



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

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Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

FREE

Library Board unanimously selects Suchy as new director

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

After conducting three interviews of finalists on Friday, May 15, the Belleville Area District Library Board voted unanimously to offer the position of director to Mary Jo Suchy, who has been the library's assistant director for more than 20 years.

The position carried a base salary of \$75,000 to \$80,000 and Suchy indicated she would be glad to take the lower figure and share the additional funds with her staff.



Mary Jo Suchy

Tanya Stoudemire, interim chairperson of the personnel committee, said the board found that move "very noble."

The board interviewed two other candidates on Friday: Karen White-Owens, director of the Lenox Township Library, and Denise Bearre, director of the Inkster Library.

Friday was retiring director Debra Green's last day on the job and she wiped tears of happiness from her eyes after learning her co-worker would be moving up to the director's position.

During her interview Suchy said, if selected director, she would review the staffing and instead of filling the position of deputy director, which she had held,

possibly hire a technology librarian.

She said the director/assistant director has worked very well for the library, but when someone leaves it's a chance to review and possibly reconfigure everything. She said she would first talk to her staff.

Library board president Mary Jane Dawson explained that the board hires only the director and the director hires the rest of the staff.

As her PowerPoint presentation at the beginning of her interview, Suchy gave a 10-minute report, "Bloom at Your Library," which focused on five staff members: Michele Wloch, Jessamy Green-Husted, Tara McCann, Jackie Douglas, and Joe Lebron. She said she could go on with all

the other valuable staff members, as well. She said 61% of the Belleville Area District Library budget pays the staff. Statewide the figure is 64%.

In explaining her goals, Suchy said she has been at this library for 28 years and knows every facet of the job. With Green, she said, they kind of acted like co-directors.

"I am strongly committed to this library and this community," Suchy said, adding she pays extreme attention to details and watches the budget. She said she helped to birth the district library and then to put in place things needed for the district library.

"My fingers are on every single policy

(continued on page 11)

Memorial Day: Time for 11th-annual Thunder Rolls in Belleville

David C. Brown Funeral Home and the Brown Family Center are sponsoring the 11th-annual Motorcycle Ride and Memorial Day Service to honor veterans.

On Monday, motorcyclists will start registering at 11 a.m. for the 27.8-mile ride at Wayne County Community College, 9555 Haggerty Road in Van Buren Township, north of I-94.

The riders will pay \$10 per person,

which all will go to help veterans and their families. Each paying rider will receive a commemorative pin.

The motorcycle ride, with police assistance, begins at 1 p.m. Several hundred bikes are expected to take part.

Throughout the years people have waited along the route to applaud the bikers and wave American flags at them.

The motorcycles, with patriotic flags

flying, will go south on Haggerty Road to Harris Road, west to Martinsville and then south to Willis Road. They will take Willis west to Sumpter Road and then head south on Sumpter to Oakville Waltz Road and head west on Oakville Waltz to Rawsonville Road, which they will take north to West Huron River Drive and then east into the City of Belleville and High Street.

When the motorcycle contingent gets to the Veteran's Memorial in Horizon Park, at about 2-2:30 p.m., the Memorial Day service will begin.

Brown Funeral Home and Family Center is sponsoring the event. Kathie Steigerwald of Brown's is organizing the event. She said it started 11 years ago when the World War II monument was dedicated in Washington, D.C., with the Rolling Thunder motorcycle ride.

Steigerwald said the National Funeral Directors Association raised over \$4 million for the monument. She said she couldn't go to Washington, so she decided to do it here in Belleville.

There will be speakers, prayers, music, a 21-gun salute, and refreshments. The names of local veterans who have died since last year's ceremony will be called

School District sets telephone survey on millage loss

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Four hundred people in the Van Buren Public Schools district will be getting telephone calls soon from a professional polling company to ask them why the millage failed.

The district's 1.13-mill Sinking Fund renewal was turned down by voters on May 5 on a 3,415 - 4,514 vote.

On Monday, at the beginning of the work/study session of the Board of Education, School Supt. Michael Van

Tassel recommended a poll of people in the district to find out the reason the millage was rejected.

Although the board cannot make decisions during the work/study session, it gave Van Tassel its unofficial blessing to call the company in the morning to set up the poll as soon as possible.

Van Tassel said the Epic MRA firm will do 15-minute polls of 400 people with results having a 5% or less margin of error. Cost is from \$15,000 to \$20,000, Van Tassel said.

He reminded the board that he has

authority to spend up to \$23,000 without the board's approval, so he could proceed with the project without an official vote.

Van Tassel said he has talked to people in the community and some thought the vote was no because the state's Proposal One was the only other thing on the ballot and 80% of the people said no to that.

Other voters told him the last sentence in the ballot question, "A portion of the revenue may be captured by the Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority," offended them because they didn't want the township to get any of that money.

Van Tassel said the wording was drawn up by lawyers. He said he talked to VBT Clerk Leon Wright about it and he said Wright

(continued on page 10)

*Postal Regulations Require
This Space On The Front Page.*

EARLY DEADLINES
Due to the upcoming Memorial Day Holiday, ALL ads must be submitted by 4 p.m. Friday, 5/22/15. The office will be closed Monday, 5/25/15.



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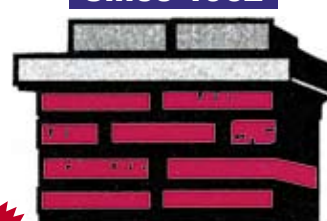
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SECOND FRONT PAGE

Supervisor John Morgan, Sobeckis lead Sumpter Fest Parade

The Sumpter Country Fest Parade kicks off at noon on Saturday, heading south on Sumpter Road from Judd Road to the fairgrounds across from township hall.

This year's Grand Marshall is Sumpter Township Supervisor John Morgan. Honored Citizens are Pat and Frank Sobecki, Jr.

Supervisor John Morgan

Supervisor Morgan has lived in Sumpter Township for 39 years. He is married to Beatrice and they have two children, Jacqueline and Gary, and four grandchildren.

Morgan is a veteran of the U.S. Army and has a bachelor of science in Elementary Education and a master of arts in Education Leadership, both from Eastern Michigan University.

He is a retired school teacher from the Romulus Community Schools.

Morgan was elected in 1978-1982 as a Sumpter Township trustee and appointed treasurer in 1982. He was then elected treasurer 1984-2014.

In 2014 he was appointed Sumpter Township Supervisor when Supervisor Johnny Vawters had to step down for health



Supervisor John Morgan

reasons.

Pat and Frank Sobecki, Jr.

Honored Citizens Pat and Frank Sobecki, Jr. have been married for 38 years and have three children and seven grandchildren.

Frank is a lifetime resident of Sumpter Township and Pat has been a resident for 38 years.

Frank retired from Ford Motor Company

after 34 years and Pat retired from St. Joseph Mercy Hospital after 27 years.

Pat just received the Volunteer of the Year Award for 2015 from September Days Senior Center in Van Buren Township. She is also on the funeral luncheon committee at St. Anthony's Church in Belleville and a member of the Quilting Club at St. Anthony's and September Days. Pat also is a member of the Election Committee for Sumpter Township.

Frank has been a member of St. Anthony's Boy Scout Troop #793 for a total of 45 years, mentoring youth in the tri-community of Sumpter Township, Belleville, and Van Buren Township.

Frank has received numerous awards in the scouting program, including Catholic Youth Organization's Henry Vassel Award, CYO's James Coughlin Award, the Silver Beaver Award, District Award of Merit, George Meany Award, and the United Way Community Service Award. He also received the Catholic St. George Award for Outstanding Service to Youth.

Frank has been a member of St. Anthony's Men's Club for 38 years. He was Co-Grand Marshall in the 2010 Belleville Harvest



Pat and Frank Sobecki, Jr.

Fest Parade, celebrating Boys Scouts' and Girl Scouts' 100th anniversary.

Frank is also a member of VFW Post 4434 and the PLAV Post 167 on Bemis Road in Van Buren Township.

See the complete schedule for this weekend's Sumpter Country Fest on page 17 of today's *Independent*.

Joseph Balowski named Officer of the Year by Sumpter Township PD

During the May 12 regular meeting of the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees, a series of awards were presented to Sumpter Police Officers by Sgt. Chris McGlynn.

Officer of the Year went to Joseph Balowski. The award is for continuous quality performance throughout the year, contributing significantly to the department's mission.

Officer Brian Steffani received the Patrol Productivity Award for the third year running in recognition of the most productive patrol officer for the previous year, with an emphasis on the number and quality of arrests.

Sgt. McGlynn said of Steffani, "He's a machine."

Other awards were:

- Valued Service (20 years) – members qualifying for this award shall have accrued a minimum of 20 years of continued service: Officer Jerry Cox and Captain Eric Luke.

- Distinguished Service – awarded in recognition of department members who in two consecutive year increments accomplishes the following: continually surpasses the department's average performance standards, experience no sustained disciplinary action, and no at-fault vehicle accidents: Officer Brian Steffani, Cpl. John Ashby, and Sgt. Chris McGlynn.

- Meritorious Service – awarded to a member who has performed an efficient and valuable service to the department, the community as a whole, or an individual citizen, either in the performance of a specific task or in the the outstanding performance of general duties over an extended period: Captain Eric Luke.

- Academic Achievement (Staff & Command): Sgt. Patrick Gannon and Sgt. Chris McGlynn - both of whom graduated from Eastern Michigan University School of Police Staff & Command on Oct. 17.

- Chief's Recognition – the Chief of Police may present this award to a member of the police department for any reason deemed worthy of recognition: Officer Colleen Gottschalk for her actions in case #14-0145 (ran down a suspect fleeing on foot, showing physical agility); Cpl. Ashby for traffic law enforcement – safety focus; and Officer Danielle Buccellato, Officer Brian Steffani, Officer Joseph Balowski, Officer Colleen Gottschalk, Officer Beth Egerer, Det./Cpl. John Toth, and Sgt. Chris McGlynn, all for the Jared Ritchie attempted murder case.



Officer Steffani



Sumpter Township Police Officer Joseph Balowski, at left, was presented with the Officer of the Year award for 2014 by Police Chief James Pierce, center, and Sgt. Chris McGlynn, at the May 12 meeting of the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees.

All students OK after car hits Van Buren bus

A woman driver with two children in her car ran into a Van Buren Public Schools bus at about 4 p.m. Tuesday at the corner of Holmes and Ford roads in Washtenaw County.

Paramedics checked out all 15 students from Owen Intermediate School who were on the bus and they were fine, said Pam Johnson, executive assistant to the

superintendent. None were transported. A television news report said a child was taken to Mott's Children's Hospital, but that child is unidentified.

Police say the woman driver, who was immediately arrested at the scene, seemed to be driving impaired, either by drugs or alcohol.

OPINIONS

Editorial

Ficano giveaway finally accepted in Van Buren Twp.

A plan by former Wayne County Executive Bob Ficano to give money away for local road projects finally has been accepted in Van Buren Township.

But, it hasn't been easy. The offer to give VBT \$750,000 in exchange for a 20% match is a once-in-a-lifetime offer — especially looking at Wayne County's current finances.

But there were details that offended some of the residents in the proposed Venetian, Dewitt and Jeannette Road Special Assessment District. They wanted their roads repaired ... but ...!

This project also led to the resignation of the township's Director of Planning and Economic Development Jack Knowles, our favorite director of all those we've had over the years. He's gone this week.

A public hearing was held Tuesday — for almost two hours. After that was over, the board approved the SAD roll of an estimated total of \$2,854 per lot over five years, less than half of what it would have cost those 46 homeowners 12 years ago when road repairs were last sought.

The roads are horrible. Now they'll be repaired with the help of taxpayer money in the county's pocket.

Everyone wanted the roads to be fixed, but minutiae bogged it down. On Tuesday, the board took all the necessary action to get it going, but that was only after the dissenting residents stepped out into the hall to complain some more.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

We've been advised that Elmer Parraghi, former supervisor of Sumpter Township, is under hospice care. He is 86 years old and has led a very productive life. I remember when my mother died in 2002, Elmer was very kind and supportive. I appreciated that a lot.

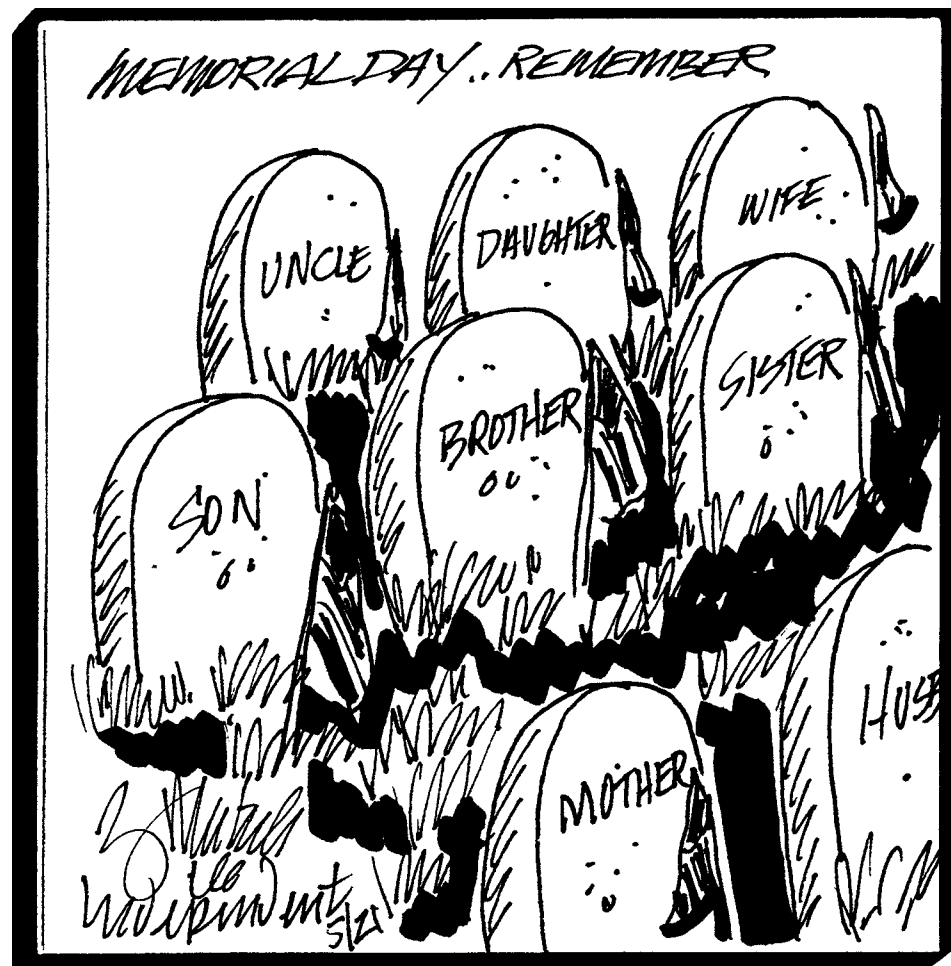
I remember riding to U.S. Federal District Court in Detroit with Elmer and Clarence Hoffman for a court session around that time. I believe it was one of the many court sessions over the Holiday Woods mobile home court dispute.

We had a great trip to and from court with lots of laughter. What I remember most about Elmer is the laughter. He had a burly side, too, but that was for politics, not for the local reporter.

Keith Tackett, DPW Director for the City of Belleville, told me that the city street sweeper blew a hydraulic line on Monday and it is being repaired.

Several people came in to tell us that the street sweeper left a big mess when it swept Monday morning. There still are oily smears down the parking lanes along Main.

After the Belleville City Council meeting on Monday, as I was heading home after a rainstorm, I saw a beautiful rainbow to the south of the city. The best I could tell the end of the rainbow was on the grounds of the Sumpter Country Fest, which will start its activities today and run until Monday. This is a good omen. Maybe it won't rain on their parade Saturday noon.



We've been alerted that last Saturday, the detour for East Huron River Drive construction in Belleville/VBT was diverted to the NORTH Service Drive, not the South as previously announced, because the county is milling a part of the South Service Drive road surface.

From what I could tell, many drivers were not going through the several traffic lights on the North Service Drive route, but have been taking a more-rural Savage Road route to avoid Huron River Drive.

The public was assured the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees would have to vote on whether to actually sue Visteon, but it didn't. The board did vote to have the attorneys draw up a law suit and it was never brought to the board in public session again.

We see by the Detroit media that the VBT suit was filed against Visteon on May 12 in U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Delaware. One Detroit paper called the disagreement between VBT and Visteon, "a feud."

The township alleges Visteon breached its contract over bonds tied to the construction of Visteon Village, its world headquarters.

The township pledged its full faith and credit to support the bonds and in a few years there won't be enough money coming in to pay the bonds. The township could go bankrupt if voters won't approve about six mills more in taxes. Sure hope the law suit works.

Visteon Corporation announced it plans to close its tech center in Holland, MI, and relocate up to 175 employees to its Van Buren Township corporate location. About 50-60 jobs will be eliminated. This is expected to be after Sept. 1.

Visteon acquired Johnson Controls automotive electronics business, which included the Holland Technical Center, as of July 2014.

At Monday's School Board work-study session, Adam Bird told the board that he would be glad to work on a citizens' committee to support passage of the Sinking Fund millage this November.

The board is planning a telephone poll to find out what the voters think before then and then the board will decide what, if anything, to put before voters.

Adam is a police officer in Van Buren Township and VBT is considering putting its 4 mills of Public Safety Millage before the voters for renewal in November. There also has been discussion of asking for another two mills for Public Safety.

We suspect Adam will support at least the renewal for Public Safety and then he'll be promoting the school millage, too? Very busy guy.





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**Letters****Director Laurain, Fire
Chief Besson must go**

May 14, 2015

Open Letter to Van Buren Township
Board

Dear Supervisor Combs and Township
Board:

The March 5, 2015 employment policy that you approved requiring a minimum of a 6-hour break after working 18 hours in one department is not being enforced, at least not for Lt. Floro. A study of FOIA'd timesheets shows, despite the township's attempt to curb these practices, Lt. Floro's blatant disregard for rules continues.

On April 24, Floro worked 30 hours straight. Starting at the Fire Department from 6 a.m. - 6 a.m. then at 6 a.m. on the 25th he recorded that he worked from 6 a.m. to 12 p.m. in addition to Command Training.

Another interesting observation is that Lt. Floro never logs any travel time off for transportation between the PD and FD. The township supplies him with a vehicle, fuel, and insurance. Adding paid travel time for a single employee is ludicrous.

It's not just the tremendous strain on the Public Safety budget; it's also excess fatigue and the adverse effect on public safety. US Customs Agents must have an 8-hour rest period after their shift.

The department continuously loses the public's trust as it writes policies and doesn't enforce them. Pyramiding overtime has been banned in the union's contracts as far back as 2006 and quite possibly before then.

The Board's March 3, 2015 Resolution which prohibited using accrued time, described by Director Laurain as comp, personal and vacation, to work in another classification was not needed. Why did the township ever pay these absences, sometimes even sick days/hours from an employee's primary job to earn additional overtime? This isn't dedication, it's exploiting the system.

Where is the supervision of this employee that continuously disregards policy? As

the Chair of the former Public Safety Committee, some residents still feel free to contact me. I've heard Floro provides daily transportation for his kids to schools outside the area during work hours.

Whistle blower lawsuit 14-007522-CZ is currently making its way through the 3rd Circuit Court. The suit involves the firing of Lt. Floro's supervisor after he brought to light fellow firefighters' complaints about Floro abandoning his post.

How long is this Board going to ignore poor performance from at-will appointed directors? I've also heard a letter from a high-ranking police officer was sent to Director Laurain asking him to resign and that the department has lost confidence in him. The township and its employees need to have leaders that have earned their respect. Director Laurain and Fire Chief Besson must go.

Respectfully,

Diane Madigan

Chair, Former Public Safety Committee

**Thought pain was due to
kidney disease, it wasn't**

To the Editor, People of Belleville and Van Buren Township:

I went to the U of M last June for workup for a kidney transplant, as I have Stage IV Polycystic Kidney Disease. The doctors found a large cancer growing in my abdomen, a somewhat rare type of sarcoma usually found in an organ. Uniquely, mine was attached to the small bowel, outside.

This type was not affected by chemotherapy, even if I wasn't a candidate due to the PCK. As you can imagine, my abdominal pain had been increasing, but I had always thought it was due to the cysts on my kidneys.

I had the surgery, small bowel resection (about two feet) on Oct. 6, 2014. Doctors were pretty sure they got it and as of my May 13 CAT Scan, shows no further growth!

So, I am praising the U of M Surgical Team which Dr. Sandra Wong heads up at the Sarcoma Clinic.

I am a walking testament to the great care and attention to my medical condition, especially that I received there during my week's stay.

Next step, a two-year wait, cancer free, to be put on the Transplant List again.

Bob Holt

Van Buren Township

"A day without sunshine is like,
you know, night."

— Steve Martin

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you'll become a philosopher."*

--Socrates



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More Letters

Thanks to all who came to Eagle Project dinner

To the Editor:

I would like to thank all who came out to my Eagle Project Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser on May 16. I was able to raise \$600. The donations made will help me get started with getting supplies for my project, building a weather shelter for volunteers at the Sumpter Recycling Center.

A Special Thanks to the following who sent donations and provided items to the Silent Auction for the dinner: Pro-Hardware, Ace Hardware, Tornadoes Pizza, Mammoth Video, Lodge Lanes, Kay Atkins from Threads & Treasures, and Sumpter Fire Department.

The Project is still in need of donations and they can still be made at the Sumpter Township Hall; c/o Ryan York - Eagle Project.

Thank you,
Ryan York, Life Scout, Troop 231

"The world is a dangerous place to live; not because of the people who are evil, but because of the people who don't do anything about it."

— Albert Einstein



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Obituaries



Fred Herman Warblow



FRED H. WARBLOW

(February 13, 1925 - May 16, 2015)

Fred Herman Warblow, age 90, life-long Belleville-area resident, passed away Saturday, May 16, 2015 at Superior Woods, Ypsilanti, MI. He was born February 13, 1925 in Wayne, MI, son of William John and Catherine Mary (Birk) Warblow.

Fred proudly served his country in the U.S. Marine Corps during WWII in the First Marine Corps Division. He went to trade school and began working for Ford Motor Company, Ypsilanti. Fred married Joyce Loraine Day on April 8, 1950. He retired as a Die Maker after more than 30 years. Mr. Warblow was a member of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Belleville. He was an active member and even drove the church bus for a few years. In his younger days he enjoyed playing ball, bowling, and golf. He loved square dancing and traveling with his wife, especially to the First Division yearly Reunions. He also volunteered with Meals on Wheels. He was a former member of VFW Post #4434.

Mr. Warblow is survived by two sons Michael (Denise) Warblow of Beloit, WI and Robert Warblow of Grand Rapids, MI; two daughters Pamela (Thomas) Higgins of Belleville, MI and Joy (Kevin) O'Keefe of McBain, MI; 12 grandchildren; 8 great-grandchildren and one on-the-way; also numerous friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, also his wife Joyce Loraine (Day) Warblow on April 19, 2012.

Visitation was 2-8 PM Wednesday at David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI 48111 (734) 697-4500. Visitation will be 10:30-11:30 AM on Thursday, May 21, 2015 at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 47445 W. Huron River Dr., Belleville, with an 11:30 AM Funeral. Pastor James A. Frey will officiate.

Interment will be in Denton Cemetery, Van Buren Township, MI. Memorial contributions may be made to the Church or to St. Joseph Hospice and would be appreciated. Please sign this on-line guest book and share a memory for the family to treasure at www.davidcbrownfh.com.

Steigerwald certification renewed as Preplanning Consultant at Brown's

The National Funeral Directors Association has renewed the nationally recognized Certified Preplanning Consultant (CPC) designation for Kathleen M. Steigerwald of David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville.

She recently was presented with a certificate covering the time from May 2011 through April 2019.

The CPC certification is considered the standard of excellence in funeral service for individuals who help families plan funerals in advance.

In order to become a Certified Preplanning Consultant, candidates must meet specific program requirements and pass an examination based on a standards manual. CPCs must demonstrate their ongoing professional commitment by fulfilling

specific requirements as they renew their certification every four years.

NFDA's Certified Preplanning consultant program, established in 1997, recognizes qualified, knowledgeable individuals who are committed to provide ethical and caring advance planning services for all families.

"Those who have earned the CPC designation have achieved a unique career distinction that is highly valued by families that want to plan meaningful funerals in advance," said Colleen Murphy Klein, who manages the program.

NFDA is the world's largest funeral service association, serving 19,700 individual members who represent nearly 10,000 funeral homes in the United States and 39 countries around the world.

NFDA offers funeral professionals comprehensive educational resources, tools to manage successful businesses, guidance to become pillars in their communities, and the expertise to foster future generations of funeral professionals.

NFDA is headquartered in Brookfield, Wisconsin, and has an office in Washington, D.C.

Jackie Berg announces her new magazines to fight juvenile obesity

Bridges Communications Group, Inc. and founder Jackie Berg of Belleville have announced the mid-March launch of monthly magazines TheWEIGH™, Neighborhood News Hub and the related TheWeigh.com.

These new publications, which are focused on promoting neighborhood community health including the prevention and treatment of childhood obesity, will be distributed through minority newspapers statewide.

She said the publications are supported by political and community leaders, including Gov. Rick Snyder and Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan, who co-wrote the foreword for the inaugural issue of the Neighborhood News Hub. Michigan Department of Community Health Director Nick Lyon co-wrote TheWEIGH's foreword.

Berg said she created TheWEIGH out of frustration, as a parent, in trying to make sense of the science surrounding childhood obesity and the lack of tools available to help combat the problem.

"Obesity, as a whole, has been on the rise in Michigan, but the increase in childhood obesity is especially troubling," said Berg. "According to the Centers for Disease Control, childhood obesity has more than doubled in children and quadrupled in adolescents in the past 30 years."

ANDREW D. DEARING

(November 23, 1957 - May 14, 2015)

Age 57 of Sumpter Township. Survived by wife Pamela; four children; seven grandchildren; a brother and sister. Memorial service was held May 17 at Janowiak Funeral Home Sumpter Chapel.

WALLACE DANIEL GERVAIS

(April 18, 1923 - May 17, 2015)

Age 92, of Romulus. Survived by daughters Marlo (Jim) Pappas of Belleville and Nancy (Rick) Morris of Canton; 7 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; brother; 2 sisters. Service was May 20 at David C. Brown Funeral Home.

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More Letters

Please print this article before Memorial Day

To the Editor:

When I was in the Ypsilanti High School Girls Drum & Bugle Corps, 1947-50, we marched in many parades. People would always stand, salute the flag and clap as we walked by with our American flag leading the way.

What has happened? You don't see that as much anymore. I am hoping you can print this article before Memorial Day. Wake up, people! The flag represents the best country in the world.

I don't remember where the article came from. I have had it for a long time. Thank you very much.

Donna M. Sienko

Belleville

YOUR FLAG

Hello. Remember me? Some people call me Old Glory, others call me the Star-Spangled Banner, but whatever they call me, I am your flag, the flag of the United States of America.

Something has been bothering me, so I thought I might talk it over with you – because it is about you and me.

I remember some time ago, people would line up on both sides of the street to watch the parade, and naturally I was leading every one, proudly waving in the breeze.

When your daddy saw me coming, he immediately removed his hat and placed it against his left shoulder so that his hand was directly over his heart – remember?

And you, I remember, were standing there, straight as a soldier. You didn't have a hat, but you were giving the right salute.

Remember your little sister? Not to be outdone, she was saluting the same as you with her right hand over her heart – remember?

What happened? I'm still the same old flag. Oh, I've added a few more stars since you were a boy, and a lot more blood has been shed since those parades of long ago.

But now, somehow, I don't feel as proud as I used to feel. When I come down your street, you just stand there with your hands in your pockets. You may give me a small glance, and then you look away. I see children running around you shouting; they don't seem to know who I am.

I saw one man take his hat off, then he looked around, and when he didn't see anybody else take off his hat, he quickly put his on again.

Is it a sin to be patriotic today? Have you forgotten what I stand for, and where I have been? Anzio, Guadalcanal, Korea and Vietnam!

Take a look at the memorial honor rolls, and see the names of those patriotic Americans who gave their lives to keep this republic free. When you salute ME, you are actually saluting THEM.

Well, it won't be long until I'll be coming down your street again. So when you see me, please stand straight and place your hand over your heart, and I'll know that you remembered. I'll salute you by waving back!

Reminder: Memorial Day last Monday of May

To the Editor:

This is a reminder to Belleville Residents and all My South Biggs Neighbors.

Memorial Day, an American holiday observed on the last Monday of May, honors men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military.

Originally known as Decoration Day, it originated in the years following the Civil War and became an official federal holiday in 1971. Many Americans observe Memorial Day by visiting cemeteries or memorials, holding family gatherings, and participating in parades. Unofficially, at least, it marks the beginning of summer.

Here's YOUR chance to demonstrate pride in our country and remember our fallen veterans. Once again I am encouraging all residents of Belleville to have a flag at EVERY home.

Business Owners, Firemen, Police Officers, City Officials: Set the example. Display YOUR U.S. flag early. Show the rest of Van Buren Township, Wayne County, Michigan, and the entire country how proud we are to be a U.S. Citizen, creating a sense of pride in our neighborhood and our country.

Thanks to a very generous donation of supplies from Manns Lumber, also donations from Sumpter Ace Hardware, Belleville Hardware, and Home Depot, I have a couple hundred FREE, refurbished flags (11"x16") available. Stop by and pick up one. Call 699-8563 or stop at 48 S. Biggs. Also, I can have your old flags properly disposed of; drop them off when you pick up a new one.

My refurbished flags have previously been flown over Veterans' graves. Now you can "Honor and Remember" that fallen Veteran by once again displaying his/her flag at your home.

Don't let Memorial Day go by without acknowledging our Great Country.

Pete Pitzen

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

Wisniewski family thanks all for their help

To the Editor:

Edward Wisniewski and family of Sumpter Township would like to give a very big and grateful, heartfelt Thank You! to Sumpter Township, the firefighters,

volunteers and merchants for their time, efforts, and donations to the Fundraiser Spaghetti Dinner, Silent Auction, and Quilt Raffle. As well as everyone who came to purchase dinners, raffle tickets, and bid in the Silent Auction.

As Ed is in the last stages of stage-four lung cancer, no words can convey how much it means to us.

May God Bless each of you and your families.

Sincerely,

Janice Wisniewski

Sumpter Township

Thanks to volunteers who helped place flags

To the Editor:

The Hillside Cemetery Advisory Committee wishes to thank the volunteers who helped place American flags on all veterans' graves at Hillside Cemetery for Memorial Day 2015.

On Saturday, May 16, volunteers from the Belleville community and surrounding areas met at the cemetery to place flags on the graves of over 500 veterans. This project is done twice each year, in anticipation of Memorial Day and Veterans Day.

We appreciate the contribution of these volunteers in recognizing the service of our deceased veterans.

The Hillside Cemetery Advisory Committee

City of Belleville

Help stop dog bites in the community

To the Editor:

A dog might be a man's best friend, but is it a letter carrier's? Warmer temperatures mean children playing, letter carriers delivering, and dogs barking. Most dogs are safely behind a fence or on a leash. However, there are some situations when a dog can be potentially dangerous.

Several of our letter carriers know first-hand about the prevention and pain of animal attacks, and we want to help educate the community – especially during National Dog Bite Prevention Week, May 16-22.

More than 4.5 million people are bitten annually by dogs. Last year, 5,767 postal employees were victimized by dogs across the country. And more than 2 million children receive dog bite injuries each year. Small children, the elderly and letter carriers, in that order, are the most frequent victims of dog bites.

Dog attacks are the most commonly reported childhood public health problem in the United States. Dog bite victims account for up to 5% of emergency room visits.

So what can you do to avoid being bitten? Don't run past a dog. The dog's natural instinct is to chase and catch you. If a dog threatens you, don't scream. Avoid eye contact. Try to remain motionless until

(continued on page 9)

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More Letters

(continued from page 8)

the dog leaves, and then back away slowly until the dog is out of sight. If you believe a dog is about to attack you, try to place something between yourself and the dog, such as a backpack or a bicycle.

What can a responsible dog owner do to keep the community safe? Take your dog to obedience training. It can teach dogs proper behavior and help owners control their dog in any situation. When the letter carrier comes to your home, please keep your dog inside, away from the door, in another room, or on a leash.

To learn more about National Dog Bite Prevention Week, ask your letter carrier, contact your local post office, or visit www.avma.org.

Tim Inman
Belleville Postmaster

Where's a Sgt. at Arms when you need one?

Van Buren Township Board of Trustees:

Well, by now everyone must have read the article, in the May 7th edition of the *Independent*, wherein Director Knowles eloquently explained the reason for his recent decision to resign as Planning and Development Director of Van Buren

Township.

Though Trustee Jahr was singled out for his confrontational attitude, the blame must be shared equally by others on the board. Trustee Miller, in her continuing effort to act as a missionary to the residents in our community, once again failed to follow procedure and lent her "spoon fed mentality" to Trustee Hart.

The purpose of the motion was simply to establish the Special Assessment District, which is merely defining those areas that need to receive the funding from the county, and everything else could be discussed at the following scheduled public hearing in several weeks.

No, because one resident was completely ignorant of how the meeting agenda was normally supposed to be administered, and she chose to ask the board innumerable and inane questions regarding the engineering of the project. Director Knowles was subjected to frustrating and embarrassing dialog which would have been covered by the engineering expert had he not already departed the meeting (since the Public Hearing was formally closed). Thank you, Ms. Miller!

I'd suggest that from now on the board members act as a unified team and stop the constant pandering to the television cameras and Mr. Delaney. John apparently believes that these meetings are held solely for his purpose of representing the residents of Van Buren Township. Correct me if I'm wrong, but I don't recall electing an ombudsman "at large" for our township and each of you should be insulted to have John say he is representing anyone other than himself.

Please feel free to share the blame with Trustee Jahr, Ms. Miller, since it is you who seems to think our residents are stupid! Everyone should think twice before voicing your opinions, follow the examples of Treasurer Budd and Trustee McClanahan who have always exemplified responsible representation.

And, please, no more long speeches. If the public can say what they need to express in 3 minutes, so should you.

CeJay Marshall
Van Buren Township

Museum has plenty of events for your family

To the Editor:

Save the dates! We have plenty of events this summer to keep you and your family busy.

Our newest exhibit opens Monday, May 11 – *Lake Life: The Creation and Recreation of Belleville Lake* features a chronological history of the formation, primary uses, and the lake's place in tri-community culture. Created by members of the Belleville High School New Tech Ecology Club, this exhibit will run through September culminating with a lecture given by David Wilson of the Huron River Watershed Council on Sept. 24 and Canoe Day on the Lake Tour on Saturday, Sept. 26. More information to come.

We have three upcoming *Antiques Appraisal Days*: May 21, July 16, and Sept. 17, from 3 to 7 p.m., at the Belleville Area Museum. Admission and first appraisal is \$10, each additional item is \$5, with a limit of 4. Our July 16th appraisal event will also include our annual Yard Sale. Please clean out your homes and drop off items for sale, to the Belleville Area Museum during business hours. We ask for no clothing, TVs, or obsolete electronics.

This summer we will introduce our *Passport to History Scavenger Hunt*, which will include five to seven historic sites in the tri-community for people to seek out and take photographs in front of. The hunt will take place from June 1 to Aug. 14. Participants may come to the museum to pick up "Passports." Those who complete the scavenger hunt will receive a small prize from the museum and will be entered for a larger grand prize from the Yankee Air Museum. Winners will be selected during their *Keep the Spirit of '45 Alive* event on Aug. 16.

On Sunday, July 26, *Feral Farms of Willis, MI* will host their second-annual Don Keene Memorial Fundraiser, benefitting the Belleville Area Historical Society. Please contact the museum for more information and sign up times.

Moms' and grad presents HERE! Don't forget to visit our Gift Shop for *Retro Belleville* T-shirts, museum hoodies, mugs, postcards, our annual calendar, and more.

The museum spring/summer hours are now in effect: Tuesday: 3-7 p.m. and Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: Noon to 4 p.m. Group tours and archival research by appointment. We are located at 405 Main Street, in Downtown Belleville. (734) 697-1944.

Katie Dallos, Director
Belleville Area Museum

Here's some advice so you don't get scammed

To the Editor:

One of the many scams that are out there is a telephone scam that says that he is from the Windows I.T. Department and that your computer has a virus and your virus protection covers Windows XP only.

He will then convince you to let him get into your computer so he can show you this, then proceed to show you the different protection plans that are available. He will give you his name and a password so that if you call him you have to provide the name and password.

Then he will ask you how you want to pay for it and if it is a credit card he will have a form to fill out with you giving your last four of your social security number. Remember, never give out your social security number.

If you turn them down after you have done this and call your credit company to block payment, they will keep calling you saying you need protection for your computer. Tell them you're recording this conversation and you will call the police and the F.B.I.

If you have caller I.D. and the number that comes up is the number 1 or any single number, don't answer. Or, if the number is different than what you are used to, like 202-660-1505 and 12026601505 don't answer it. Don't talk to anyone from INDIA that is calling you unless you call someone there first. If they call, just say "I don't have a computer."

If you purchase by credit card on the internet, it should be with a card that is not a bank credit card.

Scammed
Belleville

Varsity Men's Golf team finishes league play

The Belleville High School Varsity Men's Golf team finished league play on May 14 with a record of 2 wins and 5 losses – which includes 2 wins and 4 losses in the last matches.

Thank you, men, for an exciting season. Good luck at districts.

Dave Martin, head coach
Doc Williams, assistant coach

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School Board

(continued from page 1)

told him it probably doesn't have to be on there because "it's already been paid."

"It appears we will not have to include that wording next time," Van Tassel said.

"The community has voted and spoken," Van Tassel said, adding to just put the same question back on the ballot is not a good idea.

He said his recommendation is that the board do this poll and gather good information from the community about what the community is willing to support and what it will not support.

Van Tassel said the poll is a four-to-six-week process and then the board can have a special work/study session to discuss the results. The special work/study could be set in June and then a resolution could be passed and sent in to the county at the end of July and give the board a month to think about it and discuss what they want to do until the August deadline for the November election.

Later in the meeting he said it might be more like a three-to-four-week process, which would bring the results back in June.

"We'll find out things we have to do better and news we need to get out," Van Tassel said.

Trustee Sherry Frazier suggested the board get together with another group in the community, possibly the library, so the cost could be shared.

Board members pointed out that they want answers specific to the school district and the library district has different boundaries than the school district.

"I'm all for it," Frazier said of the poll. "We need to get information from our stakeholders."

"Short of doing this, we won't get a snapshot," Van Tassel said. "Why people voted and why people didn't vote ... There was only about a 20% turnout. That's not even our parents ..."

He said the board can choose to disagree with the results of the poll, "You're the board."

"We don't want to guess and then be wrong," said board president Brent Mikulski.

"We can find out not only those who voted no, but why people didn't vote," said board vice president Martha Toth.

Van Tassel said some may say they don't like paying taxes, or "I was out of town," or "I didn't like the last sentence."

He said VBT is talking of a police/fire millage vote in November.

"Instead of getting an Ouija Board out" we can do this, Van Tassel said of the polling.

"We may not like what they say," he warned the board.

Frazier said the people might say, "No way" to the Sinking Fund.

Van Tassel said the board could consider reducing the amount to .5 mill or .25 mill. Members of the public will be asked what they are willing to support.

"We'll find out if the community is supportive of bringing it again," he said.

"One problem is the name," said Toth. "The Sinking Fund. *Sinking in* is bad."

"It's been a challenge in the past," Van Tassel said, noting if the board puts a proposal or modified proposal on the ballot a citizen committee can be formed in early August.

He said the board and district employees cannot serve on the committee, but he can have a limited service.

He said for the last election he thought they got the information out, but he has seen attacks on Facebook on some of the board members.

"I'm not going to tell you polls are perfect. They're not," Van Tassel said.

But, he said, the district has to pay for elections.

"We'll find out for sure where we sit, then form a community committee, and file the paperwork," Van Tassel said.

Things to do in the Belleville area...

• **Thursday, May 21** – Salad Luncheon at noon at St. John's Lutheran Church, 28320 Waltz Rd., Waltz. Put on by St. John's Ladies' Aid/LWML. Donation of \$6 includes salad luncheon, dessert and door prizes. To be assured of tickets, call Diana at (734) 654-6366, M-F, 8-4.

• **Thursday, May 21** – Antiques Appraisal Fund Raiser at the Belleville Area Museum, 3-7 p.m. \$10 covers admission and first item. \$5 every item thereafter (limit 4).

• **Thursday, May 21, through Monday, May 25** – Sumpter Township Country Fest at the fairgrounds across from township hall. Parade on Sumpter Road is Saturday at noon, starting at Judd Road and heading south to the fairgrounds.

• **Saturday, May 23** – Come have coffee with State Rep. Kristy Pagan at 10 a.m. at Leo's Coney Island, 9624 Belleville Road, Van Buren Township.

• **Monday, May 25** – Thunder Rolls in Belleville at the 11th-annual motorcycle ride and Memorial Day service to honor our veterans. Registration and lineup is at 11 a.m. at WCCC on Haggerty Road. Ride starts at 1 p.m. and Memorial Service at Belleville's Veterans Memorial starts after the riders get there, around 2 p.m.

• **Tuesday, May 26** – Senior Health Information Session is at 5:30 p.m. at the Belleville Area District Library. In June and July the Senior Alliance and library will be holding free workshops geared toward senior health. You'll learn all about it at the info session. Call Elizabeth Browning at the Senior Alliance for more information: (734) 727-2048.

BHS student gets OK to graduate by preferred, rather than legal, name

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

On Friday, CBS News/WWJ Radio in Detroit published a story about a Belleville High School transgender student who got permission from the superintendent to have his preferred name called out at graduation rather than the name on his birth certificate.

The story has had many comments on the internet from far-flung locations.

According to WWJ, Sebastian Newell assumed his male identity as a freshman and fought to graduate as Sebastian, not the name of Maura, which is on his birth certificate.

Sebastian is quoted as saying he didn't want to participate in BHS Commencement ceremonies on May 28 at Eastern Michigan University Convocation Center under the name of Maura, which would embarrass him "in front of thousands of people."

School Supt. Michael Van Tassel is quoted as saying the initial decision to use the name "Maura" was not about gender, but about the policy that a student must use a legal name and the district agreed to use the name "Sebastian" after getting the approval of the student's parents.

Supt. Van Tassel told WWJ the district is discussing doing away with the tradition of separating boys and girls at the Commencement ceremony.

"The times, they are a changing – and there's nothing wrong with that," Van Tassel told WWJ.

Van Tassel's executive secretary Pam Johnson said Monday that although she cannot answer a question on a specific student because of FERPA privacy laws, a student's graduation certificate will be printed out with his or her legal name at the time of graduation.

But, Sebastian will be sitting with the boys.

There was internet chatter about Sebastian at first being denied having his preferred name called out, but on May 14, Renee Newell announced online: "Great news all!! Sebastian Newell is walking as himself!! Thank you Mr. Van Tassel and staff, teachers, family, friends? Advocates and educated people. We are proud of the peaceful way this was handled...let us not forget there are many young trans kids that do not have this kind of support. Let's keep this ball rolling. Peace all, Renee Newell a

very proud mommy."

One internet site detailed early plans to drown out the announcer at BHS Commencement in support of Sebastian. When the announcer would try to say "Maura," all would yell out "Sebastian Newell."

Tooley v. Van Buren Public Schools

In a related report, a transgender law suit was filed Sept. 5 in U.S. District Court in Detroit against four school districts, including the Van Buren Public Schools.

The suit was brought by the mother of a 14-year-old transgender student who was also born as a female – Olivia -- and now wishes to be a male -- Seth. The student attended Owen Intermediate School and then transferred to other schools.

Kimberly Tooley, who lives in Dearborn Heights, alleges bullying and sex discrimination against her child.

A "Statement of Interest of the United States" was filed Feb. 24. This brings the U.S. Attorney General's office and others into the case to assist the court in evaluating the claims of sex discrimination.

Among other things, Tooley's lawsuit alleges: "A hostile environment exists in the districts and the districts' existing policies and procedures have contributed to the hostile environment."

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Director Suchy

(continued from page 8)

you have approved," she told the board. She said she is handy in fixing things,

"like MacGyver," and installed the garbage disposal, shimmed up the book return with popsicle sticks, and, "I've been on the roof."

When talking about diversity, she said they have lost a lot of kids in the community and, "We've aged a little bit. We have to reach out to seniors."

She said she would like to write a grant for laptops so they can go out in the community to seniors.

When asked to rate herself in terms of library technology, on a 1-5 basis, with one being bad and five being pretty good, Suchy said she was a 3.8, "but you can round that off to four."

She said she is an excellent problem-solver and has guided the staff.

"I have a very high standard of public service," Suchy said when she was asked about what she expects from her staff. "I try to encourage them to meet people more than half-way..."

When asked about three words her staff

might use to describe her, she said: "Calm, creative, perseverant."

When asked about the failed millage and bond campaign and what she would have done differently, she said after they prepared the proposed budget for the new building, they should have had a bit more time to prepare the campaign.

"There was not enough time to get out in the community and sell it," she said, noting it should have been on the November ballot, where there were more voters.

When asked about grants, she told of a \$16,000 federal grant she wrote and obtained for outreach to children, among other grants.

When asked about ways to motivate the staff, without money, she said: "Give them responsibility. It's like we all own stock in the library, all co-owners. Give them a project. Give them ownership."

When asked about what surprised her in the library survey results, Suchy said she was surprised by the lack of support for a branch library.

"Money is always an issue," she said. "What we were proposing was too costly for them ... They said we were building a Taj Mahal. OK, what can we build? What can we do? People like their library downtown. We saw it in Dexter and Chelsea."

Suchy said she spent her entire career here and she and Green had a very close relationship, with them communicating without finishing sentences.

"I've been the anchor," she said. "Deb goes off with different ideas and I tell her why don't we focus on two?"

"I excel at implementing. I'm a little vague about vision," she said.

"I didn't follow a traditional career path," she told the board. "I was here. I loved the library, the staff, I love our community... I don't feel I'm finished here."

She said the library in Belleville is "like the corner pub, without the alcohol. We meet our public where they are coming from, without judgment... We've helped so many people."

Suchy said recently they got a call from a lady planning a birthday party and wanting to know how much ice cream it takes to feed 66 people.

She said her work at the library is a labor of love. She said some people, who had barely even touched a computer, came

in and got help with honing their resume skills so they could be posted on line.

Suchy earned her bachelor of arts degree in 1987 at the University of Michigan — Dearborn, *magna cum laude*. Her Master of Information and Library Studies degree was earned at the U of M in 1988. She has worked at the Belleville library since then.

She is a member of the Belleville Rotary Club and is president-elect for 2015-16. Among other activities, she taught Tai Chi at the Van Buren Township Recreation Department from 2000-2013.

After the board voted to offer the position to Suchy, board president Dawson read a letter from Keith and Ginger Bruder of Willis strongly supporting Suchy's candidacy.

The interviews were conducted by Marianne Hartzell of Hartzell-Mika Consulting. She brought along her husband Dr. Joe Mika who helped her with details in the interview process.

After the interviews were complete, Hartzell suggested each board member identify one candidate this library needs and the person who would be the best director. She said there was no reason to delay a selection if there was a consensus.

She said she would like a unanimous vote when it finally comes.

So, one by one, in alphabetical order, the board members each said "Mary Jo" and, at the end, Stoudemire said she knows that Hartzell wanted a unanimous vote — and then paused.

Everyone leaned forward to hear what she was going to say.

And she proceeded, "And I'm happy to say it is unanimous," Stoudemire said, adding when she was being interviewed, "Mary Jo's passion filled the room."

Later Stoudemire said, "I wanted to stand up and cheer," during the interview because Suchy showed herself to be a strong, passionate person and intelligent and she wants the job.

"This is the best choice that could have been made," Dawson said.

After Suchy was brought back into the meeting room, board member Sharon Peters said to Suchy: "You're a smart cookie — ability, intelligence, and breadth."

"I feel very lucky," Suchy replied.

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Rotary presents ten \$2,000 scholarships to BHS graduates

On May 12 the Belleville Rotary Club held its 70th-annual Scholarship Program, awarding ten \$2,000 scholarships to Belleville High graduates.

The club recognized five recipients of first-time scholarships and five recipients of second-year, renewal scholarships.

First year scholarship recipients are Lindsay Lore, Verniece Renee Lowe, Emily Mall, Haley Richardson and Hannah Smith. Renewal scholarships were awarded to Lauren Benedict, Kayla Hardy, Allison Juchartz, Deborah Lazarean, and Hannah Rodriguez.

After welcoming remarks and an overview of Rotary's scope and purpose by Belleville Rotary Club President Jeremy Richardson, Rotarian Debra Juchartz discussed the history of the club scholarship program, outlined the proceedings of the evening, and offered greetings to the numerous local dignitaries in attendance.

Juchartz, the chair of the club Scholarship Committee, then introduced featured speaker Scott LaRiche, automotive dealer executive, recent past chairman of the North American International Auto Show, and Plymouth Rotarian.

LaRiche's presentation, directed primarily at the student awardees, stressed the importance of "being proud" while "being humble" in the success of every individual. He pointed out that pride can be a driver of increased effort that causes a person to reach higher in whatever they do, while humility is the trait that fosters positive relationships with others that are essential to a happy and productive life.

The scholars were encouraged to strive to "be the kind of person you would like to meet." After LaRiche's talk, each of the scholarship recipients spoke briefly about their plans and hopes for the future.

Since inception, Belleville Rotary has awarded \$450,000 to Belleville High School students as part of its scholarship program. This year, as in recent years, the primary funding source for the program has been the Charles B. Cozadd Rotary Foundation which assists the club in the funding or partial funding of many of its projects.



Scholarship recipients are, from left, Emily Mall, Lindsay Lore, Verniece Lowe, Lauren Benedict, Kayla Hardy, Hannah Rodriguez, Deborah Lazarean, Hannah Smith, Haley Richardson, and Allison Juchartz.

Photos courtesy of Timeless Images by Susan, LLC



Scott LaRiche

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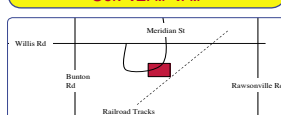
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The Belleville Area Women's Club gave out five academic scholarships at its May 5 meeting. From left are Belleville High School seniors, who received \$1,000 each, Emily Kruchin, Amanda Parker, and Tiffany Garrett; club scholarship chairperson Susanne Oakley; and Barbara Burtch, who earned the Georgia Badgett Scholarship of \$750 to help a woman return to school. Devin Stevens, the only boy receiving a \$1,000 scholarship, is not pictured.

Eagles work for autism programs

The Van Buren Eagles #3996 recently presented checks for \$6,500 each to Van Buren Schools, Webster Elementary, and Burger School to use for their autism programs. The funds were raised at a 5K Walk/Run and auction they held in the spring. School representatives are holding the checks. They are joined by committee members Kelley Sherwood, on the right, Rich Cetnarowski, Jr., in back, and Kathy Smith on the left.

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The great key rescue

In response to Delores Murley Bailey's letter in last week's *Independent* where she thanked fire fighters for getting her keys out of a drain, Van Buren Township Fire Chief Dan Besson sent along these pictures. The incident occurred Monday afternoon, May 11, at the Fifth-Third Bank. Mrs. Bailey said she knew only that her helpers were "two Daves and a Dan." Dave Brouillette is the fire fighter who suited up and went down into the mucky storm drain. Battalion Chief Dave McNally was at the top watching out for his safety. And, Fire Chief Dan Besson had the camera. Chief Besson said Brouillette also climbed a ladder last month and rescued a cat from a tree. Mrs. Bailey said her car dealership said it would cost \$80 to get a new key and she had her house keys on the ring as well.



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Council OKs sending engineer to assess Veterans Memorial

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

After a lengthy presentation by Cornell Anton at Monday's Belleville City Council meeting, the council voted unanimously to send Hennessey Engineers to evaluate the Veterans' Memorial and to bring back a cost estimate for repairs.

Anton gave a report on the history of the monument, which was built by private donations.

He said he is working on a project to bring forth stories on the lives and deaths of each of the 51 veterans from Belleville that died in the line of duty. Those are the names that are engraved on the monument.

Anton had provided pictures of the details of the monument that need attention, including the rear wall, loose railing, bricks that need to be reset, and three flagpoles that need to be reset.

He said the four-inch movement to the POW flagpole has so much movement that, "I expect it to be lying down by the kayak launch."

Anton said the monument was dedicated 24 years ago and six years later it needed repairs.

"Now, after 15 years of weather, we're at it again," he said.

Anton asked the council to honor its resolution passed Sept. 6, 2002 establishing the Veterans' Memorial Trust Fund "... to set aside certain revenues for the care and maintenance of the Veterans' Memorial."

He asked the council to take action to "rectify the existing condition of the Veterans' Memorial."

Councilman Tom Fielder claimed credit

for suggesting compiling the histories of those named on the monument, "and Cornell ran with it. I'd like us to at least have Hennessey go down there and evaluate it ... whether it's done [repaired] by the city or community..."

Then he made the formal motion to send the engineers over to find a proposed solution for repairs and a cost estimate and the council passed it.

Mayor Pro Tem Jack Loria was not present at that meeting or the past few meetings. City Manager Diana Kollmeyer explained that he was recovering from surgery.

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

- Heard Mayor Kerreen Conley announce that the city just received approval to start construction of the kayak launch and attendant amenities;

- Approved the mayor's appointment of Douglas Dalton to the Civil Service Commission with a term to expire May 31, 2018. This is Mayor Conley's second appointment to the CSC, with one appointment left to go. Although she let all the memberships in the CSC sit vacant last year, voters rejected her request to abolish the commission;

- Agreed the goal is to resolve budget issues and approve the budget June 4 after a public hearing. Fielder said they could adjourn that council meeting with the budget and reconvene it at the next regular meeting to get extra time to work on the budget legally;

- Approved Bill Van Winkle's request from the Canton Lions Club to collect donations to support the blind and hearing impaired. Lions members will be out on Main Street from Five Points to the Bridge on Fridays, May 22 and 29, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Van Winkle said since the volunteers are getting old, they probably won't be out there past 3 p.m.;

- Approved the annual resolution to continue the 80%-20% split for payment of healthcare premiums by all city employees; and

- Approved accounts payable of \$74,666.64 and the following departmental purchases in excess of \$500: Blue Ribbon,

sewer repair at 164 Main, \$7,920 from water fund; Crawford Door, garage door repair, \$530 from general fund; Duraware Corp., equipment replacement, \$1,253 from the fire dept.; F&R Automotive, vehicle maintenance, \$2,344.28 from the police dept.; Hennessey Engineers, gas

main project, \$5,394.27 from Trust fund, and sewer engineering, \$4,400 from water dept.; Oakland County Treasurer, CLEMIS membership, \$2,428.25 from police dept.; and Wayne County Accounts Receivable, prisoner lodging, \$1,435 from police dept.

Belleville Planners working on parking, peddling/soliciting

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

The Belleville Planning Commission started reviewing the parking ordinance for the city at its regular meeting on May 14. Of special interest is the downtown area, said commission chairman Steve Jones.

Commissioner John Juriga, who is also an elected member of the Belleville Area District Library Board, was intent on talking about how much parking the city would require for a library. The present ordinance doesn't have standards for libraries.

He said 800 people responded to the recent library survey and most wanted the library to stay in the city area.

"Parking may be a deal-breaker," Juriga said.

The commission also talked about strip malls. Commissioner Henry Kurczewski said he recently drove to the new Secretary of State's office in the Davenport Plaza and it was pouring rain. He said he drove around the whole building and couldn't find a parking spot.

It was the understanding that the Secretary of State required 150 parking spaces. They will check on that figure and what number of parking spaces the strip mall needed to have and how that was determined.

"They are at their capacity and are built out at that site," Jones said of the Davenport strip mall.

When asked when all the large machinery and piles of cement and other items will be cleaned away from the strip mall site, City Manager Diana Kollmeyer said that there is a time limit in the construction permit

and she thinks the Davenports are still within that limit.

Commissioner Mike Renaud said the city ordinance calls for one vehicle parking for 150 square feet of store area.

When asked if there was room for another strip mall in the city, City Manager Kollmeyer said Woody Sloane bought three lots, the Pentamaki property, on Main and Third streets.

She said the city has a count of 400 parking spaces in downtown Belleville.

"Could you buy a lot and use it as a parking lot?" asked commission vice-chairman Michael Hawkins.

City Manager Kollmeyer said Sam Kassab already does that, charging his tenants for parking in his lot.

Renaud said the lot has to be within 300 feet of the building it services, under the city's current ordinance.

Juriga said in the future the city may choose to change its parking standard. He said the library architect said one parking spot for every 450 square feet of building was reasonable.

Renaud wanted to know if that was gross square footage or usable square footage, because it makes a big difference.

Juriga said the commission's planning consultant had said 450 square feet per parking spot was not unrealistic.

Juriga said the library has a new head counter and it logs 10,000 people per month.

"It's not necessary to have that many parking spots," Juriga said.

(continued on page 16)

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The Yankee Air Museum Historic Presentation Night will feature Melissa Milton-Pung on Wednesday, June 3, at 7:30 p.m. at the museum. Milton-Pung of the Washtenaw County Office of Community and Economic Development, will present a 45-minute program on the new online history map she developed, titled: Willow Run: Arsenal of Democracy. The online program will allow visitors to see 25 key aspects of the development and operation of the bomber plant, including how and where workers lived during the war years. Admission is free. Call (734) 483-4030 and visit www.yankeeairmuseum.org.

Rollers Skate Park on Sumpter Road at Willis Road is having an outdoor **Pancakes & Bacon Breakfast**, from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. this Saturday, May 23, before the Sumpter Fest Parade. The cost is \$6 per person.

The **Belleville Area Museum** is holding an **Antiques Appraisal** event Thursday, May 21, from 3 to 7 p.m. Admission is \$10, which includes one appraisal and \$5 for every additional appraisal with a limit of four items. Call (734) 697-1944.

Hollow's Landscape Supply at **6280 Rawsonville Road**, south of Huron

Belleville Plan

(continued from page 15)

Kollmeyer said it costs money to bring the planner to meetings, so the commissioner and city administration can do some research.

Jones said in Berkley, one parking spot per 150 square feet of usable floor area is required. He said in looking at other communities, 300 was a popular number, with a few using 450.

"We've uncovered a number of areas in the parking ordinance to investigate," Jones said, noting they will continue their work at the next meeting June 11.

Then, Kollmeyer gave them packets of information on the present ordinance on peddling and soliciting, plus ordinances from other communities to review on the same subject.

She said food vendors have been a recent problem. One BBQ vendor was at the Pentimaki property and Hayward's and he didn't have health department credentials. The vendor told the city he does this in Detroit, but he was moved out of the city.

She suggested commissioners check out the Municode website that allows people to review ordinances in other communities.

"Read and familiarize yourselves with other communities and we can discuss it at the next meeting," Jones said.

"We've got our work cut out for us at the next meeting," Kurczewski said.

River Drive is a one-stop shop for all your landscaping needs, including a fine selection of organic soil blends, mulches, topsoil, sand, gravel, decorative stone, fire pit rings, and other supplies. Visit www.HollowsLandscapeSupply.com and call Lisa Amadore at (734) 482-7263.

Woodstock Revisited, an afternoon of great music from six local bands, will take place on Saturday, June 13, from 1 to 10 p.m. at the **Van Buren Eagles** on Beck Road. Advance tickets are on sale for \$10 (\$15 at the door). Must be 21 to enter. Bands include **10 Pound Head**, **Rocky Fortune**, **Second Wind**, **Six Foot Poles**, **One Week Notice**, and **Repeat Offenders**. There will be a beer/beverage tent, photo booth, and a prize for best original dress up. Call Mike at (810) 247-0915 or Gary at (734) 788-4410 or the Eagles' Social Room at (734) 699-8836.

The **Sumpter Country Fest** is this weekend at the **Sumpter Fairgrounds**. Make sure you get your hands on the official program with the schedule of events, musical line-up, map of the festival grounds and a cool narrative on the history of the festival. My favorite event is the parade on Saturday at noon, and the Demo Derbies on Sunday and Monday. Special thanks go out to all the advertisers that made the festival booklet a success.

There's still time to get your advertisement into the official Strawberry Festival Program booklet we're putting together. There's going to be 12,000 booklets printed and distributed on June 11. Call (734) 699 9020 for info.

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

Court Watching:

Case against Ostrowskis dropped after witnesses fail to appear in court

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Van Buren Township Police and the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office charged three members of a family in connection with an April 12 road rage incident that grew into an assault.

When the three co-defendants were due

for their preliminary exams on April 29 before 34th District Court Judge David Parrott, the two victims/witnesses failed to show up.

Prosecutor Blair Moody asked Judge Parrott to adjourn the exam to a later date so Van Buren Township Police Detective Ken Toney could locate the witnesses.

Det. Toney said one witness said he wanted to prosecute, but when he tried to call the witness to remind him of the court date, he had turned off his phone.

The other witness told Det. Toney he couldn't be in court that day, but he did want to prosecute.

"I don't have any choice in the matter," said Judge Parrott, noting there was no good cause presented why the witnesses weren't present. He said he is told the witnesses wish to prosecute, but they are not here.

Judge Parrott granted the motion of the three defense attorneys to dismiss the charges, without prejudice, which means they can be refiled in the future.

The three defendants were:

- Tonia Lynn Ostrowski, 35, who was charged with two counts of ethnic intimidation and was defended by court-appointed attorney Jennifer Mead. Tonia had been out on a \$1,000 personal recognizance bond;

- Bradley Allen Ostrowski, 37, who was charged with ethnic intimidation and assault and battery, was defended by court-appointed attorney Alvin Sullen. Bradley was lodged on \$10,000/10% bond and then posted bond; and

- Michael Dewayne Ostrowski, 48, who was charged with felonious assault, weapons-felony firearm, and lying to the police during a crime investigation (a four-year or more felony). His court appointed attorney was Charles Rutledge. He was lodged on \$20,000/10% bond and then posted bond.

Det. Toney said it all started with a road rage incident involving Tonia and she followed the victims into Van Buren Estates mobile home park off Lohr Road and her two brothers showed up and assaulted the victims.

Det. Toney said he would try to contact the witnesses to see if they still want to prosecute. (He said the Ostrowskis are not related to former VBT Trustee Al Ostrowski.)

Monthly benefits for Pathways to Potential

Mesmereyes Spa, 6061 Rawsonville Road, Van Buren Township, will be opening its doors once a month to cut children's hair as part of a benefit for the Pathways to Potential program of the Michigan Department of Human Services.

Cost is \$10 for children 1-10 years old and \$15 for those 11-17. There will be story times and refreshments.

The first event date was April 11. Other event dates are May 23, June 20, July 11, Aug. 29 (added school supply giveaway), Sept. 26, Oct. 24, Nov. 14, and Dec. 12.

Shelley Russo said that 100% of the proceeds will go to the program that coaches and helps poverty-level families.

WOODSTOCK

Revisited



SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 2015

1pm—10pm



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Second Wind



Repeat Offenders



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Upcoming Meetings

• Tuesday, May 26 – Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority, 5:30 p.m. Also, Keystone Academy annual budget meeting, 6 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, May 27 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m.

• Monday, June 1 – Van Buren Township work/study session, 4 p.m. Also, Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.

• Tuesday, June 2 – Van Buren Township regular board meeting, 7 p.m.

• Monday, June 8 – Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m., BHS Commons

• Tuesday, June 9 – Van Buren Township Recreation Committee, 5:30 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township workshop at 6 p.m. and regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. Also, Belleville Area District Library meeting at 7:30 p.m. (NEW TIME)

• Wednesday, June 10 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m.

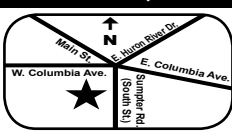
• Thursday, June 11 – Keystone Academy School Board, 6 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township Planning Commission, 7 p.m. Also, Belleville Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m.

• Monday, June 15 – Van Buren Township work/study session, 4 p.m. Also, Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.

• Tuesday, June 16 – Van Buren Township regular board meeting, 7 p.m.

• Wednesday, June 17 – Belleville Downtown Development Authority, 6 p.m. Also, Van Buren Township Environmental Commission, 7 p.m.

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2015 SUMPTER COUNTRY FEST

May 21st – MAY 25, 2015

“REMEMBERING OUR PAST”

Thursday, May 21st

Carnival Opens

5pm - Close

Friday, May 22nd

Festival Opens @ 5pm – Close 12 Midnight

Carnival Opens/Beer Tent

5pm – Close

Live Music – Spectrum Project

4pm – 6:30pm

Baby Contest

5pm – 9pm

Bingo

5pm – Close

Silent Auction

5pm – Close

Royalty Pageant

7pm – 8pm

Live Music – Wingman Band

8pm – Close

Saturday, May 23rd

Festival Opens @ 12pm – Close 12 Midnight

Carnival Opens/Beer Tent

12pm – Close

Parade (From Sumpter Rd. & Judd Rd. to Dunn Rd)

12pm

To be announced by Randy Brown

Parade presentations immediately following parade

1:30pm

Baby Contest

12pm – 9pm

Bingo

12pm – Close

Silent Auction

2pm – 10pm

Tribute To The Legends (Impersonators)

2pm – Close

Program emceed by **Jimmy James, Station WPON/WCXI 1160 AM**

2-2:45 – **LORETTA LYNN / REBA MC ENTIRE**

– Bernie Walters

3-3:45 – **JOHN DENVER / BOBBY VINTON**

– Jim Walters

4-4:45 – **RAY CHARLES / BOBBY VINTON**

– Tyrone Hamilton

5-5:45 – **NEIL DIAMOND**

– Johnny Diamond

6-6:45 – **WILLIE NELSON**

– Jeff Carr

7-7:45 – **PATSY CLINE**

-- Kathy Bressler

8-8:45 – **ELVIS**

– Sherman Arnold

9-9:45 – **LINDA RONSTADT / MAMA CASS**

– Mary Jane Stone

10-10:45 – **JERRY LEE LEWIS**

– Don Grant

11-11:45 – **THE BLUES BROTHERS**

– Russ & Jake

Baby Contest - Friday, May 22nd through Monday, May 25th (Ends at 1:30pm Winners Announced 4:30pm)

Silent Auction - Friday, May 22nd through Monday, May 25th (Last bid 5pm, pick-up items 6pm-8pm)

Crafters and Vendors - All day Friday, May 22nd through Monday, May 25th

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SUMPTER COUNTRY FEST IS SPONSORED BY SUMPTER TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Sunday, May 24th

Festival Opens @ 12pm – Close 12 Midnight

Car Show (10am Registration)

12pm – 4pm

Carnival Opens/Beer Tent

12pm – Close

DJ Music/Karaoke – Big D

12pm – 3pm

Baby Contest

12pm – 9pm

Bingo

12pm – Close

Silent Auction

12pm – 10pm

Live Music – Tall Cool One

Robert Plant/Led Zeppelin Tribute Band

3pm – 4:30pm

Truck Demolition Derby (Arena)

5:30pm

Live Music – Bugs Bedddows

5pm – 7:30pm

Live Music – TJ Thomas and the Kentucky Strait Band

8pm – Close

Fire works – DJ – Big D

Dusk

Monday, May 25th

Festival Opens @ 12pm– Close 10pm

Carnival Opens/Beer Tent

12pm – Close

Live Music – Remedy

2pm – 5pm

Baby Contest

12pm – 1:30pm

Bingo

12pm – Close

Baby Contest Awards & Raffle Winners Announced

4:30pm – 5pm

Silent Auction Final Bid

5pm

Silent Auction Items Picked Up

6pm – 8pm

Auto-Cross/Demolition Derby (Arena)

6pm

(Adults \$12/Children 12 and under \$4)

Live Music – Steelin Time

6pm – Close

Belleville Postmaster offers tips for spring mailbox maintenance

By Tim Inman
Belleville Postmaster

With the spring season well under way, the U.S. Postal Service is asking all Belleville-area homeowners to inspect and repair their mailboxes.

Repairing suburban and rural mailboxes improves the appearance of our community and makes delivering and receiving mail safer for our carrier and customers.

The Postal Service makes this annual request because of the wear and tear that occurs to mailboxes every year. This is especially important after the effects of last winter.

Some of the typical activities that may need to be done include:

- Replacing loose hinges on a mailbox door.
- Repainting a mailbox that may have rusted or started peeling.
- Remounting a mailbox post if loosened.
- Replacing or adding house numbers.

If a homeowner plans to install a new mailbox or replace a worn one, he or she must use only Postal Service-approved traditional, contemporary, or locking full/limited service mailboxes.

Customers should be careful when purchasing curbside mail receptacles because the use of unapproved boxes is prohibited. Customers may use a custom-built mailbox, but they must consult with my office to ensure it conforms to guidelines applying to flag, size, strength, and quality of construction.

For more information on the use of names or numbers on mailboxes, or answers to any other questions, please contact me, Postmaster Tim Inman, at (734) 697-0047.

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

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Birthdays

May 28 – Sophia Sloan

Do you have a birthday in May? 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.

Anniversaries

May 21 – Tom and Linda Mitchell, 19 years

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"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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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



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

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— Albert Einstein

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not its size, but its spirit."
— Arthur Hays Salzberger

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PET BIRD IN FRONT YARD ON
May 8. Owner claim w/description.
(734) 699-9326 5/28

VERIZON PHONE on sidewalk near
Egan's Pub. Call with description
(734) 985-1158. 5/28

GARAGE/YARD SALE

HUGE MOVING SALE. 43025 Willis Rd.
between Martinsville & Haggerty. Friday
May 22 and Saturday, May 23, 9am-2pm
& Half-off Sunday, May 24, 9am-Noon.
Antiques, Shabby Chic, Housewares,
Furniture, Tools, 1979 Yamaha XS 650
Motorcycle, Trolling Motors, Two
Jet-Skis and Trailer. Cash Only. No Early
Sales. 5/21

MULTI-FAMILY YARD SALE.
42984 Bemis Rd. Friday, May 22,
Saturday, May 23 and Sunday, May 24,
9am-5pm. Something for everybody. 5/21

MAY 22,23&24, 8am-6pm. 48270 Martz
Rd. Machine Shop Tooling Chucks 3&4
Jaw. Vises, Milling Cutters, Lathe
Cutters, Inspection Equipment, Inspection
Plate, High Gages, Angle Plates, Etc. 5/21

ESTATE SALE. 48270 Martz. May 22,
23, & 24, 8am-5pm. Antique Sewing
Machine, Furniture, Household Items,
Kitchenware. Everything must go. 5/21

MAY 28 & 29, 9am-3pm. 2nd & Main,
Downtown Belleville. What's left of Dr.
Stopa's Estate. Everything must go. 5/28

MULTI-FAMILY SALE. May 22, 23 & 24,
9am-6pm. 44251 Willis, between Sumpter
& Martinsville. Lots of household items. 5/21

ESTATE SALE. May 28&29, 9am-5pm.
47766 Denton. Furniture, Antiques, Tools,
Boyd's Bear Collection, Yard Decorations,
Christmas Galore, Fishing/Sporting
Goods. (248) 878-0658 5/28

CHURCH FOR SALE

BELLEVILLE. Sanctuary seats 225.
Classrooms, fellowship hall, kitchen,
offices. 9,400 SF. \$399,000. Motivated
seller. (734) 604-6222 5/21

Romulus announces Farmers Market, Flea Market, Concert Series

The City of Romulus has set events for the coming months and is inviting area residents to take part.

The Farmer’s Market will be from noon to 6 p.m. on Wednesdays, June 17 to Oct. 14, at the Romulus Municipal Complex, 11111 Wayne Road, next to the court. Children are invited to join the free “Kid’s Club,” come to market each week, and earn a \$2 coupon each month to spend at the market.

www.facebook.com/RomulusFarmersMarket

The **Romulus Historical Society’s Annual Flea Market** will be held from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Romulus Historical Park, 11147 Hunt Street. To sell your items, cost is \$20 per setup, furnish your own tables. Information: Cathy Morse (734) 941-6361.

The Sounds in Downtown free summer concert series starts Friday, June 12, in Romulus Historical Park, 11147 Hunt Street. The concerts will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. on the second and fourth Fridays in June and July and every Friday in August.

- Entertainers are:
- June 12 – Remedy, Rocking Country
 - June 26 – R. Lieder Band, Motown / Margaritaville
 - July 10 – Hines Drive, Classic Rock
 - July 24 – Chill FX, Jazz
 - Aug. 7 – Party of 3, Pop / Rock / Motown
 - Aug. 14 – Dtour, R&B/Motown
 - Aug. 21 – Rustbelt Revival, Rootsy Rock
 - Aug. 28 – Boogie Dynamite, Disco

Concerts are sponsored by the Romulus Downtown Development Authority, the City, Arts Council, and other community sponsors and will be held rain or shine (except in cases of lightning). Information at the Romulus DDA, (734) 955-4533.



City of Belleville Public Notice



City of Belleville Regular City Council Meeting Minutes May 4, 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 Council Member Fielder.

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	Absent (Excused)
Mayor Conley	Absent (Excused)

3. PRESENTATIONS AND CITIZEN COMMENTS

None.

4. AGENDA APPROVAL

Motion by Smith, Second by Tindall to approve agenda with additions. Bid Award for SRF Project.

MOTION CARRIED.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Tindall, Second by Smith to approve the Regular City Council meeting minutes of April 20, 2015 as presented.

MOTION CARRIED.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

7. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

None

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

A. Relay For Life Event Amendment to Original Request

Motion by Tindall, Second by Smith to approve **Resolution No. 15-052**, High Street closing to start at 8:00 A.M. instead of 10:00 A.M. No ribbons on light poles and no signs on City property.

MOTION CARRIED.

B. Chamber of Commerce Request – Strawberry Festival Carnival.

Motion by Smith, Second by Tindall to approve **Resolution No. 15-053**, to approve a request from the Chamber of Commerce for the National Strawberry Festival Carnival with St. Anthony’s carnival hours of operation being Thursday, June 18th from 5:00 PM – 9:30 PM; Friday, June 19th from 11:00AM – 11:00 PM; Saturday, June 20th from 12 Noon – 11:00 PM; and Sunday, June 21st from 12 Noon – 7:30 PM.

Downtown Carnival hours of operation being Friday, June 19th from 12 PM to 10 PM; Saturday, June 20th from 11:00 AM – 10:30 PM; and Sunday, June 21st from 12 PM to 7:30 PM.

MOTION CARRIED.

C. National Strawberry Festival – Responsibility Policy

Motion by Tindall, Second by Smith to approve **Resolution No. 15-054**, to approve the National Strawberry Festival Responsibility Policy with an amendment to the policy changing the carnival hours to the requested and approved hours as submitted by the Chamber of Commerce.

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

Charter Township of Van Buren Job Vacancy Posting

Position Title: Assessing Account Clerk
Department: Assessor’s Department
Classification: Part- Time
FLSA Status: Non-exempt
Hourly Wage: \$15.00
Opening Date: 04/27/2015
Closing Date: 05/27/15
Summary/Objective

This is a part-time account clerk position, 24 hours per week, based in the Assessing Office. Employee works under the direction of the Assessing Coordinator. Emphasis is placed on customer service and computer related functions including word processing, BS&A Equalizer Software System, and excel spreadsheets. Employee will be responsible for dealing with routine customer concerns while projecting a positive image of the department.

For Full Description at <http://www.vanburen-mi.org/about-the-community/help-wanted/>

Publish: April 30, May 7, 14, 21, 2015

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

POLICE VEHICLE AUCTION

On Wednesday, May 27, 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.

1994	GEO	4D	1Y1SK5382RZ107699	15-4432
2005	CHRYSLER	4D	2C3JA53G35H692396	15-7762
2000	YAMAHA	JS	T074RW00322	NONE
2000	YAMAHA	JS	A2689A000	NONE

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.

2004	DODGE	4D	1B3ES26C04D584848	15-5283
2000	BUICK	4D	1G4HR54K4YU121163	15-5353
2007	PONTIAC	4D	2G2WP552171157696	15-5379
2001	PONTIAC	4D	1G2NE52T11M591269	15-5587
1999	GMC	SW	1GKFK16R1XJ784424	15-5801
1997	CHRYSLER	4D	2C3HC56F9VH551294	15-5875
1998	FORD	PU	2FTPX28WXWCA47472	15-6550
2002	FORD	2D	3FAFP11332R117987	15-6632
2006	DODGE	SW	1D4HD38N76F146073	15-7477

At 12:30pm, the auction will move to **Region Towing**, at 45908 Bemis Rd, Belleville, MI, County of Wayne, where the following vehicles will be offered for sale to the highest bidder.

1967	LINCOLN	4D	7Y82G811493	15-6912
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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: May 21, 2015



City of Belleville
Special City Council Meeting Minutes
May 11, 2015

A special meeting of the Council for the City of Belleville was called to order at 6:00 P.M., at the Municipal Building, 6 Main Street by Member Smith.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. ROLL CALL

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

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Fielder, Second by Tindall to approve the agenda as presented.

MOTION CARRIED.

Resident Randy Priest was present to express his concerns regarding the deep ditches that are being dug

along E. Huron River Drive as a result of the Wayne County road project. It was discovered during the conversation that Wayne County will allow residents to apply for a permit to have culverts placed. DPS Director, Keith Tackett offered to make contact with Wayne County Permitting Department in an effort to expedite the permitting process with the understanding that residents are responsible for all cost incurred due to their requests.

4. GENERAL BUSINESS

A. Street Pavement Evaluation

Mark Gaworecki and Ryan Kern of Hennessey Engineers, Inc. were present to discuss the March 2015 Street Pavement Evaluation.

Motion by Fielder, Second by Smith to approve **Resolution No. 15-059** to fund the Joint and Crack Sealing Program in an amount up to \$161,270.38 and request DDA assistance in sharing the cost of Main Street expenses.

MOTION CARRIED.

B. FY 2014/15 City Budget Review

Contracted finance employee Kelly Howey of Plante & Moran PLLC presented the various funds for City Council review. Discussion was held regarding all funds.

Motion by Fielder, Second by Smith to approve **Resolution No. 15-060** to cancel the May 13th budget study session.

MOTION CARRIED.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Fielder, Second by Smith to adjourn meeting at 7:34 P.M.

MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Long, City Clerk/Treasurer

Approved: May 18, 2015

Published: May 21, 2015

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

**Charter Township of
 Van Buren Public Notice**

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN
 SPECIAL BOARD MEETING -
 BOARD RETREAT MINUTES
 MAY 12, 2015**

Supervisor Combs called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. in the Board Room. Present: Supervisor Combs, Clerk Wright, Treasurer Budd, Trustee Hart, Trustee Jahr, Trustee McClanahan and Trustee Miller. Others in attendance: Secretary Montgomery and Representative Naheed Huq from the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG). No audience members were present.

NEW BUSINESS:

Naheed Huq provided an overview of the agenda, outlined participation and expected outcomes and asked for any modifications of the agenda. Hearing none the agenda was approved as presented. Ms. Huq presented a slide show presentation entitled "The Region on the Rebound" that focused on information and statistics in the Region and State. Following the slide presentation the focus was directed to a review on the status of projects identified in the last strategic planning session. These projects included Local Development Finance Authority (LDFA) bond repayment issues; Township planning process; Van Buren Park; Economic development and leverage locational advantages. Board members provided in-depth updates on each project and explored additional priorities they wished to focus on. Supervisor Combs recessed the meeting at 7:08 p.m. for a five minute break. The meeting resumed at 7:13 p.m. Following the re-examination and exploration process the Board re-established the priorities as (1) Local Development Finance Authority (LDFA), (2) Planning, (3) Funding of Public Services, (4) Leverage location/Township Branding, (5) Economic Development, (6) Community Pride and (7) Van Buren Park. Ms. Huq will provide the Board a written summary of the topics discussed and encouraged future progress update sessions. Additional sessions will be scheduled and will include Departmental Directors and Downtown Development Authority participation.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

ADJOURNMENT: Hart moved, Wright seconded to adjourn at 9:10 p.m. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Leon Wright, Township Clerk

Linda H. Combs, Township Supervisor

Published: May 21, 2015

**Wayne County Commission
 approves Richard Kaufman
 as Deputy Chief Executive**

The Wayne County Commission unanimously approved Richard Kaufman as Wayne County Deputy Chief Executive Officer (DCEO).

Appointed as Deputy to Wayne County Executive Warren Evans, Kaufman began his duties April 1.

"As second-in-command, Mr. Kaufman is a key addition to my administration and I am confident that his wealth of knowledge and experience is vital as we face the County's financial crisis," Evans said.

Kaufman is a former Wayne County Circuit Court Chief Judge and partner in Farmington Hills based law firm of Zausmer, Kaufman, August and Caldwell. Interested in challenges that also allowed him to serve the community; he previously served as General Manager / General Counsel of Metro Detroit's SMART Transportation system.

Kaufman graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Michigan – Ann Arbor in 1973 and from the Wayne State University School of Law in 1977.

Kaufman's accomplishments have been recognized in several publications, including local news and various legal and business trade journals. "Wayne County judge leaves top post after making court 'best in country,'" one of many headlines in local newspapers commending Kaufman's improvements made in one of the country's busiest courts.

Deputy Chief Executive Officer, a Charter position in the executive branch of Wayne County government, succeeds the Chief Executive Officer. In the event of a vacancy in the office of the County Executive, the DCEO will temporarily assume the role of leadership.

**Charter Township of
 Van Buren Public Notice**

**Charter Township of Van Buren
 Job Vacancy Posting**

Employer: Van Buren Charter Township

Starting Hourly Wage: \$19.76

Closing Date: Open until filled

To Apply: You must submit a resume, including salary history via email to Nicole Sumpter at nsumpter@vanburen-mi.org.

Description: Under the supervision of the Planning and Development Director or his/her designee, this employee is responsible for building plan reviews, conducting building, plumbing, electrical and/or mechanical inspections and other duties as outlined below. Performs tasks involving code and ordinance interpretation. This individual may also be called upon to assist other departments in performing tasks requiring the same level of skill and ability.

For Full Description at <http://www.vanburen-mi.org/about-the-community/help-wanted/>

Publish: May 21, May 28, June 4, June 11, 2015



City of Belleville
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
2015-16 PROPOSED CITY BUDGET



Notice is hereby given that the Belleville City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, June 1, 2015, at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at the Municipal Building, 6 Main Street, Belleville MI, to consider the proposed 2015-16 City Budget.

The proposed General Fund budget is \$2,150,000 based on estimated sources of revenue, including a proposed 2015-16 City property tax levy of 18.126 mills for general operating purposes.

The City Council has authority to establish the proposed total millage rate of 18.126 mills, the current maximum allowable millage rate permitted by State Statute and the City Charter.

The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.

The budget includes proposed appropriations for the following funds:

FUND	REVENUES	EXPENDS.
General Fund	\$ 2,025,000	\$ 2,150,000
Major Street Fund	\$ 159,600	\$ 144,719
Local Street Fund	\$ 97,000	\$ 75,025
Cemetery Fund	\$ 78,050	\$ 68,069
Sanitation Fund	\$ 205,000	\$ 212,000
Perpetual Care Fund	\$ 5,000	\$ -0-
Building Dept. Fund	\$ 72,000	\$ 62,646
Budget Stabilization Fund	\$ -0-	\$ -0-
Drug Law Enforcement Fund	\$ -0-	\$ -0-
Public Improvement Fund	\$ -0-	\$ -0-
Capital Equipment Fund	\$ 30,255	\$ 30,255
DDA Operating Fund	\$ 320,629	\$ 456,868
DDA Debt Service Fund	\$ 334,671	\$ 334,671

A complete copy of the proposed 2015-16 City Budget is available for public inspection during regular business hours at City Hall, 6 Main Street, Belleville, Michigan.

Public comments on the proposed budget may be submitted in writing prior to the public hearing, and in writing or in person at the hearing.

Lisa Long
 City Clerk/Treasurer

Publish 5/21/2015

Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

Out of the 505 dispatch calls reported by Van Buren Township police this week, the following are selected for this column.

Sunday, May 10:

0115 – disturbance, W. Adams
0127 – disturbance, Ash Dr.
0205 – assault & battery, W. Huron River Dr.
0214 – larceny from auto, Daniel Dr.
0257 – suspicious person, Denton
0421 – suspicious vehicle, Bemis
0518 – suspicious person, Denton Rd.
1132 – noise complaint, Birch Dr.
1136 – assault & battery, Oak Ln.
1215 – agency assist, Oakwood Wayne
1221 – operating while intoxicated, N. I-94 Service
1312 – malicious destruction of property, Maple
1350 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1411 – mental, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1457 – property damage accident, WB I-94 / Haggerty Rd.
1517 – malicious destruction of property, Quirk
1941 – ATV/ORV complaint, Ashbury Dr.
1941 – fight, Kirkridge Park Dr.
2121 – private property accident, Michigan Ave.
2226 – family trouble, Ironwood Dr.
2242 – family trouble, Forestdale Dr.
2325 – intimidation threat, Outer Dr.
2328 – property damage accident, Sheldon Rd. / Van Born Rd.

Monday, May 11:

0647 – larceny, Tyler Rd.
0816 – larceny from auto, Denton Rd.
0858 – private property accident, Oak Ln.
1031 – disorderly conduct, Quirk Rd.
1120 – animal bite, Lake Point Blvd.
1256 – private property accident, S. I-94 Service
1349 – shots fired, Tyler Rd./Morton Taylor Rd.
1415 – assault & battery, Westlake
1430 – missing person, Victoria St.
1705 – breaking & entering, Ecorse Rd.
1855 – fraud, S. Dartmoor Cir.
2150 – malicious destruction of property, Fay Dr.
2218 – family trouble, Beckley Rd.

Tuesday, May 12:

0137 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Denton
0410 – larceny from auto, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0539 – unattended death, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0925 – larceny, U of M boathouse
1108 – larceny, Jackson St.
1523 – mental, Van Buren St.
1526 – assault & battery, Kirkridge Park Dr.
1810 – private property accident, Denton Rd.
1915 – shots fired, Oak Ln.

Wednesday, May 13:

0140 – noise complaint, Tompkins St.
0633 – property damage accident, Hannan/Ecorse
0827 – private property accident, Belleville Rd.
0931 – larceny, Ricardo Dr.
1039 – juvenile complaint, Hamilton St.
1301 – private property accident, Sylvia Dr.
1505 – juvenile complaint, Anna Dr./Sadie Ln.
1829 – marine violation, Peninsular Dr.
1835 – fraud, N. Ponderosa Trl.
2038 – fraud, Lighthouse Dr.
2114 – breaking & entering, Lauren Ct.
2203 – intimidation threat, Savage Rd.

Thursday, May 14:

0158 – fight, W. Huron River Dr.
0333 – assault & battery, Parkwood
0531 – larceny from auto, Oak Ln.
1126 – breaking & entering, W. Huron River Dr.
1429 – mental, E. Huron River Dr.
1700 – property damage accident, Tyler Rd. / Haggerty Rd.
1735 – property damage accident, Belleville/Taco Bell
2018 – fight, Parkwood Manor
2324 – assault & battery, Tyler Rd.
2343 – suspicious situation, St. Anthony

Friday, May 15:

0404 – suspicious situation, Alba Ct.
0954 – noise complaint, Rawsonville
1020 – private property accident, Wendy's Rawsonville
1251 – fraud, Meadows Ln.
1353 – malicious destruction of property, W. Huron River Dr.

1431 – larceny, Kirkridge Park Dr.
1436 – larceny from auto, Oak Ln.
1454 – mental, Van Buren St.
1544 – suspicious situation, Belleville CVS
1555 – larceny, Ash Dr.
1603 – property damage accident, N. I-94 Service Dr. / Belleville Rd.
1614 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1627 – malicious destruction of property, Oak Ln.
1823 – malicious destruction of property, Oak Ln.
1849 – harassment call, Renton Rd.
1855 – assault & battery, Birch Dr.
2215 – disorderly conduct, Meadows Ln.
2256 – missing person, Rolan Meadows Dr.

Saturday, May 16:

0009 – noise complaint, Arthur St.
0019 – noise complaint, N. Bellridge Dr.
0138 – noise complaint, Wheeler St.
0943 – personal injury accident, EB I-94/Denton
1037 – breaking & entering, Lauren Ct.
1106 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1246 – private property accident, N. I-94 Service
1300 – assault & battery, Oak Ln.
1607 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / N. I-94 Service Dr.
1738 – disorderly conduct, Belleville/Quirk
1751 – retail fraud, Belleville
1931 – missing person, Quirk Rd.
1936 – agency assist, Sumpter
1959 – missing person, Rolan Meadows Dr.
2047 – trespassing Peachtree
2052 – ATV/ORV complaint, Dorchester Dr.
2148 – disturbance, Kirkridge Park Dr.

Also on this week's log are 170 traffic stops, 55 of which were on the I-94 and I-275 freeways.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, May 10:

0028 – suspicious vehicle, Main St.
0113 – malicious destruction of property, Carmell
0901 – warrant arrest, MSP Post/Huron St.
1240 – sexual assault, Belle Villa Blvd.
1255 – welfare check, N. Liberty St.
1600 – welfare check, Main St.
1802 – animal complaint, N. Liberty St.
2115 – civil matter, N. Biggs Ave.
2233 – follow up, Carmell St.

Monday, May 11:

0717 – intrusion alarm, Main St.
0918 – intrusion alarm, Light Tower Ct.
1459 – welfare check, Capistrano Ct.
1505 – vehicle lockout, Secretary of State
1727 – assist citizen, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1737 – personal injury accident, Five Points
1824 – welfare check, Estrada

Tuesday, May 12:

0451 – harassment call, W. Columbia Ave.
1459 – civil matter, Estrada
2118 – assist fire dept., Robbe St.
2309 – suspicious vehicle, Carmell St.

Wednesday, May 13:

0054 – motorist assist, Main St./Third St.
0357 – intrusion alarm, Sumpter Rd.
1107 – juvenile complaint, Owen School
1306 – traffic complaint, Davis St.
1307 – noise complaint, Owen School
1336 – civil matter, Sumpter Rd.
1530 – vehicle lockout, Maya's
1602 – intrusion alarm, Belle Villa Blvd.
1704 – welfare check, W. Columbia
1756 – warrant arrest, Main St.
2021 – suspicious situation, bus yard
2029 – property damage accident, Denton/Main
2127 – suspicious vehicle, Sumpter/tracks
2206 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
2230 – lost property, Main St.

Thursday, May 14:

0717 – disorderly conduct, South St.
0917 – assist fire dept., Henry St.
0934 – in station report, Main St.
1040 – code enforcement, South St.
1418 – animal complaint, Daisy/Rose
1433 – narcotics crime, W. Columbia Ave.
1456 – agency assist, E. Huron River Dr.
1500 – all other traffic, Savage/Tracks
1634 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
1643 – larceny, Main St.

1745 – property damage accident, Main St. / N. Liberty St.
2037 – malicious destruction of property, W. Columbia Ave.
2344 – suspicious situation, St. Anthony

Friday, May 15:

0120 – domestic assault, Main St.
0154 – property check, Belle Villa Estates
0840 – property damage accident, Marathon
0841 – disorderly conduct, W. Columbia Ave.
1055 – larceny from auto, Victorian Ln.
1221 – violation public health code/violation controlled substance act, Light Tower
1351 – intrusion alarm, Oxford Ct.
1358 – miscellaneous complaint, N. Aberdeen Ct.
1426 – harassment call, Main St.
1509 – disturbance, Village Park
1700 – private property accident, Secretary of State
1706 – disturbance, Church St.
1815 – suspicious situation, Henry St.
1950 – welfare check, E. Huron River Dr./Loza Ln
2000 – missing person, N. Biggs Ave.
2153 – suspicious person, Village Park
2354 – noise complaint, Henry St.

Saturday, May 16:

0021 – suspicious situation, Third St.
0026 – noise complaint, Henry St.
0353 – family trouble, Bay Pointe Dr.
0933 – disturbance, Church St.
1022 – E-911 hang up/investigation, Bay Pointe Dr
1934 – intrusion alarm, Sumpter Rd.
2104 – E-911 hang up/investigation, N. Liberty St.
2204 – neighbor trouble, N. Liberty St.

Also on this week's log are 52 traffic stops.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, May 10:

1111 – civil dispute, 45000 bl. Paris Dr.
1142 – animal complaint, 41000 bl. Willow Rd.
1148 – breaking & entering, 28000 bl. Marcus Dr.
1328 – alarm, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1547 – fraud investigation, 49000 bl. Willis Rd.
1714 – operating while intoxicated arrest, 48000 bl. Wear Rd.

1733 – fire dept. assist, Carriage Ln.
1736 – shots fired, 28000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1927 – 911 hang up, 12000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
2311 – warrant pick up, out of township

Monday, May 11:

0634 – alarm, 24000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
0711 – fire dept. assist, 18000 bl. Savage Rd.
1041 – civil dispute, 43000 bl. Arkona Rd.
1218 – animal complaint, Magnolia
1247 – suspicious vehicle, 42000 bl. Harris Rd.
1338 – animal complaint, 43000 bl. Deborah Ct.
1603 – alarm, 24000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2126 – citizen assist, 28000 bl. Haggerty Rd.

Tuesday, May 12:

1008 – fire dept. assist, 47000 bl. Harris Rd.
1032 – suspicious person, Willis/Sumpter
1219 – fire dept. assist, Rustic Ln.
1444 – traffic hazard, Willis/Sumpter
1707 – animal complaint, 26000 bl. Martinsville
1800 – property damage report, 19000 bl. Sumpter
1856 – malicious destruction of property, 24000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

1921 – suspicious incident, 23000 bl. Martinsville
1959 – animal complaint, 26000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2034 – missing person report, Wyoming
2152 – suspicious vehicle, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

Wednesday, May 13:

0954 – civil dispute, 46000 bl. Judd Rd.
1421 – well-being check, 20000 bl. Crandell Ct.
1453 – fire dept. assist, 19000 bl. Sharon Ct.
1514 – fire dept. assist, 22000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
1604 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1802 – family trouble, 22000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1933 – fire dept. assist, 11000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
2150 – threats complaint, 5700 bl. Oakville Waltz

Thursday, May 14:

1146 – animal complaint, Judd/Martinsville
1159 – property damage report, Sumpter/Judd
1244 – ORV complaint, Bohn/Judd
1451 – fire dept. assist, 22000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
1735 – fire dept. assist, 41000 bl. Willis Rd.
1909 – suspicious vehicle, 20000 bl. Clark Rd.
2025 – well-being check, 29000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

2042 – traffic hazard, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2132 – warrant pick up, 42000 bl. Bemis Rd.

Friday, May 15:

0640 – suspicious incident, 43000 bl. Wear Rd.
1252 – animal complaint, 47000 bl. Wear Rd.
1317 – fire dept. assist, 24000 bl. Bohn Rd.
1329 – missing person report, 48000 bl. Wear Rd.
1414 – civil dispute, 49000 bl. Wear Rd.
1424 – fire dept. assist, 28000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1427 – alarm, 40000 bl. Judd Rd.
1620 – animal complaint, 48000 bl. Willis Rd.
1632 – citizen assist, 21000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2124 – suspicious vehicle, 8200 bl. Oakville Waltz

Saturday, May 16:

0037 – warrant pick up, out of township
0806 – assist other agency, 48000 bl. Wear Rd.
1030 – assist other agency, Rawsonville/Bemis
1153 – civil dispute, 46000 bl. Willis Rd.
1222 – suspicious incident, 46000 bl. Willis Rd.
1442 – fire dept. assist, 41000 bl. Willis Rd.
1446 – reckless driver complaint, 46000 bl. Bemis
1552 – alarm, 10000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
1610 – fire dept. assist, 21000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1937 – assist other agency, out of township
1953 – suspicious vehicle, 28000 bl. Karr Rd.
2018 – ORV complaint, 29000 bl. Karr Rd.
2033 – alarm, 25000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

Also on this week's log are 10 follow-up investigations, 34 miscellaneous details, 119 patrol checks, and 44 traffic stops.

Westland teen charged with murder, home invasion in killing

A 17-year-old Westland teen has been charged with murder and home invasion in the stabbing death of Matthew Green, 33, of Belleville.

Dion Marquis Patterson is accused of entering a home in the 35800 block of Thames Street in Westland at about 2:18 a.m. Saturday.

According to the Wayne County Prosecutor's Officer, the two got into a physical altercation and Patterson used an object to stab Green, who died at Annapolis Hospital as a result of the injuries.

Patterson is charged with first-degree murder, second-degree murder, assault with a dangerous weapon and home invasion. He has been arraigned on the charges at 18th District Court in Westland and is being held without bail at the Wayne County Jail. His preliminary hearing is set for May 28.

The argument that led to the stabbing was between neighbors over loud music, Westland Police said. Green was reportedly stabbed in multiple places, including his chest.

Correction: Mousa Kadiri not hired by schools as reported

The Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education did not approve the hiring of Mousa Kadiri as bookkeeper/accountant in the Finance Department as of May 18, as reported on page 8 in last week's *Independent*.

We have been advised that the district did not have all of the references complete, so the hiring was pulled from the agenda. That was before the *Independent* entered the meeting room on May 11.

We regret the slip-up.

-- Rosemary K. Otzman, Editor

More Letters

'Honor & Remember' flag is a bit much

To the Editor:

RE: "Join us in Honoring and Remembering Our Hometown Heroes" article, as posted in the Belleville *Independent* May 7

edition.

Honoring our Hometown Heroes Veterans is a good and noble gesture and I HIGHLY recommend everyone to partake in some form of showing your support for this program.

However, displaying in public the "Honor and Remember" flag is a bit much. My point is: The Honor and Remember flag looks TOO MUCH like the flags of a couple of enemies of the USA.

Mainly: North Korea and North Vietnam (see attached photos).

I have absolutely NO problem displaying OUR national flag, Stars and Stripes, Red, White and Blue. Can you see the similarity between the Korean, Vietnam and the Honor and Remember flag? Our Veterans, who served, fought and those who lost their lives, did so under the flag of the United

States of America. Remembering them with a flag that closely resembles flags of our enemies just doesn't seem right.

Do what IS RIGHT: Display the U.S. Flag with Pride.

Pete Pitzen

VFW Lifetime member
American Legion member
Belleville Resident

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North Korea Flag



North Vietnam Flag



Honor and Remember Flag



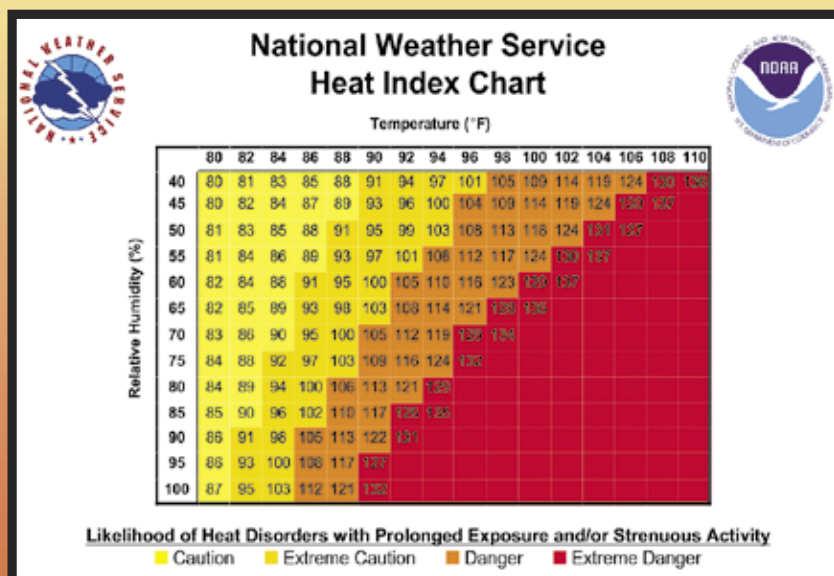
U.S.A. Flag

This is the flag in question

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE MICHIGAN HEAT AWARENESS DAY MAY 22, 2015

WHAT IS THE HEAT INDEX?

The Heat Index (HI) is a measure of how hot the weather actually feels to the body based on air temperature and relative humidity. The values on the table below are calculated for shady locations. Exposure to full sun can increase heat index values by as much as 15°F. Strong winds, particularly those accompanying very hot, dry air, can be extremely hazardous, as wind increases heat to the body.



Reps. Geiss, Greig named to Legislative Leadership Program

State Representatives Erika Geiss, D-Taylor, and Christine Greig, D-Farmington Hills, will attend the Bowhay Institute for Legislative Leadership Development (BILLD) this summer.

Rep. Geiss represents part of Van Buren Township.

The Council of State Governments Midwest, which operates the program,

named the two freshman legislators as fellows. They join a select group of lawmakers from around the region.

"Meeting fellow lawmakers from other states and learning about how they confront their own challenges gives us perspectives and ideas that we can bring back to Michigan," Geiss said.

"This fellowship is an honor, and I'm excited to meet colleagues from around the region and learn from one another."

The program, now in its 21st year, will take place in Madison, WI.

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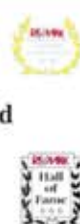
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A Tribute to Your Good Taste. This 4 Bedroom Colonial is A Favorite of All Who see it and is Packed with Surprises including Large Family Room with Fireplace, 2.5 Baths including Upgraded Master, Upgraded Kitchen, Formal Dining Room, Breakfast Nook and Basement. An EZ Walkout to Large 16x24 Deck, Fenced Yard plus 3 Car Attached Garage \$244,900



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217 ABERDEEN, BELLEVILLE

SAVINGS TO SMILE ABOUT. Indulge in the Value of this Clean and Updated 3 bedroom 2.1 Bath Colonial, Finished Basement with Bar, Office area and more. Cathedral Ceilings, Living Room Bay Window, Walkout Deck, 2 Car Attached Garage with storage. Plus - A community pool is available for Summer Fun and gatherings. \$164,900



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WAKE UP TO EXCITEMENT EVERY MORNING in this 4,900 sf masterpiece. Only the finest of construction with 4 large bedrooms, 3 full and 2 half baths, 2 fireplaces, marble floors, 2 master bedrooms with Jacuzzis, finished basement, 2 bars, 3 car attached and 2 car detached garages. On 4 manicured acres. This home is one of the finest in style and quality. \$469,900.



41595 SAVAGE, VAN BUREN

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MULTIPLES OF VALUE ARE PRESENT IN This Larger 1,571 Sq Ft Custom Built 2 Bedroom, 2 Bath Home. Featuring Open Kitchen-Dining-Living Room, Gas Fireplace in Family Room, 90+ Furnace, Deck, Shed, 2 1/2 Car Attached Garage on .92 Acre Parcel. This is One Wins the 1 Love Clean Contest! \$159,900.



21530 ELWELL, SUMPTERTWP

COUNTRY LIVING AT ITS BEST with All of the Extras. Impressive 5+ Acre 3 bedroom 2 bath Cape Cod with Open Kitchen-Dining Area. 2 Bedrooms on the First Floor and one Large Bedroom on the Upper Floor with Room for a 4th Bedroom and Brand New Carpet. Rear Deck, 2+ Car Garage & 30x40 Pole Barn. \$205,000



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VACANT SUMPTERT 7.46 ACRES \$30,000

RAWSONVILLE 12 ACRES \$94,900

WEAR ROAD 10 ACRES

ELWELL 19.34 AC (WAS \$150,000) \$95,000

25817 SUMPTER RD .97 ACRES \$20,000

26960 SHERWOOD 2.5 ACRES \$30,000

VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP

6422 GILMORE 82X165 WATER-SEWER \$21,500

49809 BOG 2.74 ACRES \$49,500

5900 DELLOR 1.81 ACRES \$40,000

BELLEVILLE

337 MAIN .32 ACRES 83X165 \$79,500

ROMULUS

COGSWELL ROMULUS .71 ACRES \$35,000



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