



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

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FREE

Lou Kovach happy with out-of-court settlement with Van Buren Twp.

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

Louis Kovach's battle with Van Buren Township over lot splits is over – and he couldn't be happier.

Kovach said Van Buren Township Supervisor Linda Combs stepped in when negotiations were at a standstill to settle the disagreement out of court and end the lawsuit.

On Feb. 28 Wayne County Circuit Court Judge John H. Gillis, Jr. signed a consent judgment between Louis Kovach and the Charter Township of Van Buren that provided lot splits for his property that was the former Coy Kendall Greenhouse land.

The property, several parcels of land at the northwest corner of the intersection of Bemis and Martinsville roads, was owned by Homer and Jean Morris before Homer's death and now is owned by Kovach.

Kovach said former Planning and Economic Development Director Bryce Kelley had drawn up a plan for the splitting of these properties that included several "flag lots" that Kelley said wouldn't be a problem.

After Kelley left VBT employment and Homer Morris died those flag lots became a big problem.

On May 1, 2012 Kovach submitted an application to the VBT Parcel Division board (composed of Terry Carroll, Linda Stevenson, and Tom MacDonald) proposing to divide a 9.357 acre parcel into 5 parcels, including 3 "flag lots."

On May 8, 2012 the Parcel Division Board denied Kovach's application.

Kovach filed a complaint on June 12, 2012 seeking a Writ of Mandamus compelling

(continued on page 11)



Independent photos by Rosemary K. Oztman

The Belleville Police and Fire Departments took part in Saturday's Flop E. Bunny Egg Hunt activities at Victory Park. Children were invited to climb into the police car and fire vehicles and talk to the officers when they weren't busy hunting for candy by age groups and getting their pictures taken with the Bunny. More than 300 people attended the annual free event put on by the Belleville Central Business Community.

District Library Board to get update on DNR site appraisal figures

By Diane Madigan
Independent Special Writer

The Belleville Area District Library Board will get updates on new appraisal figures for the DNR site and the house next door at its next regular meeting at 7 p.m. April 9.

But, it will be delivered in closed-door session at the end of the meeting, so the public won't get to share those figures.

Bob Vogt, who was hired by the library to appraise the vacant, lakeside DNR property north of the bridge and the Spencer house next door, recently was asked by the DNR for more appraisals.

They asked for what the house's land would be worth without the house on it and how much property along Belleville Lake

is worth.

Those are the figures expected to be disclosed to board members April 9.

The library board has been trying to select a site for a proposed future library building and the DNR site has been the favorite.

At the library board's regular meeting March 12, chairwoman Mary Jane Dawson said, "They want an idea of basically what the dirt would cost without the house on the Spencer property."

Dawson said she received the report from Vogt earlier that day and sent it to library attorney John Day.

Day suggested the board either come together at the next regularly scheduled meeting or hold a special meeting to discuss the information. After much discussion, it was decided to wait for the next regular meeting.

In discussing lakeside property, someone said there wasn't much vacant land left around Belleville Lake. Board member John Juriga said there still is the large Robb

(continued on page 7)



Taking part in Saturday's Flop E. Bunny Egg Hunt gathering at Victory Park were Caryn and Steve Wilson and their daughter Sarah of Van Buren Township. Wilson is a retired Belleville High School teacher and earned a reputation for managing a very active video club that produced a vibrant educational cable channel 19, with live and recorded school board meetings. In those days, Wilson also spent a few hours each week at Van Buren Township to produce a lively cable channel 12 with many original programs.

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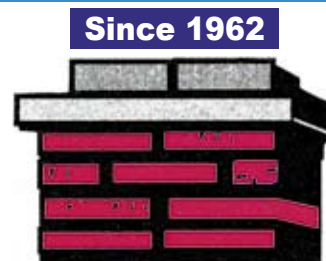
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SECOND FRONT PAGE

Wayne County to come out to investigate unsightly 'Ford' fence

By Diane Madigan
Independent Special Writer

There are trees growing in the unsightly fence in the road right of way along Belleville Road and that is one of the reasons Wayne County Roads Division officials are coming out this week to get a first-hand look at the situation.

Complaints about the looks of the old fence led the Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority to look into its legal status in order to figure out what to do about it.

The fence runs from Harmony Lane north to Sunrise and some of the broken-down fence has barbed wire on top. There are 11 property owners involved in that stretch.

DDA Executive Director Susan Ireland said the county now believes the fence was put in place in the 1940s by Henry Ford around his farm field. Earlier accounts said the fence was put in place in the 1960s by a housing developer.

At its March 26 meeting, the DDA was told by Ireland that the county would be sending a letter to the township about removing the fence.

The day after the meeting, Ireland told the *Independent* a different person at the county just informed her they cannot and will not send a letter about removal of the potentially hazardous fence.

Ireland said the county told her it will remove the fence although it might take years. But, they will not remove the trees that are growing in the fence.

At past meetings, the DDA discussed what it can do to make that area of its streetscape look nicer, including planting more trees and putting up a decorative fence.

James Kosiba, an eighth grade student working toward an Eagle Scout rank, has volunteered to help with the project.

Election of officers

At its March 26 meeting, the DDA reelected Jere Dolph chairman and Sophie Zoller secretary for the year and new DDA member Craig Atchinson as vice chairman, to take the place of his father Kurt who was vice chairman when he retired recently from the DDA.

Billboard, promotions

The DDA agreed to proceed with its second-favorite place for a billboard on westbound I-94, 3,000 feet east of Haggerty Road, which is available June 3. The DDA's first choice would not be available until 2014.

Vice Chairman Atchinson, General manager of Atchinson Ford on Belleville Road, said his company currently has two billboards on I-94 and two on I-275. He suggested negotiating a price for the DDA billboard and artwork. Communication Associates Inc.'s quote of \$3,000-\$3,500 for a four-week run includes artwork.

CAI, the DDA's public relations firm, is currently developing a list of 300-500 contacts to distribute brochures and send emails. These contacts include local and national commercial real estate brokers, tenant representatives, and large and small business decision makers.

The DDA also discussed the line "Van Buren Business Pure and Simple" which appears on the DDA website, communications and brochures. Ireland suggested adding, "Invest in Downtown Van Buren."

DDA member Mark Laginess had a problem with the addition.

"Where is most of what's in Downtown Van Buren today? It's in the DDA. If we happen to attract something someplace else, it's good for the township. The whole township benefits," he said.

He added that he believed the planning department should also incorporate the mantra to promote business in general.

DDA member Ron Blank asked for website stats and said he had concerns about spending a lot of time and money.

Landscaping

The DDA accepted the \$11,840 bid of Pioneer Landscaping to be Belleville Roadside Landscaper. This includes replacement of 18 trees: 2 Maple trees at French Landing Party Store and Walmart, 6 trees at 5/3 Bank, 1 at Applebee's, 3 at Belleville/Quirk Road triangle, 3 in front of Harmony Lane subdivision, 1 in front of Twisted Rooster, and 2 in front of Meijer gas station. Filled water bags, topsoil and mulching are included in this bid and the job is to be completed 3 weeks from the agreed-upon start date.

Zoo Millage lawsuit

Ireland reported the judge presiding over the Zoo Millage lawsuit has issued a time schedule and he wants to issue his opinion

on or before June 15. She said some bills on the issue have been submitted in Lansing.

Laginess said he believes that new legislation signals that the current legislation allows the DDA to capture and not turn over the revenue.

According to Wayne County court records, there have been 23 actions registered on this case in March. Oral arguments are scheduled for May 30.

Public Safety Day

Ireland announced that Van Buren Township Public Safety Day has been set from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Aug. 10.

CAI will assist with initial planning, providing flyers, postcard mailers, posters, directional signage, press releases before and after the event, and photography for use on the website, social media, and brochure update.

Aerotropolis

The DDA was informed by Ireland that Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano is scheduled to attend a quarterly meeting of Aerotropolis at the Holiday Inn Express. She said he was supposed to attend the last Aerotropolis meeting, but didn't.

Sidewalks

Ireland reported that sidewalk easement talks continue on the I-94 North Service drive from Quirk Road east to the shopping center.

Also, letters are being sent out offering to purchase sidewalk easements from property owners along Belleville Road from Tyler Road to 8701 Belleville Road.

Ireland reported that she has contacted DTE with a complete inventory of light poles that need maintenance.

Banner arms

Ireland reported that Rich Keenan, president of Old Glory Flags and Flagpoles, is negotiating costs with contractors. Before replacing all banner arms, Keenan

would like to do a durability test on five arms near the bridge where the winds are strongest.

Laginess circulated photos of fiberglass banner arms he took at ESPN Wide World of Sports Stadium at Disney World, winter home of the Atlanta Braves. Laginess watched the Detroit Tigers play the Braves.

Ecorse/Belleville Road project

It was announced that workers were preparing to shift traffic for springtime work on the Ecorse/Belleville Road intersection project.

Also, Wade Trim's engineering plan for dead-end turn-arounds and enclosing the drainage ditches on the south side Ecorse Road Service Drives have been sent to the county. Upon approval, landscaping plans in this area will resume.

Health Care Insurance Plan

DDA member Carol Bird wanted to address a health care insurance plan from the township that affects Ireland.

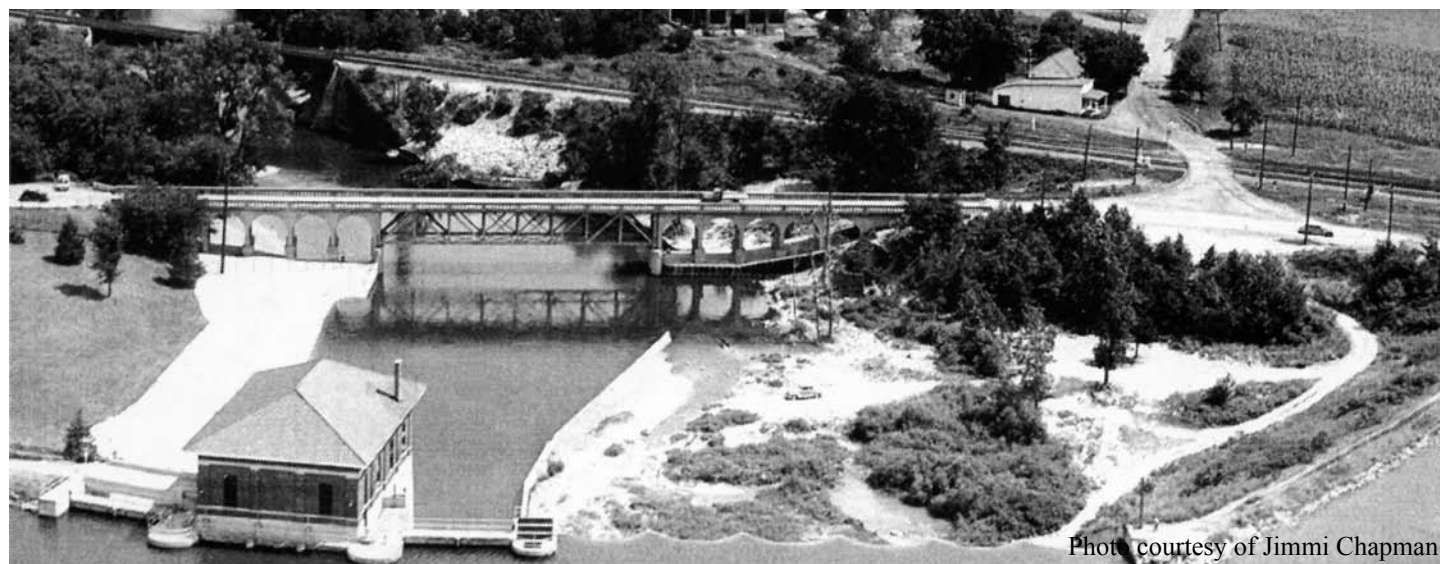
VBT Supervisor Linda Combs explained that the township is currently developing a policy that would require salaried personnel to pay 10% of their health care insurance costs. If approved at the next meeting, the policy would take effect May 1, Supervisor Combs said.

"Does the DDA wish to reimburse her for that because you have covered her health care in the past?" Combs asked.

"I have an employment agreement with the DDA and it includes benefits that are afforded to township employees," Ireland said.

The DDA agreed to postpone this issue until there is action by the township board.

Absent from the March 26 DDA meeting were Robert Bechtel, who was excused, and Joe Baskin. The *Independent* reporter was the only person in the audience.



This picture, circa 1930, shows an aerial view of French Landing Dam and the bridge, in the foreground, that now is the focus of a water project in Van Buren Township. The concrete bridge was constructed in 1920 to carry East Huron River Drive traffic across the Huron River. That bridge has been closed to all traffic for years. Now, VBT officials are considering what to do about the deteriorating bridge that still carries an important township water line across the river.

Photo courtesy of Jimmi Chapman

OPINIONS

Editorial

VBT Police, Fire working together

At about 10 p.m. Monday, Van Buren Township fire fighters were called to a major house fire on Florence Street in Homestead subdivision, north of Ecorse.

VBT fire fighters called for mutual aid from Romulus, Canton, and Belleville. No one was injured, but it was a long night of fire fighting. Fire Chief Dan Besson said he got home at 4 a.m. Tuesday.

VBT Interim Public Safety Director Greg Laurain said he was called to the fire, too. He told everyone at Tuesday's VBT board meeting that police officers pitched in to help fire fighters.

Laurain explained some of his new policies that require police to help with the hydrants and hoses at fires.

He said 31 years ago the VBT Police Chief required his officers, including Laurain, to respond to fire scenes to pull hoses off the truck, open and flush fire hydrants and direct traffic.

"We brought it back, 30 years later," Laurain said.

There were other new cooperative policies discussed, including having cross-trained police officers carrying their fire suits in the trunks of their police cars, so they can help at fires if they are not tied up fighting crime.

Laurain explained the officer would be paid his police wage and not the higher blended rate since he was on the job as a "public safety officer." Sounds good to us.

Congratulations to the public safety leaders for putting their expertise together to better serve the VBT community.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

One of our readers got a brief email that said it was from the U.S. Social Security Administration. It was a notification that she must update her social security information in their database for verification and must click on the line to update her details now.

"Failure to verify your social security information will stop your social security benefits," it said.

Our reader said she knew it was a scam, but she is concerned about how senior citizens might get frightened by the threat to stop getting their social security check – and click on the line the scammer sent to get information to steal from the targets.

The Social Security Administration does not send you emails – and doesn't threaten you by email. Delete all such notices. If the SSA wants to get your attention, they'll send you a letter.

You may remember the young man who got in trouble for filing a false police report in Van Buren Township after some hungry kids took the pizza he was delivering and ran. He said he was robbed because, apparently, he was supposed to get the money first before he handed over the pizza and he didn't follow his employer's procedure.

He made a stupid decision and he was charged and went to court March 26.

Judge Bill Szlinis, who was filling in for Judge Green after her husband died, handled the case at 34th District Court and gave the delivery person a \$300 fine and 6 months to behave himself before it is wiped off his record.

He could have had up to 90 days in jail and a \$500 fine.



I understand the pizza money involved was \$16. The pizza delivery guy is in college and couldn't afford to dig into his pocket to pay for the pizza.

The young people who ordered the pizza when they knew they couldn't pay for it, who grabbed the pizza and ran, and who ate the pizza were not charged with anything. 'Tis a mystery.

Willow Run Airport is seeking to expand its operations over a ten-year period to help attract developers to the Aerotropolis region between Willow Run and Detroit Metro Airport -- which is mostly Van Buren Township.

There's also the ex-General Motors Willow Run plant that needs developers.

In an announcement this week, the airport officials said Willow Run expects to seek \$182 million in changes to its runways and infrastructure to become an even more important cargo and charter airport.

The airport already has received \$18 million from the FAA to help rebuild the northern half of the main runway. Construction on the \$20 million project is expected to begin in May and run through mid November.

To completely reconstruct the main runway, the airport needs another \$23 million.

When all the upgrades are done, "This will allow us to go anywhere in the world with freight," said Sean Brosnan, airport

director.

There were only four Bunnies on Main Street in downtown Belleville this year, so it probably will be the last year for this event. This year they were put up facing Main Street in the gardens at the Fourth Street Square and looked as cute as can be. Other years there were enough to put up and down the street.

That bright, shiny, red vehicle in the left-hand corner of the picture on today's front page is one of the two military Humvees that the City of Belleville received free of charge. The one in the picture is the vehicle the fire department got and had painted and readied for use. It sure does look pretty.

The police department Humvee is still in camouflage paint.

At Monday's work/study session of the VBT Board of Trustees, Trustee Reggie Miller asked what the township was doing about a public safety director, since Carl McClanahan had resigned. Supervisor Linda Combs said the board has to meet on that, since she doesn't have a consensus on whether they want a public safety director or a police chief.



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Letters

Here's some easy tips to preserve our health

To the Editor:

Considering our water, mold and strange plant growth situation in Belleville, I thought we might want to talk about what we can do in our homes to help ourselves feel better.

Changing the products that we buy can be overwhelming when we start to read the ingredients on our personal care items and food labels. The price tags on some more natural products are higher, but very worth it.

Slow, more permanent change, is better than throwing everything out and starting over.

A quick fix is to add some oil to the hair and skin care products we already have. The Dollar Store sells hot oil tubes in a red and silver box. The label says for hair, but it's also good for skin and it doesn't have to be heated up.

Glycerin bar soap is good in place of body wash and hand soap. Keep a bowl of drinking water in the kitchen and bathroom for washing hands.

Blood circulation for some of us now is a major concern. Keep the blood flowing from the heart all the way to your fingers and toes. Rub some of that oil on your nails. Wiggle your toes. Put hand lotion on your feet daily, too.

A stress ball for each hand is good anytime. If your hands and feet become warm and tingle, try Noxema clay mask on them. It has bentonite clay. It's a big relief.

Lower-salt diets are very important, too. A good combination for spicing our food is onion powder (antibiotic), garlic powder (circulation), sage (antiseptic) and pepper (my grandma liked it). I've been mixing them together and putting it on most everything.

We can eat more chicken, turkey and fish and less beef, pork and shrimp. More whole grains and less colors and things we can't pronounce.

Maybe add vitamin E, calcium, C & D. A good diet book is "The Doctor's Pocket Calorie, Fat and Carbohydrate Counter" by Allan Borushek. Especially read the front and back.

I'm still confused about what water to drink. I chose distilled this time. Whoever investigated what water to drink, please let us know.

Love, Peggy Peterson
Sumpter Township

P.S. To the *Independent*: Thank you for your helpful hints and be careful out there. From Webster's New World Dictionary, 2nd College Edition: diet ... daily food allowance, way of life, regimen.

Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce sets Road Rally II for April 27

The Tour de Belleville Road Rally II will be held Saturday, April 27, starting at 1 p.m. at Edward Jones, 6093 Rawsonville Road.

This second-annual event is sponsored by the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce. Tickets are on sale for \$30 per person, which includes food. There will be destination games and raffles.

Chamber Executive Director Karen LaBelle said, "This is a fun-filled event and a test of skill on public roads across our community."

"It challenges teams of competitors composed of drivers and navigators. Along the route are checkpoints with teams being scored on puzzle solving and getting to all the destinations," she said.

For more information, call the Chamber at 697-7151 or email LaBelle at klabelle@bellevilleareachamber.org.

Birthdays

April 1 – Joann Posegay

April 4 – Lillieann Floriana

April 8 – Johnny Vawters

April 11 – Geraldine Smith

April 12 – Jalen Burnett, Hannah Laginess

April 15 – Rick Booth, Heather McArthur

April 22 – Elliot Sala, Sarah Atwood

April 23 – Rhonda Bradley

April 27 – Jon Booth

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Teens advised 'Kelsey's Law' is now in effect on Michigan's roadways

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

Local teenagers are advised that on March 28 one of the many new Michigan laws that went into effect that day targets them.

Belleville Police Chief Gene Taylor said Kelsey's Law makes it illegal for young drivers with restricted licenses to use a cell phone while behind the wheel.

He wants to make sure all the teens who flock into Belleville High School each morning and out each afternoon are aware of the law.

The state law is named after Kelsey Raffaele of Sault Ste. Marie, who was 17 years old when she died in a cell-phone related car accident in 2010.

According to the law, teens with restricted licenses won't be able to use a cell phone while driving.

Violations are civil infractions, but it's a primary offense, so police can pull a young driver over without any other cause.

There are some exceptions. The law doesn't apply to a voice-operated, hands-free system integrated into a vehicle. It doesn't apply to reporting a traffic accident, medical emergency, serious road hazard, situations in which a driver's personal safety is in jeopardy, or a crime.

The law affects Level 1 and Level 2 drivers under the state's graduated licensing system. Level 1 is a learner's license with the most restrictions; Level 2 drivers have restrictions on the number of passengers and on nighttime driving.

A teen must be at least 17 and have at least six months of driving experience at Level 2 to qualify for a Level 3 or unrestricted driver's license.



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District Library

(continued from page 1)

Farm on the east end of the lake.

Dawson said the library also wants to set up a meeting with Van Buren Township officials and DNR representatives to discuss the site, since some of the township officials, including Supervisor Linda Combs, are new and weren't involved in previous talks.

Juriga pointed out that VBT Trustee Jeff Jahr and Treasurer Sharpy Budd have been involved.

The *Independent* asked what has been done to move the DNR property from the Recreational Trust to the Fishery Department, since a proposed library would share the site with fishermen. Dawson said that can't be done until there is some type of agreement to swap property.

Dawson said they are dealing with the DNR's Appraisal Department now and they didn't find out until last August that they had to go through the Appraisal Department first.

In other business at the 56-minute March 12 meeting, the library board:

- Approved accepting the continuing deposit security agreement as written. At the last library meeting there was concern about the district library bank account exceeding the \$250,000 FDIC limits. Asst. Director Mary Jo Suchy and Accountant Ron Traskos went to Chase Bank to set up a collateralized account. Suchy explained that in collateralized accounts, Chase uses a third party to monitor the balances and security accounts, pledging US Treasury bills, notes and bonds as collateral. The bank pays all costs associated with collateral accounts saving the library \$1,454 per year in service fees. Currently the district library receives .02% rate on savings. Juriga suggested using another bank or credit union for amounts over \$250,000. Treasurer Elaine Gutierrez agreed the board has to be more fiscally intelligent once the library gets a bond with hundreds of thousands of dollars moving in. Doing investment securities is higher

federally insured, she said;

- Thanked the Van Buren Civic Fund for its grant of \$6,450 towards the purchase of two AWE children's learning stations that cost \$7,400. Each learning center offers 80 software programs, touch screens, colored keyboards, and small mouses for small hands. According to the AWE website, the stations enable children to learn how to learn;

- Learned City of Belleville resident Conrad Welsing has agreed to help the Marketing Committee develop a mission statement and a marketing plan. Welsing is a retired marketing director for Detroit Public Library and also taught marketing at Wayne State University. The Marketing Committee is made up of Juriga, Gutierrez, Michael Boelter, Library Director Debra Green, and Deputy Director Suchy;

- Learned there has been a big response to the new Literacy Project, with about 24 tutors showing up to be trained. The project uses the library meeting room on Tuesdays, except when the district library board meets. Boelter and his wife Kelly have committed to the program for a year and will be trained to do the initial learner assessments with part-time librarian Dan Lodge, who is directing the program. Nakenya Yarbrough volunteered to assist with organizational tasks. The initial training is 15 hours and started March 19. The tutors will be trained before the project reaches out to seek learners; and

- Was informed that Library Week is April 14 - 20. During the whole month of April the library will be promoting Food for Fines for Gleaners. With the exception of lost books, any late fines or fees up to \$5 can be forgiven with donations of canned

foods.

The audience for the March 12 meeting of the district library board consisted of three members of the Press and no residents.

Belleville Council approves \$15,000 for water valve installation

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

At a 12-minute meeting on Monday, the Belleville City Council approved spending up to \$15,000 to get a new 12-inch water valve installed because the present one is squirting water.

DPS Director Keith Boc said when his men were working at Five Points on a recent water problem, they turned off the water at the railroad track on South Street.

When they turned it back on, water started squirting out of the gasket. Boc said the city has a replacement valve, but his crew was unable to isolate the valve for a repair or replacement.

He said the work requires a company to place stops on each side of the valve to stop the water flow so a new valve can be installed.

Cost is \$4,000-\$5,000 per side, for a total of some \$10,000.

He said the city has used WaterTAP before for specialized work. The company will put a tap on each side of the work, installed electronically.

The valve is very heavy, Boc said, noting the work will take two days: one day for preparation and one day for replacement of the valve.

He said the manhole is deep and all the block has to be dismantled and removed in order to put the valve in place.

Blue Ribbon will also work on the project, at a cost of about \$5,000, Boc said.

He said the work will not cause interruption in water service to any city customers.

The project will be on the shoulder of South Street on the Five Points side of the railroad track and should not interfere with traffic.

In other business, the council considered the \$64,670.59 in accounts payable.

Before voting, the council discussed a \$884.06 bill from SMART to fix the senior bus. There was no backup information on the repair, but the work was done in November and the bill was dated in December, so the council decided to pay the bill and then get information on the repair.

Councilman Brian Blackburn was absent and excused from the meeting.

Upcoming Meetings

- Tuesday, April 9 – VBT September Days Senior Center Endowment Committee, 11 a.m. Also, VBT LDFA, 2 p.m. VBT Recreation Committee, 5:30 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township workshop at 6 p.m., followed by regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. Also, Belleville Area District Library Board, 7 p.m. Also, VBT Board of Zoning Appeals, 7 p.m.

Obituaries

TIMOTHY C. WILSON

(April 22, 1964 - March 27, 2013)

Age 48 of Ypsilanti. Survived by parents Jessie and Ruth Wilson; three brothers, Keith, Kenneth, and Michael. Services were April 2 at First Free Will Baptist Church, Ypsilanti. Arrangements by Stark Funeral Service.

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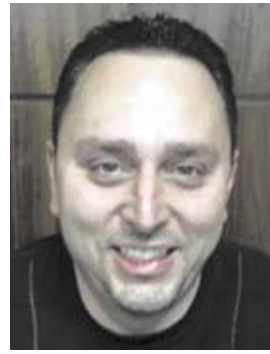


Independent photo by Rosemary K. Oztman

Demolition work has begun on Elwell Elementary School in Sumpter Township, with many of the walls removed so people can see inside the building. This photo was taken on Tuesday morning. It is reported the playscape, swings and slides still in the Elwell playground will be taken to Rawsonville Elementary School for use by the children there.

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Belleville Fire Fighters, Auxiliary, CERT raise Autism Awareness funds

On Tuesday, the Belleville Fire Fighters Association, Belleville Fire Auxiliary and members of the tri-community Community Emergency Response Team [CERT] were out on Main Street asking people to put money in fire boots to raise funds for Autism Awareness.

April is Autism Awareness Month.

Belleville Fire Lieutenant Chris Zweng said 100% of all money raised will be donated to AutismSpeaks.org.

Lt. Zweng said the boot drive was a huge

success and the Belleville groups will continue collecting donations throughout the month of April through cans placed in local downtown businesses.

"Just look for the puzzle piece can to make a donation and give a big thanks to the owners for supporting a great cause," Lt. Zweng said.

Fire Fighter Brian Blackburn, who is also a member of the City Council, and Lt. Zweng both have children with autism.

"I think a newspaper should be provocative, stir 'em up, but you can't do that on television. It's just not on."
— Rupert Murdoch

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St. Vincent DePaul sets basketball tourney to help local people in need

St. Vincent DePaul of Belleville has had a recent surge of people seeking emergency help: Homeless families, battered women and those displaced by fires within the communities of Belleville, Van Buren, and Sumpter.

The charitable organization, based at St. Anthony Catholic Church, needs more funds to provide food, medical/dental care, clothing, furniture, beds/bedding, utilities, rent, and home repairs.

That's why they have put together their First Annual Basketball Tournament that will be held at 7 p.m., Friday, April 19, at the brand-new gymnasium at Belleville High School.

The basketball teams will be made up of members of the Belleville, Van Buren, and Sumpter police and fire departments.

If you get your tickets early, adult tickets are \$8 for adults. At the door, they are \$10. Children ages 5 to 10 are \$5 in advance and \$7 at the door. Children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

Price of the ticket includes entry in a half-time raffle.

So far, the raffle prizes include restaurant gift cards, gift baskets, oil changes, car washes, hair salon services, tanning, pizza, auto detailing, gym membership, and bikes for kids. More prizes are coming in.

Tickets are available at: Mammoth Video, Garden Fantasy, The Lunch Box

and Charhouse in Belleville, Sumpter Ace Hardware, and 5 Star Pizza/Market in Sumpter.

Gina Simpson, St. Vincent DePaul Fundraiser Coordinator, said, "One hundred percent of every dollar we receive from this event will go right back to the communities to help those in need."

For more information, call Simpson at 734-644-3508.

Belleville Area Chamber to hear Robert Ficano at April 11 luncheon

Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano will be a guest speaker at the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce's member luncheon meeting on Thursday, April 11.

The luncheon will be at the Holiday Inn Express, 46194 N. I-94 Service Dr., Van Buren Township.

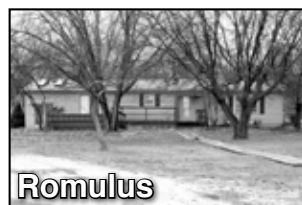
Ficano will discuss Aeropolis, as well as provide a legislative update. Reservations are being taken, with a deadline of April 8. Member Cost is \$15, Non-Members are \$20.

To make a reservation, call the Chamber at 734-697-7151 or email info@bellevilleareachamber.org.

3 ONLINE ONLY AUCTIONS Wednesday, April 17th



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Van Buren Township, Wayne County

Open House: April 10th & 16th (11am-12pm)

Parcel ID: 83-126-99-0002-00 • SEV: \$45,900 (2012) • Taxable Value: \$40,697

(2012) • Taxes: \$433.55 (winter '12); \$1,688.22 (summer '12)

Zoning: Agricultural & Estates • Survey available online.

BIDDING ENDS AT 1PM

6.84± Acres, Home, Barn

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32100 Prescott Road, Romulus, MI 48174

Huron Charter Township, Wayne County

Open House: April 10th & 16th (12:30-1:30pm)

Parcel ID: 75-009-99-0014-000 • SEV: \$74,100 (2012) • Taxable Value: \$74,100

(2012) • Taxes: \$951.33 (winter '12); \$1654.91 (summer '12)

Zoning: R-1 Suburban Residential District

BIDDING ENDS AT 2PM

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London Township, Monroe County

Open House: April 10th & 16th (2-3pm)

Parcel ID: 58-10-009-036-40 • SEV: \$50,300 (2011) • Taxable Value: \$50,300 (2011)

Taxes: \$657.88 (winter '12); \$414.84 (summer '12) • Zoning: Agricultural (Ag-2)

BIDDING ENDS AT 3PM

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Lou Kovach

(continued from page 1)

the Parcel Division Board to grant the land division he requested.

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The township filed an answer to the complaint, requesting that the court deny the relief requested entirely and enter judgment in the township's favor.

After months of negotiation, Kovach and VBT settled out of court, dismissing

Public Notice

Notice to Creditors

TO ALL CREDITORS:

The Settlor, Margaret M. Skiba, who lived at 14 Menlo Park Drive, Belleville, Michigan 48111, died January 10, 2013. There is no personal representative of the settlor's estate to whom Letters of Administration have been issued.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the Margaret M. Skiba Trust dated June 11, 2004, as amended, will be forever barred unless presented to Caythe L. Borio, Trustee, within four months after the date of publication.

Notice is further given that the Trust will thereafter be assigned and distributed to the persons entitled to it.

Date: March 25, 2013

Renee M. Szobonya P57265, Attorney
800 W. Grand River
Brighton, MI 48116 (810) 494-7106

Caythe L. Borio, Trustee
14 Menlo Park Drive
Belleville, MI 48111 (734) 699-6372

Publish: April 4, 2013

defendants Carroll, Stevenson, and MacDonald from the case.

The order signed by the judge said this was "to avoid further costs and expenses, the uncertainty of trial, and to resolve their disputes relative to this action without any admission of liability on the part of the township."

Each party agreed to be responsible for their own attorney fees, costs and expenses.

Kovach said the township had created a "Homer Rule" that changed the property zoning into Agricultural Zoning with larger minimum sizes and made all the land non-compliant to the township's own ordinance.

At the latest court session, Kovach said Judge Gillis said to the VBT attorney, "You have been causing this guy trouble and if you don't change I will act on his request."

Kovach said VBT attorney David Greco replied, "These are the zoning rules" and the judge replied, "Change the zoning rules."

"I wanted the Homer Plan," Kovach explained. "When I started, all I wanted was to get what Homer was promised."

"I wanted to show Homer could have done it, but, unfortunately, he ran out of time."

"I wanted to do this as quickly as possible so it doesn't happen to me," Kovach said.

The judge gave them a deadline to come to an agreement or he would act on Kovach's request.

Kovach said there was one day left before the judge would do this and his attorney John Day called him to a 3:30 p.m. meeting at township hall. He said besides his attorney and the VBT attorney also present were Supervisor Combs, Stevenson, Carroll and MacDonald.

Kovach said he was five minutes late and when he entered the room Day was explaining to Carroll what the judge was going to do the next day.

"That's no problem. We'll just find another judge," said Carroll, according to Kovach.

Kovach said he couldn't believe what he was hearing, but bit his tongue and didn't comment.

Instead he said, "Let's talk about the Grand Compromise, the Consent Judgment."

Kovach said there was a suggestion to divide Kovach's land into nine pieces.

Kovach said he had asked for 11 pieces and asked why they said nine.

He said the answer was: "You're not giving up anything and we're giving up

everything."

At that point Kovach recalls he said to his attorney, "John, I think we're meeting them in court tomorrow." He started to get out of his chair to leave, when Supervisor Combs asked him to please wait.

"I want to resolve this for you," she said and they worked to come up with Option 3. Kovach said the parcel division was drawn up by attorney Day and this split was more orderly and had no flag lots.

His original request was for 11 buildable lots and Option 3 had 10 places. One large parcel includes Kovach's residence and has a large, swampy area in the back of the property.

"In the end, we lost one building lot," Kovach said.

Kovach credits Combs with solving the disagreement. He said before the August Primary Election, Combs came to see him with the *Independent* stories about his fight to get his property split.

Kovach said Combs told him if she gets elected she will settle the dispute and come up with a compromise.

"Why compromise if you're right? What did I do wrong?" he said he asked her. "What did Homer do wrong?"

"We're just trying to make happen what was promised," Kovach said.

Kovach worked against the reelection of Supervisor Paul White who he blamed for his lot split troubles and put signs up on the property against White, one of which is still in place.

Kovach said he is thinking of cleaning up the back acreage on this property and growing an orchard for Homer.

"I hope there is a Heaven and they can see down. Both my father and Homer can see I did something good," he said.

Kovach said the attempt to split the property has been going on for years and, "It's really been Homer's hope."

He said now he can sell the lots and maybe in five years when the economy breaks families can build homes in the country.

The VBT Board had had several closed-door sessions to discuss the law suit, the most recent one after a work/study session on Feb. 19, 12 days after the court was advised the case was settled and closed.

At the regular board meeting later on Feb. 19 the board voted 6-1 to approve its attorney's recommendation on the case, with Trustee Regina Miller casting the only nay vote. There was no discussion and no announcement that the case had been settled.

On March 15 Supervisor Combs told the *Independent* that Kovach and his attorney, John Day, were very good to work with and, "We all had the same goal."

Combs said the settlement was good for both sides.

Former Supervisor White reviewed the settlement and said he was comfortable with the new splits agreed upon. He said he believes it will reasonably meet state law on land division splits.

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Mark Twain

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VBT sends press release explaining how police, fire depts. cooperate

On Monday, Van Buren Township Interim Public Safety Director Greg Laurain sent out a press release explaining how police and fire departments are working together to provide “an even more efficient level of comprehensive service.”

Interim Director Laurain said historically the police and fire departments have worked well together, but now under his guidance and that of Fire Chief Dan Besson they are collaborating like never before.

He said a few of the newly implemented practices of cooperation include:

- **Hydrant Preparation:** Police officers now carry hydrant wrenches in their police cars so if they arrive at the scene of a fire before the fire engine and fire fighters, they can prepare the hydrant.

“When fire personnel arrive, precious minutes can be saved, and fire fighters can immediately get to work,” Captain Laurain said.

- **Directing Traffic:** When an incident requires fire fighters to concentrate on life safety, police officers will handle routing traffic around the incident until fire fighters become available.

Similarly, and as incidents allow, fire fighters will transition into position to relieve the police officers from traffic control points. Doing so assists police officers so they are able to get back to their investigation, the issues of a serious car crash, or other law enforcement duties.

Both VBT police and fire fighters are trained in national, state, and local traffic

safety procedures. Utility 2, a support vehicle housed at fire headquarters, is well equipped with barricades, traffic cones, safety flares, and signs. Both police and fire wear conspicuous traffic vests while directing traffic in high-speed zones in order to gain the driver’s attention.

- **Immediate Response:** On-duty officers trained as fire fighters now carry their fire gear in the trunks of their police cars. While on duty as a police officer, if there is a need to respond in the capacity of a fire fighter, an immediate response is now available, Laurain said.

“This new practice represents the best use of resources available, while an added bonus is fiscal conservation: If a cross-trained police officer transitions into a fire responder, no blended-rate hourly cost increase is incurred,” Laurain said.

“Instead, these employees are serving in the capacity of a public safety officer,”

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES MARCH 27, 2013

Supervisor Combs called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m. in the Board Room. Present: Supervisor Combs, Clerk Wright, Treasurer Budd and Trustee Jahr. Absent: Trustee Hart (excused), Trustee McClanahan (excused) and Trustee Miller (excused). Others in attendance: Secretary Cline and an audience of one (1).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Budd moved, Wright seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Carried.

CLOSED SESSION: None.

NEW BUSINESS: Wright moved, Budd seconded to accept American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) contract extension (one year) to December 31, 2015. Carried.

ADJOURNMENT: Budd moved, Wright seconded to adjourn at 3:11 p.m. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Leon Wright, Township Clerk
Linda H. Combs, Township Supervisor
Publish: April 4, 2013

Laurain said.

“This collaborative effort to implement these new practices enhance police and fire services and provide an even more efficient and comprehensive level of safety and service to residents,” Laurain concluded.

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES MARCH 25, 2013

Supervisor Combs called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m. in the Board Room. Present: Supervisor Combs, Clerk Wright, Treasurer Budd, Trustee Jahr, Trustee McClanahan and Trustee Miller. Absent: Trustee Hart (excused). There was an audience of one (1).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Budd moved, Wright seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Carried.

CLOSED SESSION: To be held in the Denton Room to discuss attorney’s recommendation regarding pending litigation case 12-01279-CD.

Wright moved McClanahan seconded to recess to Closed Session to discuss attorney’s recommendation regarding pending litigation case 12-01279-CD. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: Miller, McClanahan, Jahr, Budd, Wright and Combs. Nays: None. Absent: Hart (excused). Carried.

There being no further discussion, the Special Board meeting was recessed to Closed Session at 4:08 p.m.

The Special Board meeting was reconvened at 5:20 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS: Miller moved, Jahr seconded to recuse Trustee McClanahan from New Business Item #1 “Consider approval of the attorney’s recommendation regarding pending litigation case 12-01279-CD.” Carried.

Wright moved, Budd seconded to accept the attorney’s recommendation regarding pending litigation case 12-01279-CD. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: Budd, Wright and Combs. Nays: Miller and Jahr. Abstain: McClanahan. Absent: Hart (excused). Carried.

ADJOURNMENT: Miller moved, Jahr seconded to adjourn at 5:23 p.m. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Leon Wright, Township Clerk
Linda H. Combs, Township Supervisor
Publish: April 4, 2013

VBT Police reorganize under Interim Director Gregory Laurain

By Diane Madigan
Independent Special Writer

After hearing bits and pieces from multiple sources about changes in the Van Buren Township Police Department, the *Independent* asked VBT Supervisor Linda Combs for official information on the police department’s reorganization.

Supervisor Combs’ Executive Assistant Karin LaMothe provided the following information:

- Captain Gregory Laurain is serving as the Interim Director of Public Safety, without a promotion.

- Former Sgt. Fred Yono chose to take a voluntary demotion that would enable him to remain in the traffic bureau.

- Lt. Ken Floro is transferring his dispatch supervision to Sgt. Jeff Gueli.

- Interim Director Laurain presently oversees the traffic bureau. In the Interim Director’s absence, Lt. Floro will assume these duties.

- Lt. Floro is not receiving a promotion.

These are the changes that have taken place since Public Safety Director Carl McClanahan’s resignation in January. No search process for a new public safety director has been announced.

Sumpter Township Public Notice

NOTICE OF LAST DAY OF REGISTRATION OF ELECTORS OF SUMPTER TOWNSHIP WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN

ALL ELECTORS ARE HEREBY GIVEN NOTICE a Special Airport School Election will be held in Sumpter Township on Tuesday, May 7, 2013.

Electors who wish to vote in the special election must be registered no later than April 8, 2013. To register, visit any secretary of state branch office, the county clerk’s office or local clerk’s office.

If you wish to register at local clerk’s office the hours are 9 am to 4 pm Monday thru Friday.

Sumpter Township Clerk
Clarence J. Hoffman Jr.
23480 Sumpter Rd.
Belleville, MI 48111-9600
734-461-6201

Publish: April 4, 2013

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MOVING - 44714 ROBSON RD. April 4 -7, 9 a.m. -5 p.m. Household items, Clothes, Many other items. Everything Must Go. 4/04

FOR SALE

BANZAI Plunge inflatable water slide w/pool and 2 blowers. Paid \$450 new asking \$300. Dutch door, 36x80 never used or installed, \$200 obo (734) 697-0091 4/04

27" Magnavox color TV, works great, \$25. (734) 697-0091 4/04

GEO Tracks Train set w/ lots of trains, tracks & buildings, \$75. (6) Seat Koolz seat & bench. Great for soccer, used one season, \$65. (734) 697-0091 4/04

NET Gear Pro safe 8-port Gigabit VPN firewall, \$20. HP color deskjet 5650 inkjet printer, \$50. Both brand new. (2) Ninetenos DS, \$45 each. (734) 697-0091 4/04

35 HAY ROUNDS, 2nd cut, last summer, \$70/round. 25 Squares with Alfalfa, \$13/square. 20 Corn rounds, \$35/round. (734) 697-7975 mornings 4/04

4-POSTER QUEEN BED. Wood head & foot board with frame, \$50. (734) 699-3885 4/11

Off White Refrigerator, \$100. White Washer & Dryer, \$200. Tonneau Cover Hard Top Tri-fold, fits Chevy/GMC, 5 1/2' bed, \$250. (309) 253-0047 4/18

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EASTER BUNNIES - Prices range from \$8 each to \$12 each. Call Mary (734) 697-4835 4/04

WANTED

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

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

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 - CASH for old Guitars or parts. Any condition. Also repair services available. (734) 697-1128 Ray 4/18

WANTED - MANUFACTURED HOME for storage. (734) 262-5008 4/04

ACT FAST - FAST CASH for Junk Cars. Pick up 7 days a week. Call Gene & Son Towing. (734) 502-4017 or (734) 686-1250 4/18

FREE

WENDY WINNIE MERLE CT. 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

FOR RENT

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AUCTION

ESTATE AUCTION
Sat., April 13, 2013 @ 10:00am
46265 Bemis Rd., Belleville, MI
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Estate of Joe Skszek
Check website for pictures and more info.
braunandhelmer.com
Braun & Helmer Auction Service, Inc.
Brian Braun 734-368-1736

2013 SPRING CONSIGNMENT.
April 6th @ 9:00 a.m. 48651 Harris Rd. (734) 262-5008 Construction, Farm & Lawn equipment, Building materials, Hardware, etc. Not accepting Household items. 4/04

Notice to Advertisers:

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

HELP WANTED

Atchinson Ford is looking for several hard working people for its new detail shop. Experience with light mechanical or detailing helpful. Good driving record a must. Contact Eric Carter (734) 697-9161

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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.



Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

The following are selected runs for VBT Police.

Sunday, March 24:

0041 – disorderly conduct, 7483 Kirkridge Park Dr
0102 – disorderly conduct, 50521 W. Huron River Dr., Pine Creek
0157 – property damage accident, Belleville / Van Born
0215 – property damage accident, Belleville / Van Born
0407 – noise complaint, 9985 Jackson Ln.
0659 – operating while intoxicated, EB I-94 / Belleville
1404 – suicide or attempt, 42901 Tyler Rd.
1518 – missing person, 47151 Ruthan Dr.
1543 – malicious destruction of property, 10860 Lighthouse Dr.
1556 – narcotics crime, Rawsonville/I-94
1824 – intimidation threat, 9916 Hamilton St.
1850 – assault & battery, 11250 Haggerty Rd.
2018 – operating while intoxicated, 104 Richard Run

Monday, March 25:

0245 – assault & battery, 11639 Meadows Circle
0541 – larceny from auto, 48520 Ormond Dr.
0658 – unauthorized driving away of auto, 49041 S. I-94 Service Dr.
0948 – juvenile complaint, 46080 Lake Villa Dr.
1105 – breaking & entering, 11130 Van Buren St.
1314 – larceny from auto, 49251 S. I-94 Service
1328 – larceny from auto, 48440 Ormond Dr.
1406 – malicious destruction of property, 12851 Lake Pointe Pass
1515 – larceny, 9636 Jackson St.
1559 – larceny, 13269 Lake Pointe Pass
1644 – juvenile complaint, 47097 McBride
1856 – larceny, Walmart
1910 – property damage accident, Tyler/Morton Taylor
2154 – assault & battery, 41482 Archwood
2216 – property damage accident, Belleville/S. I-94 Service Dr.
2224 – suspicious situation, Lighthouse/Southport
2312 – assault & batter0936 -- y, 51185 Freedom Way

Tuesday, March 26:

0855 – juvenile complaint, Savage School
0915 – property damage accident, Harris/Haggerty
1022 – private property accident, 42350 Van Born
1046 – larceny from auto, 13095 Linda Vista Ct.
1132 – assault & battery, 9823 Barkley St.
1308 – assault & battery, 45 Park Estates
1338 – larceny from auto, 10819 Oak Ln.
1433 – breaking & entering motor vehicle, 44700 N. I-94 Service Dr.

1549 – noise complaint, 9312 Parkwood
1705 – assault & battery, 10830 Oak Lane
1702 – noise complaint, 9314 Parkwood
1900 – narcotics crime, 46425 Tyler Rd.
1919 – retail fraud, 2095 Rawsonville, Kmart
2239 – breaking & entering, 53 Maple Dr.
2255 – assault & battery, 49041 S. I-94 Service

Wednesday, March 27:

0913 – robbery, Ecorse Mobil
0936 – agency assist, rest area/I-94
1127 – fraud, Belleville Vision
1329 – fraud, Meijer
1524 – fraud, 10203 Van Buren St.
1615 – shots fired, 10850 Lighthouse
1632 – assault & battery, 1123 Savage Rd.
1724 – property damage accident, Belleville/south of Tyler
1823 – private property accident, 6602 Doree Ave.
2020 – larceny from auto, 7371 Sadie Ln.
2110 – noise complaint, 9305 Parkwood Dr.
2351 – harassment call, 9259 Parkwood Dr.

Thursday, March 28:

0243 – assault & battery, 13153 Lake Point Blvd.
0802 – property damage accident, Van Buren St. / N. I-94 Service Dr.
1114 – malicious destruction of property, 41107 N. Woodbury Dr.
1224 – fight, 47097 McBride Ave., McBride School
1343 – mental, 45857 Ecorse Rd.
1459 – disturbance, 10788 Belleville Rd.
1511 – suspicious person, 8901 Parkwood Dr.
1514 – property damage accident, Ecorse/Haggerty

1733 – harassment call, 16800 Lohr Rd.
1736 – fraud, 46060 Lake Villa Dr.
2020 – narcotics crime, 46425 Tyler Rd.
2033 – private property accident, 50953 S. I-94 Service Dr.
2102 – fraud, 120 N. Ponderosa
2121 – operating while intoxicated, S. I-94 Service Dr./Beckley Rd.
2226 – assault & battery, 9259 Parkwood Dr.
2246 – assault & battery, 46121 Village Green Ln.

Friday, March 29:

0004 – narcotics crime, 46425 Tyler Rd.
0013 – narcotics crime, 46425 Tyler Rd.
0032 – noie complaint, 44 Chaney Ave.
0201 – disorderly conduct, 50521 W. Huron River Dr., Pine Creek
0231 – disturbance, 11627 Meadows Cir.
0351 – private property accident, Southport
0450 – larceny, 49041 S. I-94 Service Dr.
0859 – unauthorized driving away of auto, 51096 America

0937 – fight, 46194 N. I-94 Service Dr.
1117 – fraud, 46070 Lake Villa Dr.
1327 – holdup alarm, 39965 S. I-94 Service Dr.
1355 – assault & battery, 5957 Vernon St.
1412 – narcotics crime, 48571 S. I-94 Service Dr.
1511 – juvenile complaint, 23 Oak Blvd.
1602 – assault & battery, 9819 Kent Ln.
1642 – fraud, 46425 Tyler Rd.
1653 – vagrant, Belleville/Westlake
1812 – private property accident, 50953 S. I-94 Service Dr.

1832 – retail fraud, Meijer
2005 – juvenile complaint, 51195 Sylvia Dr.
2019 – juvenile complaint, Belleville/I-94
2028 – ATV/ORV complaint, Jackson Ln. / Jackson St.
2059 – retail fraud, Kmart
2235 – assault & battery, 51269 Landmark
2319 – malicious destruction of property, 9917 Kennedy Ct.

Saturday, March 30:

0522 – larceny from auto, 41547 Van Born
0546 – breaking & entering, 41547 Van Born
0608 – disturbance, 48041 S. I-94 Service Dr.
1007 – larceny, 905 Savage Rd.
1036 – larceny from auto, 48940 Denton Rd.
1310 – private property accident, 10915 Belleville
1431 – noise complaint, Holly Ln/Ivy Dr.
1800 – property damage accident, Martinsville / Burtrig St.
1850 – assault & battery, 9161 Parkwood
1909 – disturbance, 45501 S. I-94 Service Dr.
2034 – property damage accident, s. I-94 Service Dr. / Belleville

2045 – suicide or attempt, 42901 Tyler Rd.
2133 – assault & battery, 7619 Kirkridge Park Dr.
2201 – assault & battery, 72 Maple
2332 – assault & battery, 51195 Sylvia Dr.

Also on this week's log are 262 traffic stops, 131 of which were on the I-94 and I-275 freeways.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, March 24:

1003 – follow-up, 357 E. Columbia Ave.
1111 – assist fire dept., 195 Belle Villa Blvd.
1220 – assist fire dept., E. Huron River Dr./Main
1421 – animal complaint, 169 Belle Villa Blvd.
1627 – narcotics crime, 129 Carmell St.
1759 – animal complaint, Belle Villa Blvd. / Sumpter Rd.
1947 – assist fire dept., 401 Estrada
2117 – intrusion alarm, 496 Main St.

Monday, March 25:

0118 – assist fire dept., 78 Carmell St.
0334 – suspicious vehicle, 420 Sumpter Rd.
0630 – assist fire dept., 275 W. Columbia Ave.
1210 – property damage accident, 465 Main St.
1314 – assist fire dept., 167 Fourth St.
2140 – serve warrant, 39211 Wade
2201 – intrusion alarm, 555 W. Columbia Ave.

Tuesday, March 26:

0101 – family trouble, 271 Henry St.
0600 – suspicious vehicle, 795 Sumpter Rd.
0832 – welfare check, 169 N. Liberty St.
1525 – background investigation, 6 Main St.
1933 – suspicious vehicle, 6 Main St.
2012 – welfare check, 8 Carmell St.
2034 – larceny, 501 W. Columbia, BHS

2229 – intrusion alarm, 501 W. Columbia, BHS
2253 – property damage accident, 608 Estrada
2329 – E-911 hangup/investigation, 575 Sumpter
Wednesday, March 27:
0332 – intrusion alarm, 541 E. Huron River Dr.
0832 – suspicious person, Belle Plaza
0904 – civil matter, 22 Carmell St.
0905 – juvenile complaint, 40 Carmell St.
1010 – larceny, 501 W. Columbia, BHS
1027 – welfare check, 24 Loza Lane
1206 – animal complaint, 6 Main St.
1305 – animal complaint, 506 Harbour Pointe Dr.
1309 – disorderly conduct, 501 W. Columbia, BHS
1318 – miscellaneous complaint, 871 Sumpter Rd.
1457 – suicide or attempt, 476 W. Columbia Ave.
1620 – assist fire dept., 501 W. Columbia, BHS
2109 – missing person, 101 Carmell St.

Thursday, March 28:

0128 – intrusion alarm, 514 Main St.
0756 – civil matter, 221 Henry St.
0814 – warrant arrest, 570 Clinton St.
0928 – assist fire dept., 241 Church St.
0932 – fraud, 6 Main St.
1127 – parking complaint, W. Columbia/BHS
1211 – miscellaneous complaint, 6 Main
1417 – assist fire dept., 301 W. Davis St.
1542 – missing person, 101 Carmell St.
1742 – parking complaint, W. Columbia/Church
2100 – intrusion alarm, 25 Owen
2216 – intrusion alarm, 501 W. Columbia, BHS
2356 – suspicious person, 35 Carmell St.

Friday, March 29:

0005 – property damage accident, 508 W. Columbia Ave.
0127 – suspicious person, Perfect Image
0742 – intrusion alarm, 501 W. Columbia, BHS
1224 – neighbor trouble, 472 Robbe St.
1404 – disorderly conduct, North Middle School
1404 – assault & battery, 501 W. Columbia, BHS
1627 – trespassing, 45 S. Edgemont Ave.
1821 – neighbor trouble, 506 Harbor Pointe Dr.
1939 – suspicious situation, 330 Charles
1949 – assist fire dept., 6 Main St.
2237 – agency assist, 51269 Landmark
2352 – suspicious person, 146 High St., Johnny's

Saturday, March 30:

0652 – assist citizen, 15060 Pebblebrook
2146 – suspicious person, Victory Park

Also on this week's log are 114 traffic stops.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, March 24:

0755 – animal complaint, Sumpter/Dunn
0827 – fire dept. assist, 22000 bl. Prince Rd.
1010 – larceny, 48000 bl. Judd Rd.
1302 – suspicious incident, Oregon
1310 – fire dept. assist, 17000 bl. Lohr Rd.
1535 – follow-up investigation, 48000 bl. Judd Rd.
1739 – animal complaint, 39000 bl. Willow Rd.
2019 – suspicious incident, 48000 bl. Willow Rd.
2125 – assault, 28000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2243 – fire dept. assist, 23000 bl. Karr Rd.

Monday, March 25:

0005 – suspicious vehicle, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
0859 – larceny, 42000 bl. Willis Rd.
0950 – larceny, 45000 bl. Bemis Rd.
1150 – citizen assist, 43000 bl. Clay Rd.
1245 – malicious destruction of property, 28000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1316 – citizen assist, 43000 bl. Clay Rd.
1629 – property damage accident, 46000 bl. Judd
1726 – 911 hang up, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1731 – suspicious vehicle, Sumpter/Kozma
1923 – assist other agency, 29000 bl. Haggerty Rd.

Tuesday, March 26:

0155 – civil dispute, 23000 bl. Carleton West Rd.
0825 – trespass complaint, 20000 bl. Sherwood Rd
1557 – larceny, 42000 bl. Judd Rd.
1558 – malicious destruction of property, 44000 bl. Harris Rd.
1600 – follow-up investigation, 44000 Willis Rd.
1600 – fire dept. assist, Nevada
1637 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2016 – malicious destruction of property, 42000 bl. Judd Rd.
2043 – warrant arrest, Vermont
2341 – warrant arrest, out of township

Wednesday, March 27:

0102 – fire dept. assist, 44000 bl. Clay Rd.

0110 – follow-up investigation, 23000 bl. Sumpter
0706 – property damage accident, Willow / Haggerty
0800 – fire dept. assist, New Mexico
1021 – odor investigation, 21000 bl. Clemmons Ct.
1045 – fire dept. assist, 48000 bl. Willis Rd.
1235 – civil dispute, 51000 bl. Willis Rd.
1337 – suspicious vehicle, 17000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1708 – larceny, Nevada
1737 – animal complaint, 39000 bl. Willow Rd.
2051 – alarm, 24000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2158 – follow-up investigation, 23000 bl. Sumpter
2232 – fire dept. assist, Iowa
2315 – follow-up investigation, Nevada

Thursday, March 28:

0250 – assist other agency, 5400 Oakville Waltz
0949 – warrant arrest, 21000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1143 – follow-up investigation, 19000 bl. Sumpter
1408 – neighbor dispute, 21000 bl. Bohn Rd.
1412 – follow-up investigation, 23000 bl. Sumpter
1510 – civil dispute, 21000 bl. Wilmot Rd.
1745 – shots fired, 28000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1819 – warrant arrest, 20000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1831 – follow-up investigation, 23000 bl. Sumpter
1854 – civil dispute, 40000 bl. Willow Rd.
1910 – alarm, 28000 bl. Karr Rd.
1954 – follow-up investigation, Nevada
2054 – parking complaint, 24000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
2115 – suspicious person, Harris/Haggerty
2213 – suspicious incident, 44000 bl. Harris Rd.

Friday, March 29:

0531 – fire dept. assist, W. Arizona
0658 – alarm, 8200 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
0751 – alarm, 8200 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
0934 – fire dept. assist, 18000 bl. Savage Rd.
1028 – alarm, 21000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
1227 – animal bite, 42000 bl. Judd Rd.
1231 – disorderly person, 21000 bl. Wilmot Rd.
1247 – alarm, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1324 – family trouble, 21000 bl. Wilmot Rd.
1431 – fire dept. assist, 46000 bl. Arkona Rd.
1753 – breaking & entering report, 5800 bl. Oakville Waltz Rd.

1841 – civil dispute, Mulberry
1913 – fight, 51000 bl. Willis Rd.
2012 – fire dept. assist, 9300 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
2201 – suspicious incident, 4700 bl. Oakville Waltz Rd.

Saturday, March 30:

0001 – noise complaint, New Mexico
0020 – open burning, 27000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1202 – trespass complaint, 20000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1221 – missing person, Nevada
1443 – suspicious incident, 42000 bl. Bemis Rd.
1558 – fire dept. assist, 28000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1633 – ordinance violation, 40000 bl. Judd Rd.
1706 – suspicious incident, Rustic Lane
1708 – alarm, 28000 bl. Karr Rd.
1807 – suspicious incident, 23000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
2137 – suspicious incident, 17000 bl. Sully Dr.
Also on this week's log are 33 miscellaneous details, 140 patrol checks, and 72 traffic stops.

VBT Police make traffic stop, nab stolen car with armed driver

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

On Monday, Van Buren Township Police made a traffic stop on the South I-94 Service Drive and found a man driving a stolen car and carrying a concealed weapon.

The traffic stop was near Harbour Club Apartments at about 1:30 p.m.

Lt. Ken Floro said the suspect moved to this area about three months ago and the vehicle is reported stolen out of Genesee County.

As the *Independent* completed its pages to go to press, Lt. Floro said the police were currently gathering information to forward to the Wayne County Prosecutor for a warrant.

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



The secret's out, **Selena** is no ordinary pup! She's a 9 month old Boxer/Shepherd mix with super-pup powers instead. Her powers include giving incredible puppy kisses, making smiles appear with her excited wiggles, captivating you with her adorable nature and bending you to her will with one look into her irresistible sad brown eyes. Don't let her super powers fool you though; she's also just a downright delightful, energetic and lovable girl hoping to find her fur-ever home soon. **Selena** is loaded with energy and will have no problem keeping up with a busy, active family with kids or other doggie playmates. She does still need basic and leash training to keep her normal puppy mischief at bay. Call quick to meet this extraordinary pup before she's snatched up by some other lucky family. She's spayed, vaccinated and micro-chipped. **734-461-9458**

Minding Your Business
with Bob Mytych



H & R Block on Belleville Road will be holding a **Child ID Workshop** on Saturday, April 13, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. inside the retail store. Van Buren Township Police will be conducting the event. Call (734) 697-6066 for info.

The **Van Buren Public Schools Education Foundation** will be holding a **Mexican Fiesta Fundraiser Dinner** on Saturday, April 27 at the Belleville High School Cafeteria, from 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

The date is also the same date for the final performance of the BHS musical **Hairspray**. Proceeds from the dinner will go for future grants.

Belleville A & W announces a brand new ice cream item to its All-American menu: **Mini Polar Swirls**, featuring Oreo, M & M's, Reece's, and Cookie Dough for only \$1.99. Carhop is open and carry-outs are available by calling (734) 699-1800.

Franklin Homes at Belleville Manor is a premier manufactured home community off Belleville Road, north of Tyler. Right now is the best time to get into a home of your dreams with new rental and purchase incentives. Homes must close by May 31, 2013. To learn more, call **Belinda**

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R. Dixon & Son Lawn Service of New Boston is a professional lawn mowing and maintenance company serving commercial and residential customers. Get started with a spring clean up. They're fully insured too. Call (734) 891-7212.

Tin Pan Restaurant on Sumpter Road next to Sumpter Ace Hardware is offering new daily dine-in specials with beverage purchase. From half-price pizza on Sunday to 1-pound crab legs on Saturday, Tin Pan has something for everyone, including their Any Two for \$15 Dinners, from 11 a.m. to close. See their ad in today's paper for the details and call (734) 699-7066.

Belleville Pro Hardware on Main Street is a one-stop shop for anything rental. From lawn and garden equipment to hand tools and moving equipment, the **Windiate** family is very knowledgeable in anything hardware. The folks there are experts in screen repair too, with next day turnaround in most cases. They're open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call (734) 697-9595.

Atchinson Ford has announced that **Estill Martinez** has joined the sales staff at the award-winning dealership on Belleville Road. Martinez would like to welcome all his previous customers to visit him for new and used vehicles. Call (734) 697-2217 or email emartinez@atchinsonford.net.

Things to do in the Belleville area...

• **Thursday, April 4, and Friday, April 5** – If you are a veteran who needs some assistance, you are invited to the Sumpter Progressive Civic League, 24101 Sumpter Rd., Sumpter Township, between 5 and 7 p.m. Resources for our nation's veterans are being offered. Info: 461-1767

• **Friday, April 5** – Friends Free Friday Movie starts at 7 p.m., with Bounce House at 6:45 p.m. Fun, Food, Fine Films, in the Youth Center, 7890 Tuttle Hill Road (at Bemis Road), Ypsilanti, Movie questions (734) 482-5074 or www.friendsfamilytheater.com

• **Saturday, April 6** – Willow United Methodist Church, 36925 Willow Road, New Boston, has free clothes for all comers (no questions asked) from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. or until all the clothes are gone. Information: 734-654-9020.

• **Sunday, April 7** – 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. Now in its 8th year.

• **Wednesday, April 10** – Chicken Supper at Willow United Methodist Church, 36925 Willow Rd., New Boston, 5 p.m. until sell-out. Carry outs start at 4:30 p.m. Adults, \$10; children 12 & under, \$5. Information: 734-654-9020.

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