



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 21.7 Thursday, February 12, 2015

Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

FREE

Court Watching:

White brings check for \$25,000 to court, will be sentenced on March 27

By Rosemary K. Otzman
 Independent Editor

Thomas A. White walked into the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice in Detroit on Friday with an envelope holding a cashier's check for \$25,000.

His new attorney Otis Culpepper took the envelope from White and turned it over to Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Daniel Williams.

Then White's sentencing was scheduled for 9 a.m., Friday, March 27. Sentencing originally had been set for Feb. 3, but White said he "forgot" to bring the \$25,000 check of earnest money and he had a new attorney that needed more time to look at the case. White was given until Friday, Feb. 6, to come up with the check, which he did.

Michigan State Police Detective / Sergeant Joseph White said based upon how much money White brings with him on March 27, Judge Dalton Arnold Roberson will determine the number of years of White's sentence.

White had agreed to come up with \$900,000 to partially reimburse his victims in exchange for a sentence of from two to three years in the county jail. If he doesn't bring any money on March 27, he could get a sentence of from 20 to 30 years in prison.

White, 47, is a disbarred Belleville attorney who pled no-contest to 20 felonies, stating he stole at least \$1.9 million from his clients. Charges include conducting a criminal enterprise and 15 charges of embezzlement, with four of those more than \$100,000. He also was charged with forging a check, two counts of identity theft, and one count of larceny by conversion.

Many others in the Belleville community have called the *Independent* to tell of the

(continued on page 22)



Independent photo by James Otzman

On Saturday, Wayne County crews were finishing up the changes to Van Buren Township's brand-new traffic signals. The traffic signals in black cases already were changed to yellow by MDOT for those signals at the I-94 ramps. Then the county wanted their black cases changed to yellow, as well, and on Saturday crews were out at Ecorse and Belleville road exchanging the black for the yellows.

VBT grants C of O's for Walden Woods homes, after vowing it wouldn't

By Rosemary K. Otzman
 Independent Editor

Last week, James Jozwiak, president of the Walden Woods Homeowners Association, found out that the two newest homes in his subdivision had just been granted certificates of occupancy.

He was surprised because at the Jan. 13 meeting of the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees neighbors of the subdivision and subdivision residents were assured by Supervisor Linda Combs that the C of O's would not be granted until Morton Taylor Road was paved.

The paving of Morton Taylor was a

part of the 1993 Planned Residential Development agreement with Walden Woods Development LLC of Farmington and the road was to be paved prior to occupancy on Phase 4. The development, with its original developer, is now on Phase 5 with just a few lots left in the 300-home subdivision and the road remains unpaved.

Jozwiak said on the morning of Feb. 4 the Walden Woods HOA was contacted by Greco Title Agency, seeking HOA status letters for the two constructed homes which were due to close that week. He said they apparently were in urgent need of the status letters since the certificates of occupancy had been issued for the houses at 44001 Timberview Ct. and 44078 Timberview Ct.

VBT Director of Planning and Economic Development Jack Knowles said one C of O got into the system and was issued without his knowledge, he said. Knowles



started his job with VBT Dec. 10.

The developer applied for the second C of O and Knowles instituted a new rule that C of O's should not be granted without his approval.

Then, he said he issued a temporary C of O on the second building permit, so the people who bought the house could move in.

Knowles said a meeting was planned with the developer for Feb. 10 to talk and work things out.

"I'm new in this fray and am basing my opinions on documents," Knowles said, adding he does not know of any other

(continued on page 8)

*This Space On The Front Page.
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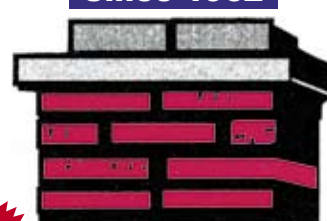
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SECOND FRONT PAGE

School Board OKs VBEST contract, bus drivers get a raise

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

At Monday's regular meeting of the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education school bus drivers got a 1% raise this school year and another 1% next school year as part of the Van Buren Education Support Team (VBEST) contract.

Drivers currently are being hired at \$11.50 an hour.

Board vice president Martha Toth pointed out that VBPS bus drivers were underpaid compared with neighboring school districts.

The current VBEST union agreement had a reopener for wages and union members approved the two-year contract changes on Jan. 16.

All VBEST groups get full-step increases for the 2014-15 school year and no step increases in 2015-16.

Also, the custodian, maintenance and paraprofessional groups, who took 3% concessions, will get back ½% in 2014-15 and ½% in 2015-16.

All other terms and conditions in the agreement remained the same.

VBEST also agreed to withdraw all Unfair Labor Practice charges / Arbitrations and grievances, as stipulated in a letter of agreement.

Director of Human Resources Shonta Langford-Green said budget implications to the district are \$166,000 over two years.

Although Trustee Sherry Frazier made the motion to approve the contract agreement, board president Brent Mikulski reminded her she couldn't vote on it because her son is a paraprofessional and stands to benefit from the action.

Trustee Frazier abstained from the vote and all the other board members voted in favor to approve the salary changes.

Also at Monday's 25-minute meeting, the school board:

- Heard the district's four elementary principals give a brief presentation on special programs they are using to increase student academic growth for those 30% at the bottom of academic tests to help close the achievement gap. The principals will be monitoring the success of the program every three weeks and making modifications as needed;

- Approved the retirements of teachers Jan Randolph of Edgemont Elementary after 18 years and Daryl Niner of Belleville High School after 24 years, both as of June 30. Also approved were the resignations of Amy Hinks of Savage Elementary after 21 years, as of Jan. 23, and Erin Swenson,

City of Belleville Employee Costs 1/1/14 - 12/31/14

Employee Name	Total Wages	Employer FICA Pension/	MERS	LTD/STD	Net Medical Ins/Payout	Total Cost
City Council						
T. Fielder	1,000.00	76.50	-	-	-	1,076.50
K. Conley	1,500.00	114.75	-	-	-	1,614.75
J. Loria	1,000.00	76.50	-	-	-	1,076.50
T. Smith	1,000.00	76.50	-	-	-	1,076.50
K. Tindall	1,000.00	76.50	-	-	-	1,076.50
City Manager						
D. Kollmeyer	68,000.00	5,202.00	6,800.00	687.60	18,404.26	99,093.86
Clerk/Treasurer						
L. Long	51,177.39	3,915.07	22,008.59	687.60	17,414.69	95,203.33
Account Clerks						
M. Bellingham	42,276.80	3,234.18	7,665.66	617.94	6,000.00	59,794.58
T. McGlynn	37,028.80	2,832.70	7,829.82	613.08	8,971.34	57,275.75
S. Moore	39,384.26	3,012.90	8,327.74	622.98	7,855.25	59,203.12
M. Sayo	37,058.56	2,834.98	7,830.73	622.98	7,010.21	55,357.46
C. Smith	8,940.48	683.95				9,624.43
Department of Public Services						
R. Rutherford	28,725.00	2,197.46				30,922.46
K. Boc	31,118.89	2,380.60	12,811.65	165.12	2,062.13	48,538.38
S. Adams	57,747.11	4,417.65	10,927.54	632.94	6,000.00	79,725.24
S. Demond	54,498.24	4,169.12	11,505.99	632.94	19,709.52	90,515.80
L. Prybyla	51,908.26	3,970.98	9,673.30	632.94	6,000.00	72,185.49
R. Akans	15,582.00	1,192.02				16,774.02
S. Jones	1,196.00	91.49				1,287.49
K. Tackett	14,250.00	1,090.13				15,340.13
Police Officers						
H. Berriman	27,550.00	2,107.58				29,657.58
G. Taylor	30,688.28	2,347.65	12,634.36	329.40	4,572.91	50,572.61
K. Fauli	69,587.82	5,323.47	21,353.84	687.60	17,777.34	114,730.07
M. Boudreau	19,336.00	1,479.20	-	109.80		20,925.00
M. Aldrich	7,270.00	556.16				7,826.16
T. Schrecengost	71,413.22	5,463.11	20,047.31	687.60	6,000.00	103,611.24
M. VanDeweghe	63,101.49	4,827.26	19,334.94	687.60	5,706.19	93,657.49
J. Wickham	61,788.87	4,726.85	19,039.77	687.60	17,201.38	103,444.47
J. Wolfe	39,437.73	3,016.99	11,570.60	448.80	4,134.98	58,609.09
K. Rose	46,520.47	3,558.82		687.60	5,809.37	56,576.25
M. King						-
G. Beach	30,228.52	2,312.48		358.20		32,899.20
Crossig Guards						
M. Talaga	3,625.60	277.36				3,902.96
Fire Department						
B. Blackburn	6,039.38	462.01				6,501.39
S. Greening	1,177.05	90.04				1,267.09
L. Griffin	2,908.69	222.51				3,131.20
S. Griggs	220.20	16.85				237.05
B. Loranger	9,068.56	693.74				9,762.30
M. Loveland	5,646.50	431.96				6,078.46
J. Martin	1,871.22	143.15				2,014.37
M. Barry	1,068.05	81.71				1,149.76
C. McClinton	2,776.10	212.37				2,988.47
K. Rix	3,152.18	241.14				3,393.32
A. Simons	1,921.23	146.97				2,068.20
E. Smith	2,739.65	209.58				2,949.23
G. Smith	1,268.48	97.04				1,365.52
S. Spoonamore	531.80	40.68				572.48
A. Zehel	5,610.16	429.18				6,039.34
W. Zehel	44.40	3.40				47.80
C. Zweng	5,222.06	399.49				5,621.55
Senior Transportation Drivers						
J. Akans	7,645.00	584.84				8,229.84

(continued on page 23)

OPINIONS

Editorial

Here's what we taxpayers are paying our help

This is the seventh year of the *Independent's* Open Records project. This is where we request salaries of municipal and school employees through the Freedom of Information Act and then print them for all to study.

It's a big job, but our readers tell us they look forward to the annual reports and show them to their friends in other communities for comparison.

This year we are starting with the City of Belleville on page 3 of today's paper. Actually, Van Buren Township got their FOIA response back to us first, but it takes a lot of work to get their information prepared for publication.

The City of Belleville got their information to us second, but it was ready to go, as is, so we are printing Belleville first. VBT will be printed next week or in future weeks, depending on logistics.

The huge report from the Van Buren Public Schools will follow. Sumpter Township is still working on its report. For the second year, we also will print a report from Keystone Charter Academy, which has already responded.

We always submit our FOIAs for wages in January, following the closing of the books for the year. This time we will be printing the 2014 figures.

So, here we go. Hope you find it interesting. After all, it's your money at work. Everyone has to remember that we can have a say in how it is spent. Knowing how it's spent is the first step.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

On the Sunday of the big storm, Feb. 1, Ross Medos, the bugler for the Bugles Across America project, said he was there with five others.

He lives on Willis Road in Washtenaw County and it took him 45 minutes to drive to Belleville's Veterans' Memorial for the monthly ceremony.

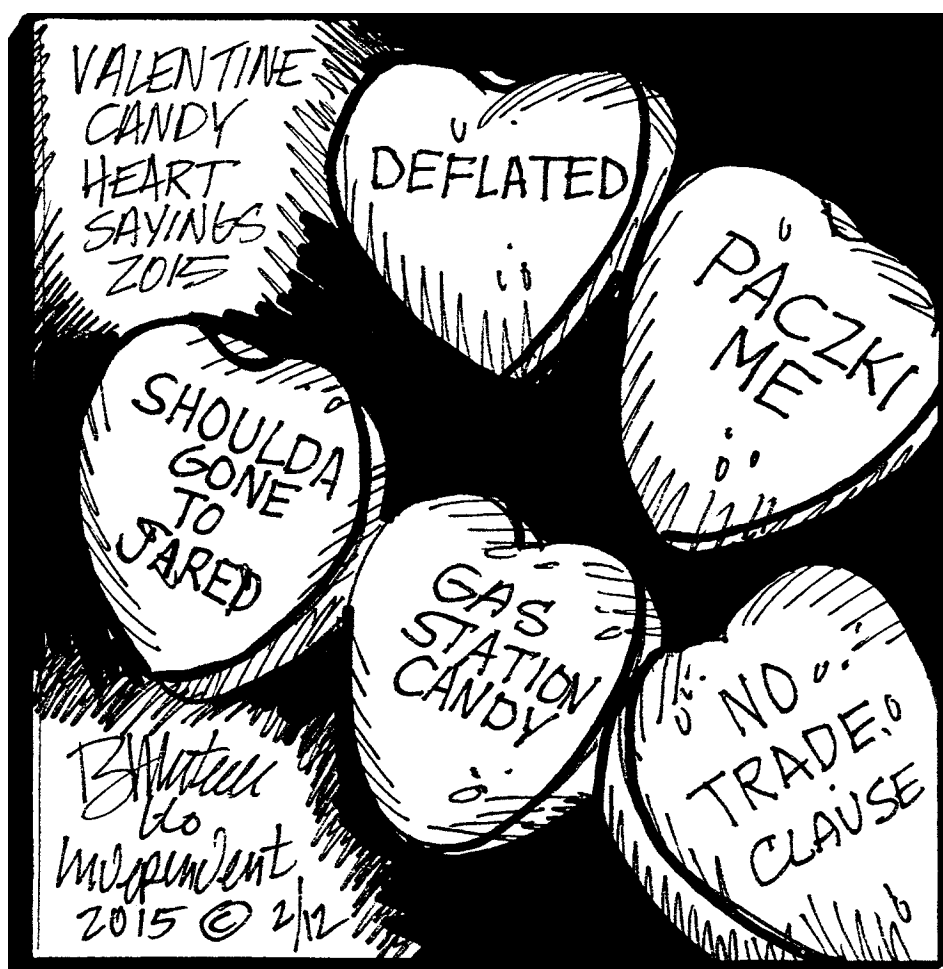
"Once I got started, it was silly not to keep going," he said of his drive through the storm. Usually people who attend the Bugles hang around to chat after the ceremony, but on Feb. 1 nobody stayed to talk as the snow kept falling and falling.

Coming down the steps from the memorial Medos said he slipped and fell on his butt in a snowbank. He said he was uninjured. I remember last year when Ross had his knee replacement and climbed up those same steps in the snow using a walker. He was very careful and somebody had shoveled the stairs for him.

Last Saturday night, we were listening to our police scanner while I was writing up stories for the paper, when we heard a call about Romulus. It seems they were concerned about a car that had been on the tracks on Goddard, in downtown Romulus, next to the Landing Strip. I guess the car was moved.

My son, Bill, said he remembered a time in December when he was stopped at the tracks at that same location. The lights were flashing on the tracks and a lone engine was parked there. Then, he saw a young man come away from the ATM at the nearby bank, walk to the stopped engine, climb in and then take off quickly.

We suggested the engineer needed some



money to finish his Christmas shopping.

Belleville City Councilman Tom Fielder said an alarm went off at the museum on Feb. 2, after the big snowstorm. He said he had to walk through the deep snow to get to the door because VBT hadn't been there yet to plow out the sidewalk on their building. Fielder said he found a bird flying around inside the museum and he got it out.

Van Buren Public Schools Director of Instruction Diane Kullis told me after Monday's school board meeting that she is retiring in 2016 after 46 years in education. She said she will be spending the next year training the two people who will be taking over her job next year. Some people do offer double service, I know.

Anyway, she said her family owns a 150-plus-year-old house in Holly that is a bed and breakfast and they are working at refurbishing it – not changing it. She also has an online antiques business. Sounds like she will be as busy as ever.

One caller asked why the Belleville Downtown Development Authority is concerned with the ponds at Victoria Commons. Well, the city has responsibility for the ponds and the streets in Victoria Commons, as well as the city park next door and the play equipment in front of the subdivision.

I remember when Victoria Commons was

being built and all the talk about agreements afterward, but the details escaped me. I called Carol Thompson of the DDA to help and she said the ponds are actually in the city park and the DDA assists the city in their care.

I know the subdivisions in VBT have to take care of their own streets. But in the city, Victoria Commons and Harbour Pointe both have streets taken care of by the city. Carol said that's the difference between a township and a city and who's responsible for the infrastructure.

A family on Bemis Road is very upset over the drivers who don't pay attention to the activity around stopped school buses.

The mother said that the bus driver puts on yellow lights as she stops and doesn't put on red lights until the door to the bus opens. But, her son has to walk across Bemis while the yellow light is on and there have been some close calls.

I've seen kids crossing the street in front of a stopped bus and the red lights are flashing on the bus to attempt to keep them safe. Maybe the student shouldn't set foot on the street until the red lights are flashing.

Anyway, all this is to remind drivers that there are children around school buses, especially when they are stopped, and it's time to be EXTRA careful.





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Letters

**Where are those Civil
Service appointments?**

To the Editor:

It has come to my attention from your article in the newspaper recently that the Civil Service Commission seats have not yet been filled since the election in November 2014, when the voters upheld the Civil Service Commission to be in operation.

My question to the Mayor, City Council, and City Manager is: if not, why not? The Charter clearly states and the voters upheld the section of the Charter Chapter XVI relating to the Civil Service creation and purpose. The Charter states that the Mayor is responsible for making appointments with the approval of the Council.

Do the taxpayers of the City of Belleville want to become lax and have problems such as other municipalities in the State have endured?

Come on, voters, let's collectively urge the Mayor to make the appointments before more time elapses and we are found in violation of the Charter. On Page 38 Section 17.6 Penalties and Violations of Charter is clearly stated. "Any person found guilty of an act constituting a violation of this Charter may be punished by a fine not exceeding Five Hundred (\$500.00) Dollars or by imprisonment for not to exceed ninety days, or both, or as otherwise provided by law." It goes on to read: "The Council shall provide for the enforcement of the provisions of this Charter."

My phone number is (734) 697-9376 and anyone wanting to get in touch with me can feel free to call.

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Mayor will appoint Civil Service Commissioners

To the Editor:

Rarely have I felt the need to respond to items that are reported less than accurately, but this week the reporting went beyond being less than accurate to being flat-out incorrect.

First, let me start by saying that I have served this city in various capacities for the past 20 years and at all times I have done what I believed was right and in the best interest of the city. I have followed the Charter, have listened to the voters, the residents and to anyone who wanted to talk. I have never served this community in a manner that was not for the good of its people; the very people who have elected me to uphold the Charter, to ensure fiscal accountability and to provide quality services. I have never taken these responsibilities lightly and for anyone to suggest that I have not listened to the people because I have not made appointments to the Civil Service Commission could not be farther from the truth. When the City Council unanimously voted to place the Charter amendment on the ballot, we did so to address an antiquated system; our sole intention was to provide a more efficient means for providing personnel services. Today there is only one City Employee who is not covered by either a contract or Collective Bargaining Agreement.

I have heard the residents, I understand the Charter requirements and I take ALL Board and Commission appointments very seriously, I will not just place people on a Board or Commission simply for the sake of filling vacancies. Appointments will be made to ensure that the very provisions that are held sacred by the residents will be administered by residents/professionals who will do so in a manner that this community deserves, that the employees deserve and that we can all be proud of.

Rest assured, there will be appointments to the Civil Service Commission and the new commissioners will be provided valuable information on their duties, their roles and responsibilities and will clearly understand the provisions outlined in the City Charter. There have been no Charter

(continued on page 8)

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Obituaries

JOHN A. HERWARTH

(April 4, 1970 - February 6, 2015)
John Allen Herwarth, age 44, of Belleville, MI, passed away Friday, February 6, 2015 at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Ann Arbor, MI. He was born April 4, 1970 in Detroit, MI, son of Norman Oliver & Karen Marie (Richens) Herwarth.

John graduated from Belleville High School in 1988. He enjoyed swimming, collecting baseball cards and playing computer games. He loved caring for others. He enjoyed working in a group home and loved to babysit his friends' children.

John is survived by his mother Karen (Ron) Stalmack of Belleville, also numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and friends. He was preceded in death by his father Norman O. Herwarth on March 29, 1988, also his grandparents John & Dorothy (Scott) Richens and Norman & Marlo Herwarth.

A gathering was held 12-2 PM Wednesday, February 11, 2015 at David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI 48111 (734) 697-4500 with a 2 PM Memorial Service.

Memorial contributions may be made to Mott's Children's Hospital and would be greatly appreciated. Please sign his on-line guest book and share a story for his family to cherish at www.davidcbrownfh.com.

Yoseph Demissie graduates from Walsh College

Yoseph Demissie of Belleville graduated from Walsh College on Dec. 13, at the end of the 2014 semester, with a Master of Science in Information Systems degree.

Founded in 1922, Walsh College is a private, not-for-profit institution offering upper-division undergraduate and graduate business and technology degrees and certificate programs.



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Obituaries



Patricia Ann Thompson

PATRICIA ANN THOMPSON

(February 9, 1931 - February 5, 2015)

Patricia Ann Thompson, age 83, a life-long Belleville resident, passed peacefully on Thursday, February 5, 2015, at home, surrounded by her family. She was born on February 9, 1931 in Washington, IN, daughter of the late William Berton and Gamella Ann (Davis) Sutherland.

Mrs. Thompson is survived by 2 children, Debra Ann (Charles) Cabana of Stockbridge, MI and Michael William (Debbie) Thompson of Canton, MI; also 6 grandchildren, Michael (Holly) Cabana, Christopher (Andrea) Cabana, Casey (Suzanne) Cabana, Danielle Thompson and her fiancé Jason, Courtney Thompson & Chelsea Thompson; also 8 great-grandchildren, Kylie, Cole, Kendall, Gracie, Abrie, Joseph, Andrew and Ben Cabana; and 2 sisters, Shirley (Donald) Wilson of Ada, MI and Sandi (David) Fields of Belleville.

Patricia loved spending time with her family and all of her grandchildren. Every Sunday she would enjoy dinner with her son and daughter-in-law, also her weekly outing with her daughter, Debra. She had a soft spot for all animals and she enjoyed going to the casino.

She was preceded in death by her loving husband William in 1999. Visitation was Sunday from 3-8 PM and Monday from 10:30 to 11:30 AM at David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, with a funeral service Monday, February 9, 2015 at 11:30 AM. Reverend William Kren officiated.

Interment followed in Sloop Cemetery, Van Buren Township, MI. Memorial contributions may be made to the family and would be appreciated.

Please sign her on line guestbook and share a memory for her family to cherish at www.davidcbrownfh.com.



Mary Ann Charlton

MARY ANN CHARLTON

(January 19, 1955 - February 7, 2015)

Mary Ann Charlton, age 60, of Belleville, MI, passed away Saturday, February 7, 2015 at her home. She was born January 19, 1955 in Pittsburgh, PA, daughter of the late Anthony & Josephine Louise (Battaglia) Palmisano.

Mary Ann was a member of Berean Baptist Church, Belleville. She loved animals and worked as a receptionist at the Whittaker Road Animal Clinic for over 5 years. Her other passion was antiques. She was an antique dealer and had many items at Antiques on Main, Belleville. She was a former member of Great Lakes Association of Barbie Collectors. In her free time, Mary Ann loved watching Dick Van Dyke and the Three Stooges.

Mrs. Charlton is survived by her loving husband of nearly 35 years, Wade Bliss Charlton, Jr. of Belleville; three children Wade B. Charlton, III of Ypsilanti, MI, Michael A. Charlton of Belleville and Sarah L. (Shane) Summers of Flat Rock, MI; also a brother August (Patricia) Palmisano of Pittsburgh, PA. She was preceded in death by her parents, also a brother Joseph Palmisano.

Visitation was 4-8 PM Monday at David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI 48111. Funeral Services were 11 AM Tuesday, February 10, 2015 at Berean Baptist Church, 6889 Belleville Road, Belleville, with visitation an hour prior. Deacon Walter Ellis officiated. Entombment was in Glen Eden Memorial Park, Livonia, MI.

Memorial contributions may be made to Henry Ford Hospice and would be greatly appreciated. Please sign her on-line guest book and share a memory for her family to treasure at www.davidcbrownfh.com.



DeLila May "De" Pontius

DeLILA 'DE' PONTIUS

(November 15, 1950 - February 8, 2015)

DeLila May "De" Pontius, age 64, of Belleville, MI, passed away Sunday, February 8, 2015 at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Ann Arbor, MI. She was born November 15, 1950 in Detroit, MI, daughter of Martin & Dorothy (Foreman) Caudill.

De was the manager of Red Lobster, Madison Heights, for many years, and was the manager of the banquet and conference center for the Holiday Inn, Dearborn, for a few years as well. She also worked for Fraser public schools as the Food Service Director. In her spare time, De loved to read and would often finish a paperback in one day! She also enjoyed making jewelry, crocheting blankets and collecting dolls. Most of all, she loved taking care of her family.

Mrs. Pontius is survived by her devoted husband of 31 years, Donald Ned Pontius; four children Tracey (Rick) Pearce of Walled Lake, MI, Shawn Pontius of Warren, MI, Pamela (Keith) Abel of Rochester Hills, MI and Jen (John) Wixom of Alabama; ten grandchildren; two brothers; a sister; also her cat, Sophia. She was preceded in death by her parents.

A gathering will be held Saturday, February

14, 2015 from 11 AM until 1 PM with a Memorial Service beginning at 1 PM at David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI. Pastor Gordon Moore will officiate.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial contributions may be made to Friends of Michigan Animal Rescue, and would be greatly appreciated. Please sign her on-line guest book and share a story for her family to cherish at www.davidcbrownfh.com.



Genevie Rose Graveldinger

GENEVIE ROSE (WISNIEWSKI) GRAVELDINGER

(November 6, 1928 - February 4, 2015)

Genevie Rose Graveldinger, age 86, of Belleville, February 4, 2015.

Beloved mother of Cynthia Graveldinger, Craig (Debbie) Graveldinger, Dennis (Beth) Graveldinger and George (Julie) Graveldinger. Dearest grandmother of 12.

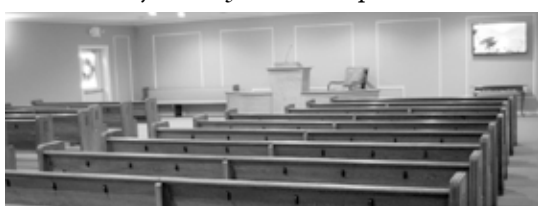
She is also survived by her brother Theodore Wisniewski. She was preceded in death by her parents Theodore and Rose Wisniewski.

Her cremation will take place at "The Witness Crematory" located inside of Michigan Memorial Funeral Home (next to Michigan Memorial Park) 30895 Huron River Dr., Huron Twp., (734) 783-2646. Funeral service was Monday, 11 AM at St. Anthony Catholic Church, Belleville.

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Obituaries



W. Rupell "Ruth" Garrigus

W. RUPELL 'RUTH' GARRIGUS

(March 12, 1921 - February 8, 2015)

W. Rupell "Ruth" Garrigus, age 93, of Canton, MI went home to be with the Lord Sunday, February 8, 2015 at her home, surrounded by her family. She was born March 12, 1921 in Arkansas, daughter of the late Marshall & Anna (McClure) Mungle.

Ruth lived in Hickman, Kentucky until 1955 when she and her husband Jim moved to Dearborn, MI. She was also a former member of the Dearborn Seniors at Hubbard Towers. They moved to Canton in 1990. She was a member of Grace Baptist Church, Belleville. She retired from KMart after many loyal years. She worked in the payroll division and as a clerk for Kresge's as well. In her free time she enjoyed sewing and crocheting and she loved canning, but not green beans!

Mrs. Garrigus is survived by daughter Lawanda Sue "Sue" Nabb of Lucedale, Mississippi, two sons Gerald Garrigus of Lansing, MI and Larry J. Garrigus of Canton, 6 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren, 3 great-great-grandchildren, also brother-in-law Artell (Catherine) Garrigus of Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia, and their entire family. She was preceded in death by her husband James Franklin Garrigus in 1985, also six siblings: Leslie, Hershel, Edward, Betty, Gideon and Lyman "L.D."

Visitation was 5:30-8 PM Wednesday at David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI 48111 (734) 697-4500. Visitation will continue 10-11 AM Thursday, February 12, 2015 at Grace Baptist Church, 164 Roys Street, Belleville. Rev. Robert J. White will officiate. Interment will be in Cadillac Memorial Gardens, Westland, MI.

Memorial contributions may be made to Grace Baptist Church. Please sign her on-line guest book and share a story for her family to cherish at www.davidcbrownfh.com.

Walden Woods

(continued from page 1)

conversations that may have taken place in the past.

"Stay tuned," he advised, saying it's not unusual for disputes between municipalities and developers.

"Developers and planners are confrontational more than they should be," he said. "This is an oddball situation out of the blue. They kicked this down the road a while and now it's here. It's a tough one."

At the Jan. 13 meeting Supervisor Combs said when the housing market tanked several years ago, things slowed down for the developer and he wanted to wait to pave until the commercial corner at Tyler and Morton Taylor was developed.

She said a former planning director make a handshake agreement to wait on the paving, but it was not put in writing.

More Letters

(Continued on page 5)

violations, there have been no issues that would have come before Civil Service and I assure you that the duties outlined for the Civil Service Commission will be handled by the Civil Service Commission, they will not be handled in some fashion to circumvent the system. People that know me know that I am a stickler for the rules, laws, ordinances and upholding the Charter.

Last, but certainly not least, let me make something very clear, I have spent my career as a Public Servant. I have served several communities in Southeastern Michigan as a Controller, City Manager, Development Director, HR Director, and Facilities Management Director, I have loved something about each of these jobs but most of all I loved the opportunity to do something new, to take on a new challenge, to learn and grow and give back. I love what I am doing today and I have NO interest in being the City Manager of Belleville; not now, now some unknown day in the future when the current City Manager has retired. I am not now, never have been, nor ever will be someone who has served to have POWER, I have served for the people. To report such misinformation clearly indicates a failure to check one's sources.

As the Mayor and as a resident I respect the position of the City Manager, having served as one previously I can tell you it is no easy job, one that at times can be thankless, one that is not on my bucket list.

Mayor Kerreen Conley
City of Belleville

Belleville ordinances in place for good reasons

To the Editor:

I never cease to be amazed how today's society justifies and values some of their purchases. It seems there are so many items purchased for personal/home wants or pseudo needs, that eventually find their way into storage, either in the closet, attic, basement or garage.

We salve our consciences under a guise with, "Well, I won't throw this away because someday I'll use it or I'll save it for the kids to use." And these useful (?) items start to accumulate and pile up until we

burst the storage seams or thank heavens for Belleville Venetian Days. Even then, some of us cannot bear to part with those mistakes in buying and continue to hold on to relics in the hope they will someday become antiques or at least a collectibles with "They just don't make 'em like this anymore!"

And what really confounds the mind is the misplaced judgment on value for we can see, in many driveways, two cars that will not fit in the garage valued at \$50,000 or one car valued at say \$25,000 while there is no way that "junk" can possibly be worth that much that is being stored for posterity. But then there is always the old cliché "What's one man's junk is another man's treasure!"

Well, if the driveway is not available, there is always the street. This also is a perplexing scenario, to have this much money sitting curbside and have passersby accidentally taking potshots at all hours of the day/night, all for the sake of "antiquities?"

Of course there is also the proud owner of a boat that has been offloaded and this empty trailer now graces the front lawn for all to see or admire. Then the automobile also parked catawampus on the front lawn or over the sidewalk really adds to the

ambiance of the neighborhood and may be an indicator of social awareness.

We live in a society of rules that are referred to as laws. For a society to coexist it must have rules and laws of behavior. This is one of basic foundations of civilization. If only two people are on a deserted island, one of the first things they do is create some rules of who does what, will do what, and if nothing else determine where the "bathroom tree" will be located. So the ordinances in place in Belleville are there for the safe, freedom of enjoyment, and betterment of society and the community and not for the self-aggrandizement of a few.

Cornell Anton, Jr.
Belleville

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More Letters

My last day of work for VBPS was Jan. 22

To the Editor:

Hello, I am Penny Hedman and I have worked for Van Buren Schools for 17 years. My last day of work was Jan. 22, 2015. I want to tell you how I felt I was treated working at VBPS.

I worked with special needs children for most of my 17 years with little backing and support for the paras. We are given jobs that we have not had training for. I have been spit on, bitten, kicked, punched, choked, sworn at, my hair pulled, my glasses knocked off my face, and been thrown up on.

With that being said, all the while wearing dress clothes because it was expected of paras in the last five years. Now, I know that it looks professional, but crawling on the floor and restraining in good clothes and not making enough money to replace my clothes when they got ruined is hard to do, all the while making \$13.37 an hour.

Not to mention losing my snow days and year-round pay as we were told it was illegal to get year-round pay any longer. As well as taking a big pay hit losing \$5,000 over the last five years. What I mean by that is five years ago, I was making \$18,000 and over the last few years it has dropped to \$13,000. All the while, administration is making well over \$100,000 a year.

I qualified for food stamps just to make

ends meet. However, if they would not have taken away my year-round pay, things would have been easier and I would not have needed to use them as I was used to living on a budget.

It was said recently that we (paras) are overpaid and that other school districts in the area pay their paras only \$10 with no benefits. This is NOT true, as I am now working for another district making more an hour (at my beginning wage) and getting support, as well as getting my snow days and year-round pay back.

There is very little morale around the district as it seems everyone is walking on eggshells and are in fear of losing their jobs if they speak up about the unspoken intimidation going on.

This is my exit interview as I know that I am one of the little people and it does not much matter to all the higher ups.

Thank you for your time.

Penny Hedman

Editor's Note: Ms. Hedman had intended to read this to the school board at Monday's meeting, but said she changed her mind because she believed the board wouldn't care.

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Women's Club sets Dress for Success drive

To the Editor:

The Belleville Area Women's Club will be hosting a Dress for Success traditional suit drive on Monday, March 2. This program will be at our regular monthly meeting with a \$10 dinner at 6:30 p.m. at the Belleville Moose Lodge on the corner of Sumpter & Harris Roads.

The mission of Dress for Success is to promote the economic independence of disadvantaged women by providing professional attire, a network of support, and the career development tools to help women thrive in work and in life.

All suits donated should be clean and on hangers. We will also be accepting costume jewelry and purses/business cases. Monetary donations and/or gift cards are appreciated, too. Checks are to be made out to "Dress for Success Michigan." Our speaker from Dress for Success, Patricia Rudolph, will bring tax receipts and literature to share.

It is our hope that many local women will be interested in donating to this program and we welcome guests at our meetings. To join us on March 2 and/or to donate, please contact me at the phone # below. We look forward to sharing our other upcoming events: the annual scholarship Fashion Show on April 29 and the Reality Check we give for the eighth graders in Van Buren Schools in May.

Janet Millard, Secretary
Belleville Area Women's Club
(734) 558-5368

Concerns about coal tar-based sealers

To the Editor:

In recent years, research by the U.S. Geological Survey, Texas Water Science Center, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and others have made it clear that the use of coal tar-based driveway sealers increases human cancer risk and damages water quality in our streams.

These coal tar-based sealers contain roughly 5-10% PAHs — polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons. A number of these PAHs are well-known carcinogens, mutagens, and teratogens (cause birth defects).

My attention was called to the problem by a recent article in the Huron River Watershed Council's newsletter and I then researched it in more depth. My findings were of sufficient concern that I asked to present them to my fellow members of the Van Buren Township Environmental Commission, which I will do at our March meeting.

This is not a matter for panic; our streets will not run red with blood if we don't take immediate action. On the other hand, all indications are that we can reduce cancer risk a bit, particularly among children, and we can improve the quality of our

streams by switching from coal tar-based driveway sealers to other, readily available alternatives.

Our cost would be virtually nothing. If you are interested in learning more about this problem, please join me at the Environmental Commission's meeting at 7 p.m., March 18, at the township offices, 46425 Tyler Road.

David J. Wilson
Van Buren Township

Editor's Note: Dr. Wilson retired as a chemistry professor from Eastern Michigan University and now serves on the VBT Environmental Commission.

Thanks for helping feed, clothe the street people

To the Editor:

To the City of Belleville: I would like to give my deepest appreciation of the love and kindness that you've shown God's favor that feeds and clothes the homeless in Detroit.

People from this town have given above and beyond what I ever dreamed of. The toiletries, pants, blankets, and coats have truly helped a lot of people in need.

Belleville Church of God, St. Anthony's, Open Arms Lutheran Church, First United Methodist Church, and Faith Assembly of God all have helped.

I'm just so thankful for the *Independent* for letting everyone know about the need in the paper. So, many have been such a blessing to help in all different ways.

A young man named Jon has a bake sale at Christmas to help the homeless. He started this at a young age.

The Van Buren Schools sent help with students to sort clothing. St. Anthony's sent helpers to load the bus.

Also, there is a very helpful lady named Kara who does so much to help this ministry. I just don't want to leave anyone out. Thank you all for your love and kindness. I'm blessed to be in the town of Belleville. God's blessings to all of you.

Thank you so much.

Louise Fincher
Bladez Hair Studio

Spring Arbor University announces three Belleville degree recipients

Spring Arbor University announces three Belleville students were granted bachelor's or master's degrees during commencement exercises on Saturday, Nov. 22.

- Voncell Duncan completed a Bachelor of Science in Organizational Management.

- Michelle Lyons completed a Master of Arts/Reading.

- Kai Mason completed a Bachelor of Social Work.

Spring Arbor University is a private, four-year Christian liberal arts university located eight miles west of Jackson.

Court Watching:

Ibrahim Ibrahim to face charges on stolen iPads at Belleville Exchange

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

Ibrahim Daoud Ibrahim of Belleville Exchange, 9894 Belleville Road, has been charged with Organized Retail Crime and Receiving and Concealing Stolen Property More Than \$1,000, But Less Than \$20,000.

Ibrahim, 47, was scheduled for a probable cause hearing before 34th District Court Judge David Parrott on Feb. 4, but that was adjourned at the defense attorney's request until 9 a.m., March 4. Ibrahim's preliminary exam was re-scheduled for 10 a.m. on March 11.

The offense is alleged to have occurred on March 20, 2014. The warrant for his arrest was issued Dec. 17.

Target is the complainant. The iPads in question allegedly have been stolen from Target and misrepresented by the defendant, said Van Buren Township Police Detective Donovan McCarthy.

Ibrahim is out on \$10,000 personal recognizance bond.

His retained attorney Raymond Guzall told Judge Parrott that it would be easy for the judge to find his client's file, among all those before him, since it is the biggest file in the judge's pile.

"Ninety-five percent are criminals my client helped turn into police," Guzall told the judge.

Co-defendant in the case is Antonio Michael Henry, 19, who is charged with the same offenses. Henry is considered a habitual offender.

Dylon Marcus Braun

Dylon Marcus Braun, 22, waived his preliminary exam before Judge Parrott and was bound over to circuit court for an arraignment on the information on Feb. 11.

Braun is currently lodged in the Washtenaw County Jail for domestic violence on the same victim that brought the charges in Van Buren Township. A VBT officer returned Braun to Washtenaw County Jail after his appearance before Judge Parrott.

He is charged with stealing a motor vehicle, failure to stop after a collision, interfering with a crime report by taking the victim's phone, domestic violence, strangulation, and being a habitual offender. This is alleged to have happened in VBT on April 18 and then Braun fled to Florida. He later returned to Michigan and was arrested in Washtenaw County.

In charge of this case is VBT Detective Donovan McCarthy.

Braun's retained attorney is Michael Vincent. Appearing for Vincent on Feb. 4 was his associate Olga Wermalenka.

Matthew Robert Moran

A probable cause hearing was set for Matthew Robert Moran on Feb. 4 before Judge Parrott on a charge of possession of narcotics. Moran was out of jail after

posting \$10,000/10% bond.

He entered a plea of guilty to a reduced misdemeanor charge of use of heroin and received one year of probation with screening, treatment and payment of fines.

He admitted to being in possession of heroin on Dec. 5 in Van Buren Township.

If there are no further problems, the charge will be dismissed after 12 months.

Court-appointed attorney David Lankford defended Moran. VBT Det. McCarthy was the officer in charge.

Ronald Groh

Ronald Groh pled guilty to possession of marijuana and his other charge of driving while license suspended was dismissed.

He said on Dec. 4 he was in possession of marijuana in VBT.

Judge Parrott put him on probation for 12 months with substance abuse programs and random testing. He will spend four days on the work program. If after a year there are no further problems, the charge will be dismissed.

Court Watching:

Judge Green aims to figure out confusing case against Kenneth Spence

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

On Jan. 28 before 34th District Court Chief Judge Tina Books Green the case of Kenneth Charles Spence, 66, proved to be very confusing.

He was due for a probable cause hearing on Jan. 28, but his court-appointed attorney wasn't present.

Spence was charged with "unlawful use of a motor vehicle" on Jan. 18 and was out on \$5,000 personal recognizance bond.

The charge could have been either a high court misdemeanor or a misdemeanor and wasn't really a felony, according to attorneys in court. Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Danielle Strace said there two alternate options and the law isn't clear.

"We'll figure it out," said Judge Green, who said the case was intriguing. She adjourned the case for six weeks, to March 11, so it will be in her courtroom again.

Van Buren Township Det./Sgt. Mark Buxton said Spence is charged with unlawfully using his own vehicle. It was taken out of an impound yard in Dearborn Heights. Somebody else jumped the fence, took it, and gave it to him and he got picked up driving his own car that was stolen from the yard. The car is being held by Dearborn

Heights to charge the one who took the car.

Kayla Kristine Tucker

Kayla Kristine Tucker, 18, pled guilty to a reduced charge of embezzlement for taking \$1,068.86 in cash from Walmart on Nov. 7 when she worked there.

Judge Green used the Holmes Youthful Trainee Act to handle the plea deal. If Tucker has no further problems over the next year, the charge will be dismissed.

Tucker must pay restitution for the money taken, plus \$500 in court costs.

Officer in charge was VBT Officer Derek Perez. Court appointed defense attorney was David Lankford.

Asia Perrie Jones

In a plea deal, Asia Perrie Jones pled guilty to domestic violence and the charge of felonious assault was dropped. She said on Aug. 27 in Van Buren Township she assaulted Evan Burbank, with whom she has a child.

If there are no further problems within nine months, the case will be dismissed. She was assigned court costs and she will roll that into the payment program she already has with the court.

She also was ordered to take anger management and parenting classes and to have no assaultive contact with the victim, who was sitting next to her in court.

Brandon John Petri

Brandon John Petri, who was due to have his pretrial exam on a charge of domestic violence, did not show up at court so Judge Green put out a bench warrant for his arrest. The officer in charge is VBT Officer Ken Toney.

Steven Colt Anderson

Steven Colt Anderson was due for his pretrial exam on retail fraud charge, but he was not in court. His retained attorney Erika Julien explained that he was in the Washtenaw County Jail and has served six months of his year sentence there. She arranged for a plea to reduce his charge by mail.

VBT Det. Devon McCarthy was the officer in charge.

Crystal Marie Bertin

Crystal Marie Bertin was present for her pretrial exam on a charge of Blood Alcohol Content more than .17. She was represented by retained attorney Connie Ribiat. VBT Officer Louis Keele was the officer in charge.

Bertin pled guilty to impaired driving after drinking alcohol in VBT on Nov. 7.

The probation department will review her case before issuing a recommendation for sentencing at a later date.

Sherman, Majewski graduate from Western Michigan University

Carter Zachary Sherman and Andrew Paul Majewski, both of Belleville, graduated from Western Michigan University at the end of the 2014 fall semester in December. Sherman qualified for *magna cum laude* honors while earning a bachelor of science degree in Health Education: Community. Majewski earned a bachelor of arts in Criminal Justice.

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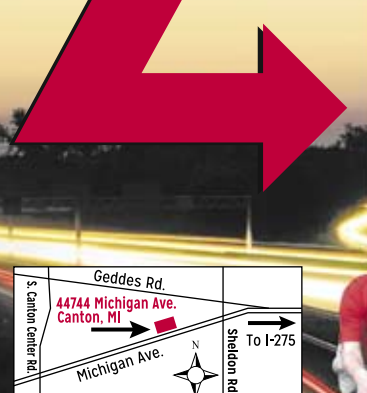
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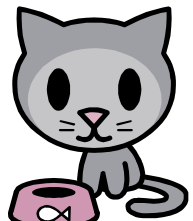


UPS driver Sam retires

Sam Ruffolo, who has delivered and picked up packages for United Parcel Service in Belleville and environs for 36 years, retired on Jan. 29. This is a photo taken of him on his last day on the job.



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Belleville City Council studies proposed 20-year sewer agreement

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

All 13 communities involved have to sign the proposed, 20-year Downriver Sewage Disposal System Service Agreement with Wayne County for it to be official, but several communities are holding off on their approvals until some issues can be addressed.

"All 13 communities have to agree," emphasized Belleville Mayor Kerreen Conley at the city council meeting on Feb. 2.

The 13 communities, including Belleville, are: Van Buren and Brownstown townships and the cities of Ecorse, Lincoln Park, River Rouge, Southgate, Wyandotte, Allen Park, Taylor, Dearborn Heights, Romulus, and Riverview.

Mayor Conley brought city attorney Steve Hitchcock to the Feb. 2 council meeting to discuss the details of the agreement.

Hitchcock said an agreement has been under consideration since the former agreement expired in 2012 and a joint management committee was set up by the communities. Then, in late December Wayne County made efforts to solve this problem before Executive Director Robert Ficano left.

There were three main issues Hitchcock outlined: wet weather flow needed to be agreed upon for each community; the makeup of the new joint management board to run the sewer system needed discussion;

and the length of the agreement – 20 years – needed amending.

He said the joint management committee met for years with Wayne County trying to work out an agreement. Plans to sue the county were discussed.

That committee was made up of one member from each of the 13 communities.

The new agreement calls for the new operating board to be made up of four members, representing the 13 communities; four representatives of Wayne County; and one representative from the Wayne County Commission.

Hitchcock asked how they could select just four people from 13 communities and said the agreement doesn't spell that out.

Hitchcock said there were two meetings that week to work on the issues, one specifically on how to select the board members and one on the technology of the flow.

"Also, Romulus has some unique airport uses," Hitchcock said, adding Romulus is against the agreement at this time.

One of the issues Hitchcock mentioned that was not resolved was that while the county was granting certain authority to this board, the agreement is subject to the County Charter and Wayne County Ordinances and could already be in conflict with them.

He said the County could pass an ordinance to change the sewer ordinance.

"Also, the communities are asked to

sign up for 20 years on this agreement," Hitchcock said.

Councilwoman Kim Tindall interrupted his comments to say, "I'm not lovin' that."

Hitchcock said 20 years is too long and should have five year reopeners.

He said there is a lot of built-in faith in the county doing the right thing for the length of the agreement.

"I don't know where this is going to end up," Hitchcock said. "There is a reluctance by the communities to go forward."

He said the county approved it in December and wants the communities to approve it as it is, but Hitchcock said he wants to see where the three items that need to be fixed end up.

He said Romulus will try to communicate with the new County Executive Warren Evans.

He said there definitely is a split board. He said somewhat of an issue is that there is so low a quorum needed that many things could be passed by four people, with six present.

"Even on items requiring six votes, they would only need one community member to be in favor," he said, noting they could up the quorum number and how many it takes to approve changes.

He said six votes is now the super majority and it could be changed to say it will require six votes in favor to pass anything.

"My concern is with the size of the committee," Councilwoman Tindall said. "Four people out of 13 communities are making the decisions."

"The county still holds a hammer over our heads," said Mayor Pro Tem Jack Loria.

Mayor Conley said in the past the joint management committee didn't approve renewal of the 1962 agreement. The choice is 1962, nothing, or what's before them, she said.

She said the Thursday, Feb. 5, meeting was to try and gauge where the communities are in their support. She said the new board members must be a community's elected person or employee, not an attorney or consultant.

"It's the same alternative we have with water," said Councilman Tom Fielder. "We're the smallest. The larger

communities have a bigger say."

Councilman Fielder said County Executive Evans hasn't filled any significant positions in terms of leadership. He may want the state to deal with the issues, Fielder said.

"What if we have state intervention on this?" Fielder asked.

Hitchcock said the sewer system is more saleable if all 13 communities are on the contract. With an Emergency Manager, that could happen, he said.

"An Emergency Manager will ask, 'What assets do I have to sell and make cash?' That's kinda' hanging out there, too," Hitchcock said.

"Your concerns are the length of the agreement and representation?" Fielder asked Hitchcock, and Hitchcock said that was so.

"Romulus is against it. Riverview is not sure about it," Hitchcock said.

DPW Director Keith Tackett said three of the largest communities are in favor.

Mayor Conley said the communities are meeting about these concerns.

"One amendment on the flows impacts four to five communities, counting us," she said, noting there are different flow rates.

"If 12 other communities agree, we can't stand alone," Fielder said. "It would be considered a challenge to county authority."

"I don't have a problem voting no here [at the council table]... I have no problem voting no on this," Councilwoman Tindall said.

"If you vote no, you're jumping back to the 1962 agreement," Tackett said. "This deal was brought on because Ficano lost the election. That's the only reason we got concessions after 4½ years of negotiations."

"It will be interesting if they don't get all 13 communities," Hitchcock said. "That could bring more negotiations."

"There would be no other choice," Mayor Conley agreed.

Hitchcock said it will be interesting to watch what happens over the next 90 days.

In other business at the Feb. 2 meeting,

(continued on page 16)



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Connie Dame and Bill Wisniewski took their *Independent* along on their trip to Montego Bay, Jamaica, and had their picture taken Jan. 16. They report it was sunny and 85 degrees every day.

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City Council

(continued from page 15)

the council:

- Opened three sealed bids for planning and zoning services: from Spicer, McKenna, and Carlise Wortman. There was no bid from Birchler Arroyo, the current planning and zoning consultant. The bids were referred to a joint subcommittee of administration and some planning commission members to come up with a recommendation for the first council meeting in March;

- Heard a summary of the audit of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014 by the city's financial consultant from Plante Moran. The audit of the \$2.2 million budget was done by Alan C. Young, which had no findings to report and no suggestions for improvement. It was like a letter grade of A and was very good, she said. The general fund's fund balance of \$762,000 was a "very healthy 35%" of the budget, she said. Planning Commissioner Michael Renaud asked about the \$7 million in unfunded liabilities that keeps on growing. He was told that was set to the side and there was no solutions to that. Fielder said even with draconian cuts in the budget, it wouldn't touch the \$7 million;

- Approved the mayor's appointments to the Construction Board of Appeals and Property Maintenance, for terms to expire Dec. 31, 2016: John Hennessey, Bob McCraight, Bernie Zarb, Mike Evans, and Joe Watt. Alternate member is Rich Evans, with one alternate vacancy;

- Approved accounts payable of \$641,110.28 and the following departmental purchases in excess of \$500: to Hennessey Engineers, \$703 for consulting and \$3,400 for sewer study, both from the Water Department budget; and to Western Wayne County/Mutual Aid dues, \$2,319.29 from the general fund for the fire department;

- Heard Mayor Pro Tem Loria remind the public that there are the elderly and others in the community who can't get out to clear their snow and neighbors should check on them and "give them a hand"; and

- Went into closed-door session to discuss pending union negotiations and came back into regular session only to adjourn.

VBT approves using CDBG funds to upgrade VB Park

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

After a public hearing at its Feb. 3 meeting, the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees approved a budget for about \$124,895 in 2015 federal Community Development Block Grant funds.

About \$89,921 is being designated for use in Van Buren Park, since the most recent federal map for low and moderate income areas now includes the park area.

The park work was to include demolition of a log cabin and the stage.

Trustee Regina Miller said that DPW Director Jim Taylor said the stage should be inspected and maybe could be refurbished instead of demolished.

Patrick Sloane of McKenna Associates, who manages the CDBG funds for the township, agreed with Miller's suggestion.

"Sure, we can do that," he said, noting the budget can be amended to do different types of things.

The CDBG 2015 funds, which will be available July 1, also includes \$8,992 each for senior services and youth services, \$5,995 each for planning and administration, and \$5,000 for housing rehabilitation loans.

In other business at the Feb. 3 meeting, the board:

- Congratulated five probationary fire fighters who were being promoted to regular fire fighters and receiving their badges and helmet shields. Fire Chief Dan Besson presented Mike Vlademar, Ryan Smith, Dustin Cox, and Rachel Spence. The fifth fire fighter, Jason Martin, could not be present but was presented with his badge and shield earlier;

- Heard a letter read by Supervisor Linda Combs from the Wayne County Prosecutor's office praising two police officers for their work on a recent armed robbery case;

- Was informed Trustees Phil Hart and Jeff Jahr have completed their Michigan Citizen Planner Fundamentals of Planning and Zoning certification through Michigan State University Extension. Bob McKenna also has this designation and Don Boynton has earned a Master's of Planning and Development. Also, Jahr, Hart, Miller, and Wright attended the Michigan Township Association's Leadership Conference and took the "Will to Lead" classes. Trustee Hart said he carried the VBT flag at the MTA convention;

- Heard Clerk Leon Wright read thank

you letters from Water's Edge apartment for all who helped after the fire and from Rawsonville and Savage elementary schools for the coats that were distributed. Clerk Wright said he hopes to make the coat distribution a yearly event;

- Approved an Automatic Mutual Aid Agreement with Ypsilanti Township Fire Department that would bring two additional fire engines to "working" fires in VBT complexes including Capitol Hills, Presidential Estates, Providence of Harbour Club, Van Buren Estates, Linda Vista, Cobblestone Creek, Cobblestone Ridge, Briarwood Estates, Cape Condos, and Mission Pointe. In return, VBT will send two fire engines to "working" fires in a southwestern eight-mile section of Ypsilanti Township;

- Approved the supervisor's reappointments to the Recreation Committee with terms to expire Feb. 1, 2016: Charles Coleman, Mark Duff, Kimberly Nofz, Sam Villa, Tammy Wall, and Rondell Sherman;

- Approved the reappointment of Robert McKenna to the Board of Zoning Appeals with a term to expire Oct. 1, 2017;

- Approved corrections to the 2014 Amended General Fund Budget, increasing it by \$14,600;

- Approved correcting the GPS coordinates for placement of outdoor warning sirens for the Wayne County Infrastructure Improvement Permits;

- Amended Resolution 2014-30 to make it 2014-33 because of a numbering error;

- Thanked all the people who work on the township's boards and commissions. There are no vacancies now, but people were invited to fill out applications on line or to come into the supervisor's office to pick up a paper application. Supervisor Combs said they will be kept on file;

- Was reminded that the township hall will be closed on Presidents' Day, Feb. 16, and so both the work/study and regular meetings will be held on the same day, Feb. 17;

- Heard Clerk Wright say election inspectors are needed for the May 5 election, as well as the 2016 presidential election; and

- Heard Treasurer Sharry Budd say a

charge card system is now in place at the township and things can be charged at the counter or on line. The user has to pay a 2.75% charge.

Trustee Brenda McClanahan was absent from the meeting due to the death of her mother.

Belleville Polar Plunge set for Feb. 21 at BYC on Belleville Lake

The Belleville Polar Plunge, to benefit Special Olympics Michigan, will take place on Feb. 21 at the BYC, 831 East Huron River Drive, Belleville.

Registration will start at 9:30 a.m. with the parade of costumes starting at 11:45 a.m. Plungers will be taking the plunge at noon. Awards and the post-plunge party will start at 12:45 p.m.

The 2015 Incentive Levels are: \$2,500, softshell jacket; \$1,500: wheeled carryon; \$1,000, choice of backpack or portable power; \$750, choice of game blanket or track jacket; \$500, hooded sweatshirt; \$200, beach towel; and \$75, long-sleeve T-shirt.

Michigan will be having 29 Polar Plunges in 2015. Polar Plunges are a Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) event. LETR is one of the largest grassroots fundraisers for Special Olympics globally. LETR consists of officers from both Law Enforcement and Corrections who raise funds and create awareness for SOMI year round.

By participating in a Polar Plunge around the state people are helping to raise funds for over 21,000 athletes who participate in Special Olympics Michigan.

Special Olympics Michigan is a year-round program offering sports for those with intellectual disabilities. Although sports are the "vehicle," the ultimate goal of Special Olympics is to help persons with intellectual disabilities participate and receive respect as members of their communities.

For more information, call Special Olympics Michigan at (989) 774-3911 or email somi@somi.org.

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Minding Your Business with Bob Mytych



Open Arms Church on Belleville Road will be holding an **Open Arms Youth Bowling Fundraiser** on Friday, Feb. 27, at 7 p.m. at **Lodge Lanes** in Belleville. The cost is \$20 per person, which includes 2 games of bowling, shoe rental, and pizza. Tickets can be purchased at the church during regular business hours and by calling (734) 699-5000. Tickets must be purchased by Feb. 24. There will also be free giveaways and raffle drawings. All proceeds go to benefit **Open Arms Youth Missions**.

The folks at **Diversified Roofing** are experts in ice dam treatment of residential and commercial buildings and this year is one of the worst winters the company has ever seen. Owner **Stanley Tupacz Jr.** is a state licensed and insured and provides

free estimates. Call **1-800-668-1928** or (734) 429-5840.

Paczkis Day is coming up Feb. 17 and the new **Love at First Bite Bakery** on Sumpter Road in the Belle Plaza will be opening at 5 a.m. selling a variety of homemade Paczkis, including apple, blueberry, lemon, custard, strawberry, raspberry, crème, and prune. The cost is \$12.99 per dozen. Owner **LeAnn Martin**, provides baked goods from **The Milan Bakery**, her other store in downtown Milan. The Belleville location is open 7 days offering a nice variety of breads, cakes, coffee, doughnuts and other goodies. Order by phone at (734) 699-7616. Martin is a former, 15-year Belleville resident. Welcome home.

The **Belleville Church of God** on Hull Road will be giving away free food next Thursday, Feb. 19, from 10:30 a.m. to noon. The church's pantry gives away perishable and some non-perishables the third Thursday of every month. To reserve food for pickup, call **JoAnne** at (734) 697-

1142 or the church at (734) 697-0927.

A **Baked Potato Dinner Fundraiser** will take place on Saturday, Feb. 21, from 4 to 7 p.m. at the **Open Arms Church** on Belleville Road. The cost is a \$5 minimum donation with all proceeds going to the **Belleville Community Chorus**.

Doug Dalton Auctioneer will be holding two estate auctions this month at the **Romulus Progressive Hall** on Ozga Road, beginning with an **Antique Estate Auction** on Feb. 13 at 6 p.m. Then, on Sunday, Feb. 15, Dalton will hold an **Estate Gun & Military Auction** starting at noon. For details and lots of photos of items featured in both auctions visit www.dougaldaltonauctioneer.com.

Gulf Auto Lube at **50 South Street** at 5 Points is now offering 20% off any Gulf full service or any other one of their services with their ad coupon in today's paper. They service all makes and models including foreign and domestic and diesel vehicles. They carry all brands of regular and synthetic oils and offer a buy 7 oil changes and get 1 free program. Call (734) 325-6008.

This Saturday marks Valentine's Day and there are plenty of merchants so you can shop local, from **Garden Fantasy Florists** and **Main Street Flowers** to the recently opened **Sugar Plum Candy Shoppe** and **Crafted Modern Handmade** gift store. There are plenty of restaurants and bars/grills around, too, so shop, dine and get your business done around town.

Personally, a shout out of Valentines and special birthday wishes go out to good friend and Supermom **Tessa Francis**. Happy 29th!

With the planning of **Sumpter Fest** and **Strawberry Festival** already under way, we also are working on advertising packages for the official program for the festivals. Watch this column for more details in the weeks to come.

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 at (734) 699 9020.

Things to do in the Belleville area...

• **Thursday, Feb. 12** – At 7 p.m. 34th District Court Judge David M. Parrott will give a presentation on the court system in the Belleville Area District Library Program Room.

• **Friday, Feb. 13** – All Free Friends Family Theater Movie Night at 7 p.m. at the Youth Center, 7890 Tuttle Hill Road, at Bemis Road, Ypsilanti. Bounce House at 6:30 p.m. "Finding Her" is the movie, 2014, 10 minutes. Also, a film looking into being yourself, 2014, 99 minutes. Questions? (734) 482-5074

• **Tuesday, Feb. 17** – Fat Tuesday Italian Buffet from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Eagles Lodge, 9961 Beck Road. Presented by the Belleville Rotary Club to earn money for its many community projects. Tickets for adults, \$12; kids, \$6.

• **Wednesday, Feb. 18** – If you can't make it to church on Ash Wednesday, Trinity Episcopal, 11575 Belleville Road, is offering "Ashes to Go" in its parking lot during the rush hour from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. and from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

• **Thursday, Feb. 19** – Third Thursday lecture at 6 p.m. at the Belleville Area Museum features Russell Dore telling the Story of Billy Durant, founder of General Motors. Free to members of the Belleville Historical Society and \$5 for non-members.

• **Friday, Feb. 20** – All Free Friends Family Theater Movie Night at 7 p.m. at the Youth Center, 7890 Tuttle Hill Road, at Bemis Road, Ypsilanti. Bounce House at 6:30 p.m. "Beautiful Exchange" is, 2014, 10 minutes. Also, "Veggie Tales Noah's Ark," 2015, 52 minutes. Questions? (734) 482-5074

• **Saturday, Feb. 21** – Belleville's Polar Plunge starts at noon at the BYC on Belleville Lake, former Moose Lodge.

• **Saturday, Feb. 21** – The Belleville Community Chorus invites everyone to its second-annual Baked Potato Dinner from 4 to 7 p.m. at Open Arms Lutheran Church, 7865 Belleville Rd. Large baked potato with choice of toppings, plus beverage and dessert for a \$5 minimum donation. Tickets at the door.

Trinity church to provide 'Ashes to Go' on Ash Wednesday

Trinity Episcopal Church, 11575 Belleville Road, Belleville, will be providing a new service called "Ashes to Go" Feb. 18 from 7:30-8:30 a.m. and from 5:30-6:30 p.m. directly before their regular 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. Ash Wednesday services.

Anointment with ashes will be provided in the church parking lot on a drive-through basis during the rush hour time frame for people who otherwise would be unable to attend Ash Wednesday services.

All are welcome, and all are also welcome to attend the traditional church services that day.

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More Letters

Frustrated, 'traditional Republican' speaks out

To the Editor:

I believe A.S. Kuchta (of Florida) may have misinterpreted the message I was delivering to House Majority Leader Boehner in the letter that was posted in the Jan. 22, 2015 edition of the Independent.

I am not a Democrat at all, but I am a frustrated "traditional Republican." Unfortunately, I have had to witness the hijacking of the Republican Party by the libertarian caucus that continues to obstruct the Federal Government as it has for the previous six years. I have been inspired to criticize the current leadership of both houses of Congress ... including members of either party.

President Eisenhower deftly warned the nation against the vast influence of far right-wing military industrialists who would seek to control the nation's destiny through false propaganda with cries of nationalism and induced war mongering.

During the George W. Bush Presidency, then Vice President Dick Cheney, along with Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld, steadfastly proclaimed that the world was in significant danger because of Iraqi "weapons of mass destruction." We all know how that turned out for America and the Middle East.

I served in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War, but not overseas, and I fully supported the war effort that was often severely mishandled by another Republican president, Richard M. Nixon.

How terribly disconcerting it was for those soldiers and airmen who were in the Southeast Asian Theatre at that time to have the political talking heads and Washington politicians intervene in the effectiveness of our military operations in the area.

Trillions of U.S. taxpayer's dollars have been spent on fruitless efforts to destabilize foreign governments with the expressed mission "to establish democracy" around the globe. This is pure colonialism in the guise of democracy and simply measured by the vast oil and mineral wealth of the nations we supposedly want to liberate.

Now that Congress has the opportunity to appropriate our hard-earned tax dollars for our own population, through the Affordable Health Care Act, they continue to squander every opportunity to improve on a very worthwhile private sector – market-driven health insurance solution for millions. Certainly there is an intense need for legislative review and serious corrections to this provision in health care, but to deny millions of citizens basic health insurance is a crime. It appears that millionaire Republican Senators and Congressional Representatives are very quick to want to repeal any social program that might help citizens of a lesser social status. Sadly, selfish endeavors and bigotry are part of our heritage and history continues to repeat itself when left unchecked!

Furthermore, instead of providing massive tax breaks for businesses that are manipulating the system through off-shore accounts Congress should be granting tax incentives to corporations that provide jobs and invest in business growth here in America. The number one priority of this 114th Congress should be the U.S. economy (debt) and vigorous job creation through massive infrastructure rebuilding and transportation initiatives.

Finally, rather than allowing the Miami based Cuban Nationals (former Cuban dictator President Fulgencio Baptista loyalists) to exhort all the false propaganda that they profess against normalization of diplomatic relations with Cuba, when many of these immigrants arrived illegally on our shores, Congress should instead concentrate on how we can secure our borders.

And instead of deporting Central American children, and Mexican nationalists seeking refuge from drug cartels, Republicans should adopt legislation providing permanent residency status for those law-abiding people already within our borders. "A path to citizenship" shouldn't contain a death sentence clause requiring families to be deported simply for being victims of a failed federalist system in Mexico.

We Americans want to spread democracy all over the world, but we aren't willing to show compassion for our own North American brothers and sisters.

This is hypocrisy in the most blatant form, and as a Republican, I feel shame for my party and the platform of recent years. Dwight D. Eisenhower showed the nation and the world how to recover after World War II, somewhere we have lost our direction.

CeJay Marshall
Van Buren Township

Birthdays

Feb. 7 – Christopher Elg
Feb. 9 – Angelique Whitt
Feb. 12 – Nora Hemphill, Marilyn Montgomery, Tina Marie McGlynn
Feb. 14 – Roy Acho, Caitlin MacBlain
Feb. 15 – Rosemary Oztman, Gene Zwiernikowski
Feb. 16 – Chris Whitt
Feb. 18 – Al Ostrowski, Kim Smith
Feb. 21 – Bev Yurchak
Feb. 24 – Marcella Henderson

Do you have a birthday in February? 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.

"The fact that man knows right from wrong proves his intellectual superiority to other creatures; but the fact that he can do wrong proves his moral inferiority to any creature that cannot."
– Mark Twain

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Upcoming Meetings

• Thursday, Feb. 12 - Keystone Academy
 School Board, 6 p.m. Also, Sumpter
 Township Planning Commission, 7 p.m.
 Also, Belleville Planning Commission,
 7:30 p.m.

• Tuesday, Feb. 17 - Van Buren Township
 work study meeting at 4 p.m., followed
 by regular board meeting, 7 p.m. Also,
 Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.

• Wednesday, Feb. 18 - Belleville
 Downtown Development Authority, 6 p.m.
 Also, Van Buren Township Environmental
 Commission, 7 p.m.

• Tuesday, Feb. 24 - Van Buren Township
 Downtown Development Authority, 5:30
 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.

• Wednesday, Feb. 25 - Van Buren
 Township Planning Commission, 7:30
 p.m.

Couple asks for help on GoFundMe site to save house in VBT

R.C. and Thereasa Bailey were buying
 their home on West Huron River Drive in
 Van Buren Township on a land contract
 they signed in 2008.

They thought they had until 2023 to
 purchase the home. They were wrong. It's
 in the paperwork they signed.

Thereasa said they got a notice on their
 door in December that said the house
 owner changed her mind and didn't want
 to sell the house, after all, but they could
 rent it. Now she wants them out.

Thereasa's attorney, Barbara Rogalle
 Miller, said she believes the couple is
 being wrongfully evicted and she is filing a
 counter complaint on the eviction.

Meanwhile, the couple has created a
 "Saving My Home" site on GoFundMe.
 com/leeuts, believing they can buy the
 house outright if they have the money.

They are seeking \$169,000 to buy the
 home. They have already paid \$79,000
 over the last seven years, Thereasa said.

Thereasa said in 2007 she met and married
 R.C. and in 2008 they found the home. The
 owner wanted to sell it on land contract so
 they signed all the papers thinking they
 were doing the right thing.

She said the house was built in 1960
 and they had to do a lot to it. They opened
 charge cards to do some of the updates and
 used \$15,000 out of pocket. She said it took
 them five years to get the house somewhat
 updated.

But they have credit card bills and a loan
 that needs paying off and they can't get
 another loan to buy the house.

They are both retired and Thereasa said
 she works part time to make ends meet.

In December when they found a Christmas
 card on their door from the house owner,
 asking them if they were interested in
 renting the house they were dumbfounded.
 They called the owner to ask what was
 going on.

Thereasa said the owner told her she can
 get \$1,500 a month for that house now.
 Thereasa said the owner thinks she can
 make more money by renting it now than
 it's been brought up to date.

"I just don't want to lose everything we
 worked so hard on. Please find it in your
 heart to help," she wrote on the website.
 "We have always helped others. We have
 never asked anyone for help. Myself and
 husband and son would really appreciate
 it," she wrote.

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Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN BOARD MEETING MINUTES February 3, 2015

Supervisor Combs called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room. Present: Supervisor Combs, Clerk Wright, Treasurer Budd, Trustee Hart, and Trustee Miller. Late Arrival (7:05 p.m.): Trustee Jahr. Excused/Absent: Trustee McClanahan. Others in attendance: Secretary Montgomery, Public Safety Deputy Director-Fire Besson, Public Safety Director Laurain, Developmental Services Director Knowles, Developmental Services Consultant Sloan and an audience of twenty nine (29).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Budd moved, Hart seconded to approve the agenda with the following amendment: to move correspondence directly after approval of the agenda. Motion Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: Deputy Director of Public Safety-Fire Besson presented the following Fire Fighters their Badge and Helmet Shields promoting them from Probationary Fire Fighters to Full-Status Fire Fighters: Mike Vlademar, Ryan Smith, Dustin Cox and Rachel Spence. Fire Fighter Jason Martin was promoted in a ceremony held earlier in the day. Supervisor Combs read letters to Public Safety Director Laurain from Wayne County Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Michael Glynne praising Officer Ryan Berry and Detective Mark Buxton on their assistance in the apprehension, prosecution and conviction of two criminals who terrorized several communities. Treasurer Budd congratulated Trustee Jahr and Trustee Hart on their successful completion of the Michigan Citizen Planner Fundamentals of Planning and Zoning through the Michigan State University Extension. Clerk Wright read a Thank You note from Waters Edge Apartments to Account Clerk Nicole Sumpter and the residents of the community for their support following the fire and read letters from Rawsonville and Savage schools thanking the Clerk's Office Staff for their donation of coats from their Coats for School Kids drive.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: Budd moved, Jahr seconded to approve the Consent Agenda [Work Study Session Minutes January 12, 2015; Closed Session Minutes of January 12, 2015; Regular Board Meeting Minutes of January 13, 2015; Special Work Study Session Minutes of January 26, 2015; Closed Session Minutes of January 26, 2015; Prepaid List of January 16, 2015; Prepaid List of January 23, 2015; Prepaid List of January 29, 2015 Voucher List of February 3, 2015; Approval of the Automatic Mutual Aid Agreement with Ypsilanti Fire Department; Approval of the re-appointments of Charles Coleman, Mark Duff, Kimberly Nofz, Sam Villa, Tammy Wall and Rondell Sherman to the Recreation Committee with terms to expire February 1, 2016; Approval of the appointment of Robert McKenna to the Board of Zoning Appeals with a term to expire October 1, 2017; Approval of the corrections to the 2014 Amended General Budget; Approval of the amendment to Resolution 2014-30 authorizing execution of Infrastructure Improvement Permits with Wayne County for Emergency Outdoor Warning Sirens correcting the GPS coordinates and Approval of the amendment to Resolution 2014-30 the 2015 Water and Sewer Fee Schedule to approval of Resolution 2014-33 the 2015 Water and Sewer Fee Schedule (correction of the Resolution number)]. Motion Carried.

During approval of the Consent Agenda several Board Members thanked all the members serving on Township Committees and Commissions for their dedication and support to the community. Special recognition of Committee member Robert McKenna who has completed the Michigan Citizens Planner Fundamentals of Planning and Zoning and Don Boynton who has completed the Masters of Planning and Development. Members of the community seeking to serve on a Committee or Commission may download the application from the Township website or stop by the Supervisor's office to obtain an application.

PUBLIC HEARING: Hart moved, Wright seconded to open the second Public Hearing at 7:27 p.m. to receive comment on the proposed use of Program Year 2015 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds in the annual application in the amount of \$124,895.00. Consultant Patrick Sloan outlined that the 2015 CDBG program year runs from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016 therefore funds would not be available until July 1, 2015. The estimated allocations are: (1) \$89,921 Public Facilities and Improvements-a project to make improvements to Van Buren park, Including demolishing a log cabin and stage and constructing new facilities (2) \$8,992 Youth Services-the purchase of supplies and payment of contractors for the "Takin' It to the Streets" program for low and moderate income youth, (3) \$8,992 Senior Services-a project to offset the salary of the Senior Center Director and Deputy Director and provision of senior services, (4) \$5,995 Planning-a project to fund a portion of Parks and Recreation Master Plan update; \$5,995 Administration-a project to fund program administration costs including staff and program management, coordination, monitoring, reporting and evaluation (5) \$5,000 Program Income-an estimate of funds that may be repaid in Program Year 2015 from the Housing Rehabilitation loan program, which is set up as a revolving loan fund; any funds received are dedicated towards future Housing Rehabilitation activities. No public comment was received. Budd moved, Hart seconded to close the Public Hearing at 7:32 p.m. Motion Carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Miller moved, Hart seconded to adopt Resolution 2015-02 approval of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) 2015 Program year application and project statement in the amount of \$124,895.00. Motion Carried

NEW BUSINESS: None.

REPORTS: The November 2014 Budgetary Report was ordered received and filed. Copies are available at the Clerk's Office.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Supervisor Combs announced the Parks and Recreation Department will host a "Frozen" Daddy Daughter Dance on Friday February 13, 2015 and Saturday February 14, 2015 7:00-9:00 p.m. Tickets \$20 per couple for Van Buren Residents, \$25 per couple non-residents, \$5 each additional child and \$10 each additional adult. Clerk Wright announced the Township Administrative Offices will be closed Monday February 16, 2015 in observance of Presidents Day; that the next scheduled Work Study Session and Board of Trustees Meetings will be held February 17, 2015 and announced the Clerk's Office is accepting applications for Election Inspectors to work the May 5, 2015 Special Election and 2016 Presidential Elections. Applications are available on the Township website at www.vanburen-mi.org or at the Clerk's Office.

AUDIENCE (Non-Agenda Items): None

CLOSED SESSION: None

ADJOURNMENT: Hart moved, Wright

seconded to adjourn at 7:40 p.m. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Leon Wright, Township Clerk

Linda H. Combs, Township Supervisor

Publish: February 12, 2015

Eight Belleville students named to Dean's List Western Michigan Univ.

Eight Belleville students were named to the Fall Semester's Dean's List at Western Michigan University.

- Shekinah Hudson, Interpersonal Communication, College of Arts and Sciences

- Jenna Lanzetta, Pre-Public Relations, College of Arts and Sciences

- Andrew Majewski, Criminal Justice, College of Arts and Sciences

- Arlexis Branson, CEAS Exploratory, College of Engineering and Applied Sciences

- Alexandria Graham, Undecided: Pre-Business, Haworth College of Business

- Theodore Rouster, Undecided: Pre-Business, Haworth College of Business

- Anna Carlson, Pre-Nursing, College of Health and Human Services

- Jenna Pinter, Nursing, College of Health and Human Services

"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

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

VAN BUREN CHARTER TOWNSHIP 2015 MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW

NOTICE TO THE TAXPAYERS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF VAN BUREN CHARTER TOWNSHIP

The **BOARD OF REVIEW** of the Charter Township of Van Buren will meet at the Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Road, on the following dates:

March 3rd, Tuesday
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
(Organizational Meeting)

No Appeals Heard at this Meeting

March 9th, Monday
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

March 11th, Wednesday
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

March 12th, Thursday
3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

REVIEW IN PERSON IS BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

Taxpayers/Property Owners may appeal by making an appointment to appear before the Board of Review **OR** by letter appeal (personal appearance is not required).

Letters of appeal must be received on or before MARCH 11, 2015.

Appointments to appeal in person may be scheduled by calling the Assessing Office at 734-699-8946 between 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. by MARCH 10, 2015.

Tentative ratios and estimated multipliers are as follows:

Classification	Ratio	Multiplier
Agricultural	50%	1.0000
Commercial	50%	1.0000
Industrial	50%	1.0000
Residential	50%	1.0000
Developmental	50%	1.0000
Personal	50%	1.0000

Leon Wright
Van Buren Charter Township

Publish: Thursday, February 12, 2015
Thursday, February 19, 2015
Thursday, February 26, 2015



City of Belleville
Regular City Council Meeting Minutes
January 20, 2015

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	Present
Council Member Tindall	Present
Mayor Pro Tem Loria	Present
Mayor Conley	Present

3. PRESENTATIONS AND CITIZEN COMMENTS

None.

4. AGENDA APPROVAL

Motion by Smith, Second by Fielder to approve agenda as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Loria, Second by Smith to approve the Regular City Council meeting minutes of January 5, 2015 as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

7. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

None.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

A. Open Bids – RFP CDBG Engineering & Program Management Services

Motion by Fielder, Second by Smith to approve **Resolution No. 15-002** to award the bid to Hennessey Engineers, Inc. to provide engineering and planning services for the City of Belleville's CDBG Program pending review of City Administration.

• Hennessey Engineers, Inc.

Program Liaison \$114.00, Program Engineer \$74.00, Program Architect \$74.00, Program Specialist/Finance \$50.00.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. Street Closings – Kona Strawberry Run

Motion by Loria, Second by Tindall to approve **Resolution No. 15-003** to approve the closing of High Street at 7:00 P.M. for the 8K/5K/Mile Road Race Event on Friday, June 19, 2015 pending all details being worked out with City administration and the appropriate agencies.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

C. 2015 City Wide Yard Sale Date

Motion by Tindall, Second by Loria to approve **Resolution No. 15-004** to approve the dates of September 12th and 13th of 2015 for the annual City Wide Yard Sales.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

9. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE & DEPARTMENTAL EXPENDITURES

Motion by Tindall, Second by Loria to approve **Resolution No. 15-005** to approve accounts payable and payables over \$500.00 with a correction to the account number for payment to Macomb Community College in the amount of \$50.00.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

10. ACTION ITEMS FOR NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING

Discussion on the proposed contract/agreement between Wayne County and the 13 Downriver Communities.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Pursuant to MCL 15.268(c) to discuss the status and strategy of pending union negotiations.

Motion by Smith, Second by Tindall to approve **Resolution No. 15-006** to recess regular meeting and

enter into Executive Session at 8:33 P.M. Pursuant to MCL 15.268(c) to discuss the status and strategy of pending union negotiations.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Motion by Loria, Second by Smith to adjourn the Executive Session at 9:22 P.M. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Tindall, Second by Fielder to adjourn the meeting at 9:24 P.M.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Long, City Clerk/Treasurer

Approved: February 2, 2015

Published: February 12, 2015

Belleville Band Boosters set Spaghetti Dinner at BHS Commons Feb. 28

The Belleville High School Band Boosters is holding its annual Spaghetti Dinner from 5 to 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 28, in the BHS Commons.

Cost is \$8 per person at the door.

Entertainment will be by the BHS Jazz Band throughout the evening.

All proceeds will benefit the BHS Band Boosters who provide instruments, music, uniforms, transportation, and more for over 270 BHS band students.

For more information, call Amy Pearce at (734) 787-8890 or write bellevillebandboosters@gmail.com.

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

POLICE VEHICLE AUCTION

On Wednesday, February 25, 2015, the Van Buren Township Police Department will conduct a public auction of impounded and abandoned vehicles. The auction will begin at 10:30am, at **J&T Towing** and Storage, 287 Industrial Dr. Belleville MI, County of Wayne, where the following will be offered for sale to the highest bidder.

2014	ASSEMBLED	TRL	192312704	14-18926
1987	FORD	TK	1FDNF70H6HVA38930	14-18926
1978	FORD	PU	F14HLBK4240	14-18926
1992	FORD	PU	1FTDF15Y5NLA58647	14-18926
1992	CHEVROLET	PU	1GCDC14K0NZ150199	14-18926
1990	FORD	PU	2FTHF36G8LCA95086	14-18926
1990	ASSEMBLED	TRL	B733069	14-18926
1990	ASSEMBLED	TRL	D123675	14-18926
NONE	ASSEMBLED	TRL	B155454	14-18926
1990	ASSEMBLED	TRL	C284708	14-18926
1998	FORD	4D	1FAFP52S8WA241041	14-19897
1998	LINCOLN	4D	1LNFM82W4WY718896	14-23016
2005	CHEVROLET	4D	1G1AJ52F857653277	14-24157
2003	FORD	PU	2FTRF18WX3CA00007	14-24170
2005	FORD	4D	1FAFP53U75A105658	14-24767
1992	TOYOTA	4D	4T1SK12EXNU126069	15-0046
2003	FORD	4D	1FAFP53293G144521	15-0629

At 11:30am, the auction will move to **Great Lakes Towing** and storage, 42350 Van Born Rd. Belleville MI, County of Wayne, where the following vehicles will be offered for sale to the highest bidder.

1997	FORD	SW	1FMDU24E9VUD11560	14-23988
1998	PONTIAC	2D	1G2JB124XW7591396	14-24311
1999	FORD	4D	1FAFP53S0XA324950	14-24713
1999	CHRYSLER	SW	1C4GP54G7XB516918	14-24701
2005	CHEVROLET	SW	1GNET16S956187052	14-24701
2000	GMC	SW	1GKCS18WXYK242708	15-0284
2005	FORD	4D	1FAFP53275A246776	15-0388
2004	PONTIAC	4D	1G2NW52E24C150968	15-0531
2003	FORD	PU	1FTYR10D33PA69892	15-0764
1998	FORD	PU	1FTYR14X1WPB02851	15-0764
2007	GMC	TK	1GDJ7C13X7F901115	15-0764
1996	SATURN	4D	1G8ZK5271TZ386740	15-0764
1976	CHEVROLET	2D	1Z87U8R412U62	15-0764
1999	VOLKSWAGE	4D	WVWMA63B2XE494082	15-0792
2000	ASSEMBLED	TR	L28136	15-1120

All vehicles are sold in "as is condition." Bidding on all impounded vehicles will start at the amount due for towing and storage. Vehicles may be deleted from this list at any time prior to the start of the auction.

Leon Wright, CMC
 Van Buren Township Clerk
 Published: February 12, 2015

Sumpter Township Public Notice

SUMPTER TOWNSHIP
2015
MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW

NOTICE TO THE TAXPAYERS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF SUMPTER TOWNSHIP. THE BOARD OF REVIEW OF SUMPTER TOWNSHIP WILL MEET AT THE SUMPTER TOWNSHIP HALL, 23480 SUMPTER RD, BELLEVILLE MI 48111 ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:

TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2015 AT 4:30^{PM}
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
NO APPOINTMENTS

MONDAY MARCH 9, 2015 AT 9:00^{AM}-9:00^{PM}
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

TUESDAY MARCH 10, 2015 AT 9:00^{AM}-12:00^{PM}
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2015 AT 9:00^{AM}-12:00^{PM}
BOARD OF REVIEW WORK DAY
NO APPOINTMENTS

All hearings are by appointment only and must be accompanied by a petition form. Please call one of the numbers below for an appointment. Petitions are available at the Sumpter Township Supervisors Office or download a petition form at www.michigan.gov/treasury : click on forms: type in form number L-4035.

Written appeals are accepted as well and must be accompanied by a petition form and received in the assessing department by Thursday March 12, 2015 at 9:00^{AM}. No postmarks are accepted. Mail petitions to: Sumpter Township Board of Review 23480 Sumpter Rd, Belleville MI 48111.

Hardship/poverty exemptions are accepted as well. Please call the assessing department for more information on this exemption.

Any questions regarding the Board of Review, contact the Supervisors Office at (734) 461-6201 ext. 2229, or the Assessing Department Monday, Tuesday & Thursday only at (734) 256-4413.

Publish: February 12, 2015
 February 19, 2015
 February 26, 2015

Sumpter Township Clerk-
 Clarence J. Hoffman Jr.
 Sumpter Township Supervisor-
 John Morgan

Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

The following are selected calls for VBT Police.
Sunday, Feb. 1:
0108 – noise complaint, E. Archwood Dr.
0114 – suspicious situation, Denton Rd.
0259 – suspicious situation, W. Belleridge
0354 – suspicious situation, Van Born
1003 – assault & battery, Parkwood Dr.
1118 – private property accident, Van Born
1143 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / Tyler Rd.
1146 – assault & battery, Parkwood Dr.
1212 – suspicious situation, Maple Dr.
1225 – agency assist, WB I-94/Belleville
1251 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1317 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd.
/ W. Huron River Dr.
1451 – larceny, Belle Pointe Dr.
1701 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1942 – assault & battery, Biggs Ave.
Monday, Feb. 2:
0328 – hospice, Kirkridge
0532 – private property accident, Presidential Estates
0630 – assist fire dept., S. I-94 Service Dr.
0736 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd.
/ S. I-94 Service Dr.
0904 – property damage accident, S. Service / Haggerty
1208 – assist fire dept., N. I-94 Service Dr. /Quirk
1348 – property damage accident, Martinsville Rd.
/ Savage Rd.
1553 – property damage accident, Belleville/Big Boy’s
1719 – traffic complaint, Denton Rd. / Michigan Ave.
1747 – property damage accident, Hannan Rd. / N. I-94 Service Dr.
1750 – suicide or attempt, Denton
1834 – private property accident, Belleville
1903 – trespassing, Bemis Rd.
1917 – property damage accident, Tyler/Belleville
2030 – suicide or attempt, S. Woodbury Dr.
2038 – assault & battery, Maurice Dr.
2244 – suspicious vehicle, Savage
Tuesday, Feb. 3:
0055 – suspicious vehicle, W. Archwood
0225 – agency assist, Wildrye Ct.
0326 – traffic hazard, EB bypass/County Line
0634 – assault & battery, Parkwood Dr.
0816 – property damage accident, Ecorse/Beck
0847 – assist fire dept., Hull Rd.
1003 – abandoned auto, Wheeler/Millard
1109 – property damage accident, Belleville / WB I-94
1218 – assist fire dept., Ecorse Rd./Denton Rd.
1344 – intimidation threat, Belleville
1349 – suspicious vehicle, Lighthouse Dr.
1450 – neighbor trouble, Pierce St./McBride Ave.
1455 – disturbance, Denton Rd.
1625 – property damage accident, Ecorse Rd.
1742 – intrusion alarm, Brookside Dr.
2037 – trespassing, Masonic Lodge
Wednesday, Feb. 4:
0434 – breaking & entering, Ventura Dr.
0707 – property damage accident, Ecorse Rd. / Edwards Rd.
0710 – personal injury accident, Haggerty Rd.
0730 – property damage accident, Morton Taylor Rd. / Ecorse Rd.
0838 – property damage accident, McBride Ave.
1349 – private property accident, O’Reilly’s
1548 – fraud, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1603 – traffic hazard, Van Born
1613 – private property accident, Deanna Dr.
1618 – suspicious person, Jeremy Rd.
1643 – hospice, Harbor Pointe Ct.
1708 – assault & battery, Hayes St.
1750 – property damage accident, Belleville
1754 – mental, Richard Run
1814 – agency assist, Stamford Rd.
1819 – disturbance, Denton Rd.
1913 – disturbance, Ecorse Rd.
1929 – noise complaint, W. Archwood Dr.
2115 – disturbance, Lake Point Blvd.
2354 – assault & battery, Oak Ln.
Thursday, Feb. 5:
0427 – agency assist, N. I-94 Service/Rawsonville

0514 – operating while intoxicated, Haggerty Rd. / E. Huron River Dr.
0559 – personal injury accident, EB I-94/Belleville
0623 – personal injury accident, WB I-94 / Haggerty
0720 – property damage accident, Haggerty Rd. / E. Huron River Dr.
0739 – property damage accident, Haggerty Rd. / Alden Dr.
0934 – property damage accident, N. I-94 Service
1345 – larceny, Coolidge
1436 – assist citizen, Belleville BP
1516 – harassment call, Rogers Ave.
1540 – property damage accident, Valero
1659 – fraud, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1750 – agency assist, Lohr
1826 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Belleville Rd.
1836 – agency assist, Sumpter Rd./Industrial Park
2028 – assault & battery, E. Archwood Dr.
2056 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
2220 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
2306 – suspicious situation, Belleville Rd.
2307 – assault & battery, Jackson St.
Friday, Feb. 6:
0201 – assist fire dept., Belleville Rd.
0314 – suicide or attempt, S. Woodbury
0328 – assault & battery, s. I-94 Service Dr.
0938 – agency assist, Lincoln St.
1135 – personal injury accident, Hannan/Van Born
1228 – property damage accident, VB Plaza
1500 – private property accident, Van Born
1634 – property damage accident, SB I-275/Ecorse
1653 – agency assist, Liberty/Fourth
1902 – retail fraud, Belleville
1940 – assist fire dept., Lake Villa Dr.
1955 – fraud, Haggerty Rd.
2100 – disturbance, Rawsonville
2213 – retail fraud, Belleville
2251 – property damage accident, Michigan Ave. / Denton Rd.
2339 – assault & battery, Parkwood Dr.
2356 – motorist assist, EB I-94/Rawsonville
Saturday, Feb. 7:
0001 – narcotics crime, Meadows Ln.
0010 – property damage accident, W. Huron River Dr.
0143 – suspicious situation, Village Green Ln.
0209 – disorderly conduct, Rawsonville
1136 – dumping complaint, Haggerty Rd.
1312 – disorderly conduct, Belleville
1323 – agency assist, Sumpter
1706 – narcotics crime, Wildflower Ct.
1746 – agency assist, Belleville Rd./Sunrise Ln.
1837 – agency assist, Bemis Rd./Rawsonville Rd.
1855 – suspicious situation, Hull Rd.
1939 – intimidation threat, Tyler Rd.
2213 – malicious destruction of property, Westlake
2222 – larceny, Belleville
2249 – suspicious person, W. Huron River Dr. / High St.
Also on this week’s log are 100 traffic stops, 28 of those on the I-94 and I-275 freeways.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Feb. 1:
0313 – suspicious situation, N. Liberty St.
0323 – domestic assault, N. Liberty St.
0333 – assist fire dept., N. Liberty St.
1443 – trespassing, Henry
1520 – parking complaint, Biggs Ave.
1827 – welfare check, Oxford Ct.
1940 – suspicious vehicle, Egan’s
1942 – domestic assault, Biggs Ave.
2048 – suspicious situation, Sumpter/Hull
2102 – miscellaneous complaint, Jet’s Pizza
Monday, Feb. 2:
0944 – miscellaneous complaint, Main St.
1002 – assist fire dept., Wexford Ave.
1142 – parking complaint, Bedell St.
1211 – animal complaint, Sumpter Rd.
1227 – information, Main St.
1601 – intrusion alarm, Main St.
2040 – sexual assault, Loza Ln.
2049 – harassment call, Carmell St.
Tuesday, Feb. 3:
0406 – assist citizen, Main St.
0744 – domestic assault, Carmell St.

1136 – follow up, Belle Villa Blvd.
1253 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
1554 – motorist assist, W. Huron River Dr. / Harbour Pointe
1650 – civil matter, Main St.
1744 – parking complaint, Belleville Library
1758 – assist fire dept., Victorian Ln.
1905 – assist fire dept., Sumpter Rd.
2038 – trespassing, Masonic Lodge
Wednesday, Feb. 4:
0717 – parking complaint, Church
0843 – property damage accident, Victorian Ln.
1002 – parking complaint, Light Tower Ct.
1205 – assist fire dept., Robbe St.
1528 – parking complaint, Bay Pointe Dr. / Light Tower Dr.
2054 – follow up, Edison Ave.
2119 – suspicious situation, Edison Ave.
Thursday, Feb. 5:
0211 – intrusion alarm, South St.
0240 – motorist assist, E. Huron River Dr. / N. Liberty St.
0449 – assist fire dept., N. Liberty St.
1231 – parking complaint, W. Columbia Ave.
1631 – trespassing, South St.
1632 – water leak found, Stoney Creek Motorsports
2026 – assist fire dept., Sumpter Rd.
Friday, Feb. 6:
1032 – civil matter, Biggs Ave.
1033 – mental, Carmell
1202 – civil matter, Main St.
2022 – juvenile complaint, Estrada
2026 – serve warrant, S. Aberdeen Ct.
Saturday, Feb. 7:
1123 – parking complaint, Breakwater Ct.
1215 – private property accident, W. Columbia Ave.
1527 – fraud, Biggs Ave.
2226 – property damage accident, Lunch Box
Also on this week’s log are 33 traffic stops.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Feb. 1:
0054 – alarm, 21000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
0300 – civil dispute, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
0539 – suspicious person, Sumpter/Willis
1042 – fire dept. assist, 40000 bl. Harris Rd.
1341 – fire dept. assist, Rustic Ln.
1731 – civil dispute, Edgewood
1743 – suspicious person, 46000 bl. Willis Rd.
1752 – neighbor dispute, 45000 bl. Harris Rd.
2018 – traffic hazard, Dunn/Sumpter
2309 – property damage accident, Judd / Martinsville
Monday, Feb. 2:
0538 – traffic hazard, 22000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
0556 – assist other agency, 41000 bl. Willis Rd.
0629 – citizen assist, Rawsonville/Willis
0754 – fire dept. assist, 43000 bl. Willow Rd.
1623 – well-being check, 51000 bl. Judd Rd.
1704 – animal complaint, Karr/Willow
2146 – warrant arrest, Wyoming
2224 – fire dept. assist, 51000 bl. Willis Rd.
Tuesday, Feb. 3:
0131 – warrant arrest, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1058 – fire dept. assist, 18000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
1149 – family trouble, 45000 bl. Harris Rd.
1206 – animal complaint, 46000 bl. Weimer Dr.
1218 – fire dept. assist, 47000 bl. Willow Rd.
1228 – property damage accident, Savage/Bemis
1431 – traffic hazard, 8200 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
1637 – ordinance violation, 24000 bl. Sherwood
1733 – ORV complaint, Wear/Clark
1742 – animal complaint, 25000 bl. Carleton West
1759 – civil dispute, 51000 bl. Wear Rd.
1925 – property damage accident, Rustic Ln.
Wednesday, Feb. 4:
0431 – malicious destruction of property report, 22000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
1004 – civil dispute, 44000 bl. Willis Rd.
1054 – larceny, Rustic Ln.
1133 – suspicious vehicle, Elwell/Willow
1344 – fire dept. assist, 48000 bl. Bemis Rd.
1351 – animal complaint, Magnolia
1910 – ORV complaint, 24000 bl. Karr Rd.
2233 – property damage accident, Sumpter/Willis

Thursday, Feb. 5:
0130 – fire dept. assist, 49000 bl. Judd Rd.
0927 – civil dispute, Carriage Ln.
1207 – well-being check, 23000 bl. Martinsville
1232 – fire dept. assist, 48000 bl. Wear Rd.
1508 – neighbor dispute, 40000 bl. Judd Rd.
1644 – 911 hang up, 23000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1913 – civil dispute, 40000 bl. Harris Rd.
1918 – civil dispute, 21000 bl. Wilmot Rd.
2008 – suspicious vehicle, 8400 bl. Oakville Waltz
2121 – fire dept. assist, Colorado
Friday, Feb. 6:
0021 – property damage accident, 19000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
1039 – citizen assist, Rawsonville/Willis
1312 – civil dispute, 40000 bl. Harris Rd.
1657 – attempted warrant service, Carriage Ln.
1712 – attempted warrant service, Carriage Ln.
1719 – attempted warrant service, Rustic Ln.
1725 – warrant arrest, 300 bl. Rustic Ln. North
1744 – attempted warrant service, Rustic Ln.
1748 – attempted warrant service, Creekside
1756 – attempted warrant service, Carriage Ln.
1806 – attempted warrant service, Hampshire
1844 – attempted warrant service, Arizona
1904 – warrant arrest, 100 bl. Texas St.
1930 – attempted warrant service, Rustic Ln.
2009 – fire dept. assist, 6500 Oakville Waltz
2042 – warrant arrest, 300 bl. Rustic Ln. North
2152 – warrant arrest, Vermont
2209 – attempted warrant service, Nevada
2227 – warrant arrest, 100 bl. Brookview Dr.
2231 – warrant arrest, 700 bl. Virginia St.
2306 – attempted warrant service, Creekside
2321 – attempted warrant service, Creekside
2350 – attempted warrant service, Rustic Ln.
Saturday, Feb. 7:
0001 – attempted warrant service, Wayside
0009 – attempted warrant service, Brookview
0224 – citizen assist, Rawsonville/Oakville Waltz
0424 – fire dept. assist, 6500 bl. Oakville Waltz
0651 – fire dept. assist, 28000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
1131 – family trouble, Montana
1312 – alarm, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1336 – fire dept. assist, 46000 bl. Willis Rd.
1408 – suspicious vehicle, 43000 bl. Harris Rd.
1755 – animal complaint, 43000 bl. Dunn Rd.
2056 – juvenile complaint, Rustic Ln.
2153 – warrant arrest, 43000 bl. Harris Rd.
2207 – suspicious incident, Bemis/Sully
2220 – fire dept. assist, 18000 bl. Elwell Rd.
Also on this week’s log are seven follow-up investigations, 31 miscellaneous details, 114 patrol checks, and 29 traffic stops.

Thomas White

(continued from page 1)

ways White allegedly stole from them, as well. They are not among those who went to the State Police with their reports.

White was charged with the first five felonies on Sept. 4, 2013 and the next 15 in December 2013. The 20 felonies were combined in the spring of 2014. He pled no contest to 20 felonies on Nov. 3, 2014, the day his jury trial was to begin. The no-contest plea is treated as a guilty plea.

On Friday, defendant White, Det./Sgt. White, and the *Independent* waited in Judge Margaret Van Houton’s courtroom #504 where White was on the docket. Then, they were referred to courtroom #604 where Judge Roberson was sharing the bench. Retired Judge Roberson had presided over several of the latest White court appearances because Judge Van Houten had been recovering from surgery.

Before he was disbarred, White ran a law office in the city of Belleville for 20 years. It was located across the street from city hall.

He currently is unemployed.

School Board

(continued from page 3)

district-wide, after five months as of Feb. 2;

- Approved the new hires of the following teachers: Felecia Barnett for Savage, Teresa Sanford for Edgemont, Deborah Cunningham for Rawsonville, and Sarah Brown for Tyler, all as of Jan. 26; and Ryan Said for BHS as of Feb. 2; Angelique Morrison for Savage, as of Feb. 17; and Matthew Przybylo for BHS as of Feb. 9;
- Approved the retirement of Marcia

Mason after 34 years as a bus driver; and the resignations of Toni Wheeler, custodian for 23 years, as of Jan. 26; Sabrina Young, fringe benefits accountant for one year, as of Jan. 16; and Penny Hedman of Owen, after 20 years as a paraprofessional, as of Jan. 23;

- Approved the hiring of Sarah Farr for Food Service at Tyler, starting Jan. 5;

• Approved using two school buses for the March 6 field trip to Imagination Station in Toledo for fourth grade classrooms at Savage Elementary, leaving at 9 a.m. and returning at 2 p.m. Cost to students is \$12

each, with financial help available; and

- Heard parent Adam Byrd praise staff at McBride for working with his daughter, who is a straight-A student. He also said he was concerned when he got a letter saying McBride was now a Focus School and he learned that meant that the highest scoring students and the lowest scoring students had a big gap in between and the district is working on that.

The Feb. 9 school board meeting was held at McBride Middle School and board members took a tour of the building before the meeting.

The next meeting of the school board will be a regular meeting at 7 p.m., March 16, at Edgemont Elementary School.

Jacob Hoppe named to Academic Honors List at Spring Arbor University

Spring Arbor University announces that Jacob Hoppe was named to the Fall 2014 Academic Honors List. The Academic Honors List recognizes full-time students who have received a grade point average of 3.7 or higher for the semester.

Hoppe, son of Wayde and Carrie Hoppe of Van Buren Township, is a freshman majoring in Business Administration with a 4.0 cumulative grade point average.

Spring Arbor University is a private, four-year Christian liberal arts university located eight miles west of Jackson.

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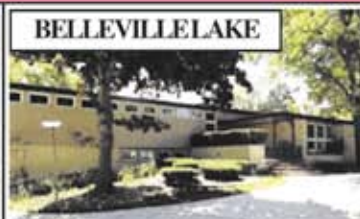
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