easter break -- \$10 million taxpayer cost -- The lovely and radiant Michelle feeling like a single mom -- Dad gone playing golf so much -- The kids and two plane loads of close friends and Secret Service off to the Caribbean -- Spring Break -- Cost millions -- White House tours closed -- No money -- Air Traffic Controllers laid off -- Can't afford -- Safe Food inspection -- No way.

It's easy to see this President's arrogance, but I can't see or hear the taxpayer anger. Where are the complaints? Where are the pitchforks?

Mickey Widener
Van Buren Township

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Canton Lions Club White Cane Week is April 26-May 5

The Canton Lions will be raising funds needed throughout the communities of Belleville and Canton April 26 through May 5.

The club will be working at the L. George's Coney Island on Michigan Ave., Holiday Market on Lilley Road and Cherry Hill, and Wal-Mart on Ford Rd and Lotz.

They also will be found in the streets of Belleville during their upcoming White Cane Week spent raising money to help the blind.

The Lions are assisting people in both communities during these tough economic times.

They are called on to purchase many pairs of eye glasses for children whose parents cannot afford to buy them. They also sponsor a scholarship program which allows for the sight-impaired to attend college.

These programs, along with Penrickton Center for Blind and Handicapped Children, Michigan Eye Bank, Leader Dog School for the Blind, and Seedlings, which writes Braille books, are a few of the organizations to which the club contributes.

According to Larry Wegrzyn, president of the Canton Lions Club, it takes many fund-raising events for the Lions Club to assist those in need. He said the club's fund raisers include a Euchre Tournament, Pancake Breakfast at the Canton Liberty Fest, and Corn Roast in August during the Canton's Village Faire. The Lions are dependent on the public's contributions to complete all these worthy projects.

Wegrzyn said, "We're beginning our White Cane Week, which is our spring project, allowing the Lions to renew with the public the various needs the blind and hearing impaired have in life. It may be a low-vision reader or a cataract operation for the sight-impaired.

"The hearing-impaired need hearing aids or a hearing phone which allows them to have contact with their family and friends," Wegrzyn said.

The Canton Lions Club is a group of men and women who identify needs within the community and work together to fulfill those needs, he said.

For more information or to get involved contact Lion Bill Van Winkle 734-254-9404 or govbill1@wowway.com.

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Belleville Community Chorus' spring concert is all about love

The Belleville Community Chorus invites everyone to join them on Saturday, April 27, at 7 p.m. for a musical review of love and love songs through the years.

The concert, titled "LOVERS Love the Spring," presents love songs and songs about love ranging from medieval to pop to modern musicals.

"LOVERS Love the Spring" will be performed at the Belleville United Methodist Church, 417 Charles St., Belleville. The concert features the adult chorus and a combined youth and children's chorus.

Chorus director is Sue Hiser and the accompanist is Paul Bowling. As always, the concert is free, though donations are encouraged, and sponsors are welcome.

The Belleville Community Chorus is a 501 (c)(3) not for profit corporation and has been established to bring musical excellence to Belleville and surrounding communities.

The chorus relies on support from performances and its sponsors. More information can be found on its website, <http://www.bellevillechorus.org> or by calling Geof Bush at 734-645-0235.



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Obituaries



W.E. Cox

W.E. COX

W.E. Cox, age 82, of Belleville passed away April 10, 2013. Beloved husband of 62 years. Loving father of 3. Dearest grandfather of 7 and great-grandfather of 6. He is also survived by 8 brothers and 4 sisters. Arrangements by Michigan Memorial Funeral Home, (next to Michigan Memorial Park) 30895 Huron River Dr., Huron Twp., (734) 783-2646. For visitation and service information please call the funeral home. Interment in Michigan Memorial Park. www.michiganmemorialfuneralhome.com

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City Council

(continued from page 1)

- Approved the fund raiser for the Canton Lions Club to accept donations on city street corners for their work to aid local people with eye and hearing problems;
- Approved the fund-raising request of the Belleville Fire Department and Auxiliary for noon to 4 p.m. April 27. There will be a car wash at the fire hall and donations collected in boots at street corners, all to raise money for Autism Awareness;
- Approved use of Horizon Park by the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary from 1 to 2 p.m. on May 18 to put on "Ready-Set-Wear It," a kick off to Safe Boating Week. They will try to break the world record for the most life jackets worn on one day in one spot. Last year there were 68 at Horizon Park and it was the best in the state. This year they will try to be best in the country/world;
- Approved accounts payable of \$74,536.99, with Councilwoman Kim Tindall asking about the \$2,119.12 repair of the 2006 GMC truck by Sumpter Collision. DPS Director Keith Boc said the truck was damaged when it was using a snow plow and it was only semi-drivable. Boc said he has filed an insurance claim; and
- Heard Mayor Conley report on the Detroit Water and Sewer Department forum she attended, which explained staff cutbacks DWSD will take to try to stabilize water rates; the Capital Conference in Lansing she attended that discussed the challenge of health care and new policies on liquor licenses; and the Conference of Western Wayne meeting hosted last Friday by the City of Belleville at Van Buren Township.

District Library

(continued from page 1)

and then after the board was elected. Board member John Juriga also spoke against term limits.

Board member Juriga cast the only no vote on the treasurer term limit, asking, "Why do this? We have Traskos for fraud. We have Alan C. Young for fraud," naming the board's CPA Ron Traskos and the board's auditor.

"Why do we do this? What is the fear here?" he continued.

Board member Joe Monte, who serves on the bylaw committee that proposed the change, said, "Someone might feel that they have to stay," obviously referring to Gutierrez.

Juriga said, "You have the constitutional right to say no."

"Not everyone has financial talents," said board member Mike Boelter. "I'm not a bean counter." Monte said they wouldn't like him as treasurer, either.

"Elaine felt a little corralled into it," said board member Christine Brasil, referring to Gutierrez's reelection as treasurer.

Brasil said checks require two signatures, but online banking does not. Library Director Deb Green said she went to a workshop on fraud and it was said that auditors don't find most of the fraud. It's the staff that finds it.

Brasil said Gutierrez felt somebody else should look at the books and she has refused to do it another year.

Brasil has had a variety of offices on the board and now is "shadowing" Gutierrez so she could try the job next year, if necessary.

Board secretary Joy Cichewicz said the proposed change would require that fresh

eyes would look at the treasury every three years.

"Ron and the auditor: Aren't they fresh eyes?" asked President Dawson.

"Not everything goes before them," Brasil said.

"It's harder for some of us to say no," Brasil said of Gutierrez's feelings about the position. "She could take a step back for a year."

In other business at the 40-minute meeting on April 9, the board:

- Decided to hold off on approving a \$6,000 marketing contract until the May 13 meeting so the board can meet Susan Kennedy before it votes. On April 1, the Marketing Committee, Director Green and Deputy Director Mary Jo Suchy met with Kennedy from K2 Communication Plus (K2+). Juriga said Kennedy had developed the mission statement and created a strategic plan for Canton's library. K2+ hopes to gather information on the needs of Sumpter, Van Buren, and Belleville via research activities to guide future planning and strategy for the local district library. Juriga asked attorney John Day about a need for getting three bids and Day said that is not necessary for a professional person, if you believe this person has a skill that is personal to them that qualifies them;

- Heard Director Green report that the 18 participants in the Adult Literacy Program have completed three of the five tutor training sessions and three people have already expressed an interest in learning to read; and

- Heard Green announce the Communities Matter Video Premier at the library from 2 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 20, as part of National Library Week celebration. Fifty people, who are elected officials from the tri-community and members of local community groups, were recorded each reading a line from "Casey at the Bat." The video is 4-5 minutes long and the board would like to see it shown on local cable channels. The first 100 guests on April 20 will receive a free gift that has to do with the program (not a bat!).

The 40-minute regular meeting went into a closed-door session to consider the purchase and/or lease of real property. Attorney Day announced there would be no vote other than to adjourn when they went back into regular session.

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Keystone Board approves Think Stretch books for summer study

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

At its regular meeting April 11, the Keystone Academy Charter School Board of Directors studied the new Think Stretch books that Principal Keturah Godfrey wants to send home with students this summer.

The board approved paying 75% of the \$8,316 cost of the books out of its Discretionary Fund to guarantee the books would be given to all Kindergarten through sixth grade students at no cost to them. The students would take home the books to hone the skills taught in the previous school year and avoid a summer gap.

She said seventh and eighth graders will not use the books, but have assigned readings.

Keystone still will have "Wednesdays at Keystone" all summer, where students can come in and work in the library, use the computers, and get the help of tutors.

"Our community believes in a summer vacation in the traditional way," said Principal Godfrey, noting students aren't interested in going to the school in the summer for learning, but are willing to do their summer learning with books at home.

Godfrey said Keystone has been designated a Focus School because of the gap between scores of the highest and lowest performing students and they continue to work at closing the gap.

She said the Think Stretch books will be for all the students, not just those in the different titled programs.

She said these books have a "better level of rigor" and are correlated with Common Core State Standards. There also are some project-based lessons.

And, there are incentives. When a student completes the book, the student gets a ticket to an ice cream party where there will be drawings for gift cards.

Godfrey said use of the book will help reduce "summer loss." Parents will be informed of the importance of doing the workbook with their children.

In the past, students could order Bridge books for use in the summer, but these Think Stretch books are not by order. Everyone will get them, she said.

Also, the Bridge books could be ordered for the grade level ahead and some students learned lessons improperly that had to be untaught in the fall, Godfrey said.

In looking at her budget, she said she asked the board for funding for the books and if the board couldn't pay for them, she would pay out of her budget because she is sold on their importance.

In other business at the April 11 meeting, the board:

- Learned National Heritage Academies has proposed a school board candidate to possibly take the place of Deborah Whyman when she leaves at the end of June. Attorney Bill Johnson, who has five offices and specializes in bankruptcy, has an interest in getting involved with charter schools. Board president Vesta Losen and secretary Susan Meland will meet with Johnson and he will be invited to attend the May 9 meeting to get acquainted;

- Discussed Godfrey's Principal's Report that noted there are 760 students currently enrolled with a waiting list of 333. The board also discussed MEAP and NWEA scores, with a NWEA score of 61.7% for Meeting Typical Growth, which topped the NHA average of 61.5%;

- Discussed the after-school tutoring program for all students that test below the 25th-30th percentile as measured by the fall and winter NWEA. Some families prefer to have their students take part in sports programs after school and have turned down the tutoring, Godfrey said;

- Learned Belleville High School is forging a new relationship with Keystone. Godfrey said a BHS counselor came that afternoon to do a presentation on the high school for eighth grade families. Godfrey said BHS came before when Keystone had several other high schools visiting with impressive displays. But BHS wasn't as prepared as it could have been, so they came back to redeem themselves, she said;

- Approved the school calendar for 2013-14 with no half days scheduled, as has been the case for several years. The school days when there is no school is coordinated with the Van Buren district;

- Approved the Lease Amendment of \$839,360 for the school year in 12 monthly

installments. The lease was \$822,560 last year and the new figure includes two bathroom renovations last summer and some new carpeting;

- Approved the 2013-14 Parent Student Handbook with minor changes from last year; the 2013 Compliance with Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), and the 2014 Letter of Agency for E-rate Funding; and

- Heard Godfrey report that they have painted over the old, deteriorating murals in the hallways and have posted student work on the walls. She said she has had phone calls from some parents who are unhappy with the Van Buren middle schools and want to come in to discuss how Keystone handles bullying.

The next meeting of the Keystone School



Stopping for a picture at the Lunch With Bob event at the September Days Senior Center in Van Buren Township were, from left, Raymond Bailey, Wayne County Executive Bob Ficano, VBT Supervisor Linda Combs, and Dorothy Bailey.

Board of Directors will be 6 p.m., Thursday, May 9. This is the annual meeting where there will be a budget hearing, discussion, and approval of budget.

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The Belleville Council for the Arts, represented by Angelica Renaud and Steve Jones, at left, and the Belleville Parks and Recreation Commission, represented by Tom Fielder at right, presented "Hares on the Square" awards to four entries at Monday's meeting of the Belleville City Council. Awards included those to the mayor's sons, Carson and Austin Conley, for decorating their rabbit. Also honored was the Belleville City Council, with the award accepted by Jones' significant other, Councilwoman Kim Tindall; Savage Elementary School Principal Kelley Villa; and Colette McClinton of Garden Fantasy. The third-annual Bunnies on Main Street event turned into Hares on the Square when only four bunnies were entered in the contest this year.

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VBT residents tells township board about neglected dogs next door

By Diane Madigan
Independent Special Writer

At Monday's work-study session of the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees, township resident Marcella Henderson had an animal complaint.

She told the board that the township needs the Public Safety Committee back, where residents could take their complaints.

She said, since last fall, she and her neighbors have been complaining about two loose pit bulls that have been neglected at a vacant house next door. At times the dogs are tied up outside without fresh water and adequate housing. The dogs break their tie-outs and roam the neighborhood.

VBT Animal Control has been called several times, she said.

Henderson said one time the Animal Control Officer tracked down one of the dogs that had been roaming the neighborhood, sedated it, and dumped in the owner's driveway. All winter Henderson said she has provided fresh water by placing long handled pans of water in the perimeter of the area where the dogs are tied. Several times the dogs have gotten loose and growled at family members, she said.

The problems with neighbor's dogs started last fall after the house was raided by the VBT SWAT team, she said. After that, the residents moved out, dropping by every day or two to let the dogs out of the house. They eventually tied up the dogs outside.

Henderson said she complained to Supervisor Linda Combs a couple of months ago. Combs promised to get back with her, but never did, she said.

"This is a lawsuit waiting to happen," Henderson told the board.

Last week one of the dogs got out and growled at her son just two steps out from the door. She said she called dispatch and an hour later called back because the dog was still loose in the backyard. After the second call, the police showed up followed by animal control. Two and a half hours later the owners showed up and let the dog in the house, she said.

"How many times can a dog run loose before they are confiscated?" Henderson asked. "How long is this supposed to go on?"

Combs answered, "I can't answer that but I will find out."

Henderson said, "This is why we need the Public Safety Committee and I brought all these things up so they can work on it".

Treasurer Sharry Budd said, "The Public Safety Department did look at a dog ordinance but nobody could agree on the number of dogs."

"It isn't the amount of dogs it's how they're being taken care of," Henderson said. "When they eat snow because they don't have any water...."

Diane Madigan, animal activist and chairperson of the former Public Safety Committee gave some comments on Henderson's situation.

"This has been going on for months. We have a Mission Statement for the Animal Control Department. It says that we will responsibly and humanely enforce animal-related State and local laws and investigate cases where animal care is inadequate.

"I have real concerns for the welfare of these dogs where they have no water, no shelter," Madigan said.

"This is a vacant home, an abandoned home. It is right next door to Belle Tire. We need to have concerns for the customers when that opens."

Henderson said again. "I'm not one to come to the township to bitch but this is a lawsuit waiting to happen."

"I agree, there are major concerns here and this is something that I will address with Interim Director Laurain," Combs said. "If there is no one there, the animals are being neglected and something needs to be done."

Madigan said, "I have concerns about the neighbor's quality of life when they can't go out in their yards because these dogs are there. There is a State Leash Law and our Animal Control officer is not enforcing it."

Interim Public Safety Director Greg Laurain said, "We have been out there several times and we've had animal control. I think a lot of this has to do with the dogs. We don't have the teeth in the ordinance to do what you want us to do, personally.

"Secondly when one of our officers goes out there, yes sometimes the dogs get out. Both the police officers and animal control say there is water out there and at times, they are fed. I told the animal control officer several times that if he sees any violations, then pick the dogs up take them to the humane society.

We'll fine the owners of the dogs and take whatever legal action is necessary.

"Our hands are tied with an ordinance that we do not have in place. We're doing whatever we can," Laurain said.

Madigan said, "There is a State Leash Law, dogs at large we should be writing violations and hitting these people in the pocketbook. If they have to take off a half a day, go to court, pay the \$60. You do that a couple of times and you'd get a stronger leash or some kind of enclosure for your dog."

Trustee Jeff Jahr asked, You see all the time on TV neglected dogs or animals. Is there a

State Law?"

Madigan replied, "Yes it is a State Law."

Trustee Jahr said the problem is not just teeth in the ordinance.

"If there are laws on the book, then it ought to be enforced. If there is a law and an animal is being neglected it needs to be enforced," Jahr said.

Editor's note: In Michigan Penal Code Act 328 of 1931, 750.50 it is a clear violation to neglect and abandon animals. MCL 287.262 clearly states that it is unlawful for an owner to allow a dog to roam off leash.

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Things to do in the Belleville area...

- **Thursday, April 18** – The Other Book Group meets at 7 p.m. at different local restaurants. Call the library at 699-3291 for tonight's location. They will be discussing "The Thousand Autumns of Jacob de Zoet" by David Mitchell.
- **Thursday, April 18** – Russell Dore will speak on "Henry Ford: His Life and Times" at 7 p.m. at the Belleville Area Museum.
- **Friday, April 19** – Belleville, Van Buren and Sumpter Police and Fire Departments will play a basketball game beginning at 7 p.m. at the Belleville High School gymnasium to benefit St. Vincent DePaul of Belleville. Tickets \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door.
- **Friday, April 19** – Friends Family Theater FREE Friday Movie at 7 p.m., with Bounce House at 6:45 p.m. In Youth Center, 7890 Tuttle Hill Road (at Bemis Road), Ypsilanti. Featuring "Nature of God: Great Lakes Discoveries" & "What Katie Did". Movie Questions (734) 482-5074 or www.friendsfamilytheater.com
- **Saturday, April 20** – Belleville Area District Library is celebrating National Library Week by showing a 4-5 minute video with 50 members of the community each reading a line from "Casey at the Bat." Prizes and food. Fun begins at 2 p.m.
- **Saturday, April 20** – Friends of Michigan Animal Rescue will be at Petco of Westland (across from the Westland Mall) from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. for a Pet Adoption event. 461-9458.
- **Sunday, April 21** – 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.
- **Thursday, April 25** – If you're a retailer in the Belleville area you are invited to a free breakfast at the Charhouse restaurant in Belleville from 8:30 to 10 a.m., courtesy of the Michigan Retailers Association. They'll be in town all day. Reserve your spot by calling Susan Andres at 1-800-266-3699.
- **Thursday, April 25** – The African American Book Group will meet at the Belleville Area District Library to discuss "Dark Town Redemption" by Gary Hardwick.
- **Thursday, April 25; Friday, April 26 and Saturday, April 27** – Belleville High School Drama Department presents "Hairspray" with the sponsorship of the Belleville Area Council for the Arts.
- **Friday, April 26** – Give a donation to the Canton Lions Club who will be out on Main Street today earning funds to help local people with glasses and hearing aids.
- **Saturday, April 27** – The Belleville Fire Auxiliary is holding a car wash today at the fire hall on Liberty Street to earn money for Autism Awareness. The fire fighters and auxiliary also will be out making boot collections for Autism.

Belleville DDA invites Belleville-area retailers to April 25 breakfast

The Belleville Downtown Development Authority invites local businesses to a breakfast meeting with experts from the Michigan Retailers Association to discuss trends and strategies for improving local businesses.

Belleville DDA Coordinator Carol Thompson said the businesses are invited to a complimentary continental breakfast from 8:30 to 10 a.m. April 25 at the CharHouse restaurant, 524 Main Street in Belleville.

The MRA experts will be in town all day, following breakfast, to visit local stores and answer questions.

Those interested are invited to RSVP your planned attendance to Susan Andrews at 800-366-3699 or email sandrews@retailers.com.

Van Buren Public Schools to benefit from Box Tops for Education

Van Buren Public Schools has the opportunity to earn up to \$120,000 this year through Box Tops for Education.

"Box Tops for Education" labels can be found on thousands of products from cereal to office supplies that local families currently purchase.

For each label that is donated, the District will receive 10 cents. The money raised may be used to purchase anything from playground equipment to classroom supplies at each of the K-8 buildings.

Label donations can be dropped off at Edgemont, Rawsonville, Savage and, Tyler Elementary Schools, Owen Intermediate, McBride Middle, Threads 'N Treasures Quilt Shop, Sumpter Ace Hardware, Pintners Flowerland (Rawsonville Road), and Team Designs.

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UM women rowers come in second to Ohio State on Belleville Lake

The 13th-ranked University of Michigan women's rowing team faced its Big Ten Conference opposition at Belleville Lake on Saturday morning, finishing second to No. 4 Ohio State in five of the seven races.

The Wolverines won both of the novice races of the day.

The races started earlier than originally scheduled due to expected wind conditions with gusts over 20 mph in the late morning and afternoon.

Instead of competing in head-to-head races, the four schools competed in a four across format to beat the impending wind conditions.

The races began at 7:30 a.m.

Michigan finished behind Ohio State in the first four races of the morning: 1V8, 1V4, 2V8 and 2V4. The closest race of the day was the 2V4 where U-M (7:43.4) finished one second behind OSU (7:42.4). The other 1-2 finish between the two arch rivals came in the 3V4 boat where the Buckeyes defeated the Wolverines' 4V4 and 3V4 by less than three and six seconds, respectively.

U-M won both novice races contested during the competition. The 1N8 defeated the Buckeyes by less than three seconds, posting a time of 6:58.8. The 2N8 (6:41.6) and 3N8 (6:53.1) beat Michigan State and Ohio State in the final race of the day.

The Wolverines will compete in the

Clemson Invitational next Saturday, April 20, at 9 a.m. The races will be held at Lake Hartwell in Clemson, S.C.

Report courtesy of the University of Michigan

Upcoming Meetings

- Monday, April 22 – Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m., BHS Commons
- Tuesday, April 23 – Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority, 5:30 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township workshop at 6 p.m., followed by regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. Also, VBT Water & Sewer Commission, 7 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 24 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m.
- Thursday, April 25 – Van Buren Township Cultural Advisory Committee, 11 a.m.
- Wednesday, May 1 – Van Buren Township Staff Review, 1-4 p.m.
- Monday, May 6 – Van Buren Township work-study, 4 p.m. Also, Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, May 7 – Van Buren Township board meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, May 8 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m.

ANY TWO FOR \$15.00

11am to Close - Beverage Purchase Required for Each Meal - Dine In Only
1/2 Slab of Ribs • Broasted Chicken
Sirloin Steak • Fish Dinner (Cod) • Smelt Dinner
Above Includes Cup of Soup or Salad, Potato or Rice & Nuggets
Fiesta Salad or Fried Chicken Salad • Lasagna



HAPPY HOUR

2pm - 6pm Monday thru Friday

Domestic Beer & Draft Wings Each

\$1.50

75¢

DAILY DINE-IN SPECIALS

Beverage Purchase Required for Each Meal. No Coupon Necessary.

SUNDAY
1/2 Price
Pizza



MONDAY
Slab of Ribs
Choice of Potato & Salad
\$10.99



TUESDAY
All You Can Eat
Pizza-Spaghetti-Salad
\$6.99 Per Person



WEDNESDAY
4 pc Broasted Chicken
\$5.99



THURSDAY
Surf & Turf
\$11.99



FRIDAY
All You Can Eat
Fish & Chips
\$7.99



SATURDAY
1 lb. Crab Legs
\$11.99
Wings Each
75¢



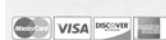
- Pizza
- Salad
- Pasta
- Burgers
- Subs
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home but didn't want to buy
one. Check out our lease
with option to buy program.



Ask Angela

By Angela Nettro

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

Question from Mike in Van Buren Township: I bought a home about 20 years ago in another city. I moved from that home and married and bought another home with my wife in this area.

I rented the home out for some years after moving. I decided to sell my first home. I listed the home and eventually the home sold. A few days prior to the closing I was informed that my wife had to come to closing. I had signed the listing and all the purchase agreement paperwork myself since I am the sole owner and paid off my

first home.

Why does my wife, who is not on the deed of my first home, have to come to the closing for the sale of MY home?

Answer: Mike, even though you bought your first home yourself and were not married and paid the home off yourself, once you married and lived in the State of Michigan, your wife has an interest in your first home, even though she was not on the deed when you bought it.

Her interest was established once you married her by the law of "Dower Rights" in Michigan. Thus, when you transfer the property to a new owner, your wife has to sign the deed to your new buyer with you. If she does not, a lien could be put on your first home by her, resulting in your buyer not getting clear deed/title to the property.

In the State of Michigan this is not the case if a woman buys property by herself, whether she is married or not. -- Angela

ANGELA NETTRO/Broker
Angela Nettro & Co.
(734) 697-6655

Email: nettroandco@comcast.net

Minding Your Business

with Bob Mytych



R. Lewis Lawn Care & Cement Work is a local company that has been serving the Belleville community for years, offering everything from spring clean-up to snow removal. Call **Ron** at (734) 497-3319 or **Robert** at (734) 476-8705.

The **Yankee Air Museum** is gearing up for its **9th Annual Italian Bistro Night** on Saturday, April 27, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the **Yankee Air Museum** at Willow Run Airport. Tickets are \$30 in advance for members of YAF and \$35 in advance for non-members. Tickets at the door will be \$35. Dinner will be served starting at 6:30 p.m. The event will also feature the ultimate **Abbott & Costello Tribute Show** along with the musical group the Couriers. To learn more visit www.yankeeairmuseum.org or call (734) 483-4030.

The **Belleville Area District Library** is holding the presentation of **Communities Matter Video Premier** this Saturday at 2 p.m., featuring members of the community who will be performing **Casey at the Bat**. The first 100 guests get a free gift. Refreshments will be served.

The **Van Buren Public Schools Education Foundation** will hold a **Mexican Fiesta** fundraiser on April 27, from 4:30 to 7 p.m. at the **Belleville High School Commons** at BHS. Tickets at the door are \$7. The evening will feature basket raffles, all-you-can-eat menu of tacos, rice, beans, chips and salsa, Piñata for children, face painting, music and door prizes. Proceeds go to grants to the teachers and children of the VB school district.

Dr. Kelly Connors Johnson, owner of **Belleville Bariatrics** is moving into her new offices this week at **159 Main**

Street in the former location of the View newspaper. Dr. Johnson and her husband Keith have done a nice job fixing up the outside of the building and have spent the last five months remodeling the inside. We wish her the very best. Let's welcome our new downtown neighbor!

Atchinson Ford of Belleville welcomes **Dave McLean** to its award-winning sales staff. Dave would like all his previous customers to visit him for a new or used vehicle. Dave can be reached at (734) 697-2146 or email at dmclean@atchinsonford.net.

The annual Saturday morning flea market in **Ypsilanti's Depot Town** has a new name. It's now called the **5-Alarm Flea Market**, located in the same place at **800 Lowell Street**. For information, call **Kim's Resale Shop** at (734) 340-4241. They're open Saturdays, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and will be adding Sunday hours, beginning May 1.

Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue of Sumpter Township is holding a **Pet Adoption Event** this Saturday, April 20, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the **Petco** of **Westland** on Warren across from Westland Mall. Call (734) 461-9458.

It's **Fish Day** next Tuesday, April 23, from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the **Willis Feed Mill** in Downtown Willis. **Farley's Arkansas Pondstockers** will be pulling up their tank truck with channel Catfish, Bass, Redear, Bluegill, Minnows, Koi, and Hybrid Catfish. To place an order in advance, call **1-800-247-2615**. For other details call the mill at (734) 461-1111.

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

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



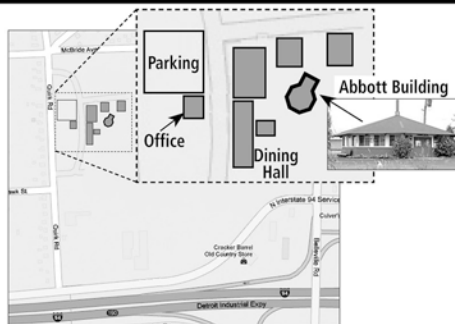
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www.facebook.com/pugplaygroup

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Abbott Building
10871 Quirk Rd
Belleville, MI 48111
Off I-94 at Belleville Rd exit near I-275



All Pugs & Pug Owners are Welcome!!
One Sunday EVERY Month – 2:00pm

2013 Dates:

January 20	May 19	September 29
February 17	June 9	October 20
March 17	July 14	November 17
April 21	August 25	December 15

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Court Watching:

Charles Craig of VBT accepts plea bargain in Tin Pan break-in case

By Diane Madigan
Independent Court Reporter

Charles Craig, 20, of Van Buren Township gave up his right to a jury trial on April 10 in return for accepting a plea agreement offered by Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Chastity Ann Graham.

Craig pled guilty to a 10-year felony charge of Breaking and Entering with Intent and a 4-year felony of Larceny from a Building.

Craig said on Dec. 29, 2012 he broke into the Tin Pan Saloon on Sumpter Road through the side door, broke into the office, took a cash drawer and attempted to leave the building with it.

As previously reported in the *Independent*, Sgt. Jim Cayce from Sumpter Police Department was on random patrol on Willis Road and had just passed Sumpter Road when he heard from dispatch that an alarm had been activated at Tin Pan.

In just 18 seconds he arrived on the scene and saw that the side door had been penetrated. He was joined by Sgt. Chris McGlynn and they searched the business. They found Craig wedged between a Budweiser display wagon and the wall. Craig was wearing a bullet-proof vest and had a backpack containing a crowbar and one of Tin Pan's money drawers.

Judge Edward Ewell, Jr. will sentence Craig on May 2 under a HYTA status.

According to the Michigan Department of Corrections website, the Holmes Youthful Trainee Act (HYTA) is a state law that allows

a judge to place a youth between the ages of 17 and 20, who is alleged to have committed a crime and who has pleaded guilty to that crime, to be placed in prison or on probation without a conviction to avoid a criminal record.

This action protects the privacy of the offender while on trainee status. If the youth successfully completes the program, there is no criminal record. Imprisonment or probation cannot exceed three years.

Source: http://www.michigan.gov/corrections/1,1607,7-119-1441_1519---,00.html

Craig said he is currently not working and studying for a bachelor's degree.

Judge Edward Ewell told Craig if he violates probation he will go to boot camp.

As outlined by Judge Ewell the reduced sentence will likely include 30 days in jail, three months on a tether, 30 days Alternate Workforce through the Sheriff's Department, and probation for two years.

Steve Kovach, owner of Tin Pan, was in the courtroom and did not request restitution.

Because a jury trial was set for April 10, Sumpter Township police officers -- Detective John Toth, Sgt. Cayce and Sgt. McGlynn -- were present in court. Several of Craig's family members also were in the courtroom.

At the April 10 proceedings a charge of violating probation was also read into the record. Craig was under HYTA for this other crime which took place in Belleville and the records were sealed.

Belleville domestic dispute ends when wife stabs husband in chest

At 10:30 p.m. last Thursday, April 11, Belleville police were called to 308 Oxford Court in Victoria Commons for a domestic dispute.

Belleville Police Chief Gene Taylor said when officers were en route to the home they were informed it was more than a domestic dispute, since the wife had allegedly stabbed her husband in the chest.

The 53-year-old husband was transported to the hospital and the wife taken into custody.

Sealisa Marie Jones, 43, was charged with Assault with a Dangerous Weapon (Felony Assault) and Aggravated Domestic Violence and arraigned over the weekend. She is scheduled for a preliminary exam at 34th District Court at 9 a.m. April 24.

The son had called police after the stabbing, Chief Taylor said. The couple reportedly had been arguing over money.

Officers handling the case were Cpl. Todd Schrencengost and Officers Joshua Wolfe and Jonathon Heimstra.

Public Notice

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT, WASHTENAW COUNTY, CIRCUIT COURT – FAMILY DIVISION
PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF HEARING

FILE # 13-864-NC

In the matter of NAME CHANGE OF A MINOR CHILD

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS whose address(es) are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:

TAKE NOTICE: A hearing will be held on April 30, 2013 at 1:30 p.m. at 22nd Circuit Court – Family Division, 101 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor, MI 48107 before Judge Nancy Wheeler, Bar No. P-24700, for the following purpose: Change the name of Aidan Alexander Peters to Aidan Alexander Steiner.

Date: April 18, 2013

Petitioner: Sheree Steiner, 8582 Somerset Lane, Ypsilanti, MI 48198, 734-796-3478.

Publish: April 18, 2013

Van Buren Public Schools Public Notice

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Van Buren Public Schools (District) will receive sealed bids for:

GLASS AND GLAZING REPLACEMENT PROJECTS

Bids must be delivered no later than 2:00 p.m. EST on Thursday, May 2, 2013, at the Administration Building located at 555 West Columbia Avenue, Belleville, Michigan 48111. All bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at 2:15 p.m. Bids received after the above stipulated date and time will not be opened, considered, or accepted.

Beginning Wednesday, April 17, 2013 at 12:00 p.m. bid documents can be obtained by accessing the following email:

<https://app.e-builder.net/public/PublicFolderView.aspx?FolderID={4b817c8b-a888-4c35-ba88-32b66c86f65d}>

Please contact LaMerra Hobbs at lamerra.hobbs@plantemoran.com with any questions you may have with regard to retrieving the RFP information.

All bidders are invited to attend a non-mandatory pre-bid meeting with the District on Wednesday, April 24, 2013 starting at 3:00 p.m. at the Administration Building located at 555 West Columbia Ave., Belleville, Michigan.

Prospective bidders must meet the following minimum standards in order to submit a proposal:

- Must be an established Contractor in Michigan for a minimum of five years
- Has successfully completed a minimum of 3 comparable glass and glazing replacement projects each with contract values in excess of \$100,000 within the last five (5) years.
- Must be technically and financially capable to execute a project of size and complexity described in the Bid Documents as a Special Lite contractor
- Must be able to provide business and liability insurance, performance and payment bond for work required by the Bid Documents

All bids must be submitted on forms furnished by the District and must be accompanied by a bidder's bond or a certified or cashier's check payable to the District for the sum of not less than five percent (5%) of the bid amount. All bids must be accompanied by a familial disclosure statement. Bids received without a bidder's bond, certified or cashier's check, and a familial disclosure statement WILL BE REJECTED.

The District reserves the right to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, to waive any irregularities therein and accept that bid, which best serves the District's interest.

Publish: April 18, 2013; April 25, 2013

Sumpter Township Public Notice

Sumpter Township Regular Board Meeting Minutes March 26, 2013

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm showing present: Supervisor Vawters, Clerk Hoffman, Treasurer J. Morgan, Trustees: Bates, Hamm, Swinson, P. Morgan. Also present: Attorney Young, Deputy Clerk Hurst and approximately 22 residents.

3. Agenda: Motion by P. Morgan, supported by J. Morgan to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Public comments on Agenda items only.

5. Minutes:

A. Motion by Hoffman, supported by J. Morgan to approve the minutes of the regular board meeting March 12, 2013. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Motion by Hoffman, supported by Bates to accept minutes of the planning commission February 14, 2013. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Warrants: Motion by P. Morgan, supported by J. Morgan to approve the warrants totaling \$86,533.26. Roll call vote: Yes: Vawters, Hoffman, J. Morgan, Bates, Hamm, Swinson, & P. Morgan. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Parks & Recreation: Motion by P. Morgan, supported by J. Morgan to approve the parks & recreation report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Attorney: No report.

9. Supervisor: Motion by J. Morgan, supported by Bates to approve the supervisor report as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

10. Board Response

A. Motion by Hoffman, supported by J. Morgan to accept the report from P. Morgan on Wayne County

Park Grant. Motion carried unanimously.

11. New Business:

A. Motion by P. Morgan, supported by J. Morgan to approve the 2013-2014 township budget. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Motion by Hamm, supported by J. Morgan to approve to hire Karen Woodington as temporary part time clerk starting April 22, 2013 to work out of the Supervisors' office. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Motion by P. Morgan, supported by J. Morgan to approve the township yearly insurance 2013-2014 with Burnham & Flower cost \$120,650.00. Motion carried unanimously.

12. Announcements

13. Open Floor

14. Adjournment: Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Bates to adjourn at 6:53 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Clarence J. Hoffman Jr., Clerk

CERTIFICATION

I, Clarence J. Hoffman Jr., Clerk of Sumpter Township, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of minutes taken at a Regular Board Meeting of the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees on March 26, 2013 at 6:30 pm at the Sumpter Township Hall, 23480 Sumpter Road, Belleville, MI 48111, County of Wayne, and that said meeting was conducted and public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in full compliance with the Open Meeting Act, being Act 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, and that the minutes of said meeting were kept and will be available as required by said act.

Clarence J. Hoffman Jr., Clerk

Publish: April 18, 2013

Sumpter Township Public Notice

Sumpter Township is seeking applications for a full time working Superintendent of the Water & Sewer Department. Must have an S-1 or S-2 State of Michigan Certificate, High School Education or GED Equivalent, Chauffeurs License, Excellent driving record. An outstanding benefit package includes full family health, dental and optical insurance. Submit resume and Application to Clarence J. Hoffman Jr., Clerk at Sumpter Township Office, 23480 Sumpter Road, Belleville, MI 48111 (734) 461-6201 no later than May 1, 2013. E.O.E.

Publish: April 18 & 25, 2013

Sumpter Township Public Notice

TO THE ELECTORS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SUMPTER WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN

Notice is hereby given, that a Special Election will be held in Wayne County Tuesday, May 7, 2013, at which time the following will be voted upon:

The following millage renewal language is for all residents who pay Airport School Taxes.

Airport Community Schools operating millage renewal proposal. This proposal will allow the school district to levy the statutory rate of 18 mills on all property, except principal residence and other property exempted by law. Required for the school district to receive its revenue per pupil foundation allowance and renews millage that will expire with the 2013 tax levy. Shall the currently authorized millage rate limitation of 19.5266 mills (\$19.5266 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) on the amount of taxes which may be assessed against all property, except principal residence and other property exempted by law, in Airport Community Schools, Monroe and Wayne Counties, Michigan, be renewed for a period of 5 years, 2014 to 2018, inclusive, to provide funds for operating purposes; the estimate of the revenue the school district will collect if the millage is approved and levied in 2014 is approximately \$2,929,000 (this is a renewal of millage which will expire with the 2013 tax levy)? Yes or No.

I, Raymond J. Wojtowicz, Treasurer of Wayne County, MI, do hereby certify that, as of March 15, 2013 the total of all voted increases in excess of the tax rate limitation established by Section 6, Article IX of the Constitution of the State of Michigan, as amended, and the years such increases are effective on property in the County of Wayne are as follows:

County of Wayne, November 3, 2009, 1 mill, 2019. Wayne County Jail, August 7, 2012, 1 mill, 2021. Wayne County Parks, November 2, 2010, .025 mills, 2015. Wayne County community College, November 6, 2008, 1.25 mills 2020. Sumpter Township May 3, 2011, 1 mill, 2015, August 3, 2010, 2 mills 2015, November 6, 2012, 1 mill, 2015. Airport Community Schools, May 2008 18 mills, 2013 (non-homestead only)

ABSENTEE VOTER'S BALLOTS are now available and may be obtained from the Clerk's Office, for electors who expect to be absent from the community, physically disabled, cannot attend the polls because of tenets of their religion, or are 60 years of age or older. Notice is further given that the office will be opened on Saturday May 4, 2013 from 8 am to 2 pm the deadline for acceptance of Absentee Ballot Application in accordance with Section 168.759 of the Michigan Compiled Laws of 1948 as amended.

EMERGENCY ABSENT VOTER APPLICATIONS will be issued to any registered elector at any time prior to 4 pm on Election Day is he/she shall have become physically disabled or shall be absent from the Township because of sickness or death in the family, which has occurred at a time which has made it impossible to apply for Absent Voter's Ballots by the statutory deadline.

Each person voting in the election must be:

- (a) A citizen of the United States of America over eighteen (18) years of age;
- (b) A registered elector of the city or township in which he or she resides.

Precinct Locations are as follows:

Precinct 1 & 3 Sumpter Community Center
23501 Sumpter (Corner of Dunn)

The polls of said Special Election will be open at 7:00 a.m. and will remain open until 8:00 p.m. on the day of election.

Clarence J. Hoffman Jr., Clerk
Sumpter Township

Publish April 18, 2013

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

On Wednesday, April, 24th, 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.

2008	CHEVROLET	4D	2G1WB58K989197543	13-2811
1996	CHEVROLET	SW	1GNCT18W5TK173645	13-4501
1994	BUICK	4D	2G4WB55LXR1415991	13-6016

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.

2003	CHEVROLET	PU	3GNEC13TX3G155459	13-4572
2003	KIA	SW	KNDUP131636427496	13-5139

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, Van Buren Township Clerk

Published: April 18, 2013

Sumpter Township Public Notice

Sumpter Township Public Hearing Minutes March 26, 2013

Meeting called to order at 5:30 pm showing present: Supervisor Vawters, Clerk Hoffman, Treasurer J. Morgan, Trustees: Bates, Hamm, Swinson, & P. Morgan. Also present: Attorney Young, Deputy Clerk Hurst and 15 residents.

Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Swinson to open the public hearing at 5:30 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

James Glahn the Accountant/Human Resources/CPA spoke and stated that with the co-operation of the Township Board and the Employees the township has been able to stay within a balanced budget. Mary Ban spoke and asked how the royalties are doing? Answer they have increased slightly due to more refuse being taken in at the landfill. Karen Armatis spoke stating that the staff in the water/sewer department are collecting the delinquent water bills by shutting off water, which results in residents paying their bill. Mr. Glahn stated that this is the first time that the water fund did not have to borrow money from the General fund. Mary Ban asked if the trailer parks are paying their share of the water bills. Answer the majority pays in full.

	Amended	Proposed
General #101	\$ 2,101,420	\$ 2,307,612
Royalties #227	\$ 1,414,000	\$ 1,314,000
Fire Fund #206	\$ 315,900	\$ 422,062
Police Fund #207	\$ 926,050	\$ 926,050
911 Fund #261	\$ 60,000	\$ 66,000
Federal Commodities #282	\$ 12,500	\$ 12,500
Water & Sewer Fund #591	\$ 2,377,020	\$ 2,370,020

Motion by Hoffman, supported by J. Morgan to close the public hearing at 5:55 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Hoffman to adjourn at 5:55 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Clarence J. Hoffman Jr., Clerk

CERTIFICATION

I, Clarence J. Hoffman Jr., Clerk of Sumpter Township, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of minutes taken at a Public Hearing Meeting of the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees on March 26, 2013 at 5:30 pm at the Sumpter Township Hall, 23480 Sumpter Road, Belleville, MI 48111, County of Wayne, and that said meeting was conducted and public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in full compliance with the Open Meeting Act, being Act 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, and that the minutes of said meeting were kept and will be available as required by said act.

Clarence J. Hoffman Jr., Clerk

Publish: April 18, 2013

Man believed to be suicidal commits himself for mental problems

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

A 54-year-old white male, who was intoxicated, committed himself due to mental issues on Tuesday, April 9.

Van Buren Township Police were dispatched to Kmart at 5:50 p.m. on what was believed to be a suicide or suicide attempt, said VBT Lt. Ernie Thornsburg.

Lt. Thornsburg said police were dispatched, but Huron Valley Ambulance cancelled the police while a police unit was enroute.

VBT police also were dispatched to a holdup alarm at 7:24 a.m. April 8, at Zerizon Wireless, 9570 Belleville Road.

Lt. Thornsburg said the business was closed and secure at the ground level when police arrived.

A Van Buren Township police boat was on duty on Belleville Lake during Saturday

morning's University of Michigan women's rowing competition.

Police Captain Gregory Laurain said the U of M does reimburse the police department for manpower utilized for its events when the township has to pre-schedule a marine officer or officers.

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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Huron School District

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Announces Limited School of Choice Openings

"Great Kids, Great Families, Great Schools"

Huron Offers a Big Time Education in a Small Town Setting
Section 105 (Wayne County Residents Only)



Fall Trimester 2013-2014 School Year
Openings Include:

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

Applications are available at the Huron School District Administration Building
Application Deadline May 24, 2013
32044 Huron River Drive, New Boston, MI 48164
For more information please call 734.782.2441 or visit our website at
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Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

The following are selected runs for VBT Police.

Sunday, April 7:
0058 – assault & battery, 41450 E. Archwood Dr.
0156 – larceny, 15887 Brookside Dr.
0208 – disturbance, 45707 S. I-94 Service Dr.
0259 – breaking & entering, 9027 Parkwood Dr.
0429 – fraud, Walmart
0543 – disturbance, 2033 Rawsonville
1312 – disorderly conduct, 48952 Ashbury
1722 – breaking & entering, 46760 N. I-94 Service
1810 – private property accident, 600 Sumpter Rd.
2015 – disorderly conduct, 45707 S. I-94 Service
2025 – shots fired, 9506 Hampton Dr.
2128 – noise complaint, 46040 Lake Villa Dr.
2345 – assault & battery, 74 Maple Dr.

Monday, April 8:
0155 – assault & battery, 45857 Ecorse Rd.
0724 – holdup alarm, 9570 Belleville Rd.
0823 – larceny, 11827 Meadows Circle
0957 – assault & battery, 40005 Tyler Rd.
1007 – suicide or attempt, 49241 S. I-94 Service
1240 – fraud, 51198 Capitol Dr.
1210 – assault & battery, 40005 Tyler Rd.
1312 – disorderly conduct, 45707 S. I-94 Service
1342 – mental, 20 Brandi
1642 – assault & battery, 41838 McBride Ave.
1725 – breaking & entering, 7639 Beck
1816 – ATV/ORV complaint, 48960 Ashbury
1836 – larceny, 329 Holly Lane
1853 – fraud, Walmart
2042 – narcotics crime, 46425 Tyler Rd.
2047 – disturbance, 45707 S. I-94 Service Dr.
2107 – disorderly conduct, 11550 Belleville

Tuesday, April 9:
0534 – disorderly conduct, Walmart
0624 – property damage accident, Beck/Tyler
0819 – property damage accident, EB I-94 / Belleville
1224 – larceny, 9532 Andover Dr.
1245 – fraud, Meijer
1435 – private property accident, 287 Industrial
1502 – property damage accident, Belleville/Taco Bell
1729 – malicious destruction of property, 15424 Brookside Dr.

1750 – suicide or attempt, Kmart
1818 – larceny, 46131 Village Green
1900 – juvenile complaint, 11679 Meadows Ln.
1921 – juvenile complaint, 9693 Madison
2123 – juvenile complaint, 11679 Meadows Ln.
2149 – juvenile complaint, 42200 Tyler
2225 – larceny from auto, 11650 Belleville Rd.

Wednesday, April 10:
0840 – larceny, 47900 W. Huron River Dr.
0945 – larceny from auto, 10998 Van Buren St.
1029 – larceny, 48851 Denton Rd.
1052 – special detail, 11131 S. Wayne, court
1123 – larceny, 6903 Haggerty Rd.
1209 – property damage accident, E. Huron River Dr./Haggerty Rd.
1320 – larceny, 48811 Denton Rd.
1715 – harassment call, 46000 Lake Villa Dr.
1902 – noise complaint, 41431 Bellridge
2010 – assault & battery, Old Michigan Rd. / Parkside Dr.
2218 – breaking & entering, 11150 Oak Lane
2309 – hospice, 7803 Mida Dr.

Thursday, April 11:
0938 – mental, 46145 Village Green Ln.
1247 – property damage accident, Haggerty Rd. / N. I-94 Service Dr.
1250 – shots fired, 6790 Sadie Ln.
1608 – property damage accident, Ecorse/I-275
1605 – assault & battery, 46070 Hidden Cove
1640 – fraud, 51198 Capitol Dr.
1659 – fraud, 10940 Belleville Rd.
1732 – larceny, 17050 Martinsville Rd.
1818 – private property accident, 48521 Denton
2100 – disturbance, 8800 Parkwood Manor
2115 – operating while intoxicated, Haggerty/Tyler
2123 – narcotics crime, 46425 Tyler
2138 – property damage accident, Family Dollar
2205 – larceny from auto, 9624 Belleville Rd.
2257 – larceny from auto, 185 S. Ponderosa Trl.

Friday, April 12:
0102 – operating while intoxicated, Ecorse / Belleville

1019 – breaking & entering, 41408 Coolidge
1143 – larceny, McBride Middle School
1200 – disturbance, 13217 Lake Pointe Blvd.
1259 – disturbance, 49021 S. I-94 Service Dr.
1321 – larceny, 6703 Haggerty
1353 – sexual assault, 9908 Kennedy Ct.
1423 – assault & battery, 48644 Bemis Rd.
1434 – breaking & entering, 9307 Parkwood Dr.
1446 – intimidation threat, 10073 Hamilton Ct.
1544 – missing person, 6528 Outer Dr.
1548 – breaking & entering, 20 Brandi
1556 – narcotics crime, 48711 S. I-94 Service Dr.
1605 – fight, Belleville Burger King
1648 – fraud, 46020 Lake Villa Dr.
1819 – noise complaint, 46131 Village Green Ln.
1908 – trespassing, 22 Ash Dr.
2103 – harassment call, 116 Maple Dr.
2111 – property damage accident, Belleville /

Meijer
2234 – assault & battery, 49071 S. I-94 Service Dr.
2335 – water leak found, S. I-94 Service Dr./Ryznar Dr.
2344 – noise complaint, 23 Maple Dr.
2356 – malicious destruction of property, 40677 Alden Ave.

Saturday, April 13:
0000 – disturbance, 9701 Madison
0144 – noise complaint, 138 S. Ponderosa Trl.
0312 – noise complaint, 138 S. Ponderosa Trl.
0344 – assault & battery, 9250 Parkwood Dr.
1127 – dumping complaint, Belleville/Tyler
1307 – fraud, 40140 Edison Lake Rd.
1327 – missing person, 43501 S. Timberview Dr.
1347 – assault & battery, 131 S. Ponderosa Trl.
1413 – mental, 42901 Tyler Rd.
1636 – trespassing, 45501 N. I-94 Service Dr.
1712 – fraud, Meijer
2019 – fight, 46070 Lake Villa Dr.
2106 – assault & battery, 11793 Meadows Cir.
2259 – agency assist, EB I-94/Rawsonville

Also on this week’s log are 329 traffic stops, 106 of which were on the I-94 and I-275 freeways.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, April 7:
0013 – noise complaint, 171 Belle Villa Blvd.
0252 – suspicious situation, 5 Loza Lane
0952 – juvenile complaint, 305 Edison Ave.
1238 – missing person, 6 Main St.
1701 – intrusion alarm, 541 E. Huron River Dr.
2030 – family trouble, 401 Estrada
2211 – disorderly conduct, 401 Estrada
2216 – traffic complaint, 146 High St., Johnny’s

Monday, April 8:
1526 – suspicious person, 36 Main St.
1823 – assist fire dept., 271 Henry St.
1956 – warrant arrest, 6 Main St.
2102 – family trouble, 291 W. Columbia Ave.
2242 – civil matter, 201 South St.

Tuesday, April 9:
0250 – warrant arrest, 6 Main St.
1411 – juvenile complaint, 501 W. Columbia, BHS
1418 – civil matter, 416 Sumpter
1922 – harassment call, 184 Dos Rios St.

Wednesday, April 10:
0101 – domestic assault, 110 Carmell St.
0807 – parking complaint, 367 Edison Ave.
0927 – juvenile complaint, Church/Roys
0928 – animal complaint, Belleville Area Museum
1304 – assist fire dept., 57 Loza Lane
1333 – follow-up, 187 N. Edgemont Ave.
1359 – E-911 hangup/investigation, BHS
1426 – intimidation threat, 176 W. Columbia Ave.
1526 – animal complaint, 4 Belle Villa Blvd.
1626 – breaking & entering, Cool Cone
1632 – vehicle lockout, 6 Main St.
2110 – suspicious person, 144 Third St.
2300 – intrusion alarm, BHS

Thursday, April 11:
0413 – suspicious vehicle, Sumpter/Industrial Park
0558 – assist fire dept., 195 Belle Villa Blvd.
0859 – property damage accident, 401 Sumpter
1026 – follow up, 8136 Kirkridge
1224 – fraud, 265 Sumpter
1255 – mental, 125 S. Edgemont, Edgemont Elem.
1425 – malicious destruction of property, 125 S. Edgemont Ave.
1625 – trespassing, Denton Rd. cemetery

1707 – assist fire dept., BHS
2021 – suspicious situation, 25 Main St.
2237 – felony assault, 308 Oxford Ct.
Friday, April 12:
0104 – assist citizen, High St./Church St.
1007 – assist fire dept., 275 W. Columbia Ave., Columbia Court
1054 – larceny, 574 W. Columbia Ave.
1212 – larceny, 532 N. Liberty St.
1330 – follow up, Kirkridge
1351 – vehicle repossession, 275 W. Columbia Ave., Columbia Court
1459 – suspicious person, 466 E. Waterbury Ct.
1623 – narcotics crime, 533 High St.
2122 – assist fire dept., 188 Belle Villa Blvd.
2319 – E-911 hangup/investigation, 222 Belle Villa Blvd.

Saturday, April 13:
0228 – parking complaint, 125 Carmell St.
0600 – background investigation, 6 Main St.
0938 – assist fire dept., 300 Oxford Ct.
1108 – property check, South Middle School
1412 – property damage accident, 167 Fourth St., library
1435 – domestic assault, 308 Oxford Ct.
1456 – E-911 hangup/investigation, 416 Sumpter
1831 – miscellaneous complaint, 401 Estrada
Also on this week’s log are 75 traffic stops.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, April 7:
0209 – fire dept. assist, Dakota
0430 – property damage accident, Sumpter/Willis
1058 – fire dept. assist, 28000 bl. Karr Rd.
1130 – fire dept. assist, 40000 bl. Harris Rd.
1357 – ORV complaint, 29000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
1420 – follow-up investigation, 23000 bl. Sumpter
1613 – animal complaint, 40000 bl. Willis Rd.
1650 – civil dispute, 40000 bl. Judd Rd.
1752 – juvenile complaint, Hampshire
1812 – fire dept. assist, 25000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2245 – suspicious incident, 27000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2347 – follow-up investigation, 23000 bl. Sumpter

Monday, April 8:
0419 – fire dept. assist, 46000 bl. Wear Rd.
0925 – alarm, 21000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1141 – civil dispute, Edgewood
1250 – civil dispute, 42000 bl. Harris Rd.
1314 – follow-up investigation, 23000 bl. Sumpter
1506 – warrant arrest, out of township
1535 – property damage accident, Oakville Waltz / Carleton West
1759 – neighbor dispute, Hampshire
1826 – trespassing complaint, 51000 bl. Willis Rd.
1855 – civil dispute, Birch
2007 – well-being check, Walnut
2038 – suspicious incident, Rustic Lane
2111 – fire dept. assist, 41000 bl. Judd Rd.
2146 – suspicious person, 25000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2251 – follow-up investigation, out of township

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Tuesday, April 9:
1058 – 911 hangup, 8200 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
1159 – fire dept. assist, 45000 bl. Paris Dr.
1419 – animal complaint, California
1625 – follow-up investigation, Rustic Ln.
1737 – fraud complaint, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1917 – follow-up investigation, 23000 bl. Sumpter
1931 – follow-up investigation, Vermont
2037 – citizen assist, Birch
2133 – warrant arrest, out of township
2217 – follow-up investigation, 40000 bl. Willis

Wednesday, April 10:
0229 – suspicious incident, 48000 bl. Harris Rd.
0842 – follow-up investigation, out of township
0927 – threats complaint, Arizona
1155 – assault, 24000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1259 – fire dept. assist, 47000 bl. Bemis Rd.
1356 – animal complaint, Willis/Sumpter
1518 – civil dispute, 47000 bl. Arkona Rd.
1611 – child abuse/neglect, Rustic Ln.
1834 – 911 hangup, 21000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2115 – warrant arrest, out of township
2245 – animal complaint, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

Thursday, April 11:
0400 – 911 hangup, 47000 bl. Willow Rd.
0508 – fire dept. assist, 23000 bl. Elwell Rd.
0826 – larceny, 48000 bl. Wear Rd.
1018 – personal injury accident, 47000 bl. Judd
1127 – identity theft, 22000 bl. Clark Rd.
1137 – warrant arrest, out of township
1259 – fire dept. assist, 28000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1420 – follow-up investigation, 23000 bl. Sumpter
1450 – reckless driver, Rustic Ln.
1653 – larceny, 48000 bl. Wear Rd.
1730 – threats complaint, 21000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
1756 – follow-up investigation, 47000 bl. Judd Rd.
2037 – alarm, 23000 bl. Clark Rd.
2330 – suspicious vehicle, 10000 bl. Rawsonville

Friday, April 12:
0121 – fire dept. assist, 51000 bl. Wear Rd.
0314 – suspicious incident, 17000 bl. Elwell Rd.
0511 – 911 hangup, Wyoming
1404 – alarm, 26000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1517 – fire dept. assist, 43000 bl. Deborah Ct.
2016 – assist other agency, out of township
2153 – property damage accident, Oakville Waltz / Sumpter
Saturday, April 13:
0359 – civil dispute, Carriage Ln.
1018 – well-being check, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1020 – civil dispute, 48000 bl. Willow Rd.
1116 – family trouble, 22000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1153 – animal complaint, 40000 bl. Willow Rd.
1246 – follow-up investigation, 48000 bl. Willow
1303 – suspicious incident, 22000 bl. Carleton West Rd.

1445 – fraud complaint, 46000 bl. Willis Rd.
1518 – neighbor dispute, Knollwood
1623 – follow-up investigation, 19000 bl. Sumpter
1759 – follow-up investigation, 51000 bl. Willis
1837 – disorderly person, 44000 bl. Willis Rd.
2022 – follow-up investigation, 46000 bl. Willis
2235 – suspicious incident, 17000 bl. Elwell Rd.
2333 – suspicious person, 47000 bl. Bemis Rd.
Also on this week’s log are 27 miscellaneous details, 119 patrol checks, and 66 traffic stops.

Birthdays

April 18 – Amber Addington Buhl

Do you have a birthday in April or May? Does anyone you know have a birthday soon? Call the *Independent* at 699-9020 and let us know. We'll list it in this column ASAP following your call. There is no charge.

VBT police arrest 17 yr. old who confesses to four home invasions

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

Brian Bernard Baker, 17, of Van Buren Township is in the Wayne County Jail awaiting his preliminary exam on one count of Home Invasion, 2nd Degree.

He was arraigned on the charge and a \$25,000 cash bond was set. His preliminary exam is scheduled for 9 a.m. April 24 at the 34th District Court in Romulus.

Baker was arrested last Friday, April 12, after undercover Van Buren Township police officers witnessed him leaving a house in Haggerty Subdivision in possession of stolen property taken from that residence, said Lt. Kenneth Floro.

Baker subsequently confessed to four home invasions in Haggerty Sub and the Investigative Division served a search warrant at his residence where they recovered additional stolen property and illegal narcotics, Lt. Floro said.

Over the past three to four weeks, the VBT Police Department investigated a series of home invasions in Haggerty Sub and investigation led to a possible suspect that lived in the area.

Police saw the suspect leaving his home on foot and heading to Haggerty Sub the morning of April 12 and they set up "rolling surveillance." Plain clothes detectives maintained close surveillance while patrol officers secured an outer perimeter, until he was seen with the stolen goods and arrested, Floro said.



Baker

Court Watching:

Parents charged with manslaughter in son's drowning consider plea

By Diane Madigan
Independent Court Reporter

Angelina Perry, 39, and Ray Hunt, 34, who have been charged with Homicide - Involuntary Manslaughter in the Aug. 20 drowning death of their son, are considering a plea deal offered by the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office.

Oliver Hunt, 11 months old, drowned in a swimming pool on Bontekoe Drive in Sumpter Township while his parents slept.

The trial has been set for June 20.

Perry and Hunt failed to show up for their April 4 court session at Frank Murphy Hall of Justice in Detroit.

Hunt's attorney Brian Gagniuk told Judge Dana Hathaway that Hunt said he was in the hospital. There was no word from Perry, so Judge Hathaway put out a warrant for her arrest.

At the April 12 conference, Perry's attorney Mark Nortley said Perry didn't attend the April 4 session because she was under the impression that she didn't need to attend since her co-defendant Hunt was in the hospital.

Judge Hathaway withdrew the warrant.

Judge Hathaway ruled on a motion by Assistant Prosecutor Carin Goldfarb for a 404(b) ruling to allow past actions of Perry and Hunt to be presented to the jury as evidence in the trial.

Goldfarb said that both defendants placed Oliver in situations of danger by using him as a decoy to shoplift at Meijer in Van Buren Township.

Goldfarb described another situation of Perry's gross negligence and failure to protect another one of her children. That child climbed up on a shelf, got into the sink, turned on the hot water, and suffered second-degree burns.

"Nobody was watching," she said, adding that incident only involved Perry and not Hunt.

Goldfarb said both parents showed a pattern of being grossly negligent, a pattern of failing to protect their children, a failure to watch and protect Oliver, who was only 11 months old.

They allowed a door to be left open and a gate to the pool to be unlatched, which allowed Oliver to climb into the pool and to drown.

She said this goes far beyond home accidents or situations where parents turn their heads for a moment. Goldfarb said there were many safeguards in place to prevent this tragedy from happening, such as securing the gate, securing the door.

"They didn't watch their child," she said, noting that was grossly negligent.

Nortley, Perry's attorney, said that "prior acts" imply a plan or scheme and this violation is an act of omission.

The defense attorneys argued that the shoplifting misdemeanor has nothing to do with the facts of the present case and that there wasn't any law to support Goldfarb's position on the shoplifting.

Goldfarb argued that there is system of failing to provide proper supervision and there is neglectful supervision. The protection provided was grossly negligent, she said.

Judge Hathaway ruled that the shoplifting case is a misdemeanor and would not be admissible under 404(b) prior acts or 609.

The judge did allow admission of the burning incident against Perry only.

Perry's attorney suggested he might ask for the defendants to go before separate juries, since there could be some finger pointing. The request for a second jury has to be filed by May 17.

Goldfarb said the attorneys also had mentioned they were thinking of asking for a bench trial and they nodded their heads in agreement.

The defendants' attorneys and Goldfarb conferred with the judge at the bench, briefly discussing the proposed plea deal quietly among themselves. The details were not announced to those in the courtroom.

The cut-off date to accept or reject this plea offer was set for April 19.

No further court sessions were set before the June 20 trial date, but all motions must be filed by May 17.

Pet of the Week

Friends of Michigan
Animals Rescue

"MURPHY"



Run Murphy run! He's a 1-year old Hound mix that will happily race into your life most likely with a favorite tennis ball securely in his mouth. All he needs is a place to run his energy out, lots of attention, yummy food and a nice cozy spot to snuggle in and you'll end up with a fantastic furry companion. **Murphy** is very young at heart still and hasn't completely let go of the puppy nips, chewing and jumping so some firm, gentle training in the finer doggie manners should be made a top priority upon bringing him home. However he can get it he will need daily activity to keep his very active energy at a reasonable level during indoor time. He loves running and playing fetch or should we say running around you with the ball. With just a throw or two by you he should be good to go since he practically takes care of his exercise needs himself after that. **Murphy's** just right medium size and cute as a button looks should give you reason enough to call today and come meet this terrific pup. He's neutered, vaccinated and micro-chipped.

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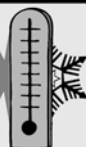
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