



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

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Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

FREE

Kotlareks win \$100 for first prize in Independent contest

Jeff and Sue Kotlarek of Romulus are the winners of \$100 in the *Independent* contest where readers were invited to write what they like about the paper or the story the paper missed covering.

Here is their first-place prize winner:

‘You really feel you play a part of the paper’

The *Belleville Independent* is our local newspaper, even though we live in Romulus. We love to shop, dine and visit Belleville.

With the help of the *Independent*, we can plan our days on what is happening in the community from local church dinners to grand events such as the Strawberry Festival. The *Independent* gives you all the info you need. Plus, the advertisers with coupons or menus direct our way to great eats and fantastic deals.

One of the best things about the *Independent* is the letters to the editor. I have sent in one or two in my time and your views are there for all to see. I do sometimes get a chuckle when Rosemary corrects or explains the letter a bit better.

But most of all, the *Independent* is “our” paper, or should I say the “community” paper, and you truly feel that you play a part of the paper.

Jeff & Sue Kotlarek
Romulus

Second-place prize winner, earning \$50,
is Linda Burger of Florida:

‘I enjoy reading all your articles, seeing pictures’

Rosemary, Congratulations on 20 years
of publication. This why the *Independent*
(continued on page 12)



Kevin Walsh, Executive Director of Yankee Air Museum, holds an unmanned aircraft system of the type that kids will be able to operate in Fly Zone after the Feb. 28 opening of the new Exploration Station.

Yankee Air Museum putting up Fly Zone Exploration Station

The Yankee Air Museum is dismantling its Mars Rover Exploration Station and making way for its next big attraction: Fly Zone.

The Exploration Station is the museum’s area for providing kids with interesting and challenging “hands-on” educational activities.

In 2014, nearly 6,000 students visited the museum and had the opportunity to operate small robotic rovers on artificial landscape

simulating the rigors of maneuvering on rugged Martian terrain and grasping objects by remote control.

Coming Feb. 28, Fly Zone promises more excitement than ever.

“It’s the Exploration Station transformation and Fly Zone is the next dimension,” said Kevin Walsh, Executive Director.

“We’re building an aerial challenge course for unmanned aircraft systems (UAS). Wait until the kids get a load of this. They thought our rover experience was exciting. They’ll find this truly amazing.”

Walsh explained that the Exploration Station is an important feature of the Yankee Air Museum because it’s where young imaginations are captured and real

learning begins. He says kids like to be immersed in technical subjects in ways they can understand.

“It’s absolutely essential for us to keep our interactive displays in sync with advances in aviation,” added Walsh. “Unmanned aircraft systems are frequently in the news, and now we are applying our skills to give people practical understanding of the technology.”

Walsh said the museum invested in special padded flooring and netting to confine the aircraft within the safe Fly Zone. Up to four aircraft will be able to operate in Fly Zone and the occasional crash is expected, but the design of the airspace will keep

(continued on page 7)

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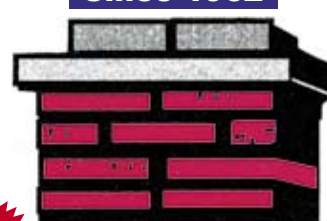
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SECOND FRONT PAGE

VBT Board takes four hours to approve budgets, all on 6-1 votes

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

With a few hours to spare, the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees held public hearings on 18 of its budgets before the end of the year, as required by state law, and then passed them all.

All votes were 6-1, with Trustee Reggie Miller voting no each time.

The budget session started at 4 p.m. on Dec. 30 and ended more than four hours later at 8:06 p.m.

It was the public comment that took most of the time. At one point, during a five-minute break, Supervisor Linda Combs called the police department to send over an officer or two to be on hand to restore order in case speaker John Delaney got farther out of hand. He had been speaking loudly and refused to stop talking.

Police assistance turned out not to be necessary, although several officers were on hand, on and off, for the rest of the meeting.

Delaney was critical of a long line of issues, including the time of the meeting (4 p.m. instead of 7 p.m., when working people in the community could attend), not getting the budget to study before the Dec. 16 meeting (he said, not to worry, he stole one to study), ongoing complaints about past Supervisor Paul White (who wouldn't put dust prevention on the private road Delaney lives on), expanding the DDA, and many more.

In four separate votes, board members approved:

- A resolution approving the Water and Sewer fee schedule;
- The 2014 amended Water and Sewer Budget and the 2015 proposed Water and Sewer Budget (including the 6% raise in water and sewer rates);
- The 2014 amended General Fund Budget (\$13,165,269), the 2015 proposed General Fund Budget (\$14,029,375), and the 2015 Salaried Employee Wage Schedule; and
- The 2014 Amended and 2015 Proposed Special Revenue Fund Budgets, which lumped all of the eight funds and their two budgets into one motion.

The Special Revenue Funds are:

1. The federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) as the projects apply to VBT's fiscal year;
2. Downtown Development Authority (DDA);
3. Local Development Finance Authority (LDFA);
4. Federal Forfeiture Fund;
5. State Forfeiture Fund;
6. E 9-1-1 Service Fund;
7. Landfill Fund; and
8. Belleville Area Museum.

Trustee Miller said her no votes on the Water and Sewer fee schedule and the



The Van Buren Township Board members, from left, are Trustees Reggie Miller and Phil Hart, Treasurer Sharry Budd, Supervisor Linda Combs, Treasurer Leon Wright, and Trustees Jeff Jahr and Brenda McClanahan.

Water and Sewer budgets were because, although VBT has to cover the raise in price from Detroit, she said she disagrees with the extra tacked on to that amount because, "It's a hardship on our seniors."

She said she would vote no on the other budgets because she thought the board needed to look at the strategic plan it worked out last February (in a 7.5-hour session). She said although the board is considering paying down the amount owed on the Visteon bonds, the board needs a budget stabilization plan.

Miller said there needs to be more communication with department heads and the elected officials didn't need the raises they got in the budget.

"I am voting no because I am facing reality," Miller said.

Trustee Jeff Jahr said he is facing Miller's concerns and he commended her for bringing to light the procedural difficulties, "in spite of the late hour."

He referred to her calling out of the board at its Dec. 16 meeting that said the budget public hearing couldn't be held that night because it was not posted according to law. That's why the budget hearing was postponed to Dec. 30 in the middle of the holidays.

Jahr said new positions have been created that are not necessary, but the purchasing of equipment is necessary. He apparently referred to the \$100,000 down payment on a new ladder truck.

He said his concerns with parts of the \$14 million budget don't justify a symbolic vote of no.

"We have to adopt this budget," Jahr said, adding the final document was presented Dec. 16. "If this was November we could all vote symbolically no and go back over it. We have to get the budget approved, so I will vote yes."

"It's unfortunate this had to be extended to this late date," said Trustee Brenda McClanahan. "This is a lot to take in at the last minute ... But, it is what it is... We're doing the best we can... I would have to agree with Trustee Jahr. We need to

approve this budget and move on."

Clerk Leon Wright said board members have agreed to disagree for a common cause.

"We need to work on this throughout the year ... but nobody's perfect," Wright said. "We have a budget that I think is presentable here." He said that night's meeting was one of the best procedures on a budget he's seen because the board "got comments from everyone."

After the motion was made to approve the general fund budget, Trustee Phil Hart said, "I don't think everyone agrees on everything in this budget. We'll make tough decisions in 2015. But, it's unconscionable for me to vote no and close down services to the residents."

Treasurer Sharry Budd also objected to shutting down the township with a no vote. "I will not vote no," she said.

She also objected to spending more money than is coming into the township, using the landfill funds to make up the difference.

Supervisor Linda Combs said she will set up the calendar for next year's budget discussions so the board will have plenty of time to go over everything. She said this was her budget and she took full responsibility for the way everything went this year and the lateness of the budget votes.

"We need to look at how we evaluate employees," Trustee Miller said. "Some got raises some didn't."

Trustee Hart agreed, saying they need to focus on performance and need to avoid requests for high-salary increases (possibly referring to the \$8,000 raises for the cable director and fire chief).

Earlier in the discussion, Jahr said, "We are not facing the real problem of the township. I share your concern with the salaries. I think they should be uniform." He referred to Miller's report that she and Trustee Brenda McClanahan got boosts in their trustee pay to bring them up to the other trustees, where they should have been.

All the elected officials also got 1.5%

raises, following what the negotiated AFSCME union contract brought to its members. In fact, all the employees, including salaried personnel (other than those just hired), got the 1.5% raise.

AFSCME

Brenda Kurtz, president of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) local, questioned why salaried personnel and elected officials got the raise her union had negotiated. The previous year salaried personnel got the union's signing bonus, too, although they hadn't signed any new contracts.

Among other things, she also questioned Clerk Wright's salary, saying he was taking \$5,000 in longevity money he hadn't earned yet as of Jan. 1.

Wright said the longevity pay was rolled into the salaries and not listed separately on the employee wage schedule for the elected personnel this year.

Kurtz stated the longevity was rolled in and then the 1.5% raise figured to increase that figure. She asked Wright how much his longevity pay was and he said he didn't know. Then he said it was \$250 a year. Times seven years that is \$1,750.

The AFSCME contract called for 1.5% raises in 2015 and 2016 and 2.5% raises in 2017 and 2018.

"I negotiated your union contract that is 8% over four years. We're getting 6%," Wright said.

"You're getting 6% in 2015," Kurtz said, referring to her figures "Can union employees get their 8% in 2015?"

Kurtz said the supervisor told the union they would give 1.5% for salaried employees "and we have an elected official getting more than a 1.5% raise." She asked how many others were rolling longevity into their pay?

Trustees Hart, Miller, and McClanahan said they do not have longevity pay.

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OPINIONS

Editorial

20 years and still working to inform tri-community

It was more than 20 years ago when a dozen local people sat down together and decided to publish a weekly newspaper full of the reported actions of their local governmental bodies, school district, and anything else that was going on locally.

And, it was to be free, so anyone wanting to see how their elected officials were doing could do so, whether they had a quarter or not. (Remember, that was 20 years ago and a quarter went a long way.)

At first the opposition to our paper was terrific, with our advertisers being intimidated into dropping their business with us. If you were around then, you probably remember how we were picketed and defamed. It was an exciting time.

We remember seeing police officers fold and hide the paper in their pockets so they could read it later. We remember going from desk to desk at the Van Buren Township Hall so the employees could take a paper and hide it for later.

As the years went by, things changed. People left office and new people came. Sometimes the previous officials returned. Whatever it was we covered it and let the people know, the best we could determine, what was going on.

Presently, we cover two townships, a city, a school district, a charter academy, a district library board, district court when we can, and everything else going on in the community. Happy Birthday to us. Join us at our office on Friday, Jan. 9, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for our party.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

Our office manager Janet Millard has spent the holidays being sick. She ended up in the hospital on Friday with what was reported to be pneumonia. Then her blood sugar spiked and so she was kept at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital to get that down. As of Tuesday she was still in the hospital. Best wishes for a speedy recovery, Janet. Your friends are telling you not to retire again. Janet was executive director of the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce for many years and retired – twice.

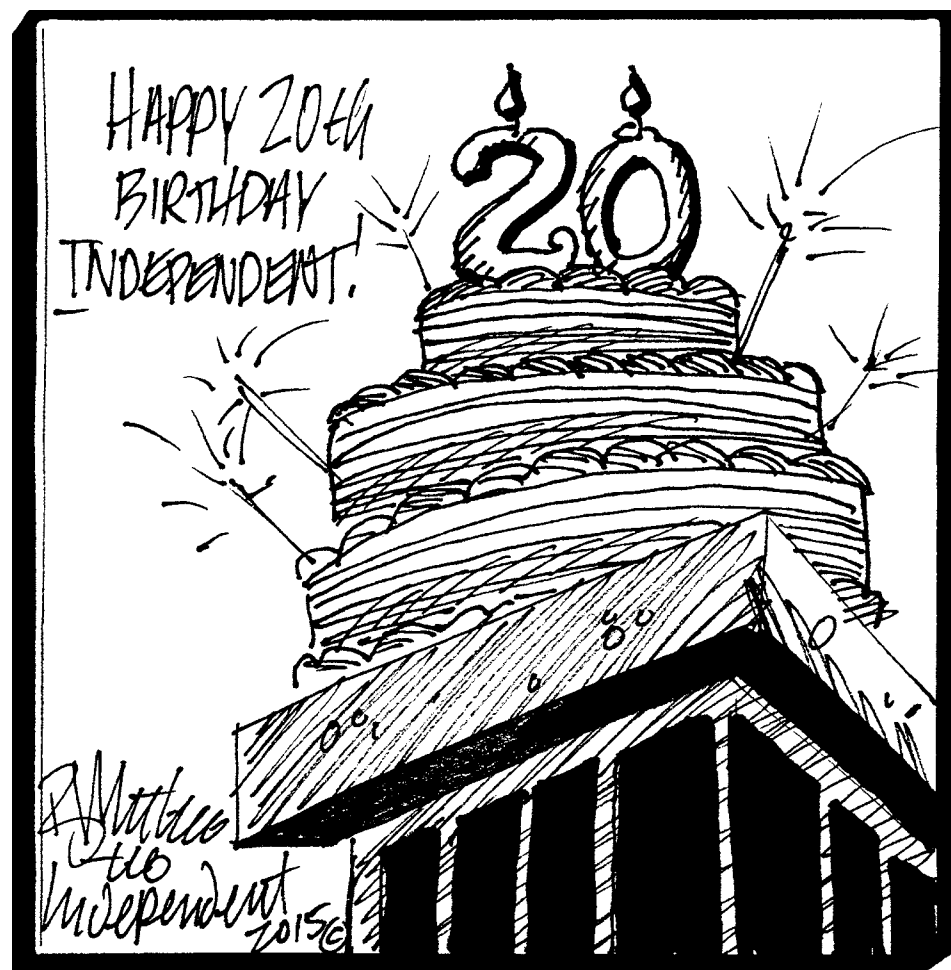
The owner of the cat that was saved from the Water's Edge fire reports that Sassy is doing well. Her whiskers were singed and that's all I knew about when I saw her in the carrier at the Van Buren Township Hall the night of the fire (Dec. 10).

The cat's owner said she was at the township hall with the other displaced residents and her cat was brought to her in the township's crate and she was so happy to see Sassy.

She said at first Sassy wasn't doing well, so she took the cat to the vet (\$180). He found Sassy's ear was burned and her eyes were full of soot. She was treated and she is fine.

Thirty-nine units were damaged and some of the residents have been offered apartments at some of the other complexes owned by Princeton Management.

Princeton owns over 100 properties in ten states, including Belleville Pointe in Van Buren Township (which used to be called Hidden Cove and was purchased Dec. 19, 2013) and Tuscan Manor in the city of Belleville.



Over the holidays there was an incident at the Bayou Grill in downtown Belleville that brought the Fire Department. But, it wasn't a fire.

I hear that a youngster got a pepper spray from his mother's purse and set it off. Then, he was afraid he'd get in trouble and ran to the rest room, filling the restaurant with the spray.

Everyone's food had to be thrown out. The Fire Department came and people in town saw all the equipment and thought something was burning. Nothing was burning, but the place had to be cleared of the substance in the air.

I'm told there was an announcement on social media that said nothing burned and customers were welcome.

In Sunday's *Detroit Free Press/News*, there was a long story on the deterioration of concrete runways at Metro Airport and how they need to be fixed. The runway is 13 years old. It is reported to be suffering from alkali/silica reaction, ASR, which causes concrete to expand and crack when exposed to moisture over time.

The story also mentioned a runway at Willow Run Airport which is also operated by the Wayne County Airport Authority. That runway reopened in October at Willow Run after a \$45 million reconstruction of the 75-year-old runway that was originally built by Henry Ford to launch B-24 bombers. That runway has

been repaired many times but, to be fair, did not experience the same volume of heavy traffic as the Metro Airport runways.

There's going to be a new outlet shopping mall in Romulus at Wick and Vining roads off I-94 opposite the airport. *The Eagle* newspaper describes it as an "open-air" shopping center with 75 stores of "the best brand names in retail." It will be 325,000 square feet and they hope to break ground in February or March and open in 2016.

The outlet mall complex was first planned for Canton Township, at the northeast corner of I-275 and Ford Road. It was to have 100 stores and 375,000 square feet of retail space. But in late December, Paragon Outlet Partners LLC decided that the Canton location would be too expensive because of the challenges presented, especially Ford Road traffic.

Paragon joined forces with New England Development for the Romulus project. Romulus Mayor Burcroff said the project is on a tight timeline, but city departments would work with them to expedite the necessary paperwork and permits.





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**Letters****Jan. 9: Law Enforcement
Appreciation Day**

To the Editor:

Re: Law Enforcement Appreciation Day

On Jan. 9, the FBI National Academy Associates and partnering organizations in support of law enforcement officers nationwide will promote a National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day (L.E.A.D.).

In light of recent negativity directed toward law enforcement nationally, there is a need to show law enforcement officers that our citizens recognize the difficult and sometimes impossible career they have chosen, in public service to us all.

Can you imagine going to work each day and wondering if you'll survive your shift and see your family that night? Most people can't. But in law enforcement, this is a fact of life. Each day 780,000 police officers across our country put a badge on and go to work knowing they may face extremely dangerous situations. Yet, they go to work anyway. Being a law enforcement officer is not just a job, it is a calling. The pay is low, the hours can be terrible, and there is sometimes little appreciation for what you do. Yet, they do it anyway.

What the public doesn't see is the toll law enforcement takes to keep our communities safe. On average, between 105 and 203 officers die in the line of duty each year, 50,000 officers are assaulted in the line of duty each year, 14,000 officers are injured in the line of duty each year, and over 300 officers commit suicide each year. There is no other profession in the world, except possibly the military, where you will find these kinds of statistics.

Being a law enforcement officer truly is an impossible job. You must be professional, courteous, caring and yet be ready to protect the public at all times. You must be prepared to make life and death decisions in a moment's notice. You take an amazing

amount of abuse at times, but have to view this abuse as just "part of the job." You do not have the liberty to express your emotions during many situations.

Law enforcement officers play such an integral part in our society. Without law enforcement officers, chaos would reign. Have you ever thought about what you would do if you were in trouble -- a car accident, a home invasion, an assault -- and you did not have someone to call for help? No matter how much abuse law enforcement takes, they continue to do their job, and do it well. They are the guardians of our way of life and they deserve our support.

On Jan. 9 we call our nation's citizens to action in support of law enforcement. Those citizens who appreciate law enforcement and are discouraged about the negative attention being given to law enforcement are encouraged to take time on Friday, Jan. 9, to show their support.

Our citizens can show their support in a number of ways:

- See a police officer? Thank a police officer;
- Wear blue clothing in support of law enforcement;
- Send a card of support to your local police department or state agency;
- Share a positive story about a positive law enforcement experience on social media;
- Ask children in your community to write letters in support of law enforcement;
- Participate in Project Blue Light and proudly display your blue light in support of law enforcement;
- Organize an event or a rally in support of your law enforcement officers;
- Advertise your support through local media outlets/billboards;
- Post the public service announcement supplied by **C.O.P.S.** to your law enforcement's webpage or social media pages.

As a Member and Chairman of the FBI National Academy Associates Curriculum Committee Michigan Chapter, I encourage you to support law enforcement nationwide and in our communities and promote National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day.

Please help me spread the word!
"One Department - One Team"
Gregory M. Laurain
Director of Public Safety
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More Letters

Denny's/Hott Hair gives back to community

To the Editor,

It came to my attention that a student and his family had been going through a difficult time. With the families' permission, I planned to purchase a haircut gift certificate for the student at Denny's/Hott Hair in Belleville on Main Street.

As I was purchasing the gift certificate, I was explaining to Marlene that it was for one of my students. While protecting the confidentiality of the student, I briefly explained that despite family hardships this student continues to come to school every day and work hard.

Marlene filled out the gift certificate but as I went to pay she refused to take my money. I insisted and so did she. In the end, I left, a little teary-eyed, thanking her for her kindness.

I was taken by surprise at the generosity she offered to someone she had never met. As if the free haircut was not enough, I received a follow-up phone call the next day letting me know that some of the stylists would like to do more for the student and their family.

They decided to take up a donation from the employees at Denny's/Hott Hair to adopt this family for Christmas.

I felt the need to share this story with your readers. Not only did I want to thank Denny's/Hott Hair, but I wanted to remind others that the next time you are in need of a haircut please consider patronizing the shop that gives back to the community.

Belleville High School Employee
Name withheld by request



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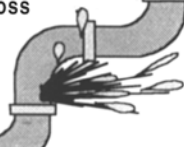


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Obituaries



May Anna Pelarske

MAY ANNA PELARSKE

(December 20, 1923 - December 29, 2014)

May Anna Pelarske, age 91, of Belleville, MI, formerly of New Boston, MI, passed away Monday, December 29, 2014 at Saline Evangelical Home, Saline, MI. She was born December 20, 1923 in Detroit, MI, daughter of Julius & Victoria (Adams) Anderson.

Ms. Pelarske was a member of St. John's Lutheran Church, Waltz, Mi. She enjoyed reading her bible every morning and going to church every Sunday. She was a huge Detroit Tiger fan who loved to cook and feed everybody. She also loved flower gardening, especially tending her roses.

She is survived by four children Elizabeth (Peter) Wasilewski of Ann Arbor, MI, and Helen S. (Cecil) Stanley, Melissa (Joe) Walls and William Pelarske, all of Belleville; 11 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; also numerous nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband Gordon John Pelarske on May 27, 1996, three sons David Gary, Roger Lee and Gordon Pelarske, sister Dersa, also a brother William Anderson.

Visitation was 3-8 PM Friday and 10-11 AM Saturday, January 3, 2015 at David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI 48111 (734) 697-4500. Interment was in Michigan Memorial Park, Flat Rock, MI. Memorial contributions may be made to the wishes of her family. Please sign her on-line guest book and share a memory for her family to treasure at www.davidcbrownfh.com.

KENNETH LEE VANDECAR

Kenneth Lee Vandecar, 81, died Jan. 2, 2015 in Atlanta, Georgia, after a long illness.

He graduated from Belleville High School in the class of 1950. Out of a family of eight children, he leaves two sisters, Shirley Olson and Lila Templeman. He also is survived by four sons Kurtis, Douglas, Michael, and Paul; eight grandchildren; and several great-grandchildren.



Raquel E. Breen

RAQUEL ELMA BREEN

(December 3, 1933 - January 3, 2015)

Raquel E. Breen, age 81, of Belleville, passed away January 3, 2015. Beloved wife of the late Donald Breen, Sr. Loving mother of Donna Sandor, Diane Moses, and Donald (Peggy) Breen, Jr. Dear grandmother of Angela, Jennifer, Christopher, Katie, Robin, Nick, Zachary, Nadia and great-grandmother of Ariel, Ashley, C.J., Selena, Justin, Audrey, and Jaxson. She is also survived by many siblings.

She is preceded in death by her daughter Denise Patterson and her parents Ruben and Amelia Sepulveda.

Funeral service was Tuesday, 7 p.m., at Michigan Memorial Funeral Home (next to Michigan Memorial Park), 30895 Huron River Dr., Huron Twp., (734) 783-2646. Visitation was Tuesday, 1-7 p.m. www.mimemorial.com

GEORGIA MAE MITCHELL

(November 8, 1952 - January 4, 2015)

Age 62 of Ypsilanti. Enjoyed cooking at Fairfax Manor for years. Survived by 4 sisters Sandra Schlener, Deborah Beard, Jacalyn Johnston, and Cheryl Miller. Service 11 a.m. Jan. 9 at David C. Brown Funeral Home.

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Fly Zone

(continued from page 1)

the UAS pilot safe and any damage to the vehicle minimal.

"Fly Zone is our logical next step," said Rachel Krumwiede, Yankee Air Museum's Director of Education. "In fact, we started talking about this exhibit virtually the day after we opened the Mars program. There has been a lot of planning involved over the past year, including consultations with the Detroit Aircraft Corporation, which manufactures unmanned aircraft systems. Fly Zone will be engaging, stimulating and certainly fun. The goal is to pique a child's interest, then get them to go further, inquire more and talk about what they're learning."

Krumwiede stressed the importance of having the right mix of sophistication and fun to blend into a meaningful educational experience. She says, "It'll never get old" because Fly Zone is designed to have myriad missions for the kids to fly at different skill levels.

Krumwiede, who has been test-piloting UASs for weeks to determine the best ones to procure for Fly Zone, is mindful that remote-controlled aircraft of all shapes and sizes were popular gifts this holiday season. She says there are employment opportunities in the UAS industry and a primary goal of Exploration Station is to expose kids to emerging career paths.

"Unmanned aircraft systems are the future of aviation," said Jon Rimanelli, chairman of Detroit Aircraft Corporation. "The practical applications of this technology to solve problems and keep people safe

are endless. DAC is always working with students, their fresh minds, and innovative approaches. Collaborating with Yankee Air Museum on Fly Zone is a great extension of our motto, 'Aerial assets for all.'"

Rimanelli said his unmanned aircraft systems are being reviewed by first responders who need ways of safely assessing dangerous situations before sending in police officers or firefighters. He is planning a UAS demonstration for the grand opening of Fly Zone.

Once the Mars rover display is dismantled, work will begin on preparing the floor and wall subsurface for the construction of the thickly padded UAS confinement area. Fly Zone opens on Feb. 28, and will be in the Yankee Air Museum's high bay area at 47884 D Street, Belleville.

The Museum remains open while this construction is underway.

For more information, visit the www.yankeeairmuseum.org website.

Van Buren Eagles set Sock Hop with live band on Jan. 17

The Van Buren Eagles, 9961 Beck Road, Van Buren Township, invite the public to a Saturday night Sock Hop from 8 p.m. to midnight on Jan. 17.

Fast Eddie, a live band, will be featured. Tickets are \$15 each and include pizza. Doors open at 6 p.m. There will be a 50/50 drawing and raffles.

For tickets contact Danny at (734) 260-4368, Dianne at (810) 247-0914, or Lance at (734) 732-5114.

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The folks over the **Q Banquet & Event Center** at **879 Sumpter Road** are giving married couples a chance to renew their vows this Valentine's Day, Feb. 14. For \$100 you get the ceremony with owners and Michigan Officials Gina and Jeff Hamilton, an elaborate setting, a toast and other treats. Up to 30 reservations will be accepted and can be made by calling **(734) 699-0003**. Folks ready to tie the knot on Valentine's Day can also schedule a wedding ceremony. Bring along the required paperwork, licenses, etc. To learn more, visit www.jngevents.com.

Since 1979, **Carpet Headquarters** has been providing professional sales and installation, repairs and re-stretching of carpeting. Owner **Phil Blair** provides in-home shopping with free estimates and says he will beat all written estimates. Right now, get 18-month financing with 0% interest. They also accept major credit cards. Call **(734) 612-7570**.

Belleville's **Mark Rosenthal** and **Animal Magic** will be performing three shows this Saturday -- noon, 2:30 and 5 p.m. at the **Towsley Theater** on the campus of **Washtenaw Community College**. Tickets are \$5 for general admission for children, students, military and seniors, \$10 for everyone else, and \$20 for VIP reserved seats in the first four rows. Call **(313) 819-5719**. To learn more, visit www.iwantanimalmagic.com.

The **Van Buren Area Little League** has set dates for walk-in registration for the upcoming 2015 spring baseball and softball season. All registration will be held at the **Wayne County Community College Haggerty Road Campus**: Jan. 10, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Jan. 14, from 6 to 8 p.m.; Jan. 24, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.; and Jan. 28, from 6 to 8 p.m. February dates include Feb. 14, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Feb. 18, from 6 to 8 p.m.; Feb. 21, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.; and Feb. 25, from 6 to 8 p.m. For more info, call **(734) 249-9146**.

VBALL will also be conducting baseball and softball clinics in the off-season. Visit www.vanburen-mi.org for that info. Two children participating from the same family will receive a 10% discount while three or more children will get 20% off registration fees, which include complete uniforms.

It's **Financial Aid Night** tonight at Belleville High School, beginning at 7 p.m. Guest speaker will be **Jennifer Wallace**, the TIP Lady Outreach Manager of Financial Aid Programs for the State of Michigan. Topics will include financial aid forms, scholarships, and updates with state and federal financial aid programs. Call **(734) 697-9416**.

Be sure to stop by the *Independent* office here tomorrow, Jan. 9, any time from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 152 Main Street for a piece of birthday cake, and a free \$10 classified ad, as we celebrate 20 years of publishing.

Want free color in the *Independent*? Simply sign your ad up for a year. If you're an advertiser that runs every week with us anyway, the 52-week run will not only get your ad colorized by our production team, you'll save 35% off the total contract. Call with any questions: **(734) 699 9020**.

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.

Help *Independent* celebrate 20 years of weekly newspapers

Join the *Belleville-Area Independent* from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 9, in a party to celebrate completion of the 20th year of publication of the weekly newspaper.

There will be food and each guest is entitled to a free, personal, classified ad for three weeks – the regular \$10 offer.

The *Independent* started publishing its weekly newspaper on Jan. 5, 1995 and has published every Thursday since then – a total of 1,040 issues as of 2014.

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1656 Parkwood, Ypsilanti Twp
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More Letters

Food Closet can't serve as sole source of food

To the Editor:

Late in October a letter was sent to almost 100 community groups, organizations, businesses, and churches asking for help in supplying food for the Thanksgiving and Christmas bags that the First United Methodist Church food closet distributes to our clients in need.

The response was overwhelming! Some of these very giving folks you may know. Some may be your neighbors, some may be of your congregation, some you may never heard of before, and some you didn't even know existed, but they all deserve a rousing cheer of thanks for their generous gifts of support!

The list includes: Robert & Janice Fowler, Trinity Episcopal Church, Wesley & Doris Crocker, M.J. & Rick Dawson, John & Elaine Clarkson, Meijer's, Belleville First United Methodist Women, Canton OBGYN Clinic, Michelle Sympula / P&P Dance Centre, Coca-Cola, Mary Hoff, Bruce & Julie Hacialaa, Kathryn Tuer, Peggy Curtis, Keystone Academy, Belleville Area Women's Group, Grace Baptist Church, Higginson & Neal Funeral Home, Belleville/Van Buren Goodfellows, Dave & Lois Egbert, FUMC Come Doubles, Van Buren Township Senior Center, Belleville Yacht Club, Bethany

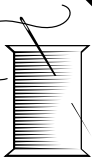
Bible Church, Belleville Auxiliary Fire Department, Curves International, EQ-The Environmental Quality Company, Friends of MI Animal Rescue, Unified Communities Federal Credit Union, Van Buren FOE #3996, Van Buren Public Schools Administration, Wayne County Commissioner Kevin McNamara, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Open Army Lutheran Church, Davenport Brothers Construction, Belleville Presbyterian Church, Garden Fantasy Greenhouse & Nursery, Bayou Grill, Wayne County Quilting Group, Loranger Family Chiropractic Center, Kae & Jay Hartford, Michael & Cindy Dukeks Clarey, Donna Sienko, George Smith of 4 Friends Bar & Grill, Robert & Carlene Stoner, Toni Hunt, Marshall Weid, Jan & John MacDermid, and many, many more anonymous folks.

The food closet, in cooperation with the Plymouth Salvation Army and the Belleville/Van Buren Goodfellows, was

(Continued on page 11)

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DETAILER. Contract, 2D, CAD, die knowledge helpful. Work from home. Send info to: midwestdesign123@comcast.net 1/15

SECOND SHIFT BABYSITTER needed in our Belleville home. Monday/Friday. Must be able to drive. (419) 340-7992 1/01

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Local Drivers & Dockworkers! Holland is hiring Drivers and dock workers in Detroit. Drivers w/1 year or 50k miles exp, w/tanker & hazmat. Dock must be 18 years old, 4 hours shifts M-F. Jan 12 & 13. Submit applications from 2pm to 6pm at 27411 Wick Rd., Romulus 48174 or apply Hollandregional.com/careers. EEO/AAE Minorities/Females/Persons with Disabilities/Protected Veterans

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

WANTED - POSITIVE Identification of the SCROOGE(S) who turned off the lights on our Community Christmas Tree. A.C.L.U? Atheists? City Hall? (734) 697-7805. 1/08

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WANTED - Cleaning Lady at least-monthly or as needed. Reasonable rates. Call (734) 516-8693 between 12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. 1/15

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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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More Letters

(continued from page 10)

able to assist more than 1,000 families in Van Buren and Sumpter Townships and the City of Belleville with Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday food. These numbers seem to indicate that there is a real need for assistance in our community.

When the First United Methodist Church began to serve the area communities with a food closet in 1985 little did anyone think we would still be functioning today. We began life as an emergency source of food for individuals and families who could show a documented and verifiable emergency need. We are not a permanent source of food. We are a 501c(3) non-profit organization staffed entirely by volunteers and we have been working closely with the Salvation Army, Community Care Services (CCS), the school system, and other area churches. When a client comes in for food they are given an emergency bag of food and a list of these area agencies from which they can obtain a referral enabling them to return for additional food when necessary.

Our funding comes entirely from our donations and gifts from the community and our congregation. We have fund-raisers, such as our bake sale at the Harvest Fest and the church parking lot at Strawberry Festival time. We depend heavily on the United Postal Workers food drive held nationally every May and the Boy Scouts door-to-door food drive in the fall as sources of food. We have no state or federal government funding.

Over the past few years we have begun to see more and more of our clients coming weekly for food and personal hygiene and paper products. It has been a gradual process both on the part of the client and the staff of the food closet to slip into a casual "once a week" occurrence. When we reviewed our numbers for the past few years we found that we cannot be the sole source of food for the ever-growing number of clients.

After extensive evaluation of our program, it has been decided that we at the food closet would continue to serve those in need. Rather than on a weekly basis, clients would be requested to come for food on an emergency "as-needed" basis and no more than every OTHER week. We will continue as an emergency source of food for those in real need, but ask that our clients budget their requirements as we must budget our resources. We will continue to be good stewards of the donations and gifts entrusted to us.

If you have questions, concerns or ideas, please feel free to contact me at sandyaskew@aol.com.

Sincerely,
 Sandy Askew, Coordinator
 First United Methodist Church Food Closet

"Gravitation is not responsible for people falling in love."

- Albert Einstein

Contest winners

(continued from page 1)

is important to me.

I always read your corner of interesting info. You inform us of things that are beneficial to everyone whether you live in Michigan or like me in Florida.

Example: I've told a lot of people here in Florida about the Post Office closing 80-something centers and I never understood why they said they were broke. Well, you answered my question by telling us all how they have to pay for retirees 50 or 75 years in advance in only 10 years.

There is all the info on identity theft and how the scammers are doing it. And then there was the article on the train from Canada. I hope to see the train someday. Also the 12/11 article on comparisons of the cost of a gallon of stuff we buy made me think of my own area.

Then there are the obits. I miss my classmates and this does tell me when they pass on. Then, there are history articles such as the new roof on the museum on 11/27, but it brought back my memories of a 5-year-old child getting her Christmas bag of candy handed out by the firemen at the side door to the left.

I enjoy reading all your articles and the pictures on the front pages. Keep up the great work!

Linda Burger, BHS 1965
Jacksonville Beach, FL

Third-place winner, with a \$25 prize, is Irene Yaklin, who told us about a story featuring her heroic grandson that she thought was in the *Independent*. It wasn't, so she is informing us of a story we missed — although she thought it was our story. We believe the story she sent came from *The View*, which no longer publishes.

Dec. 30 was the date of my grandson's birthday

To the *Independent* Staff:

I noticed that your contest deadline was Dec. 30. That is the date of my grandson's 25th birthday.

Ten years ago, my grandson Matthew Parks saved the life of a young child that was swimming in the pool at the Tuscan Manor apartments. The child's name was Lorez Wilson who was only six years old.

A lot of time has passed since then, but I wanted to say Matthew is still a great

person. Since that time, he has graduated from Belleville High School (with honors) and he continues to be a caring and kind human being.

Matthew never really gave saving this child a second thought. It was just the right thing to do and luckily he was in the right place at the right time. He never wanted any attention from the media, as he turned down several interviews from the news media.

I just wanted to bring this story back up because I know that it not only changed his life, but also the family of Lorenz Wilson.

On his 25th birthday, I wanted Matthew to know that he indeed is a special person! Not only to his family, but also to another family who can enjoy their sons (grandsons, nephews) years to come in the future. Many happy and loving years!

Thank you, Matthew, for being the person you are. We all love you!

Your Grandma Irene Yaklin
Water's Edge Apartments

P.S. I'm sending you a copy of the article that appeared in your paper. Matthew doesn't know I am writing this letter.

We appreciate everyone who entered our contest. Please come by to say hello during our 20th birthday part on Friday, Jan. 9, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 152 Main Street, Belleville. Need directions? Call (734) 699-9020.

-- Rosemary K. Otzman, editor

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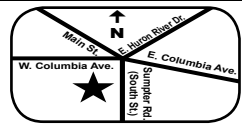


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Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES DECEMBER 30, 2014

Supervisor Combs called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. in the Board Room. Present: Supervisor Combs, Clerk Wright, Treasurer Budd, Trustee Hart, Trustee Jahr, Trustee McClanahan and Trustee Miller. Others in attendance: Secretary Montgomery, DDA Director Ireland, Deputy Director-Fire Besson, Assessing Coordinator Stevenson, Senior Director Jordan, and an audience of thirteen (13).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Treasurer Budd requested removal of Consent Agenda items #1 and #2 [Work Study Minutes of December 15, 2014 and Regular Board Meeting Minutes of December 16, 2014]. Hart moved, Wright seconded to approve the agenda as amended. Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING: Jahr moved, Hart seconded to open the public Hearing on the 2014 Amended General Fund Budget and 2015 proposed General Fund Budget at 4:03 p.m. Residents commented on time of the Special Board Meeting; 2015 proposed wages in the Supervisors Office, 2015 proposed movement of Public Safety Internet Technology position from the Public Safety Department to the Internet Technology Department; 2015 proposed Fire Department capital outlay budget; 2015 proposed departmental budgets; 2015 proposed Recreation Department wage increase; utilization of landfill funds to balance the budget; Fire Station staffing levels, training and response times; dissemination of draft budget to the public; providing directives and direction to departmental Directors; road dust prevention; museum funding sources and 2014 amended Developmental Services consultant costs. Senior Director Jordan commented on the 2015 proposed Senior Department staffing, wages and increase in the services provided. AFSCME Local 236 President Kurtz commented on AFSCME bargained positions budgeted but not filled and the Clerk's proposed 2015 salary.

At 5:25 p.m. McClanahan moved, Miller seconded to recess for five minutes. Motion Carried.

The Board of Trustees meeting reconvened at 5:30 p.m. Comments from Board members included: the Special Board Meeting time was agreed upon by a majority of the Board of Trustees; the Supervisor's Office wages included a 29 hour Executive Assistant and a full time Human Resource position in 2015; the 2015 capital outlay in the Fire Department was for the down payment on a new ladder truck; the 2015 increase in the Recreation wage line item was due to combining Community Services with Recreation; Fire Station staffing levels provide for four employees at both stations 24 hours daily; changes will be made in the budget process to allow for significant improvements; directives and direction to departmental Directors is provided on an individual basis and a commitment is being made to develop a performance review process; a review of the Wayne County roads dust prevention schedule will occur; funding sources for the museum are being reviewed; Developmental Services consultants were needed prior to filling the Director position; landfill funds have been used to balance the budget since its inception and moving forward additional ways to reduce the amount used for general operating expenditures needs to be explored; many variables make

up the budget; the Public Safety Department is being adequately funded to satisfy the level of service that the Board has determined the Township needs which is a high level of service; the increase in the Clerk Salary for 2015 was due to the Boards decision to eliminate longevity as a separate item and roll the cap into wages for all eligible Trustees and that all part-time Trustees are being brought to the same wage level; increase in Clerk's office wage line item was to bring a part time union employee to full time as a shared position with the Treasurer's office; the Developmental services 2015 budget includes an additional union position and the 2015 Senior Department budget maintains the current two, 29 hour a week, employees as desired by the majority of the Board of Trustees. Budd moved, Wright seconded to close the public hearing at 6:34 p.m. Carried.

Budd moved, McClanahan supported to open the Public Hearing on 2014 Amended and 2015 Proposed Special Revenue Funds Budgets at 6:35. Carried. Resident commented on the Downtown Development Authority and potential of additional tax capture by extending the district; LDFA consultant fees, legal fees and administrative wages. DDA Director Ireland commented that any attempt to amend the current boundaries would put the DDA in a position that would allow current members of the district to opt out and by keeping it the way it is allows the DDA to do more. Board members commented on: the desire to have the DDA to come back to the Board with a presentation on their budget; the need for a review of the Townships responsibility over the DDA; the re-finance of the LDFA bonds with Board member knowledge of all re-finance options; that administrative wages are reimbursed by the LDFA to township employees for services provided; that the LDFA members are non-compensated; that the Township is spending more money than it captures though the millage; that the general fund balance and the landfill funds are going down; that the board needs to start dialogue focusing on concrete proposals to address funding concerns; that alternative sources of funding are being explored to support the Museum and a financial review should occur in three months and that the percentage of the tax captured in the DDA district comes from other taxing jurisdictions and through the police millage. Miller moved, McClanahan seconded to close the public hearing at 7:20 p.m. Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

PUBLIC COMMENT: Residents commented on the proposed Water and Sewer rate increase; expressed concern regarding expenses in the Water Department and requested that the budget be reviewed again in February.

NEW BUSINESS: Jahr moved, McClanahan seconded to approve resolution 2014-30 the 2015 Water and Sewer fee schedule. Roll call vote. Yeas: Combs, Budd, Wright, Hart, Jahr, McClanahan. Nays: Miller. Motion Carried. Trustee Miller indicated she was voting no because even though some of these fees were justified by increases from external entities she felt there needed to be a deeper understanding of how the additional increases were to be divided up.

Wright moved, McClanahan seconded to approve the 2014 amended Water and Sewer Budget and the 2015 Proposed Water and Sewer Budget. Roll call Vote. Yeas: Combs, Budd, Wright, Hart, Jahr, McClanahan. Nays: Miller. Motion Carried.

Trustee Miller indicated she was voting no because it correlates with the Water and Sewer fee schedule.

Wright moved, McClanahan seconded to approve the 2014 amended General Fund

Budget, the 2015 Proposed General Fund Budget and Resolution 2014-32 the 2015 Salaried Employee Wage Schedule. Treasurer Budd requested the motion include: A) Revenues in excess of those noted shall be dedicated to fund balance; B) Fiscal year line items, which are not expensed, with the exception of specified reserve line items, shall revert to net income; C) Approval of appendices noted above as part of the General Fund Budget; D) Revenue as "Tax Administrative Fee" is to continue as in past practice. The allocated millage for Township operations is 4.9144, which represents .9144 mill for Township Operations and 4 mills for Public Safety; E) Adoption by departmental total; F) Van Buren Township Board of Trustees hereby sets the value for capitalization of fixed asset at \$1,000 for items having a useful life greater than one year. The exception would be computer and technology equipment for which items with values less than \$1,000 will be grouped and depreciated as long as the total of the grouped items exceeds the \$1,000 threshold; and G) December 30, 2014 approval supersedes prior resolutions. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: Combs, Budd, Wright, Hart, Jahr, McClanahan. Nays: Miller. Motion Carried.

DISCUSSION ON THE 2014 AMENDED GENERAL FUND BUDGET AND 2015 PROPOSED GENERAL FUND BUDGET:

Trustee Miller commented that even though the entire Board spent a significant amount of time going over the budget she felt they also needed to look at the Strategic Plan they went over in February and correlate it to the budget; review options regarding the LDFA bonds to a greater degree, have a budget stabilization plan; strengthened the relationship with the DDA and the Department head; that raises for Elected Officials were unnecessary; in the end we are spending more than we should and we need a better process in place. Trustee Jahr commented that he shared some of the comments and concerns made by Miller but indicated he would be voting yes because it was necessary to have the budget in place before the New Year. Trustee McClanahan commented that the delay in the budget process caused a lot of anxiety but in the future we will get better and with that being said we need to approve the budget and work towards a better year. Clerk Wright thanked the entire Board for doing their due diligence in going through the budget process, agreeing to disagree and in the end coming together for a common cause. We are doing our due diligence and spending Township funds and revenues like we should. Trustee Hart commented that he does not believe everyone on the Board can agree on everything in the Budget but that the Board is working very hard and in 2015 some tough decisions will need to be made. Treasurer Budd commented she did not believe we should be taking more from the Landfill than we take in; that we need to get back on track on some of the expenditures and set a budget review date in February. Supervisor Combs commented she will establish a budget calendar according to Michigan State Law so that we are in compliance with everything and so the Board has a chance to consider everything in advance of having to pass anything. Miller also commented that we need to look at the review process on how we evaluate our employees because there is not a process in place. Hart requested an analysis, a comparative of salaries, of equal work within the Township and with other municipalities which would include performance to objectives review. McClanahan stated without a policy we cannot put anything in place. Jahr commented he wanted a time table in 2015 to address the major problems and come up with a long range plan for the Township referencing Visteon Bond payments and finite Landfill funds. A January

meeting for long range planning was requested by Trustee Hart.

Budd moved, Hart seconded to approve the 2014 Amended Special Revenue and 2015 Proposed Special Revenue Budgets as being A) Community Development Block Grant as the projects apply to our Township's Fiscal Year, B) Downtown Development Authority, C) Local Development Finance Authority, D) Federal Forfeiture Fund E) State Forfeiture Fund, F) E 9-1-1 Service Fund, G) Landfill Fund, H) Belleville Area Museum and we adopt them as presented taking into consideration that revenues in excess of those noted will be dedicated to fund balance, items not expensed shall revert to net income and this motion supersedes any other budget. Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Combs, Budd, Wright, Hart, Jahr and McClanahan. Nays: Miller. Motion Carried.

Jahr commented that the Special Review Budgets were presented at the last minute, that there was not enough time to go through them in detail and that they should have input on those budgets. He requested attorney guidance on the parameters pertaining to the Townships involvement in the LDFA and DDA budgets. Trustee Miller commented that she is voting no based on previous stated comments and thanked the Board for working so diligently and the residents for their comments.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Supervisor wished everyone the Best of the New Year and a Safe and Happy Holiday.

AUDIENCE (Non-Agenda Items): Resident commented that in 2015 he wishes to see the Board move forward, think outside the box, get together, start early and develop a plan.

CLOSED SESSION: None

ADJOURNMENT: Hart moved, McClanahan seconded to adjourn at 8:06 p.m. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Leon Wright, Township Clerk
Linda H. Combs, Township Supervisor
Publish: January 8, 2015

Traffic stop in Belleville leads to arrest of Taylor man with pot, cash

At 10 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 3, Belleville police officers noticed a traffic infraction at Five Points, made a U-turn, and stopped the car in Sam's parking lot.

Belleville Police Chief Hal Berriman said when the officers approached the car, they smelled marijuana. They found a vapor pipe and more than \$1,200 cash on the driver, he said.

In the trunk there was a backpack containing a coffee can with marijuana inside, more marijuana, and pills. Chief Berriman said there was a total of 260 grams of marijuana – more than half a pound.

On Tuesday, Chief Berriman said the 22-year-old white male with a Taylor address was released pending authorization of a warrant for his arrest. His car was impounded. Chief Berriman said the man did not have a medical marijuana card.

Chief Berriman said police found there was a warrant for the man's arrest in North Carolina for selling marijuana but the North Carolina department wouldn't extradite him.

Officer Kendra Rose and Reserve Officer Dennis Mowbray made the traffic stop and they were assisted by Officer Greg Beach.

Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

The following are selected calls for VBT Police.

Sunday, Dec. 28:
0733 – assault & battery, Ecorse Rd.
1114 – mental, Alba Ct.
1137 – private property accident, Rawsonville
1246 – fraud, Dalton Dr.
1651 – suicide or attempt, Sumpter/Owen
1804 – fraud, Oak Ln.
1958 – malicious destruction of property, Sumpter
2019 – assault & battery, Madison Dr.
2039 – property damage accident, Rawsonville
2209 – larceny, Old Michigan Rd.
2333 – agency assist, Brookview Dr.

Monday, Dec. 29:
0930 – malicious destruction of property, Haggerty
1043 – suspicious person, Alba Ct.
1122 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd.
1238 – malicious destruction of property, Belmont
1343 – fraud, Water’s Edge Ln.
1617 – assault & battery, Winding Pond Dr.
1753 – retail fraud, Belleville
1917 – larceny, Haggerty Rd.
2027 – intimidation threat, Fairbanks St.
2038 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
2059 – assault & battery, N. Woodbury
2105 – suspicious situation, Haggerty/Riggs
2141 – noise complaint, Renton Rd.
2158 – fight, S. I-94 Service Dr.

Tuesday, Dec. 30:
0002 – hospice, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0131 – assault & battery, Van Buren St.
0131 – unauthorized driving away of auto,
Belleville
0205 – property damage accident, Southport
0653 – property damage accident, Belleville/Tyler
0911 – fraud, S. Cumberland Dr.
0917 – suspicious person, W. Huron River Dr. /
Hoef Rd.

1015 – fraud, Denton Rd.
1052 – malicious destruction of property, Oak Ln.
1344 – larceny, Rawsonville Rd.
1350 – suspicious person, Jackson/McBride
1451 – private property accident, Parkwood Dr.
1558 – shots fired, Rogers Ave.
1727 – disturbance, Tyler Rd.
1820 – motorist assist, Denton Bridge
1948 – fraud, N. Cumberland Dr.
2020 – assault & battery, W. Huron River Dr.
2057 – suspicious situation, Village Green Ln.
2218 – hospice, S. I-94 Service Dr.
2315 – disturbance, Purple Sage Ct.

Wednesday, Dec. 31:
0010 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
0134 – noise complaint, Maple Dr.
0949 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. /
S. I-94 Service Dr.
1030 – agency assist, W. Archwood Dr.
1405 – larceny, Parkside Dr.
1508 – fraud, Tyler Rd.
1516 – malicious destruction of property, Amanda
1843 – noise complaint, Denton Rd.
1846 – disturbance, Lake Villa Dr.
1848 – harassment call, Lake Crest Dr.
2122 – noise complaint, Westlake
2120 – suspicious person, Red Oak Dr.

Thursday, Jan. 1:
0011 – shots fired, Parkwood Manor
0403 – assault & battery, Hayes
0646 – hospice, Landmark
0720 – noise complaint, Meadows Ln.
0816 – unattended death, Michigan Ave.
1655 – juvenile complaint, Hardwood/Vine
1715 – property damage accident, Celestine Dr.
1734 – private property accident, Tompkins St.
1841 – fight, Lighthouse Dr.
1842 – retail fraud, Belleville
2136 – assault & battery, Peachtree

Friday, Jan. 2:
0423 – property damage accident, Savage Rd. /
Wildbrook Dr.
0517 – breaking & entering, Parkwood Dr.
0837 – malicious destruction of property, Bradley
1116 – private property accident, Van Born Rd.
1119 – private property accident, Belleville
1435 – larceny, Sadie Ln.
1845 – sexual assault, Denton Rd.

2007 – disorderly conduct, Quirk
2009 – child abuse, Denton Rd.
2118 – suicide or attempt, Van Buren St.
2148 – property damage accident, Sumpter/Hull
2150 – agency assist, Sumpter/Hull
2212 – operating while intoxicated, Rawsonville
Rd. / Bemis Rd.
2321 – suspicious situation, Belleville BP
Saturday, Jan. 3:
0017 – noise complaint, Lake Villa Dr.
0648 – larceny from auto, Oak Ln.
0811 – personal injury accident, WB I-94/rest area
0821 – property damage accident, WB I-94/Quirk
0824 – property damage accident, EB I-94/Quirk
0833 – property damage accident, EB I-94 /
Belleville
0835 – property damage accident, EB I-94/Water’s
Edge
0844 – property damage accident, EB I-94
Rawsonville
0848 – property damage accident, EB I-94/Ryznar
0849 – property damage accident, EB I-94/rest area
0854 – property damage accident, EB I-94/rest area
0909 – property damage accident, EB I-94 /
Belleville
0933 – property damage accident, EB I-94/Water’s
Edge
0936 – property damage accident, EB I-94 /
Belleville
0941 – property damage accident, EB I-94 /
Belleville
1101 – property damage accident, Savage Rd.
1103 – property damage accident, Michigan Ave. /
Denton Rd.
1134 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Linda
Vista Ct.
1204 – missing person, Sadie Ln.
1230 – fraud, Bayshore Dr.
1415 – breaking & entering, Sonrisa St.
1616 – shots fired, Hull Rd.
2126 – harassment call, Maple
2255 – noise complaint, Westlake

Also on this week’s log are 122 traffic stops, seven of
which were on the I-94 and I-275 freeways.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Dec 28:
0959 – warrant arrest, Loza Ln.
1222 – warrant arrest, Belle Villa Blvd.
1230 – warrant arrest, Carmell St.
1657 – agency assist, Sumpter Rd./Owen St.
2206 – noise complaint, Menlo Park Dr.
Monday, Dec. 29:
1002 – E-911 hand up/investigation, N. Aberdeen
Ct.
1221 – follow up, Lighthouse
1513 – domestic assault, Henry St.
1636 – suspicious person, Harbour Pointe Dr.
1707 – disturbance, S. Industrial Park Dr.
1945 – follow up, Dos Rios St.

Tuesday, Dec. 30:
1027 – assist fire dept., E. Thornhill Ct.
1821 – motorist assist, Denton Bridge
2109 – property damage accident, E. Columbia
Ave./S. Liberty St.
2141 – suspicious situation, Belle Villa Blvd.
2301 – noise complaint, Sumpter Rd.

Wednesday, Dec. 31:
0618 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
1654 – property damage accident, Main/First St.
2119 – suspicious vehicle, Main/E. Huron River
2353 – assist fire dept., Carmell St.

Thursday, Jan. 1:
0636 – assist fire dept., Sumpter Rd.
0642 – suspicious situation, Light Tower Dr.
0854 – intrusion alarm, Main St.
1508 – assist fire dept., Belle Villa Blvd.
2114 – parking complaint, Main St.
2316 – assist citizen, Menlo Park Dr.

Friday, Jan. 2:
0155 – suspicious vehicle, Main St./Denton Rd.
1002 – assist fire dept., Menlo Park Dr.
1205 – animal complaint, Dos Rios St.
1209 – found property, Main St.
1428 – information, Belle Villa Blvd.
1443 – intrusion alarm, W. Columbia Ave.
1510 – warrant arrest, Loza Ln.
1522 – warrant arrest, E. Huron River Dr.

1735 – civil matter, Main St.
1919 – welfare check, N. Liberty St.
2028 – miscellaneous complaint, Main St.
Saturday, Jan. 3:
1800 – miscellaneous complaint, W. Columbia
1908 – suspicious person, Wexford Ave.
2133 – suspicious vehicle, Davis/alley
2335 – civil matter, Carmell St.
2339 – animal complaint, Sumpter Rd./Belle Villa
Blvd.
Also on this week’s log are 65 traffic stops.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Dec. 28:
0059 – fire dept. assist, Third St.
0840 – fire dept. assist, 18000 bl. Elwell Rd.
0915 – fire dept. assist, 22000 bl. Clark Rd.
1740 – warrant arrest, 8000 bl. Oakville Waltz Rd.
1805 – warrant arrest, 28000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
2113 – death investigation, 41000 bl. Judd Rd.
2259 – operating while intoxicated arrest, 41000
bl. Judd Rd.

Monday, Dec. 29:
0230 – assist other agency, out of township
0529 – juvenile complaint, Greenmeadow
1011 – reckless driver complaint, Colorado
1420 – civil dispute, 44000 bl. Willis Rd.
1508 – 911 hang up, Prince/Judd
1542 – animal complaint, 45000 bl. Kozma Rd.
1550 – warrant arrest, 18000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
1638 – assist other agency, 48000 bl. Willow Rd.
1657 – suspicious vehicle, 42000 bl. Judd Rd.
1758 – suspicious vehicle, 25000 bl. Karr Rd.
2138 – fire dept. assist, New Mexico

Tuesday, Dec. 30:
0245 – assist other agency, Rawsonville/Oakville
Waltz
1122 – animal complaint, 23000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
1247 – warrant arrest, out of township
1308 – citizen assist, Rawsonville/Bemis
1341 – suspicious incident, 25000 bl. Karr Rd.
1511 – found property, 8200 bl. Rawsonville Rd.

1540 – citizen assist, 21000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1642 – breaking & entering report, 45000 bl. Arkona
Rd.
1722 – animal complaint, 25000 bl. Martinsville
2015 – civil dispute, 21000 bl. Wilmot Rd.
2037 – fire dept. assist, 18000 bl. Elwell Rd.
2245 – suspicious vehicle, 28000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
Wednesday, Dec. 31:
0315 – fire dept. assist, Rustic Ln.
0952 – suspicious incident, 17000 bl. Savage Rd.
1308 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1414 – property damage accident, 25000 bl. Elwell
1425 – suspicious person, Willis/Elwell
1438 – larceny, 20000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1644 – property damage accident, 23000 bl. Sumpter
Rd.

2017 – fire dept. assist, 26000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2316 – property damage accident, Sumpter/Bemis
Thursday, Jan. 1:
0327 – fire dept. assist, 41000 bl. Willis Rd.
0444 – family trouble, 46000 bl. Wear Rd.
0735 – citizen assist, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
0759 – fire dept. assist, 49000 bl. Wear Rd.
1132 – alarm, 51000 bl. Willis Rd.
1207 – fire dept. assist, 49000 bl. Wear Rd.
1355 – suspicious incident, 46000 bl. Wear Rd.
1506 – suspicious incident, 24000 bl. Haggerty
1808 – civil dispute, Virginia
2239 – noise complaint, 49000 bl. Willis Rd.
2300 – felonious assault, 50000 bl. Arkona Rd.

Friday, Jan. 2:
0956 – breaking & entering report, 22000 bl.
Martinsville Rd.
1323 – fire dept. assist, 27000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1755 – suspicious vehicle, Martinsville/Arkona
1803 – subpoena service, 19000 I. Sumpter Rd.

Saturday, jan. 3:
0104 – fire dept. assist, 49000 bl. Sherwood Ct.
0331 – noise complaint, Wyoming
1000 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1038 – fire dept. assist, 46000 bl. Kozma Rd.
1418 – fire dept. assist, 22000 bl. Bohn Rd.
1845 – fire dept. assist, 46000 bl. Judd Rd.
2345 – malicious destruction of property, 23000 I.
Elwell Rd.

Also on this week’s log are seven follow-up
investigations, 34 miscellaneous details, 189 patrol
checks, and 78 traffic stops.

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16007 Pardee, Taylor, Michigan

734-282-1700

Orphan of the Week

Friends of Michigan
Animals Rescue

"GORGE"



Big **Gorge** is his name and being sweet and lovable is his game! He's a 2 year and 2 month old Rottweiler/Shepherd mix that will brighten your world with his goofy, lovable personality. He's big on the outside but is just a little teddy bear on the inside perfectly suited for hugging and snuggling. **Gorge** loves company and hates when you have to leave even going so far as to wrap a paw around your arm to get you to stay a bit longer. He's very people focused and looks to you for guidance during your time together. He has the desire to be good but needs calm and confident directions to keep his youthful, curious nature from taking over. **Gorge** is getting basic training here at the shelter and is in the process of mastering sit, stay, shake and down but will need more work once settled into his fur-ever home. He's also a very nice walking partner with only minor pulling even without a gentle leader. Being curious and liking company he does have a talent for jumping fences to see who or what's on the other side so training to stay in his boundaries will be needed too. He will be great with older, bigger kids that know how to handle a big, excitable dog like him. So grab a big boy sized Nylabone (his favorite chewy toy) and call to meet **Gorge**, you'll soon be adding your voice to the "I love Gorge" fan club. He's neutered, vaccinated and micro-chipped. Call **Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue** at **734-461-9458** or visit our website **fmar1.org** for more information.

More Letters

Don't forget Animal Magic shows this Sat.

Dear Fellow Animal Lovers:

I'm hoping you saw us on Fox 2 last week with some of our amazing creatures. The response was tremendous and I just want to remind everyone about our upcoming three performances this Saturday (noon, 2:30 and 5) at the Towsley Auditorium in Ypsilanti (Washtenaw Community College).

We love performing here in Belleville

and decided to give back to the community. This was the closest venue we could find that could seat enough people. General admission tickets are extremely affordable (only \$5 for children, students, military and seniors... \$10 for everyone else). Please visit our web site at www.iwantananimalmagic.com for advance tickets. We'll be bringing some of our largest, rarest animals and a few new illusions to these shows, so make sure to bring your cameras!

Thanks once again for all of your continued support.

Sincerely,

Mark & Diane Rosenthal, Animal Magic

Birthdays

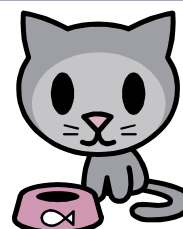
Jan. 4 – Amber Laginess
Jan. 5 – Cathy Currier
Jan. 7 – Donald Currier, Jr.
Jan. 11 – Lance McArthur, Bev Berec
Jan. 21 – Lisa Posegay
Jan. 23 – Jamie Laginess
Jan. 24 – Leah Hoogterp
Jan. 27 – Daniel C. Besson

"You have to be odd to be number one."

— Dr. Seuss



The Willis Feed Mill

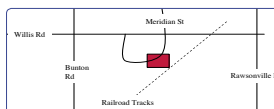


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HOURS:
MON-FRI 9AM-6PM • SAT 9AM-5PM
SUN 12PM-4PM



10200 Railroad Street, Willis, Michigan

(South end of Meridian St, off Willis Rd, Between Rawsonville and Bunton)

We look forward to seeing you soon.

(734) 461-1111 willisfeed@att.net

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Sumpter Twp.
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Scott Beard,
Manager



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Sunday 7am - 9pm

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With coupon. Not to be combined with any other offer or discount.

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Create Your Own Breakfast Skillet

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MONDAY - FRIDAY
6am - 11am

Starting at only \$2.49

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Leather, Heated Seats
24 month lease for
\$120/mo.*
REBATES UP TO \$4,000.
BUY AS LOW AS \$16,561



2015 FUSION SE

24 month lease for
\$153/mo.*
REBATES UP TO \$3,500.
BUY AS LOW AS \$18,600



2014 EDGE SE

24 month lease for
\$218/mo.*
REBATES UP TO \$4,500. BUY AS LOW AS \$23,435



2015 ESCAPE SE

24 month lease for
\$153/mo.*
REBATES UP TO \$3,000. BUY AS LOW AS \$20,604



2014 F-150 SUPERCAB XLT

Leather Seats
24 month lease for
\$241/mo.*
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Leather Seats
\$12,999

*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.



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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 doorwalls & master bedroom, updated kitchen, newer roof, walkout deck from large family room w fireplace. New flooring, paint walkout basement \$269,900.



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



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.



45205 JEANETTE, 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



19350 SUMPTER RD, SUMPTER TWP
GREAT LOCATION with little completion, 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.



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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
23540 KARR 1.29 ACRES \$7,500
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



14015 HAGGERTY, VAN BUREN
APPETITE FOR AN ACRE? Country vinyl ranch featuring 3 bedrooms, hardwood floors, Brand New Furnace and Brand New Water Heater. Close to Lower Huron Metro Park, Freeways, Metro Airport and Shopping. Paved Street and paved drive plus TWO - 2 1/2 CAR GARAGES make this a must see property. \$109,900



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