



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

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Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

FREE

Sumpter Planners set public hearing on roller rink permit

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

The Sumpter Township Planning Commission has scheduled a 7:05 p.m., Feb. 12, public hearing after which it will decide whether to recommend revoking of the Special Exception Permit granted to the Sumpter Roller Rink.

The permit enables the rink, at 19750 Sumpter Road, to hold a variety of events besides skating.

At the commission's regular meeting Jan. 8, township attorney Rob Young explained the situation and said the next step was to set the public hearing. Then, the planners would decide what they wanted to do and make a recommendation to the township board which would make the final decision.

Young said since the township granted the permit last spring a number of instances have occurred and the board thought it was appropriate to ask the planning commission to make a recommendation on whether the permit should be revoked.

Young said at the Feb. 12 meeting there would be a write up presented on activities at the rink and Bewey Horn would have every opportunity to present his side.

Young said before the Jan. 8 meeting, Horn told him there would not be any more parties such as those that caused problems in the past. Horn told him he wanted the planning commission to allow him to continue other events, including a food handout program that is being proposed.

"I'm going to take that as a good sign," Young said, noting those comments indicate that Horn is taking steps that would not allow things to get out of control again.

Commission chairperson Jane Stalmack said she would like someone from the township's police department present at the hearing and Young said Detective John Toth would be there.

(continued on page 3)



Three members of the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education that were elected Nov. 4 were sworn in Monday by 34th District Court Judge David Parrott during the board's organizational meeting. From left are Kevin English, Sherry Frazier, and Alison Bennett.

Independent photo by Rosemary K. Otzman

School Board hires new Director of Finance, after Carlesso resigns

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Shareen Barker of Monroe was hired as the Van Buren Public Schools Director of Finance at Monday's meeting of the school board.

Barker replaces former Director Robert Carlesso, who resigned Dec. 16, after six months on the job. He was hired June 9, 2014 at a salary of \$104,000, plus fringes, and began work July 1. He had a two-year contract.

Carlesso had been hired to fill the vacancy after Karen Moffitt retired as finance director.

On Monday the board gave Barker a

contract effective Jan. 26 and running through June 30, 2016 for \$104,500, plus fringe benefits offered to all administrators.

School Supt. Michael Van Tassel said he was extremely excited, pointing out Barker has worked in "every single job that finance has to offer. She'll be dynamite for us."

Barker has been finance manager of the Gibraltar School District since January 2013. Before that she was director of finance for the Southfield Public Schools since May, 2010.

Previously she was director of finance for Melvindale-Northern Allen Park Schools, business office accountant at Airport Community Schools, internal auditor/grant administration for the Taylor School District, starting off at the Taylor district as substitute secretary.

Trustee Sherry Frazier said she had concerns of Barker leaving one school

district for another in the middle of the school year, but then she talked to Barker about it. She said Barker explained there was a transition in place at Gibraltar and so that allayed her concern.

Carlesso was a recent topic of discussion at a Van Buren Township board meeting.

On Dec. 16, Carlesso's appointment to the VBT Local Development Finance Authority was confirmed by the VBT Board of Trustees.

During discussion on his appointment to the LDFA by the school district, VBT Supervisor Linda Combs said, "He didn't want to do it. His boss forced him to do it."

Township board members asked if they

(continued on page 16)



Barker

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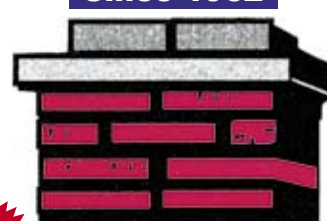
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SECOND FRONT PAGE

Sumpter Planners

(continued from page 1)

Although the public hearing would be in February, members of the commission wanted to ask Horn and co-owner Kathleen Spires some questions and proceeded to do so.

Commissioner Sharon Claxton asked what were the parties that drew police to the rink and Horn said it was a college fraternity Halloween party.

Spires said those leasing the rink were from Eastern Michigan University and they had a contract saying they would have their own security and the firm was named on the contract.

"We leased to a bad customer and we handled it the best we could," Spires said, adding, "Bewey called the police and a legal security company was on site when it occurred."

Township Trustee Matthew Oddy, who sits on the commission as liaison to the board, said there were to be no exterior improvements, yet the rink has a new parking lot. He said there should have been a site plan.

Horn said he put stone on the grass behind the building and had no clue he couldn't do that.

Oddy said the township ordinance department should make sure the ordinances are being followed. He said the township forced Keystone Academy to hard-surface their parking lot when they just wanted gravel.

"You're saying that was part of the permit?" Spires asked in amazement.

"We never got any rules for it," Horn said, noting they asked if there were any rules and were told it was just a Special Exception Permit.

"It was part of the planner's review," Oddy said.

The planner, Laura Kreps, was not present at that evening's meeting.

"I'd like to see a copy of that," Horn said, of the review.

Oddy said it was in the packet he received for that meeting. He referred to the Planning Commission meeting of May 8, 2014 when a public hearing was held and the commission voted to recommend approval to the board. At its May 13, 2014 meeting, the board of trustees approved a permit allowing rentals for parties at the rink.

Horn asked if the planner's review was available to the public to see, since he said he never saw it.

"We came down and asked and they said we just had special use," Horn repeated.

"Does it have to do with the special use permit?" Spires asked referring to the gravel on the grass.

Oddy said that was separate from the review of the special use, but he wanted it

all to be done at the same time.

"They called and said they had some gravel," he said not specifying who had called. "... Then I put it in on the grass so they wouldn't be on the road," Horn said, referring to a school group coming from Keystone. "I didn't dig out the grass..."

Oddy asked attorney Young if Horn shouldn't have come to the township for his parking lot expansion.

"You're making up the rules now?" said an exasperated Horn.

"You guys were CC'd on it," Oddy said.

"Revocation of the Special Exception Permit will come up in February and the police will say what happened," Young said. "I'm confident something will be worked out."

Commissioner Chris Walter-Hamm asked what event the rink had on New Year's Day.

Spires said it was an all-night skate party for youngsters 12 to 15. She said it was a roller skating party held every year and they keep watch that older kids don't come in or hang around outside.

Spires said a female police officer said the rink should put up "no loitering" signs and so they did on each corner.

After the commission set the date for the public hearing, Spires asked if she could speak during the Open Floor part of the meeting and commission chairwoman Stalmack gave her the floor.

Spires said it has been said that this was a financial situation. "No, it wasn't," she said, adding that they didn't charge that much for use of the building. She passed out blue-covered packets of information to commission members. She said Det. Toth also has one of the folders.

"This is asking the planning commission to vote no to revoke," Spires explained, detailing what they had put in the folder. "In the spring we applied and paid the fee to get permission to hold other than roller skating. We had the EMU frat house four to five times in the past without incident."

She said on Aug. 19 they leased out the rink for an Oct. 30 party from 11 p.m. to 2 a.m. to a fraternity group from EMU.

"We required them to sign a contract that said this is a non-smoking facility. No drugs or alcohol," Spires said.

She said on Oct. 31 guests of the lease were in the parking lot at the gas station across the road and a fight erupted. Horn called the police.

She said Det. Toth has informed them just before this meeting that "cameras and footage" showed the fight happened in the rink's parking lot. She said they didn't know it was on their property until now.

"We did not want this for our community," Spires said. "We decided to apologize to the police department and community."

She said Horn went over to the police station and told them the rink would no longer rent to those types of organizations.

"This one person caused all this and they never saw a gun. I hate that one person brought this on... It made the college kids look bad and not all college kids are bad."

-- Kay Harris, Sumpter Resident

She and Horn composed an apology letter that was printed in the *Independent*.

Spires said the detective made Horn feel like he did something wrong, like he was the perpetrator. Horn was asked why he didn't report in his call to the police that there was a gun? Horn said he didn't know there was a gun involved.

Spires said she and Horn opened the roller rink in 2010.

"We leased to the party in good faith ... the incident, we thought, was not on our property," she said. "Things happen everywhere... We cannot control that. We want to create a safe and fun place to be."

She said that Deborah Baker of Growing Hope was with them that evening. She has proposed using the rink for marketing of locally grown food products.

Spires said they have had family parties and revivals and in October they established a teen dance club, once a month on a Friday.

Commissioner Joy Cichewicz asked how many big parties they have had, like the one on Halloween?

Spires said there have been seven parties of 200 or more people.

"It's a terrible situation that happened," Spires said of the violence.

The commissioners started referring to a list of calls where police had to go to the rink. Horn and Spires asked if they could see what they were looking at.

They were given a copy and, after looking over the list, Horn said there were just two calls listed for after-hours parties and the rest were for skating.

Horn said in September a girl called the police from outside the rink and nothing was found. She reported a man with a gun and Horn said he never saw a gun. Horn said the same girl reported an assault and there was no assault.

He said that girl was out there at three in the morning wearing a tether.

Spires said it was the police who told them they should get a Special Use permit, so they did.

"We don't need the trouble," Spires said, referring to not following the law.

Commissioner Cichewicz asked if it was possible to change the permit rather than revoke it and attorney Young said the commission could recommend that it be modified.

Chairperson Stalmack said the commission suggests to the township board. The neighbors will get letters for the public hearing, like they did for the May 8 public hearing.

Stalmack said she would like to hear more about the food project.

Baker said there is no request yet, but she would like the State to pay for a commercial kitchen for the rink.

"It's just an idea," Baker said.

Young said the planner could look at the project and make a recommendation.

Township Trustee Bill Hamm said from the audience that he was on the planning commission when the rink issue came before it. He recalls people would be allowed to bring in their own alcohol.

Spires said they did not apply for a liquor license.

Hamm said people could bring their own, he thought.

Young said it used to be that you would be able to bring alcohol if there was no cost to get in or it would be possible to get a one-day liquor license.

Hamm said the discussion that evening was almost like the public hearing that isn't scheduled until Feb. 12. But this meeting is without the detective.

Horn said they are not allowed to bring alcohol.

"They got carried away, so we stopped it," Horn said.

Spires said it is in the contract and they do NOT allow alcohol.

Kay Harris identified herself as a parent of one of the people that works at the Skate Park. She said the kind of people employed at the rink make a positive influence on their lives.

She said one child bullied another and the person went to the hospital. She said the kids went to court to testify, even though they see that bully at school.

"This one person caused all this and they never saw a gun," Harris said of the Halloween incident. "I hate that one person brought this on."

"It made the college kids look bad and not all college kids are bad," she said.

The Sumpter Roller Rink was built by John and Clara Januszyk in 1940 and has been in operation for 75 years.

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OPINIONS

Editorial

Sumpter Board mulls money for Belleville museum

At Tuesday's regular meeting of the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees, Supervisor John Morgan said Van Buren Township Supervisor Linda Combs had contacted him about support for the Belleville Area Museum.

She said VBT contributes \$35,000 a year and Sumpter Township has paid nothing in recent years. Actually it cut the museum out of its budget in March 1998 when times were very tough. Combs said the city of Belleville had been giving \$10,000, but may not be able to give that.

Supervisor Morgan asked the board if it wanted to give anything or wait and see what Belleville does.

Trustee Peggy Morgan said she would like some time for board members to "toss this around in our heads." Supervisor Morgan said they could bring suggestions to the next meeting on Jan. 27.

Resident Mary Ban asked the board to see if they can find a little bit of money to support the museum. She said it takes a lot to keep a museum's archives going and this is so important. "Roots establish a community," she said, adding that the story of Sumpter is not adequately displayed in the Belleville museum.

"I hope Sumpter Township will find it in their hearts," she said, noting local history goes back to the 1700s. "It will put Sumpter Township a little bit more on the map," Ban said.

VBT does need some help with the museum and Sumpter could pitch in.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

We had a wonderful turnout for our birthday party on Friday. It was held to celebrate the completion of 20 years of publishing this weekly newspaper.

There were lots of familiar faces and many new people who came, ate some hot city chicken and meatballs (cooked up by Debbie Shanks), some fruits and vegetables, and a piece of birthday cake (baked by the friendly people at Meijer's).

And, many took us up on our offer of a free classified ad.

We're working on another 20 years.

So many people have been so sick. We sure hope everyone heals and gets back to living a wonderful life.

At the last VBT Local Development Finance Authority meeting on Dec. 15, there was less than a quorum. They called member Leonard Armstrong at home and he got out of his sick bed and came to the meeting so the LDFA could conduct some pressing business. He must have hurried because about 10 minutes later he walked into the meeting room. What commitment! I think he said it was the flu.

Our office manager Janet Millard was released from the hospital on Jan. 6. She recovered for a few days at home and came to work Monday. Jackie Garner, our retired office manager, had been helping us survive. Thank you, Jackie. Glad you're back, Janet.

Janet said she was diagnosed with pneumonia and tested positive for the flu virus.

One of disbarred attorney Tom White's victims brought to me the latest word from

ACCORDING TO THE NATIONAL DAY CALENDAR, TUESDAY WAS NATIONAL RUBBER DUCKY DAY, YESTERDAY WAS NATIONAL CLEAN OFF YOUR DESK DAY, AND TODAY IS NATIONAL MILK DAY. DID YOU KNOW THAT MILK WAS FIRST DELIVERED IN BOTTLES ON THIS DAY IN 1878?



the U.S. Bankruptcy Court on his case, which has been in progress for more than a year and a half. He filed bankruptcy immediately after being disbarred.

It's hard for me, a layman, to understand legalese, but it appears the final report says White had receipts of \$15,050 and approved disbursements of \$5,860, leaving a balance on hand of \$9,189.48.

That is being disbursed for Chapter 7 administrative expenses of \$2,623 and the balance of \$6,566.48 to the IRS.

There also is \$27,414.64 in secured claims to Ford Motor Co. and the IRS that isn't being paid now.

The report also says there are more unsecured creditors totaling \$4,602,213.87 and payment to them will be allowed *pro rata* only after all "allowed administrative and priority claims have been paid in full." Then the unsecured claims are listed to 32 individuals and businesses, from \$761,976 as the top amount to \$450.55 as the bottom amount (Michigan Bell Telephone Co.).

Apparently, the bankruptcy is almost over. Then, in a different court, comes his sentence in 20 felonies that he has pled no contest to (treated as a guilty plea). That's Feb. 3. Then, the multiple civil suits will begin.

ValuePenguin sent me a report on the safest towns in Michigan because Sumpter Township was #49 out of 186 towns in the state they covered and we cover Sumpter Township. The standings were based on the

FBI's 2013 crime statistics, the most recent available. The FBI stats were released in November and, you may recall, we printed them in December.

Van Buren Township was #116 on the list and Belleville wasn't listed.

Analysts at ValuePenguin conducted a detailed study to compare a variety of crime metrics across 186 cities in Michigan. Here is the link for the full report (should be handy for readers if they want to see how Sumpter and VBT compare to other municipalities): <http://www.valuepenguin.com/2015/01/2015-safest-cities-michigan-study#population>

Detroit, Benton Harbor, and Flint were the most dangerous and Raisin Township in Lenawee County was the #1 safest place to live in the state.

At Monday's school board meeting, newly sworn-in board member Alison Bennett accepted a RESA certificate of appreciation for all her work on the school board. She accepted reluctantly, stating, "I just got here."

School Supt. Michael Van Tassel said they always have honored school board members in January, just as they were being sworn in. He agreed it didn't make sense.



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BELLEVILLE - AREA

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**Letters****2015 Wishes: Work
together, light the tree**

To the Editor and Readers:

Happy New Year and these are my wishes for 2015.

• Newly elected Congress: make an effort to work together for the betterment of OUR COUNTRY. Stop the bickering like school children over who has the ball! Instead, share.

• Let our three branches of government work together for a more cohesive, united front. Remember we are the "shining" light for the World.

• Let our local governing body listen and understand their constituency so as to make a community that people want and feel part of.

• If these wishes could come true, I think everyone would be less stressful and able to enjoy the wonders of this tri-area community.

• Thank you to Express Tire Service on Belleville Road for having the compassion in helping me get air into my tires. It pays to shop your community.

• To the Belleville "decorated" tree for Christmas--please next year have a tree decorated with "life" that is with all lights. Last year's tree looked as if it were an afterthought with a few ornaments strewn among the branches. We have wonderful florists that could help and advise our City Fathers in designing and decorating a tree that says Belleville takes pride in how we present ourselves.

My suggestion for 2015, each family donate a string of lights to the City thus having a part of making our Christmas Tree beautiful. Just think what our children will say when they see and know that they were part of decorating such a beautiful, gigantic tree for all to see!

So with all this being said, I wish the best to all who come, work and live in Belleville. Let us welcome and support our new businesses that are starting in our community.

Marian Caldwell

Van Buren Township

**Happy New Year from
Sumpter Seniors**

To the Editor,

Sumpter Senior Center's annual Christmas Party held on Dec. 16, 2014 was a huge success!

A very special thank you to: Sumpter ACE Hardware, Brown Funeral Home, Kellers Bakery, Township Attorney Rob Young, Chapp & Bushey Oil Co., Martin & Son, Judge Dave Parrott, Pinter's Flowerland, Public Service Credit Union, Sumpter Township Board of Trustees -- John Morgan, Clarence Hoffman, Alan Bates, Peggy Morgan, Bill Hamm, Don Swinson, Matt Oddy.

Your generous donations throughout the years never goes unnoticed.

Happy New Year from the Sumpter Seniors

**Intriguing, interesting
aspects of Belleville**

To the Editor:

Here we are in the winter season in the middle of January, where the cold and snow prohibits most of the activities that occur throughout the year in the city. The other day, several of my caregivers were discussing the city of Belleville and I would like to tell the story that came forth from this discussion.

To begin with, all of the caregivers live outside of Belleville and the majority of them reside in the tri-county area. They were discussing the uniqueness of Belleville and the diversified events that happened throughout the year.

I reasoned with conviction, the following -- that the people of all the various groups and organizations who put on these events through planning, preparing, and arranging, should be applauded or read

(continued on page 8)

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Community Chorus to start rehearsals Jan. 26 for spring concert season

The Belleville Community Chorus is scheduled to start rehearsals at 7 p.m., Monday, Jan. 26, for its spring concert season.

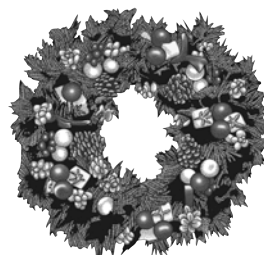
Rehearsals, under Director Susan Hiser, are held at First United Methodist Church, 417 Charles Street, Belleville.

If you enjoy singing, the Belleville Community Chorus invites you to join them. The chorus is a non-profit organization, made up of volunteers of all ages who love to sing. They perform a variety of choral music, for the enrichment, education, and enjoyment of their members and audiences in the surrounding communities.

Whether you sing soprano, alto, tenor, bass, or you're not really sure, you're welcome to be part of this group. If this is your first rehearsal, come by 6:30 p.m. so that the director can place your voice in the appropriate section.

Not a singer? The chorus is also looking for a few helpful folks who would be willing to help coordinate the organization behind the scenes.

For more information, call Lori Day at 734-660-0797, email her at loriday205@gmail.com, or go to www.Bellevillechorus.org.



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Obituaries



Anna Lee Hawkins

ANNA LEE HAWKINS

(January 25, 1940 - January 12, 2015)

Anna Lee Hawkins, age 74, of Belleville, MI, passed away Monday, January 12, 2015 at University Hospitals, Ann Arbor, MI. She was born January 25, 1940 in Highland Park, MI, daughter of Harry & Dorothy Jean (Matheny) Milam.

Anna Lee grew up in Wayne, MI and graduated from Wayne High School. She was a hard worker who retired from Van Buren Public Schools after more than 25 years as a custodian at Belleville High School and the Bus Terminal. She enjoyed riding a bike, crocheting, sewing, shopping, going out to eat and loved to garden, especially her flowers. Most of all, she loved spending time with her family.

Mrs. Hawkins is survived by 6 children Kimberly (Brian) Hawkins of Belleville, Shawn (Tina) Steger of Maryland, Selina (Jeff) Stillwagon, Norman (Shannon) Ackron, Brian Hawkins, all of Belleville, and Robbie Lynn (Robert) Napier of Columbus, Ohio; 13 grandchildren; 6 great-grandchildren; 11 siblings; and numerous nieces, nephews and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, step-father Lawrence Walker, husband Gerald Hawkins, and brother Tommy Walker.

Visitation was 4-8 PM Wednesday and will be 10-11 AM Thursday, January 15, 2015 at David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI 48111 with an 11:00 AM Funeral. Private Interment will be in Glen Eden Lutheran Memorial Park, Livonia, MI.

Memorial contributions may be made to Barbara Ann Karmanos for breast cancer research, and would be greatly appreciated. Please sign her on-line guest book and share a story for her family to treasure at www.davidcbrownfh.com.



Stephanie M. Box

STEPHANIE M. BOX

Stephanie M. Box, age 90, of Belleville, passed away January 7, 2015. She was preceded in death by her husband Landy W. Box. She and her husband were involved in several local businesses and the community for many years. She is survived by two children, Lynda (Dan) Roberts and Ron (Marta) Box, two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, also numerous nieces and nephews.

A private funeral service was Saturday, January 10, at David C. Brown Funeral Home. Interment was in Michigan Memorial Park.

Get 10 free flowering trees from the Arbor Day Foundation

Residents of Michigan can ring in the New Year with 10 free flowering trees by joining the Arbor Day Foundation any time during January 2015.

By becoming a part of the nonprofit Arbor Day Foundation, new members will receive two Sargent crabapples, three American redbuds, two Washington hawthorns, and three white flowering dogwoods.

"These beautiful trees will give your home in Michigan lovely flowers with pink, yellow and white colors," said Matt Harris, chief executive of the Arbor Day



Independent photo by Bob Mytych
Independent Editor Rosemary Oztman, left, hands over a \$100 check to Sue Kotarek of Romulus as the top prize in a writing contest to mark completion of the newspaper's 20th year of publishing. Jeff Kotlarek, who also signed the winning letter, was at work on Friday and couldn't make it to the newspaper's party.

Foundation. "These trees are perfect for large and small spaces and they will provide food and habitat for songbirds."

The free trees are part of the Foundation's Trees for America campaign.

The trees will be shipped postpaid at the right time for planting, between Feb. 1 and May 31, with enclosed planting instructions. The 6- to 12-inch tall trees are guaranteed to grow or they will be replaced free of charge.

Members will also receive a subscription

to the Foundation's bimonthly publication, *Arbor Day*, and *The Tree Book*, which includes information about tree planting and care.

To become a member of the Foundation and to receive the free trees, send a \$10 contribution to TEN FREE FLOWERING TREES, Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Avenue, Nebraska City, NE 68410 by Jan. 31, 2015. Michigan residents can also join online at arborday.org/january.

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More Letters

(continued from page 5)

what others thought about the utilization, the development, and the performance that they illustrate and sustain in putting on the events.

The general impression was that the groups and individuals responsible for these different events exemplify a community spirit that bestows precise passion, to the different events crossing all generations.

The caregivers were impressed with the weekly car show that the operator of the Bayou grill supports and addresses weekly during the activity period. Equally appreciated is the music in the park with the different acts and different type of music and syncopation that each group presents. They thought this was amazing for a city the size of Belleville to be able to produce such a comfortable surrounding in the park, with the lake in the background and open to everyone to sit, enjoy, visit, and become part of the event. The list goes on with the art fair folks hosting the home crafters down on Main Street with all of the interesting craft articles for sale.

Of course, the Strawberry Festival brought great pleasure and enjoyment with the indulgence to get ice cream topped with fresh berries. Too, the community spirit with all the churches getting involved with different functions and whoever was responsible for this provided bus transportation to all locations. There were parades for different festivals. The city-wide garage sale. The Octoberfest with the live animals. Then, who could forget the horse and buggy rides along with the ice rink and four kinds of soup that the public could enjoy?

We approached Christmas with Santa Claus coming to visit us. The magnificent Festival of Lights Parade followed with Santa giving away candy at the First United Methodist Church and their group of church people that put on a manger scene with live animals simulating the time when Christ was born. Outstanding dedication!

I should also indicate that these caregivers were excited during the Halloween season with all the costumes and figures attached to the streetlight posts and then the ice

carvings that decorated Main Street. I would be remiss if I didn't also include their conversations regarding the Taste of Belleville, along with the cooperation of the local restaurants that provided food for the public to eat and enjoy. That rain that evening made it possible for many people to introduce themselves, meet new people, and eat under the gazebo.

Also, we recall the services at the Memorial, the motorcycles and the ceremony of the solemnization of the tolling bell for each name of a veteran that is remembered. A well-deserved thank you goes to the David Brown Chapel for their continued participation in this event.

Over and over again, each person brought up a specific event that they personally took part in illustrating the hard work and devotion, dedication and unlimited hours of time put into these events. That devotion principle then becomes the reflections of a great many people, clubs, organizations, bands and their directors, and their ideas that exemplify their devotion to exceed. All of these people and those that I have failed to list should be applauded and they should take a bow for what they do for the city of Belleville.

I thanked these caregivers for voicing their opinion and giving credit and their admiration to the city for all the things that we continually do month after month. It's been my pleasure to bring this to everyone's attention and I'm submitting this letter for public viewing through the *Independent*. I know I have missed some of the activities, the people, and so I say thank you to everyone connected doing this job. Special thanks to the Belleville Police Department and the DPW workers who prepare and sustain order and safety for everyone.

Sincerely,

Don Bluhm

Belleville Resident

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1656 Parkwood, Ypsilanti Twp
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45113 Lindsey, Belleville
\$189,900— 3 bedroom, 3 1/2 baths,
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45230 Greenbriar, Belleville
\$183,100— 4 bedroom, 2.1 baths, 2378sqft,
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The new **Sugar Plum Candy Shoppe** located at **111 South Street** is now open and in today's paper is their ad featuring their **First Annual Valentine's Day Poem Contest**. Enter it to win a cool prize package. Your poem must be a minimum of five lines and not of a published author. No purchase is necessary and the entry forms can be dropped off at the business during regular business hours, mailed to the address, or uploaded to their Facebook page at Sugar Plum Candy Shoppe. One prize is awarded to each: Belleville High School, Middle School, and Facebook. See the complete rules in their ad in today's paper or call **Dorene Mroz** at **(734) 325-6353**. The candy shop sells old-fashioned candy, stick candy, homemade, and other goodies. The shop is located in the house at **Our Father's Child Day Care Center**. Use the front door sidewalk entrance.

The **Belleville Chamber of Commerce** is inviting everyone to its **Annual Tri-Community Luncheon** on Wednesday, Jan. 21, 11:30 a.m. at the **Wayne County Community College Haggerty Road Campus**. Guest speakers include Belleville Mayor Kerreen Conley, Van Buren Township Supervisor Linda Combs, and Sumpter Township Supervisor John

Morgan. Tickets are \$15 for chamber members and \$20 for non-members. Reservation deadline is tomorrow, Jan. 16. Call (734) 697-7151 or email support@bellevilleareachamber.org. The guest speakers will provide updates on their respective communities.

Doug Dalton's monthly **Estate Antique Auction** is coming up tomorrow, Friday, Jan. 16, at 5 and 6 p.m. at the **Romulus Progressive Hall** on Ozga Road. A special **Guy's Tool Auction** is first up at 5 p.m. with two auctions featuring lots of clocks and advertising items to follow. Previews for everything starts at 4 p.m. To see a detailed list and lots of photos, see their ad in today's paper and visit their website at www.dougdaltonauctioneer.com.

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The **Wayne County Fairgrounds** will be holding their annual **Wild Game Dinner** this Saturday, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the fairgrounds on Quirk Road. Tickets are \$30 in advance and \$40 at the door. There will also be door prizes and raffles with the proceeds going towards the upkeep of the fairgrounds. For info and tickets, call **Mary Zellner** at **(734) 942-1684** or **Tom Busenbark** at **(734) 799-3692**.

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Do you have a business item you would like to see in this column? Call Bob Mytych at (734) 699-9020 with your suggestion. There is no charge to be in this column.

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Belleville City Council holds record 3-minute meeting to pay its bills

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

"You are witness to a new city record," announced Belleville Mayor Pro Tem Jack Loria on Monday, Jan. 5, at 7:33 p.m., after the adjournment of a 3-minute city council meeting. The meeting started at 7:30 p.m.

There was nothing on the agenda to vote on except Accounts Payable and Departmental Expenditures, which essentially meant the council met to pay its regular bills and three big bills to Hennessey Engineers.

"You should write down everyone who was here," Loria said, referring to the eight people in the council chambers.

Besides Loria, present at the council table were Mayor Kerreen Conley and Councilmen Tom Smith and Tom Fielder. Councilwoman Kim Tindall was absent and excused because she was ill.

From the city administration was City Manager Pro-Tem Lisa Long (the city's clerk/treasurer), who also took minutes of the meeting. City Manager Diana Kollmeyer was in Florida.

In the audience were Planning Commissioner Mike Renaud, Police Chief Hal Berriman, and the *Independent* reporter.

Councilman Fielder said he had been told by former Mayor Glenn Silvenis that the

record, up until Monday, was 7 minutes. Fielder said he had his usual comments to make, but he would save them for the next meeting in order to keep this meeting short.

The council approved \$62,479.59 in accounts payable and the following departmental purchases in excess of \$500, all to Hennessey Engineers: \$5,144.50 in engineering fees from the Trust grant; \$1,600 for Department of Public Service / Water Operations, from various budgets; and \$16,014.50 for S-2 Grant Management, from the Water budget.

The next city council meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 20, a day later than usual because of the Martin Luther King holiday on the council's regular Monday meeting date.

Court Watching

Jury trial set March 3 on domestic violence, watercraft charges

Rajan Nagibha Sutariya has set his jury trial for March 3 at 34th District Court. His retained attorney is Neil Rockind.

District Court Judge Brian A. Oakley offered him jury trial dates of Jan. 23 and Feb. 13, but his attorney was not available on those dates.

Sutariya is charged with domestic violence, operating under the influence of liquor, and a personal watercraft violation.

Van Buren Township Police Detective Mark Buxton is the officer in charge of the case.

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5pm Guy's Tool Auction (Back of Main Room): Nice Group of Usable Power Tools & Equipment including Air Compressor, New Power Washer, Tool Boxes and Various Hand Tools. This will be a Fast Paced Auction!

6pm MAIN ROOM AUCTION: One of the Best Clock Collections we have sold in Years including Multiple Grandfather Clocks (One even has Life-Size Carved Wood Figures), Lots of Wall Regulators with some having Advertising. Also, a Group of Long-Guns including a Bushmaster AR-15, Some Military & Guy Items, a Restored 1946 Seeburg Symphonola Model 146-M Juke Box, an Antique Carved Scottish Wood Ships Figurehead of a Lass and Good Antique & Primitive Furniture. Great Folk Art Collection incl Early Rag Rugs. For the Ladies, an Excellent Collection of Vanity Top Items including Early 20th C Jewel Boxes, Perfumes, Beaded Purses, Fine Jewelry, Nice Antique Quilts and More. An Auction worth the Trip!

6pm Back Room Advertising Auction, (Ring #2): Estate Collection of 100s of Advertising Items including Signs & Posters, Lots of Early Country Store Products sold by the lot (Tons of Early Tins), Includes a Rare Embossed 1950s Lone Ranger Bread Sign, a Vintage Exterior McDonalds Sign and some unusual Items. From Victorian to 70s Collectable, a Fast Paced Auction with Premier Auction Service Steve Gross, from Ypsilanti, as Guest Auctioneer.

Auctioneers Note: A Good Group of Fresh Antique Clocks from an Advanced White Lake Collector who is Retiring, plus a Big Group of Advertising Items from the Victorian thru the 70's from the Estate of Dan Aguirre of New Boston MI, Plus Items from Other Local Estates & Collectors Downsizing... Bid on some Fresh Items for your collection or shop. Plenty of Parking, Val's Food Service, VISA, Mastercard & Discover (No American Express) 4% Charge for Credit Cards, MI Sales Tax, **NO Buyers Premium**, Out of State checks need pre-approval. Absentee Bids accepted after personal inspection during preview (MI residents only, No out of State Bids.) No Phone or Internet Bidding. **Free Seat Reservation, Call Free: 1-800-801-6452 or Email us at: DougDalton@comcast.net...** Bring a friend, Fast paced sale, Announcements Day of Sale Take Precedent, Don't forget your trucks or trailers for furniture. All items must be removed night of the Auction. **Next Auction Feb. 13,** Antique Consignments Accepted.



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Things to do in the Belleville area...

- **Thursday, Jan. 15** – Democrats are invited to sit and talk with other local Democrats from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at Egan's Pub, 396 Main Street, in downtown Belleville. No dues, no agenda, no by-laws, no officers, no protocol. Just intelligent conversation about issues.
- **Friday, Jan. 16** – The Belleville Moose Lodge has started its Karaoke Every Friday Night series from 8 p.m. until midnight. You're invited. The lodge is at the corner of Sumpter and Harris roads in Sumpter Township.
- **Saturday, Jan. 17** – The Michigan Antique Radio Club invites the public to its Vintage Electronics Expo and sale from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Costick Activity Center, 28600 W. 11 Mile Road, between Middlebelt and Inkster roads in Farmington. It's the Road Show for collectible electronics with free appraisals. Admission \$5.
- **Saturday, Jan. 17** – Wayne County Fair Association invites you to the annual Wild Game benefit dinner at the fairgrounds. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., dinner at 6:15. Pre-sale tickets \$30; at the door, \$35. Door prizes and raffles. Information (734) 942-1684; (734) 799-3692, Proceeds go to the upkeep of the fairgrounds.
- **Saturday, Jan. 17** – There's a Sock Hop over at the Van Buren Eagles, 9961 Beck Road, Van Buren Township, featuring the live band Fast Eddie. Tickets are \$15 each

and include pizza. Doors open at 6 p.m. and the Sock Hop is 8 p.m. until midnight. Tickets: 734-260-4368; 810-247-0914; 734-732-5114.

- **Sunday, Jan. 18** – Off-leash playtime at 2 p.m. with other friendly Pugs and Pug owners in the Abbott Building at the Wayne County Fairgrounds, 10871 Quirk Road, Van Buren Township. FREE, but donations accepted. You Pugs will love you for their new social life! www.meetup.com/semichiganpugs

- **Monday, Jan. 19** – Phillip Walsh will speak on landscape design at the 7 p.m. meeting of the Belleville Area Garden Club at the First United Methodist Church, 617 Charles Street, Belleville.

- **Saturday, Jan. 24** – It's the annual meeting of the Friends of the Belleville Area District Library and you're invited. Come at 1 p.m. for a light lunch and some socializing. The actual meeting will start at 1:30 p.m.

- **Saturday, Jan. 24** – The Belleville Moose invites you to its Saturday Band series, tonight it's Iron Duke from 8 p.m. until midnight. The lodge is at the corner of Sumpter and Harris roads in Sumpter Township.

- **Friday, Jan. 30** – Potato Pancake Supper, 4:30-7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall at St. John's Lutheran Church, on the west side of the church, 28320 Waltz Road, Waltz. Donation is \$10 for adults; \$4 donation for children 6-12; children 5 and under free. Carry-outs after 5:30 p.m. Sponsored by St. John's Ladies Aid/LWML.

- **Saturday, Jan. 31** – St. Anthony Men's

Club Holiday Dance, Mardi Gras, in the Father Folta building behind the church. Tickets, \$30 per person. Call Garden Fantasy for information, (734) 699-7370.

- **Saturday, Feb. 7** – Used Book Sale at the Belleville Area District Library, noon to 3 p.m. Members of the Friends group can come at 11 a.m.

- **Saturday, Feb. 21** – Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue, Second-Annual Cabin Fever Bowling Fundraiser at Thunderbowl Lanes, 4200 Allen Rd., Allen Park. Check in 4:30 p.m.; 5 p.m. start time. \$20 per person, includes three hours of bowling, pizza and pop. Pre-registration by Feb. 10. Questions: Pat Clemens (313) 319-4715 or (734) 461-9458 or email pado01@att.net.

- **Sunday, Feb. 22** – Off-leash playtime at 2 p.m. with other friendly Pugs and

Pug owners in the Abbott Building at the Wayne County Fairgrounds, 10871 Quirk Road, Van Buren Township. FREE, but donations accepted. You Pugs will love you for their new social life! www.meetup.com/semichiganpugs

- **Friday, Feb. 27** – Celebrate "Mardi Gras Around the World" at the Van Buren Eagles, with the social hour beginning at 5:30 p.m., dinner from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., and music by the Paul Keller "At Sundown" Quintet. All-you-can-eat buffet dinner. Tickets \$15 in advance; \$20 at the door, if available. Information and reservations, Keith & Ginger Bruder, (734) 461-2498.

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Mark Twain

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Traffic volume main factor in which roads Wayne County plows

Anytime snow is in the forecast, the Wayne County Department of Public Services' Roads Division is ready with about 160 snowplow/salt trucks to maintain more than 2,000 miles of roads.

Wayne County commissioners have been asked about the county's snowplowing policy, and according to Department of Public Services officials, freeways and

surface streets with the greatest volume of traffic are maintained first unless there are abnormal conditions or emergencies involving public health and safety.

The Department of Public Services has established five priority categories for snow removal:

• **Priority I:** State and county freeways and paved surface roads with traffic volumes

normally greater than 10,000 vehicles per day per lane and/or 40,000 vehicles per day on roads with four or more lanes.

• **Priority II:** Paved state and county roads generally with volumes of 2,500 to 10,000 vehicles per day per lane. Terrain and road alignments are factors in this category, and Priority II can be assigned to otherwise lower-priority roads for route continuity and efficiency.

• **Priority III:** Other paved county roads on district salt route sheets. Priority III roads can be maintained as part of higher-priority routes, but generally are maintained after Priority I and II roads are cleared.

• **Priority IV:** Mile-type local roads and primary gravel roads. Work on these roads is to be done during regularly scheduled shifts.

• **Priority V:** All other roads and subdivision streets in Wayne County's nine townships. Removal of snow is to be completed during regularly scheduled

shifts and only if more than 6 inches of snow have accumulated. The townships are Brownstown, Canton, Grosse Ile, Huron, Northville, Plymouth, Redford, Sumpter and Van Buren. Wayne County's 34 cities are responsible for snow removal on their roads in this category.

The Department of Public Services has established a website -- compass.waynecounty.com -- where motorists can see what freeways and major roads have been cleared by the Roads Division. It also lists construction zones, including when lanes are closed, among many other useful functions.

The department encourages motorists to call 888-ROAD-CREW (762-3273) anytime to report a road hazard. If the hazard isn't on a county road, the concern will be relayed to the appropriate agency.

To learn more about the Department of Public Services' snow-removal policy, see www.waynecounty.com/dps/2005.htm.

Sumpter Township Public Notice

TOWNSHIP OF SUMPTER TWP NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A Public Hearing for the Community Development Block Grant Program is scheduled for January 27, 2015 at the Township Hall, 23480 Sumpter Road, Belleville, MI 48111 at 6:00 p.m. For the purpose of:

Receiving comments and suggestions regarding the 2015-2016 Community Development Block Grant program. These suggestions must identify and benefit community development or housing needs of low and moderate income residents.

The following is the estimate allocation for 2015-2016 funds:

Administration (21A):	\$ 10,182.41
Senior Services (grass/snow) (05):	\$ 15,505.62
Housing Rehabilitation (14A):	\$ 26,270.00
Demolitions (04):	\$ 49,566.03

Total 2015-2016 CDBG Projects \$101,824.06

Housing Rehabilitation Program Income (14A): \$5,000.00

Persons with disabilities who require auxiliary aids or services in using public facilities, services or program along with further information is available by contacting the Supervisor of the Township of Sumpter at 734-461-6201 ext 2229.

Published in the Belleville Area Independent Newspaper on January 15, 2015.

Sumpter Township Public Notice

SUMPTER TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO RESCIND OR AMEND THE SPECIAL EXCEPTION USE PERMIT

The Sumpter Township Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing at the Sumpter Township Hall, 23480 Sumpter Rd., Belleville, MI 48111 at 7:05 pm, Thursday, February 12, 2015 regarding the rescinding or amending of a Special Exception use Permit.

NATURE OF THE REQUEST

The Public Hearing will consider rescinding or amending the special exception for Sumpter Roller Rink 19750 Sumpter to have Exercise Classes, Dances, Party Rentals, etc.

SITE LOCATION

The site of the special exception is on approx. 3 acres located at 19750 Sumpter Road, Belleville, MI 48111, 81-033-99-0002-000. This Public Hearing has been scheduled in accordance with the requirements of Public Act. 168, Section 0 of 1959 (amendments to the Township Rural Zoning Act. P.A. 184) to provide all interested citizens an opportunity to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss in detail all aspects of the rescinding or amending or the special exception.

For those unable to attend the Public Hearing, written comments may be submitted to the Township Clerk's Office prior to the hearing date.

Clarence J. Hoffman Jr.
Clerk
Sumpter Township

Publish: January 15, 2015

Belleville Post Office says please clear snow, ice from sidewalks

With more snow expected to cover the region during the next couple of days, one seasonal tool is expected to make its return at homes and businesses – the shovel.

In a news release, the Belleville Post Office is asking mail customers to clear snow and ice from sidewalks, stairs, and mailboxes to help letter carriers.

"Snow and ice make delivery dangerous and slow," said Belleville Postmaster Tim Inman. "Maintaining a clear path to the mail box – including steps, porches, walkways, and street approach – will help letter carriers maintain consistent delivery service."

Customers receiving door delivery should make sure their sidewalks, steps and porches are clear. Customers receiving curbside delivery should remove snow piles left by snow plows to keep access to

their mailboxes clear for letter carriers.

Delivery service may be delayed or curtailed whenever streets or walkways present hazardous conditions for letter carriers or when snow is plowed against mailboxes.

"The Postal Service curtails delivery only after careful consideration, and only as the last resort," Inman said. "Any curtailed mail is attempted the next delivery day."

"Blue collection boxes also need to be kept clear for our customers to deposit their mail and for the Postal Service to collect the mail for delivery. Residents and businesses with collection boxes near their property are asked to keep them clear of snow and ice."

"We want our letter carriers to be safe," Inman said. "We can only do this with the help of our customers."

Inman said the Postal Service receives no tax dollars for operating expenses and relies on the sale of postage, products and services to fund its operations.



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City of Belleville
Regular City Council Meeting Minutes
December 15, 2014

A regular meeting of the Council for the City of Belleville was called to order at 7:30 P.M., at the Municipal Building, 6 Main Street by Mayor Conley.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE

2. ROLL CALL

Council Member Fielder	Present
Council Member Smith	Absent/Excused
Council Member Tindall	Present
Mayor Pro Tem Loria	Present
Mayor Conley	Present

3. PRESENTATIONS AND CITIZEN COMMENTS

Mayor Conley announced the Christmas decorating contest winners and presented plaques to those who were present.

- Harold & Elizabeth Kelsey of 237 Robbe.
- Christopher & Tracee Kloian of 253 Harbour Pointe Dr.
- Stephen Massa of 111 Carmell.
- Herbert Hapke of 235 Aberdeen Court.
- Barber Bob of 151 Main Street.

Mayor Conley also presented a plaque to Carol Thompson and John Hoops in appreciation for the downtown decorations purchased by the Downtown Development Authority.

4. AGENDA APPROVAL

Motion by Tindall, Second by Loria to approve agenda with additions. The addition of Item 8E Music Lakeside and Item 8F Mayor's appointments to boards and commissions.

MOTION CARRIED.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Loria, Second by Tindall to approve the Regular City Council meeting minutes of December 1, 2014 as presented.

MOTION CARRIED.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Snow Emergency Ordinance

Motion by Fielder, Second by Tindall to approve **Resolution No. 14-148** to open Public Hearing at 7:52 P.M. to discuss Snow Emergency Ordinance.

MOTION CARRIED.

Motion by Loria, Second by Tindall to close Public Hearing at 7:55 P.M.

MOTION CARRIED.

B. 2015 CDBG Projects

Motion by Fielder, Second by Tindall to approve **Resolution No. 14-149** to open Public Hearing at 7:55 P.M. to discuss the 2015 CDBG Projects.

MOTION CARRIED.

Motion by Tindall, Second by Loria to close Public Hearing at 7:59 P.M.

MOTION CARRIED.

7. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES None.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

A. Strawberry Festival 2014 Recap and 2015 Policies

Motion by Loria, Second by Tindall to approve **Resolution No. 14-150** to receive and approve the 2014 Strawberry Festival report and to approve the 2015 festival dates of June 18th to begin set up for vendors at 6:00 P.M. and June 19th, 20th and 21st for the annual festival. Policies are to be brought back to City Council for review and approval at a later date.

MOTION CARRIED.

B. Snow Emergency Ordinance

Motion by Loria, Second by Fielder to approve **Ordinance No. 14-004** to approve an ordinance to amend Chapter 78, "Streets, Sidewalks, and certain other public places, by adding Section 78-153, "Snow Emergency" in the code of ordinances for the City of Belleville, for the purpose of adding a provision for declaration of a "Snow Emergency" with additions under (b) "Notice". To add the community events sign and the City's website as additional ways to notify residents of snow emergencies.

MOTION CARRIED.

C. 2015 CDBG Projects

Motion by Fielder, Second by Tindall to approve **Resolution No. 14-151** to approve the program objectives and proposed uses of the CDBG funds as follows:

Senior Disabled Services	\$ 9,830.00
ADA Park Projects Handicap/Disabled Horizon Park Canoe/Kayak launch	\$ 40,470.00
Senior Chore Services	\$ 1,000.00
Strategic Planning	\$ 5,700.00

MOTION CARRIED.

D. 2016 SMART Specialized Services

Motion by Tindall, Second by Loria to approve **Resolution No. 14-152** to approve the filing of the FY2016 Specialized Services Operating Assistance grant.

MOTION CARRIED.

E. Music Lakeside 2015 Street Closing Request

Street closing 5:00 P.M. in preparation for Music Lakeside event from 7-9 P.M.

Motion by Loria, Second by Fielder to approve **Resolution No. 14-153** to approve the closing of High Street from the War Memorial to Church Street for Music Lakeside 2015 on Thursday evenings from June 25th until August 27th with the exception of 20th 2015.

MOTION CARRIED.

F. Mayor's Appointments to Boards and Commissions

Motion by Tindall, Second by Loria to approve **Resolution No. 14-154** to approve Mayor's re-appointments of the following.

Planning Commission:

Henry Kurczewski	12/31/17
Rebecca Hasen	12/31/17
Matthew Wagner	12/31/17
Board of Review:	
James Graham	12/31/17
Cemetery Advisory Committee:	
Bob Stoner	12/31/18

Parks & Recreation Commission:

Thomas Fielder	12/31/18
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MOTION CARRIED.

9. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE & DEPARTMENTAL EXPENDITURES

Motion by Tindall, Second by Fielder to approve **Resolution No. 14-155** to approve accounts payable and payables over \$500.00 with updated over 500 list.

MOTION CARRIED.

10. ACTION ITEMS FOR NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING None.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Loria, Second by Fielder to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 P.M.

MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Long, City Clerk/Treasurer

Approved: January 5, 2015

Published: January 15, 2015

INDEPENDENT CLASSIFIED ADS

Upcoming Meetings

- Thursday, Jan. 15 – Keystone Academy School Board, 6 p.m. Also, Van Buren Township Board of Zoning Appeals, 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, Jan. 20 – Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, Jan. 21 – Belleville Downtown Development Authority, 6 p.m. Also, Van Buren Township Environmental Commission, 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, Jan. 27 – Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority, 5:50 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township workshop at 6 p.m. and regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. Also, VBT Water and Sewer Commission, 7:30 p.m.

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County Executive saves \$1.2 million on Day 1 -- less staff, lower salaries

Wayne County Executive Warren Evans has
 put together an executive staff he says will help
 restructure county government and reassure
 citizens that there will be transparency and
 good stewardship of the public's trust.

Evans also said all of his appointees will
 take a 5% salary reduction, a move that
 saves Wayne County taxpayers \$1.2 million.
 In addition, Evans will have nine fewer
 executive appointees than the previous county
 administration when six other positions,
 including three critical, are filled.

"The County is facing difficult financial
 problems and I will deal with those issues in
 a forthright and transparent manner beginning
 day one," Evans said.

Evans also announced his senior leadership
 team, which will be led by Chief of Staff
 Rudy Hobbs. Hobbs, a former Michigan state
 representative and Detroit Public Schools
 teacher, will manage the county executive's
 office. Hobbs will be paid \$140,600.

Other Executive Staff appointments include:

- Assistant County Executive June Lee. Lee
 will be responsible for providing oversight
 of county departments. He will be paid
 \$138,387.

- Chief Restructuring Officer Tony
 Saunders. He will lead county restructuring
 efforts, identify efficiencies and help
 implement the county deficit elimination
 plan. Saunders will be paid \$138,387.

- Communications Director Lloyd Jackson.
 Jackson will manage the County Executive's
 communications staff and serve as chief media
 contact and spokesman. He will be paid \$116,898.

Evans said he will continue interviewing
 candidates for Deputy CEO, CFO and
 purchasing director and will announce those
 appointments as they are made.

"My administration has assembled an
 executive team that is ready to restore the
 public's confidence in county government,"
 Evans said. "We are all excited to get to
 work bringing fiscal accountability and more
 efficient and better government services to
 Wayne County residents."

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:

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 Housing Act which makes it illegal to
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 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.



School Board

(continued from page 1)

should appoint Carlesso if he didn't want to do it, but Combs said he came to both LDFA meetings held since his appointment by the school district, so they approved his appointment.

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

- Was recognized officially for their service with a resolution from the Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency (RESA), a certificate, and an orange and black beverage carrier. The board is recognized each January;

- Was advised that Supt. Van Tassel had ordered two new vans from Atchinson Ford to replace the vehicles lost in the November fire at the bus garage. The insurance awarded \$19,700 for each maintenance van. The two 2015 Transit 250 Medium Roof vans will cost \$28,248.28 each, so the general budget will pay for the extra \$17,096.56. Van Tassel said he approved the order last week so the vans could come sooner. He said there were three bids;

- Approved the request for seventh and eighth grade English Language Arts curriculum materials for McBride Middle School to align with Common Core at a cost of \$35,000. Principal John Leroy gave the presentation and ELA teacher Tracy Delfuocco added she has been at McBride for 18 years and, "We've never had enough books for everyone." Now they will. Trustee Kathy Kovach commented, "They didn't have enough books for every student? That makes me sad";

- Approved the board policy updates to align the district with new federal and state laws;

- Heard Human Resources Director Shonta Langford-Green explain what directory information on students is available to the public and that specific information on students can be withheld by a parent/guardian;

- Approved spending \$23,650 from the 2015 sinking fund to get architectural / engineering design for boiler replacements at McBride and Owen schools by Peter Basso Associates, Inc. Basso will get \$19,000 and the rest is for existing equipment testing and survey services and 10% contingency. Van Tassel said he had the authority to approve this, but he would rather have Eric Dumont of Plante Moran CRESA on hand to explain the project. Dumont said the design would be done in January, bids come in the spring, and construction be done in the summer.

The boilers in place are the originals and are about ten years past their end of life, he said. Board Vice President Martha Toth said the project will cost about \$1 million and voters should realize they couldn't have this project done without the sinking fund;

- Approved the retirement of Owen teacher Jane Cullen as of Jan. 18, after 16 years of service. Also approved was the new hire of Bradley Tucker as a teacher at BHS, starting Dec. 8;

- Approved the termination of Renee Baker, after two years in food service at McBride, as of Dec. 18, and the resignation of Director of Finance Robert Carlesso as of Dec. 16;

- Approved the recalls to work of paraprofessional Jack Loria to Owen starting Jan. 13; and Kathryn Etherington to food service at Rawsonville and Susan Kosikowski to food service at Edgemont, both as of Jan. 5;

- Reminded everyone the next meeting would be a work/study session at 7 p.m., Jan. 26, at the administration building. The next regular meeting will be 7 p.m. Feb. 9 at McBride Middle School; and

- Went into closed-door session to discuss contract negotiations.

During the annual organizational meeting before the regular meeting, 34th District Court Judge David Parrott swore in the three, newly elected/re-elected board members.

Then the board unanimously reelected Brent Mikulski as president for the calendar year; Martha Toth as vice president; and Kevin English as secretary. Kathy Kovach was unanimously elected treasurer, a position previously held by Sherry Frazier.

Sign up for story times at the library, visit writing group

It's time to sign up at the Belleville Area District Library circulation desk for the upcoming story times for children.

- Monday Night Family Story Time, 7 p.m., Jan. 12-Feb. 23;

- Tuesday Morning Terrific Toddlers, 11 a.m., Jan. 13-Feb. 24; and

- Thursday Morning Terrific Toddlers, 11 a.m., Jan. 15-Feb. 26.

Writers' Group

Aspiring writers are invited to visit the Write Stuff Writers' Group on the last Saturday of every month from 1 to 3 p.m. at the library.

"Share and get motivated with other like-minded writers from our community," said Tara K. McCann, Youth/Teen Services Librarian. "Just drop in and say 'hi.'"

Cabin Fever Bowling Fund Raiser for FMAR set Saturday, Feb. 21

The second-annual Cabin Fever Bowling Fund Raiser to support Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue will be held Saturday, Feb. 21, at Thunderbowl Lanes in Allen Park.

Check-in is 4:30 p.m. and start time is 5 p.m. Cost is \$20 per person, which includes three hours of bowling, pizza, and pop.

The fund raiser will also include a 50/50 raffle, gift basket raffle, bake sale and FMAR clothing.

Thunderbowl Lanes is located at 4200 Allen Road, Allen Park.

For more information, call Pat Clemens at (313) 319-4715, FMAR at (734) 461-9458 or email pado01@att.net. Pre-registration requested by Feb. 10.

"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

Birthdays

Jan. 12 – Stephanie Smith, Susan Gohl

Jan. 13 – Kathi Patton

Jan. 21 – Kathy Kovach

Jan. 22 – Scott Russell

Do you have a birthday in January? 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.

Una's Golden Thread Shoppe

- SEWING
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- MENDING

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Your Pugs will love you for their new social life!

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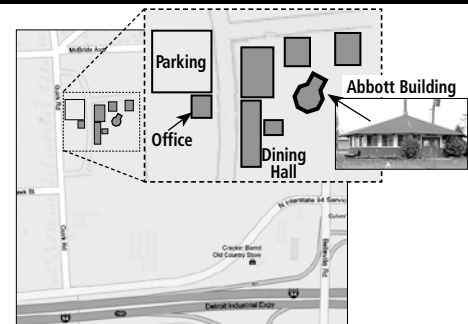
Location:

**Wayne County Fairgrounds
Abbott Building**

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Belleville, MI 48111

Off I-94 at Belleville Rd exit near I-275



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

2015 Dates:

January 18

February 22

March 22

April 19

May 17

June 7

July 19

August 16

September 13

October 18

November 15

December 13

Come hear "The Story"

Reading and Discussion Times

(12/28/14 to 4/19/2015)

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Saturdays 9:00am to 10:00am

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952-686-3046

THE STORY

READ THE STORY. EXPERIENCE THE BIBLE.



VBALL coaches set series of baseball, softball clinics for kids

Van Buren Township Parks and Recreation Department will host a series of baseball and softball clinics from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Sundays, Jan. 18 through March 1 for youngsters ages 4 to 13.

Van Buren Area Little League (VBALL) coaches are offering the clinics for boys and

girls to learn the fundamentals of fielding, hitting, catching, and pitching.

- Jan. 18 – Pitchers and Catchers Training
- Jan. 25 – Hitting Only
- Feb. 1 – General Training – Fielding and Catching
- Feb. 8 – Pitchers and Catchers Training
- Feb. 15 – Hitting Only
- Feb. 22 – General Training – Fielding and Catching
- March 1 – General Training – Fielding and Catching

Cost is \$55 per player, per date. All dates are available for baseball and softball. Sign up for two different dates, get 10% off. Sign up for three different dates, get 20% off.

For more information, contact the Parks and Recreation Department at: (734) 699-8921.

"You have to be odd to be number one."
— Dr. Seuss

Vintage Electronics Expo set Jan. 17 in Farmington

The Michigan Antique Radio Club will sponsor a Vintage Electronics Expo and sale from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 17 at the Costick Activity Center in Farmington.

The Costick Center is at 28600 West 1 Mile Road between Middlebelt and Inkster roads.

This is the "Road Show" for collectible electronics where club members offer free appraisals as well as sources for repair and restoration of vintage radios.

The public is invited and membership information will be available. Admission is \$5.

The show is being hosted by club member Robert Murrell of Berkley, who can be reached at (248) 399-2149.

The show will feature a swap meet, a contest, a silent auction, the popular donation auction, and the chance to meet with knowledgeable collectors.

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The House Attached to Our Father's Child Care.

- **Old Fashioned Candy**
- **Stick Candy**
- **Nostalgic Candy**
- **Homemade Candy**



Enter The Sugar Plum Candy Shoppe's 1st Valentine Contest!

Ten ways to love

Love without accepting. (Proverbs 18)
Speak without anger. (James 1:19)
Give without sparing. (Proverbs 21:26)
Play without caring. (Colossians 1:9)
Assure without arguing. (Proverbs 17:1)
Share without parting. (Ephesians 4:15)
Enjoy without enjoying. (Philippians 2:14)
Trust without knowing. (1 Corinthians 13:7)
Forgive without punishing. (Colossians 3:13)
Remember without forgetting. (Proverbs 13:12)

**Write an Original Poem of 5 Lines
or More and Enter to Win a Cool
Prize For Your Sweetheart!**



*Rules: No purchase necessary. Poems must be original and consist of at least 5 lines. One entry per person. Entries Must be received by Jan. 26, 2015. Winners will be notified on Feb. 3, 2015. One prize is awarded to each: Belleville High School, Belleville Middle School and to Facebook@Sugar Plum Candy Shoppe. Entries can be mailed or dropped off to the Shoppe during regular business hours, uploaded to our Facebook page or Twitter account @SP_CANDYSHOPPE by Jan. 26, 2015. GOOD LUCK!

Official Valentine Contest Entry Form

Name: _____ Phone# _____

Poem: _____

Email: _____

Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

The following are selected calls for VBT Police.

Sunday, Jan. 4:
0039 – suspicious situation, Parkwood Dr.
0214 – disorderly conduct, W. Archwood Dr.
0338 – noise complaint, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0416 – motorcycle patrol, Haggerty/I-94
0958 – private property accident, Prairiegrass Ct.
1021 – suicide or attempt, Denton Rd.
1247 – panic alarm, Brookview Dr.
1513 – mental, Westlake
1536 – breaking & entering, Endicott Ave.
1603 – agency assist, Maple Dr.
1646 – property damage accident, Belleville / Ecorse
1649 – narcotics crime, S. Bellridge Dr.
1814 – disturbance, Rawsonville
1823 – property damage accident, Bemis/Bak
1835 – property damage accident, Michigan Ave. / Hancock Ave.
1835 – property damage accident, EB I-94 / Belleville
1840 – property damage accident, Belleville / Walmart
1842 – property damage accident, WB I-94 / Rawsonville
1915 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd. / S. I-94 Service Dr.
1932 – property damage accident, Denton Rd.
2002 – suspicious situation, Lake Villa Dr.
2046 – larceny, S. Timberview Dr.
2142 – harassment call, Haggerty Rd.
2241 – retail fraud, Belleville

Monday, Jan. 5:
0245 – property damage accident, Belleville/WB I-94 ramp
0304 – suspicious person, Wendy’s
0316 – property damage accident, WB I-94 / Belleville
0317 – overdose, N. Ponderosa Trl.
0637 – property damage accident, Ecorse/Beck
0727 – E-911 cellular, Sumpter Rd. (unable to locate)
0752 – personal injury accident, Belleville Rd.
0808 – motorist assist, Belleville/WB I-94
0845 – private property accident, Pond Bluff / Savage
0912 – property damage accident, Hull/Elwell
0925 – intimidation threat, Village Center Dr.
1157 – PPO violation, Savage Rd.
1220 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1231 – fraud, Paloma Dr.
1408 – property damage accident, Michigan Ave. / Denton Rd.
1725 – fraud, E. Walden Dr.
1737 – retail fraud, Belleville
1801 – property damage accident, Belleville/Tyler
1805 – civil matter, Hamilton St.
1838 – property damage accident, Denton/Cedar
1927 – harassment call, Maple
1904 – E-911 hang up, Celestine Dr.
2051 – retail fraud, Belleville
2120 – assault & battery, Riggs Rd.
2252 – juvenile complaint, Oak Ln.
2345 – noise complaint, S. Bellridge Dr.

Tuesday, Jan. 6:
0206 – personal injury accident, Ecorse/Beck
0550 – property damage accident, Ecorse/Beck
0813 – larceny from auto, Jeremy Rd.
0928 – breaking & entering, Birch Dr.
0934 – mental, Westlake Cir.
1039 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd. / W. Huron River Dr.
1101 – private property accident, Van Born
1109 – E-911 cellular, EB I-94/Rawsonville
1308 – malicious destruction of property, S. Timberview Dr.
1511 – fraud, Tyler Rd.
1548 – property damage accident, Tyler/Hannan
1902 – property damage accident, Morton Taylor / Tyler
1940 – missing person, Arthur St.
2235 – assault & battery, Basswood Cir.
2328 – assault & battery, Cobblestone Ct.

Wednesday, Jan. 7:
0715 – property damage accident, Savage/Country Walk

0732 – property damage accident, Savage/Country Walk Blvd.
1126 – private property accident, W. Huron River
1132 – E-911 cellular, Mott
1134 – holdup alarm, Country Walk Blvd.
1447 – fight, McBride Ave.
1455 – disturbance, Village Green Ln.
1613 – juvenile complaint, Arthur St.
1743 – property damage accident, Haggerty BP
1854 – motorist assist, Rawsonville/DNR
1907 – property damage accident, Michigan Ave. / Denton Rd.
2109 – mental, Peachtree
2119 – property damage accident, Haggerty Rd./ S. I-94 Service Dr.

Thursday, Jan. 8:
0114 – property damage accident, S. I-94 Service Dr./Diamondback
0227 – larceny from auto, Oak Ln.
0507 – E-911 hang up, Greenwood Dr.
0753 – property damage accident, Martinsville Rd.
0831 – intimidation threat, Maple
1159 – assault & battery, Bak Rd.
1212 – mental, Denton Rd.
1324 – assault & battery, Rawsonville
1403 – personal injury accident, Belleville/Meijer
1516 – fraud, Rawsonville
1831 – larceny, Oak Ln.
1840 – property damage accident, Oak Ln.
1932 – E-911 cellular, Sumpter Rd.
1945 – property damage accident, EB I-94 / Rawsonville
2007 – vehicle lockout, Savage Rd.
2028 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
2026 – private property accident, Ecorse Rd.
2337 – ATV/ORV complaint, Ecorse Rd.
2354 – private property accident, Arthur St.

Friday, Jan. 9:
0008 – assault & battery, Denton Rd.
0055 – assault & battery, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0555 – assault & battery, Lighthouse Dr.
0726 – E-911 cellular, Blackmore
0810 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd. / S. I-94 Service Dr.
0827 – vehicle lockout, rest area
0853 – private property accident, Vernon St.
1130 – personal injury accident, N. I-94 Service
1217 – agency assist, Savage/Victorian
1432 – unauthorized driving away of auto, S. I-94 Service Dr.

1514 – personal injury accident, Savage Rd. / Martinsville Rd.
1541 – property damage accident, E. Huron River Dr. / Martinsville Rd.
1920 – larceny, Rawsonville
1923 – property damage accident, Denton Rd. / Michigan Ave.
2139 – retail fraud, Belleville
Saturday, Jan. 10:
0056 – noise complaint, Westlake
0347 – property damage accident, Haggerty/Tyler
0431 – assault & battery, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1107 – personal injury accident, Ecorse/I-275
1751 – retail fraud, Belleville
1821 – larceny from auto, Oak Ln.
1848 – retail fraud, Rawsonville
2140 – retail fraud, Belleville

Also on this week’s log are 77 traffic stops, eight of those on the I-94 freeway.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Jan. 4:
0257 – assist fire dept., N. Liberty St.
0313 – civil matter, Robbe St.
0805 – domestic assault, Robbe St.
1156 – intrusion alarm, W. Columbia Ave.
1359 – suspicious person, E. Huron River Dr.
1630 – assist fire dept., Carmell St.
2258 – abandoned auto, Sumpter

Monday, Jan. 5:
0648 – traffic complaint, High/gazebo
0737 – motorist assist, Savage/5 Points
0755 – traffic complaint, Main/First
0801 – motorist assist, Savage/5 Points
1730 – juvenile complaint, Menlo Park Dr./Belle Villa Blvd.
1817 – assist fire dept., Santa Clara St.
1915 – vehicle lockout, Estrada
1958 – domestic assault, S. Liberty St.

2305 – vehicle lockout, Potter Dr.
Tuesday, Jan. 6:
0513 – parking complaint, Carmell St.
0553 – suspicious vehicle, Lunch Box
0850 – citizen assist, Sumpter Rd.
1946 – animal complaint, Potter Dr.
Wednesday, Jan. 7:
0115 – vehicle repossession, Robbe St.
1149 – property damage accident, N. Liberty St.
1242 – welfare check, Henry St.
1653 – trespassing, South St.
1937 – family trouble, High St.
2101 – warrant arrest, Keystone Academy
Thursday, Jan. 8:
0034 – all other traffic, Main/High
1442 – warrant arrest, Loza Ln.
1819 – assault & battery, Loza Ln.
2207 – noise complaint, Carmell St.

Friday, Jan. 9:
0116 – assist fire dept., First St.
0934 – welfare check, Belle Villa Blvd.
1154 – property damage accident, Savage / Victorian Ln.
1349 – intrusion alarm, E. Thornhill Ct.
1431 – welfare check, Madelon St.
1537 – personal injury accident, Third St.
1604 – animal complaint, Potter Dr.
1636 – warrant arrest, Canton PD
2359 – suspicious situation, Loza Ln.
Saturday, Jan. 10:
1736 – assist fire dept., Belle Villa Blvd.
2148 – suspicious situation, Henry St.
Also on this week’s log are 48 traffic stops.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Jan. 4:
0036 – well-being check, Wyoming
0715 – alarm, 21000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
0759 – fire dept. assist, 17000 bl. Martinville Rd.
1219 – mental health commitment, 41000 bl. Bemis Rd.
1304 – reckless driver complaint, 41000 bl. Bemis
1623 – family trouble, 25000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
1748 – alarm, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1932 – warrant arrest, out of township
1953 – assault, 44000 bl. Paris Dr.
Monday, Jan. 5:
0928 – fire dept. assist, New Mexico
0952 – mental health commitment, 49000 bl. Arkona Rd.
1243 – fire dept. assist, 45000 bl. Judd Rd.
1558 – alarm, 44000 bl. Bemis Rd.
2354 – suspicious vehicle, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

Tuesday, Jan. 6:
0618 – property damage accident, Karr/Oakville Waltz
0700 – fire dept. assist, 40000 bl. Harris Rd.
1124 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, Willis/Rawsonville
1344 – animal complaint, Wear/Sherwood
1416 – juvenile complaint, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1418 – citizen assist, 51000 bl. Willow Rd.
1459 – fire dept. assist, 44000 bl. Wear Rd.
1634 – citizen assist, Carriage Ln.
1755 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2016 – fire dept. assist, 23000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
2354 – suspicious vehicle, 28000 bl. Haggerty Rd.

Wednesday, Jan. 7:
0028 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
0622 – suspicious vehicle, 47000 bl. Wear Rd.
0829 – personal injury accident, Rawsonville / Willis
0939 – assist other agency, 25000 bl. Martinsville
1156 – warrant arrest, 46000 bl. Willis Rd.
1214 – animal complaint, Sherwood/Wear
1227 – fire dept. assist, Brookview
1647 – 911 hang up, 8200 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
1838 – alarm, 42000 bl. Bemis Rd.
1901 – juvenile complaint, 43000 bl. Judd Rd.
2050 – warrant arrest, 47000 bl. Willow Rd.
2103 – noise complaint, 43000 bl. Harris Rd.

Thursday, Jan. 8:
0307 – suspicious incident, 42000 bl. Bemis Rd.
0647 – subpoena service, 46000 bl. Dunn Rd.
1230 – trespassing complaint, 22000 bl. Haggerty
1514 – civil dispute, 46000 bl. Willis Rd.
1611 – fire dept. assist, 49000 bl. Wear Rd.
1828 – alarm, 24000 bl. Martinsville Rd.

1918 – malicious destruction of property, Elwell / Arkona
2017 – suspicious vehicle, Rawsonville/Willis
2209 – fire dept. assist, 42000 bl. Willow Rd.
Friday, Jan. 9:
0418 – fire dept. assist, 42000 bl. Judd Rd.
0625 – traffic hazard, Oakville Waltz/Elwell
1233 – property damage accident, 8200 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
1413 – suspicious incident, 44000 bl. Dunn Rd.
1512 – well-being check, 19000 bl. Sharon Ct.
1758 – malicious destruction of property, 22000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
1802 – warrant arrest, Mulberry
2140 – suspicious incident, 22000 bl. Martinsville
Saturday, Jan. 10:
0110 – fire dept. assist, 44000 bl. Wear Rd.
0646 – fire dept. assist, Rustic Ln.
0950 – animal complaint, Rawsonville/Bemis
1134 – fire dept. assist, 17000 bl. Sully Dr.
1413 – suspicious vehicle, 40000 bl. Willow Rd.
1630 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1816 – warrant arrest, 12000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
1830 – operating while intoxicated arrest, Wilmo / Willis
1919 – suspicious person, 45000 bl. Paris Dr.
2232 – alarm, 21000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2238 – assault, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
Also on this week’s log are three follow-up investigations, 32 miscellaneous details, 154 patrol checks, and 44 traffic stops.

Belleville Reserve Officer Trombly started academy training Mon.

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Belleville Reserve Police Officer Tim Trombly began his training at the police academy on Monday.

“We’re happy to get him,” said Belleville Police Chief Hal Berriman, looking forward to hiring Trombly as a fully certified officer once he graduates from the academy. The city has an opening for a part-time officer.

The city council voted Nov. 3 to accept the offer of the Belleville Masonic Lodge to pay the city for Trombly’s tuition and his pay while in the academy.

Trombly is a member of the Masonic Lodge, Chief Berriman said.

Berriman said representatives of the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES) came out to check that all details were in order on the agreement.

Berriman said Trombly has passed all the preliminary tests for entry into the Schoolcraft Regional Police Academy.

Garden Club to meet Jan. 19 at First United Methodist Church

The Belleville Area Garden Club will meet at First United Methodist Church, 617 Charles Street, at 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 19. Phillip Walsh will speak on landscape design.

There will be no meeting in February, however, upcoming meetings will include attracting butterflies to your garden, creating a fair garden, floral arranging in a tea pot, massage therapy for gardeners. Club dues are \$15 a year.

**Read The Newspaper
On The Web!**
**The Belleville-Area
Independent New Website
is Now Online! Visit us @
bellevilleareaindependent.com**

"The problem with doing nothing is that
you never know when you're finished."
— Groucho Marx

Orphan of the Week

Friends of Michigan
Animals Rescue

"SOPHIE"



Sophie's an older kitty girl with a lovable grumpy granny charm about her that stands her apart from the other cats here. She's not the biggest cuddle-bug or attention hog but she doesn't shy away from some simple attention when offered her way. **Sophie** is past all the goofy, playful stuff and really just enjoys quiet catnapping and eating now. She definitely knows how to keep her life under control and would love to share her cat wisdom and guidance on how to run your household. Her best bits of advice are never put up with any craziness, perfect a stern, no-nonsense look and always keep them guessing about what you're thinking. Her mostly dark tiger coat is speckled with lighter colors and her unique grumpy granny face fits her personality perfectly. **Sophie** would love a quiet household without kids where she can have her own granny cat bed and a bit of love to enjoy. She's spayed, vaccinated, tested neg. for FeLuk/FIV and micro-chipped. Call **Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue** at **734-461-9458** or visit our website **fmar1.org** for more info.



Independent photo by Rosemary K. Oztman

Growing hops in VBT

Alan Avery, left, of Alan's Hops in Van Buren Township recently received verification as a Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP) Farmstead. MAEAP Technician Tim Kwiatkowski of the Monroe Soil Conservation District explained Avery's certification to the VBT board of trustees during its regular meeting Dec. 2. Avery, whose farm is on Hull Road between Elwell and Hoeft, said he grows hops for microbreweries. Kwiatkowski said Avery has more than 300 plants and he has been growing in VBT for seven years. He said he and his mother are working together. Recently, he announced he will be getting 600 more plants this spring.

Eri Iwao named to Albion Dean's List

Eri Iwao of Belleville was named to the Albion College Dean's list for the fall 2014 semester.

Eri is majoring in biology and is a member of the Prentiss M. Brown Honors Program. She is the daughter of Noboru and Pauline Iwao of Belleville and a graduate of Belleville High School.

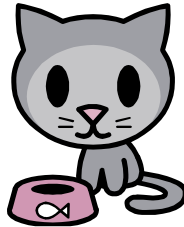
Students named to the Dean's List must achieve a grade point average of 3.5 or above at the completion of the semester. This GPA must be based on at least three units in graded courses and a minimum of four units completed.

Albion College, founded in 1835, is a private liberal arts college located in south-central Michigan.

"They say marriages are made in Heaven.
But so is thunder and lightning"
— Clint Eastwood



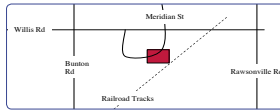
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SUN 12PM-4PM



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Belleville, MI**

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— MONDAYS —
ENJOY OUR CLOWN,
FACE PAINTING & BALLOONS
6-8PM

Check Out These Offers!

<p>Buy 5 Cones, Get 1 Free!</p> <p><i>Not valid on Mondays.</i> With coupon. Not to be combined with any other offer or discount.</p>	<p>\$2 OFF</p> <p>Your Entire Bill</p> <p><i>of \$20 or More</i> With coupon. Not to be combined with any other offer or discount.</p>
<p>10% OFF</p> <p>Your Entire Bill</p> <p>With coupon. Not to be combined with any other offer or discount.</p>	<p>Create Your Own Breakfast Skillet</p> <p>\$7.99 <small>Up To 5 Items</small></p> <p>With coupon. Not to be combined with any other offer or discount.</p>



BREAKFAST SPECIALS
MONDAY - FRIDAY
6am - 11am
Starting at only \$2.49
No Coupon Needed!



2014 FOCUS SE

24 month lease for
\$131/mo.*
REBATES UP TO \$3,500.
BUY AS LOW AS \$15,820



2014 FUSION SE

24 month lease for
\$137/mo.*
REBATES UP TO \$3,000.
BUY AS LOW AS \$19,099



2014 EDGE SE

24 month lease for
\$226/mo.*
REBATES UP TO \$4,000. BUY AS LOW AS \$23,935



2015 ESCAPE SE

24 month lease for
\$155/mo.*
REBATES UP TO \$2,500. BUY AS LOW AS \$21,190



2014 F-150 SUPERCAB XLT 4X4

w/Leather
24 month lease for
\$249/mo.*
REBATES UP TO \$6,000.
BUY AS LOW AS \$31,568

USED CAR SPECIAL



2009 LINCOLN MKS

Loaded
\$13,999

*AZ Plan Pricing. 10,500 miles per year. Includes Factory and Renewal Rebate. Requires \$2000 due at signing plus taxes and plates. With Approved Credit. **AZ Plan Pricing. All rebates to Dealer. May require Ford Credit Financing. Plus taxes and fees. May require trade-in.



Atchinson Ford Sales, Inc.
9800 Belleville Rd.
Belleville, MI 48111

734-697-9161
www.atchinson.net



RE/MAX

CROSSROADS III

418 Main Street

Belleville, Michigan 48111

email: mrsold@mrsold.com

GLENN SILVENIS

(734) 699-4000

www.MrSold.com

SELL PHONE (734) 740-3000



41525 TYLER, VAN BUREN
BECAUSE YOU DESERVE IT! Ultra move in condition 4 bedroom, 2 bath Full brick ranch with premium kitchen, fireplace, newer carpet, and floor coverings. 3 seasons room, full finished basement with bar, Large 2+ Acre parcel with huge pole barn. \$244,900



132 N LIBERTY, BELLEVILLE
MULTI MILLION DOLLAR VIEWS Updated 3 Bedroom Belleville Lake Home. Lakefront views from doorways & master bedroom, updated kitchen, newer roof, walkout deck from large family room w fireplace. New flooring, paint walkout basement \$269,900.



44233 HARMONY LANE, VAN BUREN
BELLEVILLE LAKE FRONT ESTATE. Indoor olympic pool & whirlpool, multiple fireplaces, skylights, large bath with bidet, family room with fireplace, 4 1/2 baths and 5 bedrooms. Many newer improvements, 350 ft lake frontage on 2+ acres with boathouse and tennis court. This is a Castle to make one feel like Royalty.. \$699,000



9019 COGSWELL, ROMULUS
WAKE UP TO EXCITEMENT EVERY MORNING in this 4,900 sf masterpiece. Only the finest of construction with 4 large bedrooms, 3 full and 2 half baths, 2 fireplaces, marble floors, 2 master bedrooms with Jacuzzis, finished basement, 2 bars, 3 car attached and 2 car detached garages. On 4 manicured acres. \$499,900.



9502 HAGGERTY, VAN BUREN
CAR COLLECTORS DREAM! Load up the pole barns with 30+ cars! 5+ acre brick ranch offering 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, finished basement plus large family room & bar and NEW ROOF (2014). Paved street and 2 huge pole barns. Possible rezoning to commercial use. \$214,900



19350 SUMPTER RD, SUMPTER TWP
GREAT LOCATION with little competition. 4,100+ square foot set up for a bar/ restaurant or pizzeria. Most equipment could be included. Looks great and shows even better. Plenty of parking on 2+ acres. A Best Buy investment property at only \$387,000



429 HARBOUR POINTE, BELLEVILLE
CUSTOM BUILT brick & vinyl 3 bedroom home with large master suite, sitting room and huge master bath, hardwood floors, double fireplaces, 2 1/2 baths, large basement, three seasons room and deck. 2 1/2 car attached garage. Great neighborhood. \$179,900.



VACANT LAND - BUILD YOUR DREAM
VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP
14435 HAGGERTY 1.42 ACRES \$24,900
BOG RD VAN BUREN .55 ACRES \$29,750
49809 BOG 2.74 ACRES \$49,500
5900 DELLOR 1.81 ACRES \$40,000
SUMPTER TOWNSHIP
49317 ARKONA 40.28 ACRES \$180,000
ELWELL 19.34 AC (WAS \$150,000) \$95,000
25817 SUMPTER RD .97 ACRES \$20,000
28865 SUMPTER 3.9 ACRES \$22,500
VACANT SUMPTER 7.46 ACRES \$30,000
RAWSONVILLE 12 ACRES \$94,900
WEAR ROAD 10 ACRES \$49,900
ROMULUS
COGSWELL ROMULUS .71 ACRES \$35,000
35675 RONALD .95AC (HAS HOME) \$26,500
BELLEVILLE
337 MAIN .32 ACRES 83X165 \$79,500



45205 JEANNETTE, VAN BUREN
CITY CLOSE - COUNTRY COMFORT - Curb Appeal PLUS. Lots to love in this Large Parcel 4 Bedroom, 2 1/2 Bath Colonial. Hardwood floors, Large living room, 2 1/2 car attached garage and Huge Detached Barn with Loft. Paved street, Wonderful Neighborhood and Minutes from all Freeways. \$165,900



500 HURON RIVER DR, BELLEVILLE
HIGHEST QUALITY! Brick Commercial building in the City of Belleville. Former florist, coffee house, and bakery with potential for immediate franchise opportunity. The quality, potential and design of this newer (2002) constructed building are beyond description. \$795,000 (or \$18.00 square ft - triple net lease)