



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 19.23 Thursday, June 6, 2013

Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

FREE



Axel Salmons



Morgan Duncan



Jacob Mattausch



Izzabell Vieira



Layla Drury



Khloe Williams



Jackson Kovalak



Kendall Cates

Cutest Baby Boy, Girl Contest winners announced in Sumpter

The 2013 Sumpter Country Fest Cutest Baby Boy and Girl Contest winners have been announced.

Boy Winners:

- 1st place – Axel Salmons, son of John and Autumn Salmons
- 2nd place – Morgan Tyler Duncan, son of Matt and Tracy Duncan
- 3rd place – Jacob Mattausch, son of Misty Morin and Kyle Mattausch

Girl Winners:

- 1st place – Izzabell Vieira, daughter of Jessy Schultz and Dennis Vieira
- 2nd place – Layla Grace Drury, daughter of Sarah Drury

- 3rd place – Khloe Williams, daughter of Melissa Griffin and Ron Williams.

Chosen as the “Most Photogenic Baby” was Jackson Kovalak, son of Steven and Sarah Kovalak.

The 2013 Cutie Pie was Kendall Gail Cates, daughter of Doyle and Crystal Cates.

On behalf of the Sumpter Township Parks and Recreation Commission, we would especially like to thank our sponsors: John Hennessey of Hennessey Engineers, Inc., Southgate, and Shannon Moore of Photography by Shannon of Belleville for their support.

The contest was a great success again this year with 31 entries and was one of the most visited features of our festival. Each and every picture displayed was adorable and each baby a winner on its own.

We want to thank everyone that entered a child in the contest, everyone that supported the child of their choice, all of you that visited our contest display just to enjoy pictures of the little cuties, and also everyone that helped us work the project all weekend. The funds from this contest will be used for Sumpter Township child-related events.

Other entries: Maverick Petri, Bryce Eldon

Mitchell, Xander Legier, Aiden Carpenter, Beauden Meyers, Thomas Demmy III, Lucas Meyer, Preston Allen Kincaid.

And, Aviana Howell, Sophie Massel, Marissa Rae Bailey, Chloe Spencer, Annabelle Rhea Wiebusch, Gracie Chamberlain, Blakely Ann Cates, Lilly Murray, Kasside Landry, Payton Sterling, Jacsyn Carlee Sharp, Danica Pearl Broome, Addison Cinnamon, Courtney Demmy, and Lilly Sonja-Faye Johnson.

Thank you all,

Jim and Joanne Posegay
Parks & Recreation Contest Chairpersons

VBT Board elevates Arthur Mullen from ‘interim’ to ‘full-time’

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

Arthur Mullen, who has been serving as the interim Planning and Economic Development Director for Van Buren Township, was promoted to full-time director at Tuesday's regular meeting of the VBT Board of Trustees.

The job description and at-will personal services agreement for Mullen was added to Tuesday's agenda on Monday afternoon, after his selection was discussed at the board's work-study session.

Mullen has been serving in the position since Terry Carroll was fired from that position Feb. 8.

Supervisor Linda Combs selected Mullen for the interim position after she said he was highly recommended by VBT's former planning assistant Amy Jordan Miller, who

presently works for the Michigan Planning Association.

The board wanted to know more about Mullen and so although Combs wanted him voted in on Feb. 19, the item was removed from the agenda. He was approved April 2.

Amendments to the budget approved \$77,500 as the annual salary for Mullen as interim director and \$92,300 for the new director when hired. Mullen's Blue Cross Blue Shield PPO coverage has a 90-day delay and will be effective Sept. 4. No further changes to the budget are expected.

Mullen, who lives in Grosse Pointe, is on the board of the Michigan Downtown Association and is certified with the American Institute of Certified Planners.

He was laid off from an executive

director's position at the Mount Clemens DDA last May for economic reasons. The DDA had less money coming in and no projects to give him to manage, an official said.

According to an interview published on Mullen when he was with the Mount Clemens DDA, Mullen earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from Hamilton College in Clinton, NY. He then earned a Master of Science degree in Historic Preservation at Columbia University.

His first full-time job was in the Planning and Development Department of the City of Detroit. Then he worked for four years with the MotorCities National Heritage Area as a program manager, before becoming director of the Mount Clemens DDA.

Supervisor Combs, who was not present at Monday's work-study session because of illness, put together a five-person



Mullen

committee to select the top candidate for the VBT position.

There were 46 applicants for the job and the candidates were trimmed down to five, who were interviewed in an all-day session on May 17. The committee was made up of Treasurer Sharry Budd, Clerk Leon Wright, Planning Commission Chairman Carol Thompson, and Phil McKenna of McKenna Associates. Supervisor Combs' executive assistant Karin LaMothe also sat in on the sessions.

The committee gave scores to each candidate and when the scores were totaled the winner was Mullen.

When questioned at the work-study session about the procedure, LaMothe told the board, pretty much from memory, that those interviewed, besides Mullen, were “Mr. Gray from Jackson, Mr. Marsh from Pontiac, Mr. Hicks, and Mr. Dahlgren, who is in the restaurant business.”

(On Tuesday LaMothe released the candidates as being: Jeffrey Gray, City of Mount Pleasant; Richard Marsh, City of

(continued on page 9)

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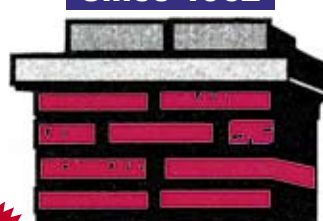
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SECOND FRONT PAGE

Sumpter Board forgives \$19,000 of rehab lien to help family sell house

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

It wasn't easy, but the attorney for a couple at 42560 Willis Road convinced the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees to forgive his clients \$19,000 of a \$24,000 housing rehab lien to help them sell their house.

At the May 28 meeting of the township board, Mr. Sinclair, attorney for Mr. and Mrs. Torres, explained that eight years ago the couple bought the house and it turned out to be a fixer-upper. Besides the cost of the house, they put \$100,000 more into the house, for a total of \$300,000, he said.

They had no more money to make payments and they got an EDGE loan from the county.

In January, the first mortgage lender foreclosed and the six-month redemption period runs through the end of July, when the bank will take over the house.

Sinclair said the couple is trying to negotiate a short sale and they are asking the township to consider releasing the lien on the property, so this could be offered to the first lender as part of the deal.

He said they are trying to negotiate a sale

to a third party.

"You're asking the township not to recoup \$24,000 which could be used for other people," said Trustee Peggy Morgan. "They come to us for help ... If we eat this, it's \$24,000 our residents don't get for help."

Township attorney Rob Young explained the situation. Sinclair's clients were entitled to the rehab loan from the township and it went into the home. The property wouldn't have the value it does unless the township had given the money.

But, the money Sumpter loses in the deal means it doesn't get the chance to help others, he said. With the current situation, however, there is no way the township could get its \$24,000 back.

"If it goes to foreclosure, it's zero to us," Young said, adding he and Sinclair had dickered over what the township might be willing to give up, and Sinclair thought getting \$2,500 for the township was reasonable.

"If we get \$5,000, someone can put in a water tank," said Supervisor Johnny Vawters.

"If we do nothing, they lose the house

and we get nothing," attorney Young said.

After much discussion during the work-study session, Trustee Peggy Morgan made a motion at the regular meeting that the board waive \$19,000 of its loan and settle for \$5,000 owed to the township, based on approval of the short sale of the property. The vote was unanimous.

In other business at the May 28 meeting, the board:

- Approved the second reading and final approval of the new zoning section of the ordinances. Attorney Young said the new zoning ordinance will take effect 30 days after publication in the *Independent*;

- Tabled a resolution for the township to petition for the cleaning of the North Branch Swan Creek Inter-County Drains until attorney Young can get more details on how this action would affect township residents. The resolution calls for the township to pay "an assessment at large for a percentage of the total amount";

- Approved appointments to the Construction Board of Appeals of Mark Miles, Ryan Kern, and Jeff Kemp;

- Approved Randy Brown Landscaping's lower bid of \$3,193.50 for landscaping the

north and east side of the township hall;

- Approved the \$7,725 bid by Davenport Brothers to replace the sidewalk on the west side of township hall with a handicap-accessible system. This project will be paid for with federal Community Development Block Grant funds;

- Approved the \$16,600 low bid of "Keep It in the 70's" to install a new air conditioning unit at the Community Center gym;

- Approved a contract until 2016 with Midwest Backflow for water connections compliance;

- Approved an updated siren warning protocol as presented by Police Lt. Eric Luke;

- Approved paying warrants of \$60,418.82; and

- Heard Supervisor Johnny Vawters announce that as of May 29 he will no longer have a deputy supervisor and, "I am moving in a different direction in the supervisor's office." Craig Moody had been Vawter's deputy supervisor since Vawters was elected.

Belleville City Council approves 2013-2014 budget on 4-1 vote

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

The balanced general fund budget of \$2,099,285 for the 2013-2014 fiscal year was approved Monday by the Belleville City Council on a 4-1 vote.

Twelve other funds were also approved as part of that budget.

But, Councilman Brian Blackburn, who also is a paid-per-call fire fighter, voted no, just after Fire Chief Brian Loranger's last-minute plea for extra funds for dress uniforms for the fire fighters was not added to the budget.

City Manager Diana Kollmeyer said that the fire fighter salaries for the last quarter are not in the budget and if it's more than \$7,000, the city will have to take the funds from somewhere else in the budget.

Chief Loranger said that figure is higher than \$7,000.

"Anything you change in that budget will affect your fund balance," Kollmeyer said.

Chief Loranger said he didn't realize that the budget was set to be approved that evening and he guesses he waited too long to mention the dress uniforms.

He said recently he was in the Sumpter Fest parade and sat next to Belleville Police Chief Gene Taylor in the convertible for parade marshals. They both had their dress uniforms on and, "It would have been a shameshame if I couldn't have a dress uniform."

He said each city department should look

professional and "a ragtag bunch" of fire fighters is not good. He said dress uniforms have never been in the fire budget and it's not fair to not have the money to provide the uniforms.

He said the fire department officers all have dress uniforms, but the fire fighters have a mixed lot, with different colors and pants with big pockets that should be dress pants.

Before the budgets were voted upon, the council held a public hearing that was one-minute long during which nobody spoke.

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

- Approved amendments for the 2012-13 budget, which has a month left in it;

- Approved the 2013-14 fee schedule and learned there were no licensed masseuses in the city;

- Approved closing High Street from the corner of Grace Baptist Church to the Roys and High streets intersection from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on July 4 for the annual church picnic. Music Lakeside will also be at Horizon Park on High Street that day, so High will be closed from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on the Fourth of July;

- Approved Hennessey Engineers' recommendation to accept the second-lowest bid of \$151,786.75 from the Environmental Quality Company of Wayne for sanitary sewer cleaning and closed-circuit television investigation. There were

four bidders and the low bidder had an error in its bid. An S2 grant is paying 90% of the cost;

- Approved accounts payable of \$266,607.72 and the following departmental purchases in excess of \$500: to Herkimer, \$35,838 for portable radios for the fire department; to ICMA, \$598.40 for annual dues, from the general fund; to Michigan Municipal League, \$2,514 for dues and legal defense fund from the general fund; and to Time Emergency, \$8,000 + shipping for protective clothing for the fire department;

- Heard City Manager Kollmeyer announce that residents now can pay at the counter with their credit or debit cards;

- Heard Councilwoman Kim Tindall give condolences to the family of Chuck Williams who was a member of the CERT team and did a lot of volunteer work with the animals at Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue. Tindall called him an asset to the community who will be missed;

- Heard Mayor Pro Tem Jack Loria ask about a mattress, box springs, and chest of drawers that has been at the curb on Robbe Street for several weeks. The city will see that it is picked up;

- Heard Councilman Brian Blackburn say he enjoyed the ribbon-cutting activities on Saturday for Belleville Martial Arts and he wished them good luck in business;

- Heard Councilman Tom Smith remind

everyone about the Bach Wine party that will be held at his house and that of John Juriga on Friday to earn money for Music Lakeside;

- Heard Mayor Kerreen Conley thank Police Chief Taylor and City Manager Kollmeyer for addressing an ordinance issue and making a trip to court;

- Heard Mary Talaga ask about the "ugly, green building" at the corner of East Huron River Drive and Wexford that has a condemned sign on it. It was explained that the city may not be able to put a demolition lien on a building that has gone to the county for back taxes. DPS Director Keith Boc said he will check out some new legislation where you can assess any real property that the owner owns and a person could lose his current house over a building he walked away from; and

- Heard Chief Taylor say sirens are not the ultimate warning device, according to FEMA. Sirens are for people who are outside. He said phone carriers do have free alerts and people should check into their cell phone provider for these alerts. He said Weather Radios are good, too.

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OPINIONS

Editorial

VBT abandons head of Post-Robson Drain

VBT Clerk Leon Wright went out to look at the head of the Post-Robson Drain – after a rainstorm – to see if the drain carried water. It was dry.

Then-interim Director of Planning and Economic Development Arthur Mullen also went on the field trip along with engineer Dave Nummer of Wade Trim. They all agreed with the county that the head of that drain should be abandoned to make way for a landfill gas-to-electricity plant planned for that site.

The VBT Board of Trustees voted unanimously Tuesday night to abandon that portion of the drain and sent their action on to the county.

This drain is on the west side of what once was called Visteon Village, near I-275. In fact, you'll be able to see the stacks from the freeway once the generating plant is chugging away. There have been some measures planned to hide the plant, but motorists still will see the manufacturing plant in what was planned to be a scenic office and technology village. No more.

Ernie Tozer, a neighbor to Visteon Village, was among those who worked on the Grace Lake Master Plan for that area before Visteon came. Neighbors were satisfied the plan would leave their neighborhood peaceful and improved. But they were wrong. On Tuesday Tozer spoke against the abandonment, but to no avail. The project now is moving forward.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

All those mosquitos we are dealing with this year came because of last month's rain on top of dry conditions for the past few years, which led to both the spring and summer species of mosquitos hatching now. This is very unusual.

Adding to the problem is that eggs from the last few dry seasons are hatching now.

All this information comes from the folks over at the Tuscola County Mosquito Abatement Department, which is supported by a voted millage. Tuscola, Bay, Saginaw, and Midland counties are the only counties in the state that have mosquito abatement departments.

If you are having an outdoor party in one of those counties, you can let the abatement professionals know and they'll come over and get rid of the mosquitos for you. But, it's only a contact spray and the mosquitos can come right back in after the spray or fogging dissipates.

They also spray roadsides and put out overnight traps. One trap collected 2,800 mosquitos in one night. Then they give you stuff to put in standing water to kill the larvae and pupae. We have lots of mosquitos this year in this area, but I don't think voters would pass a millage to get rid of them.

There were almost 300 cars parked on Main Street at Monday's kickoff of the Monday summer car shows sponsored by Bayou Grill. A&W had a stand in front of the museum to sell food. The weather was cool and sunny and everyone had a great time with so many great cars.

VBT Supervisor Linda Combs was too sick to come to the township board's work/study

POSSIBLE EXPLANATIONS FOR THE MULTI-COLORED LIGHTS SPOTTED OVER BELLEVILLE RECENTLY.

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BMitchell
Independent

session on Monday. Hope she's all right. Clerk Leon Wright ran the session in her absence.

At that meeting there was a lot of discussion about a proposed amended agreement between the township and Sheldon Acquisitions concerning the ongoing problems at Cobblestone Ridge, which has been under construction since 2005. You remember the pictures of all the open basements there that we published a few years ago?

Board members didn't like some of the wording in the agreement so there will be some more discussions with the township attorney before it's brought back to be considered for approval by the board.

This was a PRD (Planned Residential Development) agreement, where VBT approved provisions to allow smaller lots and more density. The board was advised that two other uncompleted PRDs, Country Walk and Victoria Park, soon will be coming in for conversations.

Karin LaMothe was moving a piece of furniture out of the way at last week's meeting of the VBT DDA when there was an accident. She said her toenail was completely ripped off and she required three stitches to repair the damage. She's walking around with a bound-up foot, but she's still out there doing her job as assistant to Supervisor Linda Combs.

A group of us were talking with Belleville's

DPS Director Keith Boc before the city council meeting on Monday about that gap sidewalk that will be put in this month.

It was described earlier as going from the end of the sidewalk on Robbe Road around the corner to Edgemont and the school sidewalk end. Well, we all agreed that there wasn't room at the corner for a sidewalk, since the guardrail is right up to the street cement and on the other side of the guardrail is the railroad track.

Keith agreed it was a problem, but they probably will make crosswalks at that point and continue the sidewalk across the street and then have another crosswalk near the school so walkers can cross there.

He said he's using road funds that need to be spent by the end of June or we lose them. He'll find a way to get those sidewalks in, which he predicts will take just one day of work.

Also during Monday's meeting, Keith said he tagged the car wash on E. Huron River Drive for demolition and the owner told him he'd clean it up – and has started.

Keith said the owner didn't want to reopen the car wash and doesn't want to sell it. He owns the car wash on Sumpter Road and doesn't need the competition, Keith said the man told him.





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Letters

Thanks for making festival a success

To the Editor:

The 37th Annual Sumpter Country Fest has come and gone for another year and despite the cold temperatures, and rain on Monday, we had a great turnout.

I would like to thank all those who made this year's festival a success. It could not have been accomplished if not for the Sumpter Parks and Recreation Commission (all unpaid volunteers) who put in a tremendous amount of time before, during and after the festival.

We also had a lot of support from the Sumpter Township board and departments, police and fire departments, and the DPW. I would also like to thank 34th District Court with the Community Service Work Program, for all their help and continued support, the City of Belleville, and Van Buren Township, and of course none of this would be possible without the support of the surrounding community.

For those of you who came to the festival, we hope you enjoyed it, and for those of you who weren't there, mark your calendars for the 2014 Sumpter Country Fest!

Kim Toms, chairman
Sumpter Parks and Recreation

Thanks to all who helped Sumpter Fest

To the Editor:

We had a great turnout this year for the Sumpter Country Fest despite some bad weather. The festival is put on by the all-volunteer Sumpter Parks and Recreation Commission. All of our funds to put on these community events come from sponsors, donations, and fundraisers.

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During the festival every year we do a Silent Auction as one of these fundraisers. As always we had a lot of very generous support from people and businesses from all over the community.

I would like to take this time to thank those who opened their hearts for us, yet again. I hope the community helps to support these businesses in return. Thanks so much to all of you:

Detroit Red Wings, Chapp & Bushey Oil Co., David C. Brown's Funeral Home, Lodge Lanes, Belleville Charhouse, Pine View Golf, Green Oaks Golf, A & W, Gardener's Choice, FMAR, Marti's Gift Gallery, Jim & Joan Posegay, Armstrong's Funland, McDonald's (Belleville), Alan Bates, Big Boy's (Belleville), Garden Fantasy, Gail Lafave, Hungry Howie's (Belleville), Culver's (Belleville), Esther Hurst, JT's Pub & Grub, Kevin McNamara, Leona Mixon, Napa Auto Parts (Belleville), Richard & Sharon Pokerwinski, Quizno's / BP Gas (Belleville), Sumpter Ace Hardware, The Bake Shoppe, Tim Horton's (Belleville), Wayne County Fair, Cracker Barrel (Belleville), Dru Allen, Friends of Local 602 VOA, Grange 389, Greentown Casino, O & W, Leora Smith

Cheryl Toms, chairman
Sumpter Country Fest Silent Auction

Thanks to the person who got cemetery done

To the Editor:

Subject: Otisville Cemetery
Dear Editor,

I just wanted to thank you for posting my letter about the deplorable conditions of Otisville Cemetery and I guess the power of the press does work!

I went back by the cemetery over the holiday weekend and found that all the limbs had been removed and the grass had been cut where all of the branches, limbs and trees had been lying.

I can only hope that Van Buren Township sees what a historical loss it will be when one of those brittle trees destroy those headstones. I also hope that the grass cutters get back to cutting the south end of the cemetery so those families can visit without wading through the briars and overgrown graves.

And thanks to the person at the township who got it done!

Name Withheld by Request

Art's Appliance



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Ask Angela
By Angela Netro

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 Vicky in Van Buren Township: I bought a home and am currently going through the financing. The appraisal was done almost three weeks ago and the lender has not received it back yet. I am getting concerned that maybe the home will not appraise and I really want this home.

Is this normal to take so long for an appraisal to be done? If it does not appraise, what are my options?

Answer: Right now some appraisers are behind due to an incline in the home sales. It does not mean that the longer it takes the home is not going to appraise.

Some appraisers are not as proficient as others. If the home does not appraise for sales price, the seller can choose to sell for less or not. You and the seller could come to an agreement on meeting half-way or to some other price.

You could make up the difference if the lesser value is reasonable, since you really want the home and were willing to pay the price.

You could also request a dispute of the appraisal or request a new appraisal be done and see if the seller will split the cost, since this market does have some poor appraisals that absolutely do not justify the correct values of a number of homes sold.

If you cannot work it out with the seller or lender, you also have the option to release yourself from the purchase deal.

-- Angela

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Obituaries



James B. 'Wolfman' Flatt



JAMES B. 'WOLFMAN' FLATT

(August 1, 1950 - May 28, 2013)

James Boyd "Wolfman" Flatt, age 62, of Romulus, MI, passed away Tuesday, May 28, 2013 at Oakwood Hospital-Annapolis Center, Wayne, MI. He was born August 1, 1950 in Detroit, MI, son of the late Holland D. & Katherine Louise (Schnurn) Flatt.

Jim graduated from Fordson High School and still holds the record for pole vaulting. He proudly served his country in the U.S. Army. He earned two purple hearts and a bronze star. He was a proud Mason, and very active in the Downriver Street Rod Car Club, the Shovel Head Bike Club, and loved Detroit Lions and Tigers and cheering "Go Blue!" Jim was a friend to all. He loved camping and bowling and was a great family man. He treated all his friends like family. He was a very hard worker and never missed a day until this year. He was well known in his community and will be greatly missed.

He is survived by his very loving wife of 33 years, Delphine Mary (Lepper) Flatt; seven children Brian Flatt, Kimberly Flatt of Maine, Michael (Sarah) Flatt of Dearborn, MI, Kenneth (Angela) Roberts of New Hudson, MI, Jason (Susanne) Flatt, Janelle (Rhett Kenagy) Flatt all of Houston, TX and Jamie Greenwood of Romulus, MI; 10 grandchildren; one great-grandchild; and numerous friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a brother David, a grandson Brandon Roberts in 1993, also his grandparents Boyd & Aline Flatt.

Visitation was Friday and Saturday, June 1 and 2, 2013 at David C. Brown Temporary Viewing & Funeral Chapel, 500 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville. Pastor Gordon Moore officiated. Interment was in Knollwood Memorial Park, Canton, MI.

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



U.T. "Doc" Bolton



U.T. 'DOC' BOLTON

(March 7, 1927 - May 29, 2013)

U.T. "Doc" Bolton, 86, of Marysville, died Wednesday, May 29, 2013.

He was born March 7, 1927 in Harrogate, Tennessee to the late William and Pearl Bolton. He married Elizabeth McGuckin on September 2, 1977 in Detroit.

Mr. Bolton was a teacher with the Van Buren Public Schools for 30½ years prior to his retirement. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II.

He loved Michigan Football, the Detroit Lions and Detroit Tigers.

He is survived by his wife of 35 years, Elizabeth; three daughters, Karen (Stephen) Sedlock, Sharon (Tom) Bingham, Diana (Rev. John) Price; three step children, Brian (Trish) Harrington, Beth (David) Dupre and Brenda Harrington; 19 grandchildren; 15 great grandchildren; a sister, Eva Lamm; and many nieces and nephews including William Lamm who was like a brother. He was preceded in death by two sisters, Ruth Dailey and Edith Raymond and a grandson, Joey Condo.

Visitation was from 6-8 p.m. May 31 in the Reece Funeral Home in Harrogate, TN.

Funeral services were at 11:00 a.m. Saturday, June 1, 2013 in the Reece Funeral Home. Burial was in Greer Chapel Cemetery.

Arrangements were by the Marysville Funeral Home, Marysville, MI. To send condolences, visit marysvillefuneralhome.com

LEROY J. ROUSTER

(January 2, 1926 - May 28, 2013)

LeRoy J. Rouster of Eastlake, Michigan, formerly of Bellville, passed peacefully on Tuesday, May 28, 2013, at the age of 87.

He was born on January 2, 1926, to Jacob and Lucille Rouster in New Alban, Iowa, but spent much of his early childhood in Manistee where he rode his bike, swam and fished with his many friends and siblings. His family then moved to Belleville, Michigan. He joined the Navy in 1943 at the age of 17. He served in the Southwest Pacific Theatre during World War II.

He is survived by his wife Ginger (Ovilda); siblings Jacob Rouster, Marion Olmstead, Wayne Rouster and John Rouster; children Alan (Susan) Czaplicki, Claudia (Rick) Zawacki, Denise (Dennis) Smylie, Bill (Gretchen) Rouster, Ted (Irene) Rouster, Faith Rouster and stepson, David Walters. He was preceded in death by his siblings Naomi Knisley, Burnell Rouster, Ellery Rouster, and Norman Rouster. He is also survived by his grandchildren, Bryan Smylie, Michael Zawacki, Robb Smylie, Evan Austin, David Walters, Matt Smylie, Sarah Farris, Erin Herman, Danny Walters, Jamie Walters, Teddy Rouster, Amy Rouster, and Tess Rouster. He has also been blessed with twelve great grandchildren.

Upon retirement, he fulfilled his dream of moving to the Manistee area with his lovely wife, where he was able to enjoy his many interests, including fishing, golf, volunteer work, and his family.

Services were held June 2 at Johnson Funeral Home in Manistee with military honors provided by the Ritual Squad from VFW Walsh Post 4499.

The family has requested that in lieu of flowers,

charitable contributions may be donated to: Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund or the Salvation Army.

Arrangements by Johnson Funeral Home, 480 Water St., Manistee, MI 49660.

www.johnson-funeral-home.com

SHIRLEY PATRICIA ELAINE JOHNSON

(May 24, 1936 - May 26, 2013)

Shirley Patricia Elaine Johnson, age 77, of Sumpter Township made her transition Sunday, May 26, 2013 at Heartland Health Care Center, Canton, MI.

She was born May 24, 1936 in Detroit to the late Rev. Ernest Walker and Fanny Walker.

Shirley loved to sing in the Pleasant Valley AME Church choir where she was an active member; her favorite song, which she led, was "Guide My Feet".

Mrs. Johnson faithfully served on the Mary Bell Missionary Society until her health prevented her from doing so. She loved God, church and family and participated wherever needed.

Mrs. Johnson was active in the community and received the best Hustle Class Award from the Sumpter Progressive Civic League in January 2004; she received in 2001 Recertification teacher certificate from African Methodist Episcopal Church.

She enjoyed family dinners and spending time at home.

She is survived by her sister Bertha Payne, son Craige, one granddaughter Kellie, and numerous nieces, nephews and friends.

Visitation was held at Crystal Fountain Funeral Home, (Michigan and Second), Ypsilanti, MI. Going home services were June 5, 2013, followed by services at Pleasant Valley AME Church 45620 Victoria Avenue, Sumpter Township. Rev. Kevin Crosby officiated.

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More Letters

I agree with caller who questioned strip mall

To the Editor:

I fully agree with your caller in reference to Davenport wanting to build a strip mall anywhere in Belleville at this time when there are so many empty stores. Unless, maybe, he has 100% occupancy commitments for the next 50 years and is not telling us.

On another note, can anyone explain to me why the State of Michigan would build a new block guard building at the boat launch when the road leading to it is almost impassable?

Resident
Chris Giles

Display your American Flag early this year

To the Editor:

A reminder to Belleville residents and all my South Biggs neighbors: Flag Day (June 14) falls within National Flag Week, a time when Americans reflect on the foundations of the nation's freedom.

The flag of the United States represents freedom and has been an enduring symbol of the country's ideals since its early days. During both events, Americans also remember their loyalty to the nation, reaffirm their belief in liberty and justice, and observe the nation's unity.

June 14 is fast approaching and I am attempting to have a flag displayed at every home and business in Belleville.

Here's YOUR chance to demonstrate pride in OUR COUNTRY.

Once again, I am encouraging all my South Biggs neighbors AND the city to have a flag at every home. Let's repeat last year's 100% effort on South Biggs Street. This should be a city-wide effort and I am looking forward to having several more streets with 100% participation.

Business Owners, Firemen, Police Officers, City Officials: Set the example. Display your U.S. flag early. Show the rest of Van Buren Township, Wayne County, Michigan, and the entire country how

proud we are to be a U.S. Citizen, creating a sense of pride in our neighborhood and our country.

I have many free, refurbished flags (11"x16") available. Stop by and pick up one. Call 699-8563 or stop at 48 S. Biggs.

You may purchase flags at Meijer, Walmart, Belleville and Sumpter hardware stores, even most drug stores and they are relatively inexpensive.

You can drop off worn flags at my house and I will take them to the VFW for proper disposal.

Don't let Flag Day go by without acknowledging our GREAT COUNTRY.

Pete Pitzen

U.S. Citizen, Belleville Resident, U.S. Army Vet, U.S. Air Force Vet., VFW Member, American Legion Member

Thanks for leading us to the wonderful Pet Spa

To the Editor:

Over this previous weekend I had found myself in a bind. I had tickets to take my family out of town to reunite with some old friends which I have missed dearly. The problem was that I couldn't take my aggressive, pregnant, 6-year-old boxer with us.

This being her first pregnancy, as well as the fact that she has never been away from us and doesn't do well with strangers (especially men) I hadn't any idea what to do with her.

I resorted to your paper, the Independent, where I found an advertisement for The Pet Spa and Resort on Bemis Road. I checked with my vet first, of course, and by him strongly recommending this place as well made me feel a lot better. My next hope was by contacting them and hoping that they were able to accommodate my special request and dog's needs. They were.

During the time I was gone, on Saturday, May 18, my boxer became a mother of eight beautiful puppies. The knowledgeable, caring, and experienced staff at The Pet Spa knew exactly what to do.

They contacted the vet I had asked them to especially for my dog, they went out of their way to help her and assist in delivering her puppies, they again went that extra mile to contact me before they made any

decision and kept me thoroughly updated throughout the entire process.

Maryanne had even made a private, quiet place for my dog and her new puppies in her own home so she could relax without the sounds of other dogs barking, as they always do in kennels and such.

Now, you're probably thinking that all this costs me a fortune, right? WRONG! The prices are extremely reasonable and they didn't even charge an extra fee for the special accommodations. These ladies here have earned my trust, respect and business for a life time.

Thank you so much, Independent, for the advertisements. Thank you so much, The Pet Spa and Resort! I am so appreciative. You ladies are the best!

Sincerely, Ms. Stone

Belleville Community Band sets 3 concerts

To the Editor:

These are the 2013 Belleville Community

Band Summer Concerts:

- Sunday, June 23, 3 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 417 Charles St.

- Friday, July 12, 7 p.m., Van Buren Park, 1-94 South Service Dr.

- Sunday, July 28, 3 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 417 Charles St.

The board and members of the Band would like to extend a warm thank you to our community for all its support over the years. That has allowed us to provide good variety entertainment for all ages.

A special thank you to the following Belleville businesses for their support in 2012: J&T Crova, State Farm (Jackie Davis), David C. Brown Funeral Home, Martin & Sons, Fielder's Collision, Sumpter Ace Hardware, Henry R. Deering Agency, Belleville Animal Hospital, Curves, Perfect Image Salon, Water Works, Contract Welding, Garden Fantasy, Belleville Tax & Accounting.

For any questions, please contact Jack or Micky Keelan at 734-699-6350.

Micky Keelan

Van Buren Township



**Vacation Bible School at the
Belleville United Methodist Church!**
417 Charles Street, Belleville 48111
June 17th — June 21st
5:00pm-5:30pm: Free dinner
5:30pm-8:00pm: Program

We are doing SonWest Roundup by Gospel Light. It will be a rip roarin' good time with Jesus! To register call the church office at 734-697-9288, register by June 12 for a free T shirt.

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Congratulations to **Best Chimney & Roofing Co.**, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary of doing business in Belleville and Southeast Michigan. Owner **Jerry Spencer** offers services like chimneys built, repaired and cleaned, tuck pointing, roofing and gutters, porches, and screen installation. Best Chimney is also licensed and insured and will provide free estimates. Visit their website at www.bestchimneyandroofing.com and call (734) 734-242-2992.

Mullen

(continued from page 1)

Pontiac; Barry Hicks, City of Jackson; and John Dahlgren, private industry.)

The board members had no list of names and no resumes to look over, which was a point of discussion at the work-study session.

While board members who weren't on the selection committee agreed Mullen was doing a good job and has handled some difficult projects well, they didn't like being kept out of the process.

"In the future I would appreciate having something to look at," said Trustee Brenda McClanahan, adding the names LaMothe called out meant nothing to her.

Trustee Jeff Jahr said he would like to see at least the resumes of the finalists, so he could get a better handle on who was applying.

Clerk Wright agreed, saying as a board they needed to set a standard on how they hire their directors. He asked why they needed to go through the process if they are going to go in the direction the supervisor wanted.

"I'd like to be a part of the process," agreed Trustee Reggie Miller. "There has to be a consistent process every time. Yes, we need to be involved."

Clerk Wright said he was sure Mullen will do a good job.

Trustee McClanahan said the board members at least needed the other resumes, since the board has the final say in approving the top candidate.

Trustee Jahr agreed, adding he wished the supervisor was present to be involved in the discussion.

Jahr said when they were choosing a public safety director in the last administration the board went over resumes, but the result was pre-determined.

Miller said she would have liked to see how the committee came to its decision.

"I want to do my due diligence," McClanahan said. "It's important to the process. It's not a lot to ask."

Wright said it has nothing to do with trusting the selection panel, but it has to do with an open process that everyone can be involved in.

"I would have liked to know what about Candidate B?" Jahr said, noting that the one they're dealing with is a known entity and he was ready to move forward with the selection.

The folks at **Denny's Barber Shop & Hott Hair Salon** on Main Street is honoring Dad this Father's Day with deals on haircuts, shaves and other services. Gift certificates are also available. See their ad for valuable coupons. Call owner **Marlene Mills** at (734) 697-4485. Walk-ins are accepted and appointments are available.

Open Arms Lutheran Church on Belleville Road is gearing up for **Kingdom Rock**, its **Vacation Bible Camp** on June 23-27. The camp is open to children ages 4 to 11 years old and will take place from 6 to 8:30 p.m. each day. Call (734) 699-5000.

The **Belleville Area Council for the Arts** is holding a fundraiser for the **Music Lakeside Concert Series** with a **Bach's Wine Garden Party**, tomorrow evening, from 6 to 9 p.m. at two City of Belleville locations: **248 Roland Street** and **327 E. Huron River Drive**. The cost is \$30 per person, which includes beverages, strolling hors d'oeuvres, and live entertainment. For info call (734) 697-8123.

The **Council for the Arts, Van Buren Township's Parks & Recreation**, and **Downtown Businesses** are teaming up for this Saturday's **Fishing Photo & Tall Tale Contest**, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at **Horizon Park**. Trophies will be awarded in four age categories for biggest and smallest fish caught as well as one for the best fishing story. No need for a fishing license as it is **Free Fishing Weekend** in Michigan. Hot dogs and A & W Root beer will be available. Call (734) 697-8123 for info.

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Court Watching:**Accused Haggerty Sub-burglar gets charges on fifth breaking/entering**

By Diane Madigan

Independent Court Reporter

34th District Court Judge Brian Oakley ordered Brian Bernard Baker, 17, of Van Buren Township bound over to circuit court on four sets of charges following preliminary exams held May 22.



Baker was arraigned on the evidence on the four cases at the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice May 29 before Judge Mark T. Slavens. Baker stood mute and not-guilty pleas were entered on his behalf.

But, Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Danielle Russo told the judge a fifth warrant had been written for Baker that still needed arraignment. Russo suggested a calendar conference on the four cases to give an opportunity for the fifth case to catch up.

Judge Slavens said he didn't want this to fall behind and Baker's attorney agreed, asking for a status conference three weeks out. Judge Slavens said he wanted to set one trial date.

Prosecutor Russo said one or two of the cases may be combined. The judge scheduled Baker to appear in court for a status conference on June 19, for a pretrial conference on July 17 and for trial on Aug. 20. Between six to eight witnesses are expected to be called by the prosecution.

The fifth case, for which Baker was expected to be arraigned on May 31, was for a break-in at 10914 Buchanan on April 5. The charges are 1st Degree Home Invasion, Weapons-Firearms Larceny, Larceny of \$1,000 or more but less than \$20,000, two counts of Felony Firearms and Receiving and Concealing Firearms.

District court on May 22**Three preliminary exams**

Three preliminary exams were held at the 34th District Court in Romulus on May 22 and Baker waived a preliminary exam on a fourth charge concerning a break-in at 41408 Coolidge Street.

All the break-ins were in Haggerty subdivision in Van Buren Township between Feb. 19 and April 12.

Baker was arrested by VBT Police on April 12 after leaving the Coolidge Street home and has been in the Wayne County Jail since then.

10991 Buchanan

The first preliminary exam was held on the Feb. 19 break-in at 10991 Buchanan. The witness was Michelle Solak who lives in the home she rents. She said she left for work at 8 a.m. and locked the doors.

She testified a friend called her at 1:15 p.m. to tell her the side door was kicked in. She said she hurried home and found the door kicked in and items from the bedroom were on the kitchen table. She noticed a

10" Samsung tablet was missing, valued at over \$400.

She later discovered diamond wedding rings that cost \$1,000 when purchased were also gone.

VBT Detective Derek Perez took the stand and answered questions about the April 12 break-in at 41408 Coolidge when Baker was arrested.

Perez said he and Detective/Sgt. Charles Bazy were alerted by patrol officers and were in the neighborhood. He testified they observed Baker enter the home after first ringing the bell and knocking on the door. Perez said he heard a loud bang at the side door and after 10 minutes he saw Baker exit and walk up Haggerty Road.

Baker was then taken into custody and read his Miranda rights aloud. Perez believes that Baker understood his rights by signing the Miranda form. Baker's attorney James McGinnis questioned whether the Miranda was properly executed.

Judge Oakley ruled that Miranda was properly executed.

Det. Perez testified that he questioned Baker for up to two hours while a search warrant was being executed at Baker's home by police. A stolen weapon was recovered at his residence.

Det. Perez said Baker told him he sold the tablet and the wedding ring for \$50 at the BP gas station at the North I-94 Service Drive and Haggerty to people in the parking lot. The BP people were not involved, he stressed.

Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Ragen Lake entered Baker's statement written April 12 as Exhibit #1. Baker wrote he *broke into a house today and last week he got a Kindle, safe, rings, sold in Detroit.* Also: "Broke into a house, HP laptop, 357 Magnum and some gold."

The entire statement was not read in court. Judge Oakley bound Baker over to circuit court on this charge.

10637 Jackson

The second preliminary exam was held on the 10637 Jackson Street break-in on March 15. Baker is charged with 1st Degree Home Invasion, Larceny of a Firearm, Larceny in a Building and Felony Firearm.

Witness James Laine testified that he and his wife Stephanie live in the house they own. He testified when he went to work that morning and when his wife left and how he came home to find the back door kicked off its hinges. He said the closets were open and drawers pulled out and his handgun was gone. Also missing were two laptops, an iPad, a Kindle Fire, jewelry and some cash.

McGinnis asked Det. Perez if he took any notes during the interrogation of his client and Perez said he had taken notes and that he used them to prepare the material that he sent to the prosecutor to request a warrant. He wasn't sure if they were in a file or had been discarded.

McGinnis wanted the notes preserved and Judge Oakley asked Perez to preserve his notes, if there are any, and share them with the prosecutor.

McGinnis asked if the interview was recorded and Perez said it wasn't. (Following

the court session, Perez explained that VBT does not record interrogations because, "We do not have recording equipment that meets the standards of the State of Michigan.")

Perez testified that Baker confessed to stealing a .357 handgun and selling it for \$200 in Detroit to a black male named "Otz" from Toledo.

Judge Oakley then bound this case over to circuit court.

11130 Van Buren

The third preliminary exam was for 11130 Van Buren, where Baker is charged with Breaking and Entering a Building with Intent and Attempted 2nd Degree Home Invasion on March 25.

Witness Robin Russ said she rents the home from her mother Susan Carlton. Russ testified that she left her home the day before at 4 p.m. and returned home the following morning at 11.

She testified she noticed the garage door was open and she was sure it was locked when she left. She heard a noise and as she came around the corner of the house she saw a boy, she identified as Baker, standing behind her house. A screen and the glass from a sliding glass window were standing against the house. The side door of the garage was kicked open.

Russ said she was standing two feet away from Baker and she asked him, "What are you doing?"

She said Baker then ran across the back yard and jumped the fence and ran down the Service Drive towards Belleville Road.

*(continued on page 12)***Tony Koenig Outdoors****For all of your outdoor needs**

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Lorenzo Reese graduates from Albion College

Lorenzo Reese graduated from Albion College in May with a degree in economics and management (finance emphasis). Lorenzo is the son of Tamara Thomas of Ypsilanti and a graduate of Belleville High School.

Leah Richter named to Dean's List at Hope College

Leah Richter, daughter of the Rev. James and Sara Richter of Van Buren Township, was named to the Dean's List for the spring semester of the 2012-13 school year. Leah is a sophomore.

Court Watching:

Belleville woman sentenced to probation in plea to stabbing

By Diane Madigan
Independent Court Reporter

Sealisa Marie Jones, 34, of Belleville was sentenced to two years of probation, accepting a plea deal on May 29 in Circuit Court after she pled no contest to Aggravated Domestic Violence.

Jones was arrested by Belleville Police at about 10:30 p.m. April 11 at her home at 308 Oxford Court in Victoria Commons following an argument with her husband.

Police said her husband, Thomas Fennon Jones, 53, had been stabbed in the chest and he was taken to the hospital. Jones was charged with two felonies: Assault with a Dangerous Weapon and Aggravated Domestic Violence.

On May 15, before 34th District Court Judge David Parrott, Jones waived her right to a preliminary exam and the case was bound over to Circuit Court.

On May 29, Jones' attorney Todd Perkins told Circuit Court Judge Deborah Thomas that his client has accepted a plea agreement offered by the prosecutor, in which she would plea No Contest to the second charge and the first charge would be dropped.

Judge Thomas asked to set a date for sentencing, but Perkins asked that sentencing be done immediately because his client had been suspended from work due to the felony charge. Judge Thomas agreed.

Perkins also requested that the sentencing be conducted under the guidelines of MCL 769.4a, which became effective April 1, 2013.

According to Legislature.mi.gov, MCL 769.4a states that an individual, who has not previously been convicted of assault on a spouse, former spouse, dating relationship, or resident of the same household, can be sentenced to probation, with mandatory counseling. The state police will retain a nonpublic record of the arrest and court proceedings will be closed for public inspection.

Other internet searches show that MCL 769.4a has recently been used by police officers in cases of domestic abuse so they are able to retain their firearm.

Judge Thomas asked if Jones was pleading guilty to count two and Perkins replied, "No, she wants to plead No Contest because a civil suit will likely arise in the near future, with her divorce."

Judge Thomas sentenced Jones to two years probation, no contact with the victim, submit to substance screening, 26 weeks of counseling, and 80 hours of community service in lieu of \$600 court costs.

Davon Miller bound over to Circuit Court on narcotics charges

By Diane Madigan
Independent Court Reporter

On May 22, Davon Miller, 34, who recently moved out of a home at 10573 Belleville Road in Van Buren Township, appeared with his attorney Mark Hugger in Judge Brian Oakley's Romulus courtroom at 34th District Court.

According to VBT Detective Charles Bazy, Miller turned himself in May 3 at 34th District Court to face felony drug charges. The warrants were approved by the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office on Aug. 23.

An Oct. 10 warrant states that he is a habitual offender.

Miller waived his right to a preliminary exam at district court and had his case transferred to circuit court at the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice in Detroit to be arraigned June 5 on the information.

Judge Oakley also dealt with Miller's two misdemeanors for dog at large and no dog license, written for an April 6 offense in VBT.

Miller was ordered to pay \$225 for fines. Miller's attorney requested lower payments for his client. Judge Oakley granted the request and on June 1, Miller's \$40 per month payment will be lowered to \$25. Hugger had suggested that \$10 would be better, but Judge Oakley declined that request.

Sumpter Township Public Notice

ROOF BIDS

The Sumpter Township Clerks Office is seeking bids for a new roof at the Community Center Building located at 23501 Sumpter corner of Dunn, specifications are available in the Sumpter Township Clerks Office 23480 Sumpter Road, Belleville, MI 48111 Sealed Bids are due at the Sumpter Township Clerks Office Clarence J. Hoffman Jr., Clerk by 3 pm June 19, 2013. Bid opening will be on at 3:15 pm. Sumpter Township reserves the right to refuse any or all bids.

Publish June 6 & 13, 2013

Sumpter Township Public Notice

SUMPTER TOWNSHIP PUBLIC NOTICE

A Zoning Ordinance regulating the development and use of land has been adopted by the Township Board of the Sumpter Township. The newly adopted Zoning Ordinance will become effective on July 8, 2013. Copies of the Zoning Ordinance can be inspected on the Township website: www.sumptertwp.com or at the Clarence J. Hoffman, Clerk at the Township Offices located at 23480 Sumpter Road, Belleville, Michigan 48111. 734-461-6201.

Publish June 6, 2013

Van Buren Public Schools Public Notice

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING REVIEW OF THE PROPOSED GENERAL FUND OPERATING BUDGET AND DEBT FUND BUDGET

PUBLIC ACT NO. 43 OF 1963 REQUIRES SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO
HOLD PUBLIC HEARINGS ON REVIEWING THE PROPOSED
OPERATING BUDGET AND DEBT FUND BUDGET
THIS HEARING WILL BE HELD:

MONDAY, JUNE 17, 2013
VAN BUREN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
555 W. COLUMBIA AVENUE
BELLEVILLE, MICHIGAN
6:30 P.M.

The Board of Education will hold a public hearing on the districts proposed general fund operating budget and debt fund budget. **The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.**

Copies of the proposed 2013-14 budgets will be available on June 14, 2013 and thereafter for public inspection at the Board of Education Office between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

VAN BUREN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
555 WEST COLUMBIA
BELLEVILLE, MICHIGAN 48111

Kevin English, Secretary
Board of Education

Publish: June 6, 2013

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6:30-8:30pm
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Register by June 17 and get a free prize box and CD!
894 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville
734-697-6704

Van Buren Public Schools honor 12 retirees with dinner

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

The Van Buren Public Schools honored 12 retirees with dinner and a celebration Monday evening at the Belleville High School Commons area.

Honored were:

- Paul Smith, 40 years
- Linda Clayton, 35 years
- Lori Spangler, 34 years
- Donna Wright, 33 years
- Paula Young, 31 years
- Ron Stokes, 25 years
- Mary Ivan, 22 years
- Ron Small, 22 years
- Rose Griffin, 15 years
- Karen Sanders, 15 years
- Diane Gedda, 14 years
- Dorothy Peters, 12 years

Dinner was served by the William D. Ford Technical Center Culinary Arts Program and Pam Kloc, followed by presentation of awards to the retirees.

Presenters were administrators Abdul Madyun, Andrew Lindsay, Jeff Moore, Karensa Smith, Karen Bliven, Karen Moffitt, Karen Sanders, James Williams, and Erin Radtka.

Union representatives present were Susan Duda-Osbourne, VBEA; Debbie McWilliams, VBAES; Melinda Smith, VBEST; and Cynthia Gravelndinger, VB Food Service Association.

Closing remarks were by Brent Mikulski, president of the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education.

Honoring of the retirees had been planned for the BHS Auditorium, as in past years, but at the last minute was changed to a dinner party at the BHS Commons.

Baker

(continued from page 10)

McGinnis argued that Russ only saw him for a second or two and didn't pick him out of a photo line-up. Russ said she wasn't 100% sure the picture was him and they told her she had to be 100% sure.

Russ said the picture that she saw does not look like him. Pointing to Baker in the courtroom, she said, "That's the boy that was in my backyard."

After Oakley bound Baker over on this charge, as well, McGinnis asked that his client's bond on the Coolidge case be reduced from \$25,000 cash or surety to be consistent with the bonds in the other three cases. Oakley agreed to change the bond to \$10,000 or 10%, making all four bonds the same.

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Visit www.rolloandbrad.com
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IRMGARD BINDER Martinsville Rd.
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Upcoming Meetings

• Monday, June 10 – Van Buren Public Schools
Board of Education, 7 p.m., BHS Commons
• Tuesday, June 11 – VBT LDFA, 2 p.m.
Also, 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.
• Wednesday, June 12 – Van Buren Township
Cemetery Advisory Committee, 11:30 a.m.
Also, VBT Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m.

Notice to Advertisers:

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

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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 River Dr., June 7, 9-5 p.m., June 8, 9-4
 p.m., June 9, 9-?. Boys clothes (8-12),
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 Decorative items. Lots of good stuff. 6/06

(3) FAMILY SALE. 46780 AYRES AVE.
 June 7-9. Furniture, Military gear and
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MOVING SALE. 50000 Willis Rd.
 June 6-8. Horse stuff, House goods.
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7005 SHELTON RD. between Ecorse
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HELP WANTED

Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

The following are selected calls for VBT Police.

Sunday, May 26:

0122 – loud party complaint, 8849 Parkwood Dr.
0257 – operating while intoxicated, Belleville Rd. / Lake Villa Dr.
1244 – trespassing, 45707 S. I-94 Service Dr.
1347 – trespassing, 10562 Belleville, Walmart
1433 – private property accident, 15400 Sumpter
1509 – missing person, 43501 S. Timberview Dr.
1710 – missing person, 11566 Wilson Ave.
1813 – juvenile complaint, 9701 Belleville, Meijer
1844 – shots fired, Ecorse/Jeremy
1845 – noise complaint, 10211 Van Buren St.
2008 – assault & battery, 12924 Linda Vista Ct.
2057 – noise complaint, 14849 Wildbrook Dr.
2107 – overdose, 58 Maple Dr.
2134 – noise complaint, 49221 S. I-94 Service Dr.
2225 – breaking & entering, 9050 Parkwood Dr.
2242 – marine violation, 48932 Peninsular
2243 – malicious destruction of property, 7972 Kirkridge Park Dr.
2252 – noise complaint, 14849 Wildbrook Dr.
2308 – disorderly conduct, 10640 Belleville Rd.

Monday, May 27:

0022 – malicious destruction of property, 10808 Belleville Rd.
0307 – noise complaint, 10930 Lighthouse Dr.
1032 – personal injury accident, Belleville/N. I-94 Service Dr.
1315 – malicious destruction of property, 1 Locust
1323 – unauthorized driving away of auto, 5 Points / Elwell
1620 – personal injury accident, Michigan Service Dr. / Denton Rd.
2058 – fraud, 2095 Rawsonville, Kmart
2120 – operating while intoxicated, Haggerty/I-94
2138 – assault & battery, 201 S. Ponderosa Trail
2211 – personal injury accident, EB I-94 / Rawsonville
2219 – property damage accident, WB I-94 / Belleville
2340 – assault & battery, I-94/Belleville

Tuesday, May 28:

0010 – disturbance, 41700 N. Bellridge Dr.
0038 – assault & battery, 49061 S. I-94 Service Dr.
0136 – mental, 48611 S. I-94 Service Dr.
0209 – hospice, 44401 S. I-94 Service Dr.
0207 – mental, 48611 S. I-94 Service Dr.
0830 – malicious destruction of property, 14072 Marina Dr.
1104 – property damage accident, I-94 / Rawsonville
1220 – larceny, 6635 Belleville Rd.
1237 – property damage accident, WB I-94/E. of Belleville Rd.
1358 – fraud, 7907 Kirkridge Park Dr.
1430 – fight, 47097 McBride Ave., school
1508 – fight, 47097 McBride Ave., school
1646 – assault & battery, 9783 Jackson St.
1833 – disturbance, WB I-94/Belleville
1905 – property damage accident, Belleville/N. I-94 Service Dr.
2049 – assault & battery, 44626 Lake Crest Dr.
2353 – malicious destruction of property, 48450 Denton Rd.

Wednesday, May 29:

0232 – breaking & entering, 45258 Brookview Dr.
0358 – unauthorized driving away of auto, 49021 S. I-94 Service Dr.
0506 – larceny from auto, 11510 Beckley
0706 – larceny from auto, 11729 Meadows Circle
1454 – harassment call, 9122 Parkwood Dr.
1501 – property damage accident, Ecorse/Denton
1557 – private property accident, 42720 Riggs Rd.
1605 – private property accident, 51300 Michigan
1643 – assault & battery, 46425 Tyler Rd.
1722 – intimidation threat, 50976 Old Michigan
1736 – fraud, 7956 Kirkridge Park Dr.
1757 – fight, 11585 Meadows Ct.
1822 – narcotics crime, 46425 Tyler Rd.
1954 – child abuse, Oakwood Annapolis
2016 – suspicious person, Huron River/Mission Pointe
2200 – fight, Meijer/Tyler
2246 – disorderly conduct, 45707 S. I-94 Service

Thursday, May 30:

0718 – juvenile complaint, 10819 Oak Lane

0859 – assault & battery, 8800 Parkwood Manor
0923 – unattended death, 44401 S. I-94 Service
1020 – disturbance, 103 N. Ponderosa Trail
1359 – property damage accident, Belleville / Ecorse
1503 – private property accident, 44034 Timberview Ct.
1504 – mental, 13245 Edgedale Dr.
1620 – property damage accident, Michigan / Denton
1640 – breaking & entering, 13 Ash Dr.
1732 – private property accident, 45455 Ecorse
2242 – disorderly conduct, 2193 Rawsonville Rd.

Friday, May 31:

0044 – assault & battery, 10990 Lighthouse Dr.
0353 – noise complaint, 9203 Westlake
1023 – noise complaint, 42683 Tavistock
1055 – private property accident, 46161 Village Green Lane
1116 – property damage accident, 2193 Rawsonville Rd.
1137 – noise complaint, 42683 Tavistock
1225 – assault & battery, 14165 Winding Pond Dr.
1343 – property damage accident, Walmart
1647 – fight, Walmart
1848 – noise complaint, 11275 Oak Lane
1904 – intimidation threat, 7175 Rawsonville Rd.
1930 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / S. I-94 Service Dr.
2141 – noise complaint, Lindsey Dr./Fay Dr.
2201 – noise complaint, 11888 Harbor Lane
2239 – disturbance, 49345 S. I-94 Service Dr.
2241 – property damage accident, Walmart
2249 – noise complaint, Fay Dr./Lindsey Dr.
2252 – missing person, 43501 S. Timberview Dr.

Saturday, June 1:

0151 – malicious destruction of property, Martz / Elwell
0245 – property damage accident, Rawsonville / S. I-94 Service Dr.
1111 – suspicious situation, 15151 Haggerty Rd.
1210 – ordinance violation, Belleville Bridge
1253 – property damage accident, Fire Station 2
1837 – harassment call, 9122 Parkwood Dr.
2112 – larceny, 48511 Denton Rd.
2319 – noise complaint, Harmony Ln./Lilac Ln.

Also on this week's log are 236 traffic stops, 58 of which were on the I-94 and I-275 freeways.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, May 26:

0104 – agency assist, 8839 Parkwood
0758 – assist fire dept., 30 Owens
1154 – assist fire dept., 417 Charles St.
1739 – juvenile complaint, Frosty Boy
1749 – panic alarm, 250 N. Liberty St.
1754 – suspicious situation, Chase Bank
1952 – animal complaint, Benito
2004 – suspicious person, Johnny's
2131 – domestic assault, 22 Carmell St.

Monday, May 27:

0008 – suspicious situation, 275 W. Columbia Ave., Columbia Court
0605 – agency assist, 8 Ash
1206 – fight, 458 Main St.
1235 – follow-up, 192 Belle Villa Blvd.
1344 – assist fire dept., Church/High
1345 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Five Points

Tuesday, May 28:

1027 – assist fire dept., A&W
1056 – welfare check, 244 Main St.
1155 – assist fire dept., 134 Carmell St.
1350 – suspicious situation, 573 E. Huron River Dr
1417 – E-911 cellular, Edgemont Day Care
1453 – vehicle lockout, 119 Potter Dr.
1612 – welfare check, 44 Main St.
1637 – misc. complaint, 6 Main St.
1650 – suspicious vehicle, 50 South St.
1947 – warrant arrest, 6 Main St.
2022 – warrant arrest, 650 Sumpter Rd.
2301 – fireworks, 161 Church St.

Wednesday, May 29:

1234 – fight, 50 South
1553 – personal injury accident, Davis/RR tracks
2052 – family trouble, 101 Carmell St.

Thursday, May 30:

0022 – assist fire dept., 303 E. Huron River Dr.

0212 – parking complaint, 201 N. Aberdeen Ct.
0246 – intrusion alarm, 106 Main St.
0404 – vehicle repossession, 32 Loza Lane
0918 – traffic complaint, Sumpter/Industrial Park
1134 – intimidation threat, 65 Menlo Park Dr.
1158 – E-911 hangup/investigation, 357 E. Columbia Ave.
1220 – welfare check, 24 Loza Lane
1259 – mental, 501 W. Columbia Ave., BHS
1334 – all other traffic, 500 N. Liberty St.
1631 – assist fire dept., 575 Sumpter Rd., Co-op
1714 – narcotics crime, Victory Park
2022 – suspicious person, Victory Park
2113 – assist fire dept., 103 Menlo Park Dr.
2123 – suspicious situation, 144 Carmell St.
2215 – lost property, 6 Main St.
2304 – violation public health code/violation controlled substance act, BHS
2306 – fireworks, 182 Dos Rios St.
2310 – minor in possession, BHS

Friday, May 31:

0058 – p.b.t. alcohol, BHS
0755 – animal complaint, 575 Sumpter Rd., Co-op
0953 – misc. complaint, 598 W. Thornhill Ct.
1206 – larceny, BHS
1209 – missing person, 45201 Owen St., school
1221 – traffic control, Sumpter/Five Points
1505 – traffic complaint, 359 W. Columbia Ave.
1852 – traffic complaint, 187 N. Edgemont Ave.
2157 – warrant arrest, 6 Main St.

Saturday, June 1:

0216 – E-911 hangup/investigation, 401 Estrada
0433 – domestic assault, 213 Anaheim St.
0451 – disorderly conduct, 112 Bedell St.
1051 – E-911 cellular, 119 Carmell St.
1113 – operating while intoxicated, 265 Sumpter
1206 – misc. complaint, 500 E. Huron River Dr.
1314 – civil matter, 50 South
1711 – civil matter, 562 Main St., Brown Bag
1758 – fight, 117 E. Huron River Dr.
1911 – follow-up, Sumpter/Industrial Park
2019 – suspicious situation, 6 Main St.
2338 – suspicious person, 222 Belle Villa Blvd.

Also on this log are 76 traffic stops.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, May 26:

0411 – suspicious incident, 19000 bl. Martinsville
0834 – alarm, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1046 – malicious destruction of property, fairgrounds
1125 – fire dept. assist, fairgrounds
1330 – alarm, 24000 bl. Bohn Rd.
1421 – abandoned vehicle, 21000 bl. Wilmot Rd.
1727 – fire dept. assist, 45000 bl. Dunn Rd.
1754 – fire dept. assist, 26000 bl. Karr Rd.
1915 – warrant arrest, fairgrounds
1927 – malicious destruction of property, Bemis / Sumpter
1955 – subpoena service, 46000 bl. Bontekoe
2022 – juvenile complaint, 45000 bl. Harris Rd.
2102 – ordinance violation, 45000 bl. Dunn Rd.
2159 – shots fired, 10000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
2230 – fire dept. assist, 49000 bl. Judd Rd.
2234 – suspicious incident, 29000 bl. Elwell Rd.

Monday, May 27:

0032 – assist other agency, 23000 bl. Martinsville
0041 – shots fired, Carriage Lane
0537 – suspicious vehicle, 43000 bl. Willow Rd.
1405 – property damage accident, 8700 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
1441 – alarm, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1509 – juvenile complaint, 5800 bl. Oakville Waltz
1918 – civil dispute, Texas
2101 – fire dept. assist, 51000 bl. Willis Rd.
2214 – warrant arrest, Sumpter/Bemis

Tuesday, May 28:

0153 – suspicious incident, 20000 bl. Sherwood
0703 – breaking & entering report, Washington
0717 – animal complaint, 23000 bl. Bohn Rd.
1016 – threats complaint, fairgrounds
1232 – civil dispute, 6700 bl. Oakville Waltz Rd.
1340 – suspicious incident, 6700 Oakville Waltz
1524 – subpoena service, 46000 bl. Bontekoe
1637 – suspicious incident, 47000 bl. Wear Rd.
1807 – civil dispute, 21000 bl. Wilmot Rd.
2055 – subpoena service, 21000 bl. Wilmot Rd.
2138 – warrant arrest, 21000 bl. Wilmot Rd.

Wednesday, May 29:

0113 – assault, Country Club Blvd.
0248 – fight, Country Club Blvd.
0641 – alarm, 8300 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
0751 – follow-up investigation, Hampshire
0848 – fire dept. assist, Carriage Ln.
1319 – alarm, Knollwood
1439 – dumping complaint, 26000 bl. Karr Rd.
1803 – animal complaint, Willow/Sumpter
1828 – mental health commitment, 17000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
2022 – citizen assist, 18000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2331 – suspicious incident, 51000 bl. Willis Rd.

Thursday, May 30:

0606 – animal complaint, Sumpter/Willow
0832 – warrant arrest, Haggerty/Bemis
1306 – alarm, Knollwood
1316 – property damage accident, Sherwood/Willis
1753 – warrant arrest, 45000 bl. Judd Rd.
1837 – follow-up investigation, 26000 bl. Karr Rd.
2343 – suspicious vehicle, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

Friday, May 31:

0010 – warrant arrest, 45000 bl. Judd Rd.
0725 – animal complaint, 8100 bl. Rawsonville
1136 – larceny, 26000 bl. Karr Rd.
1303 – suspicious incident, 43000 bl. Willow Rd.
1307 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1424 – alarm, 44000 bl. Judd Rd.
1543 – reckless driver complaint, Sumpter/Arkona
2003 – threats complaint, 43000 bl. Arkona Rd.
2114 – suspicious person, Pecan
2121 – neighbor dispute, 24000 bl. Elwell Rd.

Saturday, June 1:

0013 – fire dept. assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
0330 – fire dept. assist, 45000 bl. Willis Rd.
0644 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Carriage Lane
0901 – follow-up investigation, Carriage Lane
1124 – animal complaint, Willow/Sumpter
1203 – fire dept. assist, Utah
1225 – alarm, 21000 bl. Clemmons Ct.
1236 – threats complaint, 17000 bl. Sully Dr.
1805 – civil dispute, 43000 bl. Willow Rd.
1916 – civil dispute, 43000 bl. Willow Rd.
2316 – civil dispute, 51000 bl. Wear Rd.
2336 – suspicious incident, 24000 bl. Sherwood
Also on this week's log are 35 miscellaneous details, 106 patrol checks, and 46 traffic stops.

Sumpter man charged with stealing car from Belleville party store

Brian Mersino, 24, of Sumpter Township has been charged with stealing a vehicle from the Dairy Mart party store at Five Points in the City of Belleville at about 1:45 p.m. May 27, while a large Memorial Day ceremony was being held on the other side of town.

Van Buren Township Police joined in the chase to stop the man, who was apprehended by Ypsilanti Police.

Birthdays

June 3 – Lisa Long, Les Powell
June 5 – Briana Hoogterp
June 6 – Valery Reams
June 8 – Danica Broome
June 10 – Bob Todd
June 21 – Joe Posegay
June 25 – Rosemarie Hoogterp
June 30 – Alan Bates

Do you have a birthday in June? 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.

Things to do in the Belleville area...

• **Friday, June 7** – Bach's Wine Garden Party is 6-9 p.m. in the gardens of John Juriga and Tom Smith/Michael Dacko. Sponsored by the Belleville Area Council for the Arts. Tickets are \$30 and include beverages and hors d'oeuvres, along with live music. Funds raised will help support

the upcoming Concerts on the Lake.

• **Friday, June 7** -- Evangelical Friends Church Free Family Theater, 7 p.m. (Bounce House opens at 6:45 p.m.). Family movies on the big screen, popcorn and drinks, all FREE. This week featuring "Nature of God: Great Lakes Discoveries" followed by "The Road to Redemption." At 7890 Tuttle Hill Rd., at Bemis Rd., Ypsilanti. 734-483-6380.

• **Saturday, June 8** – Fishing Day at Horizon Park in downtown Belleville, 11 a.m. to 3

p.m., courtesy of the Belleville Area Council for the Arts, Van Buren Township Parks & Recreation, and downtown businesses. Free food, drinks, and pictures with your big fish. Trophies in age groups and award for best Fish Tale.

• **Saturday, June 8** – Wayne County and Van Buren Township Parks & Recreation Free Fishing Day, 9 a.m. to noon. No pre-registration required. Bring the family to Crosswinds Marsh and enjoy a free fishing day as part of the Department of Natural Resources Free Fishing Weekend, where fishing licenses are NOT required. Tackle, tying and casting techniques will be offered to those first-time fisher boys and girls. Prizes will be awarded to kids 16 and under for the biggest fish. Kids will make and take home their very own fish print t-shirts! Please bring a light-colored, cotton T-shirt for each participant. Paint and fish prints are provided.

• **Saturday, June 8** – Huron Township Downtown Development Authority presents the New Boston Car Show with live

entertainment, drawing, food, door prizes and market day, 4 to 9 p.m. Enter Sibley Rd. to Shook Rd. (at RR tracks), to Violet into the show.

• **Sunday, June 9** – 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.

• **Friday, June 14, through Sunday, June 16** – It's Strawberry Festival time again in Belleville. The annual parade is at 11 a.m. on Saturday.

• **Saturday, June 15** – Belleville Rotary Club is serving up a Pancake Breakfast from 8 to 11 a.m. before the parade at the BHS Commons (formerly cafeteria). Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$6 for kids, with dollar-off coupons available all over town.

• **Saturday, June 15** – The Canton Lions Club, which furnishes services to the Belleville area, is having a benefit Pancake Breakfast from 7 a.m. to noon at Heritage Park in Canton, with a cost of \$5 per breakfast.



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