



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

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Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

FREE

Library to set millage for August ballot

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

A 0.6864-mill question will be put on the August primary ballot to replace the millage that expired last year for the Belleville Area District Library's operation.

This is what was left of the 0.7 millage for 12 years approved in 2010 for operating of the district library while it was still in the old building. The Headlee rollback has reduced it to the 0.06864-mill figure and the final millage amount requested will depend on Headlee figures and could be less.

The millage expired in 2021, but the library board decided not to pay for a special election for this single question. Board members said they wanted the highest number of voters possible to vote on their millage and chose the August primary. If voters fail to approve the millage – which is about half of its operating budget – the board will place it on the November ballot, after explaining its need.

Taxpayers also approved in 2014 an average of 0.96 mill for 20 years for construction of the new library and 0.75 mill in 2017 for operation of the new library.

At the March 8 meeting of the District Library Board, board finance director Tonya Stoudemire said after the ballot in August for 15 years, that millage will be aligned with the other millage that expires in 2036.

She said the official ballot language has to be approved and turned in to the county by May.

Board chairman Sharon Peters said the original operating millage that was voted in 2016 that came with the new building will have to go back to the public for renewal.

(continued on page 13)



The Belleville High School boys' basketball team defeated Lincoln-Ypsilanti, 49-40, to win the Michigan High School Athletic Association District Championship on Friday. On Monday, the team beat Skyline, 50-47 in overtime in the Regional Semi-Final. The team was scheduled to play Romulus for the Regional title at 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 16, in Novi.

Kudlak gives debriefing on BHS gun incident

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

A school lockdown probably should have been done when a gun was seen at Belleville High School on Monday, March 7, School Supt. Pete Kudlak reported at Monday's meeting of the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education.

He said the day after the incident, there was a debriefing when Belleville Police Chief Dave Robinson and School Resource Officer Sgt. Kris Faull sat down with Supt. Kudlak to discuss what happened.

He said lockdowns were addressed although the police said the school took

care of the situation well and they had a safe diffusion of the incident.

He said he was told after the student was out of the building, a lockdown would have provided a safe place inside for students.

Kudlak started his presentation with a detailed account of what happened on March 7. He said the 15-year-old student was not coming to school from home and he had contacted his brother to bring him clothes. He was changing his clothes in the restroom and another student thought he saw a gun fall onto the floor.

That student reported what he thought he saw to administration and the hallway by the cafeteria, where the restroom was, was shut off. He said a member of the BHS administration went to the door of the bathroom and called in, asking if anyone was in there. The student replied and gave his name when asked.

The student was told they wanted to

talk to him when he came out. When he came out they took him across the hall to the school store and opened up his case. Then they asked to open his backpack and the teen started to get confrontational and asked to call his mother.

Kudlak said Sgt. Faull came into the room and then went into the bathroom looking for the gun and then she came out and went to talk to the other student. He said when the teen saw the officer leave, that's when he asked to call his mother.

Kudlak said the administration had previous relations with the kid and the kid wanted to leave. They took him to the office and he walked out the front door. They felt it was better if he was out of the building. Police were notified and they found him in a neighborhood yard. He said it was 10 minutes between the time he was found and when he walked out of the building.

(continued on page 15)

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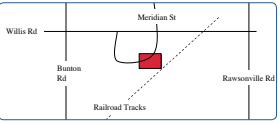
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SECOND FRONT PAGE



Independent photos by Rosemary K. Otzman

City Clerk Briana Hootman, right, swears in the whole Belleville Planning Commission in one fell swoop on March 10 after they all were reappointed (with one a new appointment) by the mayor and approved by the council on March 7. All of the terms had lapsed for the current board. From left are Mike Renaud, new appointee Tom Fielder, Randy Priest, Michael Hawkins, John Juriga, and Becky Hasen. Matthew Wagner was absent and needs to be sworn in.

Belleville planners OK animal hospital/dance studio

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

A veterinarian hospital that specializes in exotic animals and a dance studio will be able to share the building at 500 E. Huron River Dr. in the City of Belleville after action by the Belleville Planning Commission at its March 10 meeting.

Rick Rutherford, the DPW director who also handles building and planning, asked the commission to consider this land-use request so everyone will know the use was officially approved by the planning commission. He said the planning consultants said the vet should be considered medical and that there are no provisions anywhere in the ordinances for a vet clinic. Rutherford said it could be considered professional services with a medical service to it.

"There is no definition of 'vet' at all in our ordinances," said Commission chairman Michael Hawkins.

"We have a veterinarian clinic in Davenport Plaza," said Commissioner John Juriga. "How did that happen?"

"That goes with the second item on the agenda [Creation of Ordinance Review Subcommittee]," Chairman Hawkins said, adding he does not wish to hold up the procedure on the land-use item.

Architect Wayde Hoppe of Van Buren Township was present to show the drawing of the proposed use of the building, but Hawkins said this is not a site plan approval and that isn't needed now.

Hoppe did say, as architect for Davenport Plaza, he has no information on how the veterinarian's clinic there got approved.

The two-story building at 500 E. Huron River Dr., across from David C. Brown Funeral Home, is the former Katherine Rose flower shop built for \$1.5 million in 2003 by Davenport Brothers. It has been vacant for a long time.

Commissioner Juriga said owner Jay

Hartford wanted to give it to the library at one point for the library's remote location, but that wasn't possible because the satellite library had to be in Sumpter according to the district library agreement.

Commissioner Juriga said Hartford also tried to give it to the museum, but that transition fell through, which was confirmed by Commissioner Tom Fielder.

City Manager/Police Chief Dave Robinson said he looked at the building for a new city hall, but the lack of enough parking was a problem.

David C. Brown, who was present for the meeting, bought the property in 2016 and is the present owner with his wife Martha. The funeral home used the flower shop building for its services from 2012 to 2014 after a fire and lengthy rebuilding kept them from the funeral home.

Also present at the commission meeting was RE-MAX real estate agent Glenn Silvenis, former mayor of Belleville.

Veterinarian Heather Jones and her husband Joe Krulack of Van Buren Township attended the meeting and Dr. Jones explained she operated Animal Friends Veterinarian Hospital near the corner of Cherry Hill and Canton Center Road in Canton Township and needed extra space for surgery. She said she and her husband have lived in Van Buren Township for 18 years.

Dr. Jones said she does four to five surgeries a day and specializes in exotic animals, such as rabbits, rodents, reptiles, guinea pigs, and birds, but "no lions or tigers," and then jokingly referred to the Belleville High School Tigers.

She said she plans to have a dance studio annexed to her business. She said a dance teacher her family used lost her studio through the COVID years and she plans to have this teacher run the studio.

Hoppe said the north half of the building would be a veterinarian hospital during the

day and the south half would be a dance school in the evening. He said the dance class would be a professional service. They would have professional / administrative uses.

Commissioner Juriga asked if they would be using the upstairs for anything, since there is so much space. Hoppe said that presently is planned for utilities and storage.

Commissioner Randy Priest, who lives across the street from the location, asked if she would have a green area outside for the pets to "do their duty"?

"Dog crap on the sidewalk is unacceptable," Commissioner Priest said.

Dr. Jones said the animals will be on anesthetics and drugs and wouldn't be outside. She said the building, built as a flower shop, has a lot of drainage and she's sure they can work it out in a clean way. She suggested she might even put in a green space outside for this.

"I would like to see your whole business move to Belleville," Juriga said.

The commission then voted unanimously to approve the use.

Commissioner Becky Hasen, who seconded the motion for approval, said Dr. Jones is her vet and Jones is a wonderful veterinarian. She said Commissioner Juriga also takes his cat to her.

Dr. Jones thanked the planning commission for their action and said a lot of things have to fall into place before this becomes a reality.

In other business at the March 10 meeting, the commission:

- Stood to all be sworn in at once, since the city council had approved their mayoral appointments on March 7. All of their appointments had expired, except for one brand-new member, former mayor and councilman Tom Fielder. Since Henry Kurczewski resigned at the last meeting, there still is one vacancy on the



Veterinarian Heather Jones, left, and her husband Joe Krulack of Van Buren Township were given approval by the City of Belleville Planning Commission for their plans for 500 E. Huron River Dr.

commission;

- Created a subcommittee to review the city ordinances with Rutherford which is made up of chairman Hawkins, Becky Hasen, and Mike Renaud. Hawkins said they will do fact-finding and Renaud noted this is a large undertaking and will take a while to complete. Ideas from other planning commissioners and people in the community for ordinance items that need attention can be sent to Rutherford, who will provide them to the committee; and

- Heard Commissioner Hasen say she would like the minutes of the Dec. 9 meeting to be amended to reflect what she asked to be on the record: her question about curb cuts at the Moving the Mitten building. Assistant City Manager Tim McLean said he would amend the minutes and Hawkins said the amended minutes can be approved at the next meeting, expected to be at 7 p.m. April 14.

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O P I N I O N S

Editorial

Sunshine Week: Open government is good government

This is Sunshine Week in Michigan that celebrates openness in government.

In the tri-community, most of the elected officials try to keep their deliberations open to the public, but sometimes there are lapses. In this age of digital communications it is obvious to observers that issues have already been discussed by email or text message so things need no discussion in public.

In Belleville, the new city manager, who is also police chief, wants to follow the rules and is available whenever needed to give information to the public or the press. Last week he had several 16-hour days in a row taking care of business. He continues to build trust in the city.

In Van Buren Township there's a lot going on and a lot of people involved, but when we ask questions, we get answers. That's appreciated. The school district is the same: Questions get answers, but you have to know the right questions to ask. The district library is an open book.

Sumpter Township struggles to keep government open, but a lot is going on behind the scenes. Keystone Academy requires the press to go through National Heritage Academies in Grand Rapids with questions, which is awkward.

The *Independent* is working to keep close watch on them all and report what's happening to readers. We appreciate the verbal support given to our paper as well as the donations that continue to arrive.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

Robert Hampton of Third Street in the City of Belleville turned 97 years old on Saturday, March 12. Happy belated birthday. At one point he told me he goes across Third Street from his home to pick up his Independent at Beaumont Clinic.

I've enjoyed knowing him over the years as one of our faithful readers and I especially am fond of his house. When I was in middle school across the street (before the A&P and the medical clinic) one of my best friends was Muriel Kinlaw. She lived in that house and I would stay there for sleepovers. We had a great time. I remember when she was staying overnight at my house out in the country in Van Buren Township, we were talking to each other in Latin. When we were in school in the olden days, children learned Latin, I think in fourth grade. Knowing the basics of Latin has helped me decipher words all my life.

I lost track of Muriel over the years. She moved to Algonac before we were promoted to the high school and then later she went into the military. One of the reasons I liked her was because she was so smart and funny.

I was surprised to learn that Earth Hour is observed around the world at 8:30 p.m. local time on the last Saturday in March, which is March 26 this year. It was started in 2007 by the World Wildlife Fund.

At 8:30 p.m., you turn off your lights for an hour. They say it's really interesting to see the lights off at famous buildings all across Europe. I lead a sheltered life, I guess, because I never had heard of it until I saw the announcement sent to us online.

The Lake Erie Metropark is holding an "Earth Hour Astronomy" session that night from 8 to 10 p.m. They suggest you

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

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celebrate the beginning of spring and Earth Hour with their astronomy program when the lights are out around the world.

The Metropark program will have an indoor session on light pollution and telescopes and then they'll go outdoors for stargazing. They will also warm up around the fire while making S'mores.

The program is for those 10 years of age and up and children must be accompanied by a registered adult. Cost is \$5 per child and \$5 per adult. Pre-registration is required by 4 p.m. three days before the program. See metroparks.com to sign up or call (810)-227-2757 for information.

WM, the new name for Waste Management, has a report on You Tube from its CEO Jim Fish, who explains they changed their name last month because they are much more than a landfill now. He said they have a "circular process," which includes capturing the natural gas from the landfills and using it to power their trucks -- and then it goes around again. This natural gas powers 50% of their trucks across the country, he said.

He said the WM employees who pick up the streetside recycling bins wear uniforms made from the material being picked up and recycled and roadside bins are being made from the plastics recycled. Sounds pretty impressive.

WM also announced it has started digging the new cell for its expanded landfill north of Ecorse and will be transporting the soil

up Hannan Road to another WM site north of Van Born for the next four to five months. Lots of truck traffic.

Add that to the trucks coming from the temporary cement batch plant at the corner of I-275 and Ecorse Road to help with the upgrades to I-275 until the end of next year. That section of Van Buren Township is going to be very, very busy.

At a special meeting on March 9, the Belleville DDA was discussing some proposed projects for this year and the issue of electrical power for Fourth Street Square and Fourth Street Place came up.

The electrical power for Fourth Street Square doesn't work and DDA member Jennifer Winter of Egan's Pub said when there is an event on the square they have to plug into the pub's electricity. There isn't any electricity to plug into at the new Fourth Street Place, but there are underground conduits waiting for wiring.

Mayor Conley said the electric cabinet at Horizon Park makes her crazy because it looks horrible. It appears the DDA may have electrical service on the list at least for both sides of Main Street at Fourth this year -- and possibly at the horrible cabinet.



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Letters

Used book donations needed for book sale

To the editor:

Used book donations are needed for the coming Friends of the Belleville Area District Library Book Sale on May 6 and 7, noon-3 p.m. Pre-sale for members only will take place 11 a.m. – noon both days.

Memberships may be obtained at the library, at the door on the days of the sale, or on-line at www.belleville.lib.mi.us.

Gently used adult, teen, and children's books are appreciated in hardcover and paperback. Fiction and non-fiction in all genres, including textbooks, are welcome. Also wanted are DVDs CDs, Blu-Rays and audio books. All donations should be in good condition.

Not accepted are encyclopedias, VHS video tapes, or Reader's Digest condensed books.

There is a limit of two boxes of donations per library visit. The deadline for book sale donations is April 30. A donation receipt may be obtained at the library circulation desk.

The Friends appreciate your donations to help raise funds for the summer reading programs, Homegrown Knowledge speaker series, Harvest Fest, and other library activities.

Elaine Gutierrez
 Friends of Belleville Area District Library

CVS in VBT: Nice folk in our community

To the editor:

I just now returned from CVS, our 24-hour drug store, here in Belleville (service drive of I-94). I had occasion to speak with a pharmacist named Abdul (pronounced Abdulo'), a man who reaffirmed my faith in humanity.

We were chatting as I checked out, and I asked Abdul if he was new to working the late-night shift, as I had several talks with the person he was temporarily filling in for. I mentioned how I had surprised his fellow worker, when I had informed this man during chatting that it was highly likely that the moon (yes, OUR moon) is hollow. One thing led to another, and Abdul asked me: Whom it was that I believed had placed our moon where it is?

I gave him my standard hypothesis: "The moon is used as a staging ground for extra-terrestrials from other planets."

I couldn't resist asking him: "Whom do you think it was that placed it there?"

He didn't hesitate: "God."

I shook my head in agreement, and left to drive home, my faith in the wisdom of God's work in creating humanity, fully restored.

To the manager of CVS: you've got my business exclusively from here on in. Thank you for hiring such nice people!

William Wilson
 Sumpter Township

President Biden shouldn't be so modest

Mr. President,

Your list of accomplishments is nothing short of amazing. In just one short year: stopping energy production, open borders, we all remember the withdrawal from Afghanistan with the 13 military killed, inflation 7.9%, gas \$7 in California. You always seem to give credit to someone else for your accomplishments.

Mr. President, don't be so modest.

Mickey Widener
 Van Buren Township

Looking for classmates for BHS Class of '71

To the editor:

We are looking for classmates!

BHS Class of 1971 50th class reunion is May 14, 2022, at the Detroit-Livonia Marriott, 17100 North Laurel Park Dr., Livonia, MI.

Contact Elaine Yocum at yocume@yahoo.com or 39878 Crosswinds, Novi, MI 48375, or call (734) 635-1208.

Karen Mida
 Belleville

Music Lakeside needs helpers for concerts

To the editor:

Do you enjoy the summer Music Lakeside programs each Thursday evening throughout June, July and August? The Belleville Council for the Arts (BACA) is still planning on returning this summer, but still needs help with stage set-up and take-down.

We have a great line-up that is almost complete. Some of your favorites will be returning, like the Dave Hamilton Band, Brother Crow, and Tequila Mockingbird, along with some new groups to fill out the summer line-up.

It only takes an hour or so of your time to help out and keep this program going. If you can help out even one evening, please contact us at musiclakeside48111@gmail.com.

Cheryl Wagner
 Corresponding Secretary
 Belleville Area Council for the Arts

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 – Benjamin Franklin

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'Citizens Comments' for city DDA moved back to beginning of meeting

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

After a lively discussion, the item called "Citizen Comments" that gives citizens a chance to address concerns about Belleville Downtown Development Authority agenda items before the DDA votes on them was moved back up to the beginning of the agenda.

It had been moved to the end for the March 9 DDA special meeting.

At the end of the meeting, Tom Fielder spoke up about the comments now being at the end of the meeting so citizens can't comment on the actions proposed until after the decisions were made.

Fielder is a retired Belleville High School civics teacher, former mayor and son of a late mayor, and city councilman, and was about to be sworn in as a new member of the planning commission.

DDA chairwoman Alicia McGovern said with the comments at the beginning, members of the audience have taken over the meeting with their talking.

She said other municipal bodies have their comments at the end and she wanted an orderly meeting. She asked him to refer to *Robert's Rules of Order* and he replied *Robert's* doesn't mandate how they run their meeting.

After the *Independent* joined with Fielder in saying people cannot participate in the meeting if they can't talk until all the decisions are made, McGovern relented.

She said she will move the comments back to the beginning and asked Fielder if he was satisfied.

"You were going down the wrong path," Fielder said.

The special meeting was called to discuss the proposed DDA-City Maintenance Agreement being set up for the coming fiscal year. But it began with an audit presentation by Kelly Howey of Plante Moran who explained the audit performed on city funds by Alan C. Young and

Associates. The audit got an Unmodified Opinion, which is the top rating. It also showed the DDA had enough money to enact the new Maintenance Agreement that would pay more money to the city.

Tim McLean, deputy city manager and DDA Director, reported the current Maintenance Agreement has been in effect since 2017. Since then, the level of service that the City of Belleville provides to the DDA has not changed. However, the percentage of property tax revenue contributed from the DDA to the City to perform those services has decreased in each year of the agreement. Additionally, he said, the cost to perform those services has increased.

To sustain current and enhanced service levels, the city has proposed the necessary increases to cover the costs of providing

those services, McLean wrote in a memo. Accountant Kelly Howey has reviewed the proposed cost increases and has confirmed that these increases are necessary to maintain existing service levels, he said.

City Manager/Police Chief Dave

Robinson said he would have the updated agreement ready for a vote for the March 16 regular DDA meeting.

At the special meeting, the DDA also discussed proposed projects for 2022.



March 12 – Bob Hampton
March 15 – Raymond Deming
March 18 – Walter Rochowiak
March 20 – Jessica Darcy, Emily Hylton-Spencer
March 21 – Bruce Ross, Melissa Griffin, Donald Brown
March 23 – Ace Lee
March 26 – William Otzman

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Obituaries



Pauline Marcella
Armatis

PAULINE MARCELLA ARMATIS

(May 7, 1933 – March 11, 2022)

The story of Pauline's Life.

On May 7, 1933, Eugene and Marcella Springborn gave birth to a daughter named Pauline. On December 31, 1951 Pauline met Francis (Frank) W. Armatis for the first time at the Sumpter Roller Rink. Francis told his buddy he's going to marry that girl, 12 days later on January 12, 1952, Pauline Springborn became Pauline Armatis. They remained happily married right up to the day he passed on December 18, 1993.

Pauline was a wife and mother. On February 26, 1955 she gave birth to their first son Ricky Francis. Ricky preceded Pauline in death on January 1, 2016. Ricky married Denise Creps April 20, 1974. Ricky and Denise gave Pauline her first grandchild Ricky II on June 2, 1975, followed by his brother David on May 23, 1976, Sarah July 5, 1989 and Bradd December 8, 1992.

Next Pauline gave birth to their first daughter Christine Marcella on February 9, 1956. Christine married John R. Saksewski on May 3, 1975. John preceded Pauline in death on August 7, 1998. Christine and John gave birth to a son Jason on April 17, 1984 and blessed Pauline and Frank with a grandson.

Next Pauline gave birth to their 3rd child Debra Marie on Good Friday, April 19, 1957. Debra would turn out to be a true middle child, middle of the children and middle of the girls. Debra married Thomas E Busch on May 29, 1976.

Next in line, Pauline gave birth to their fourth child on November 4, 1959, Francis (Butch) E. (Butch was her BIG baby). Butch married Karen E. Hay (1981-1994), they gave birth to a son Douglas on July 14, 1987. Butch then married Gail Brown on June 10, 1995. Butch and Gail were happily married for 20 years until her death. Gail preceded Pauline in death on July 3, 2015. Gail brought to the marriage two children Christopher and Laura Brown.

Pauline gave birth to their fifth and final child, a daughter on April 14, 1961, Cathy Ann. Cathy married James Sykes on July 28, 1979. They gave birth to a son James on September 16, 1979, a daughter Melissa May 4, 1982, adopted a daughter Avalon and a son Branton.

3/11/2022 Pauline got her wings.

Pauline also leaves behind numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren, two brothers Eugene Springborn and Jack Springborn, sister-in-law Gloria Springborn. Preceding her in death was her brother Walter (Gloria) Springborn and a sister Rose Grosscup. Pauline was an avid crocheter; she crocheted many beautiful afghans, baby sweater ensembles, scarves, tablecloths, slippers. She really enjoyed crocheting doll clothes for the Sumpter Goodfellows Christmas dolls. Pauline won numerous awards for her beautiful work.

Pauline also loved fishing and boating. Pauline spent numerous hours in the Irish Hills area fishing and boating with her family members, Christine, Debra, Tom, Butch (and Gail), occasionally her grandsons Jay, his wife Debby,

Doug and his wife Melissa. She loved catching the fish, but wouldn't touch the bait or the fish she caught, but she loved catching the fish. Pauline was very active in her senior groups. She loved having lunch with them, cooking pies and cakes and cookies to share with them, playing games, she absolutely loved playing the games (she still has jars of penny winnings sitting around). She also enjoyed going on some of the trips with them and enjoyed participating in the senior olympic events. I think the worst part of the pandemic for her was the fact she couldn't be around her senior friends; she truly missed them and the fun they brought into her life. She was anxiously waiting for the pandemic to end so she could join in again.

She was most active with the Sumpter Senior Center Group; the family is asking in lieu of flowers or monetary gifts to the family to please donate to the Sumpter Senior Center in Pauline's name. Thank you. Thank you. Service was Wednesday, 5 p.m. at Michigan Memorial Funeral Home, (next to Michigan Memorial Park) 30895 Huron River Dr., Huron Twp., (734) 783-2646. Visitation was Wednesday, 1-5 p.m.. Interment in Michigan Memorial Park. www.mimemorial.com

COVID-19 deaths in 48111 at 128, positive tests at 8,832

The number of people who have died from COVID-19 in the 48111 zip code grew by one death from 127 on March 7 to 128 as of Sunday, March 13, according to figures from the Wayne County Health Department.

The positive tests for COVID-19 in 48111 totaled 8,832 on Sunday, March 13, up from 8,810 on Monday, March 7.

On Sunday, March 13, the separate totals released by the Wayne County Health Department for the tri-community were: Van Buren Township, 6,029 positive cases, 86 deaths; City of Belleville, 1,028 positive cases, 13 deaths; and Sumpter Township 1,775 positive cases, 29 deaths.

The Van Buren Public Schools had nine positive cases last week. As of March 4, there has been a total of 551 positive cases since the beginning of the school year last August.

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Obituaries



Shaaron Bawden

SHAARON BAWDEN

(June 12, 1941 – March 7, 2022)

Shaaron Bawden, age 80 of Belleville, Michigan passed away on March 7, 2022. She was born on June 12, 1941 in Ypsilanti, Michigan and lived her childhood and younger years in Plymouth, Michigan.

Shaaron is the loving and devoted mother of Christopher Flum and proud grandmother of Brendan Flum. She is deeply adored and loved and will be greatly missed by her siblings, Vicki Schenkel, Tim (Cindy) Donovan and Mary Jane (Michael) Gregory as well as many nieces and nephews, and her best friend, Debby Kopsolias. She is pre-deceased by her mother, Joyce Patrick who passed away on December 15, 2020.

Anyone who knows Shaaron, also knows of her great passion and love of all animals – but especially horses and dogs. Shaaron grew up on a horse farm in Ypsilanti and was always in their presence; in her elder years in her Belleville countryside home, where the neighbor boarded horses, she simply enjoyed to sit on the back porch and watch the horses in the back pasture grazing and frolicking around. She had dogs and cats her entire life. Everyone knows that dogs have been human's best friends for thousands of years. Shaaron knew this and also knew that they are there for us through thick and thin. They never judge and are always happy to see us return to them, whether we've been gone five hours or five minutes. Shaaron could tell you about their unconditional love and believed that dogs are the only creatures on this earth that love you more than they love themselves. She delighted in seeing their wagging tails, body wiggles and "happy dance" occurring just at the sight of seeing and being in her presence.

The Memorial Service was March 12, 2022 at Schrader-Howell Funeral Home in Plymouth.

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Sumpter committee recommends McClary for administrator

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

On Monday, a second round of interviews for two finalists for the position of Sumpter Township Administrator had been scheduled, but instead the hiring committee considered references and newspaper articles and then took a vote.

Before the 5 p.m. meeting began, Clerk Esther Hurst was seated at the board table because she had been appointed to the committee by the township board and she intended to stay on the committee.

But, Supervisor Tim Bowman, another member of the committee said she should give up her seat on the committee to Trustee Tim Rush, who was the back-up member appointed by the board and sat in for Clerk Hurst at the first meeting of the board on this topic March 7 when she was absent.

Supervisor Bowman told Hurst it was "nothing personal," but thought Trustee Rush should sit on the committee because he heard the interviews and would have more information. At that point, Rush was seated in the audience. Rush is also Bowman's temporary deputy supervisor.

Committee members asked Public Safety Director/Police Chief Eric Luke, another committee member, what was the law on this and he replied he doesn't know what the law says and his job is to follow the law.

Treasurer Vincent Warren, who was chairing the committee, called township attorney Rob Young and told him the committee wants to know what to do and if there were any legal ramifications.

After the call, Treasurer Warren reported that Young said this was an ad hoc committee with no set rules, but they should "go with Esther" or go back to the board to make the decision.

Trustee Rush said, "You guys should go ahead" since this position has been vacant so long.

A motion was unanimously passed to go on with the committee as appointed and then the meeting began.

Treasurer Warren said the committee members were there to discuss references and the initial committee vote on the

two finalists was 234 points for Darwin McClary and 208 votes for Karen Armatis.

Rush said he contacted references listed for McClary and no one said anything negative about him. He said Armatis had submitted reference letters and he called two of the writers.

"There was nothing negative on either candidate," Rush said.

Chief Luke asked if candidates weren't going to be reinterviewed and Warren said they were just going to review the references and find out what compensation McClary wanted. Warren said the scoring was completed.

Clerk Hurst said she read the background checks and there was nothing to find for Armatis, but there were red flags for McClary. She said the chief did background checks and sent them to all the committee members.

Luke said he Googled the candidates as well, as any of them could do, but he sent no statements.

"Were they negative?" Bowman asked of the stories and Luke replied, "Not for

me to say."

Hurst said, "He doesn't stay long at one place," claiming the longest time was one and a half years.

"I want somebody who's going to stay with us," Hurst said and then asked her deputy Anthony Burdick to go to her desk and get the newspaper articles and bring them to the committee. She passed them on to Bowman.

"I checked everything in the articles," said Rush. "His firings were all politics based," explaining it was after a changing of the guard after elections and the same thing happened to Finance Director Scott Holtz in Sumpter. Holtz is back and was sitting on the hiring committee.

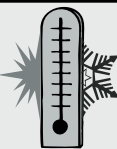
"Don't you find it strange ... all the firings?" Hurst said.

Rush said it was mutual consent and one and a half years was the shortest stay.

"I don't really trust what I read in the media anymore," he said.

Bowman said the board in Ypsilanti fired him for making the wrong choice.

(continued on page 9)



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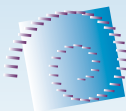
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Sumpter Township board rejects all bids on property sales

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

All bids and proposals to purchase three sites owned by Sumpter Township were rejected by the board of trustees at its March 8 meeting because they were too low.

This was as recommended by the Bid Committee at its Feb. 24 meeting. The committee was made up of Supervisor Tim Bowman and Trustees Matt Oddy and Tim Rush, with township attorney Rob Young and Deputy Clerk Anthony Burdick in attendance. There were two people in the audience, bidder Torres and resident Randy Miller.

The ten bidders on the Arkona Road and the five bidders on the Martinsville Road properties were invited to submit revised bids within seven days. Trustees Peggy Morgan and Don LaPorte voted no on that.

The properties were appraised at \$140,000 and \$146,000 and the bids came in at \$86,000, Trustee Oddy said.

The lone bid for \$42,000 on the Sumpter Road property was rejected and bidding on

that property opened up to everyone with a minimum bid of \$80,000, the appraised value. Casting the lone no vote on that was Trustee LaPorte, who lives next to the site, which is near the vacant medical clinic.

It was explained by Trustee Oddy that in December the bidding deadline came before the township received the appraisals on the properties.

Supervisor Bowman said he was in favor of auctioning off the properties. Resident Randy Miller suggested hiring a Realtor.

In other business at the more than two-hour meeting, the board:

- Held a public hearing on the budget, with Finance Director Scott Holtz saying he was concerned because they are spending everything they are taking in from landfill royalty funds for the first time. He also was concerned about the pension liability funds and presented four options on how to handle it. He said at the next meeting an investment advisor will speak on where to invest the American Rescue Act Funds. Sumpter is getting \$943,000 of those funds, the first half was Dec. 21, 2021 and the second half will be Dec. 22, 2022 and they will have four years to spend it, Holtz said;

- Heard Clerk Esther Hurst say that Burnham & Flower submitted the only bid for general and property insurance. She also said the township needs to get rid of ADT because there are a lot of issues with it and its contract expires at the end of July. She also announced that Dawn Hadyniak is the first certified clerk Sumpter Township has ever had. Toni Clark contested that statement, saying Clerk Clarence Hoffman was the first and she was the second, as they went to training together. She also said Hoffman was the first black male certified as clerk. Hurst said that this certification is “completely different”;

- Approved the second, and final, reading of the ordinance amendment to allow medical marijuana grows in industrial zoning;

- Approved hiring Eric Joseph Powell as

(continued on page 12)

Committee

(continued from page 8)

“It would be nice to have a second interview to ask him questions,” Hurst said.

“I think we should vote,” Bowman said.

Warren asked Burdick to give them paper to write down their choices and Trustee Peggy Morgan in the audience asked if it was a secret.

“We can put our names on it,” Warren said with a smile.

Deputy Burdick tabulated the votes and announced there were three votes for McClary – Holtz, Warren, and Bowman – and two votes for Armatis – Hurst and Luke.

The committee voted unanimously to send its recommendation to the township board to be on the next agenda. Rush said after the board votes, Luke can do deeper background checks.



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Belleville Day in Florida

The annual "Belleville Day in Florida" luncheon was held Feb. 23 in Hernando, FL at Citrus Hills Golf & Country Club. Next year, the date is Wednesday, Feb. 22, 2023 at the same location. For more information email the organizer, Lynn Akans Gorman at gorcomm@gmail.com. "We always have a great time talking about Belleville people and places with each other," said Gorman. "There is always a lot of laughter in the room. We usually get about 30-40 people and we can accommodate a lot more than that, so please come! The food is very good, and we have a gift raffle." According to Gorman, the event was begun well over 30 years ago by a group of retired Belleville teachers.

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VBT planners OK preliminary site plan for Community Center

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

The Van Buren Township Community Center project took another step forward as the township planning commission unanimously approved its preliminary site plan at the March 9 regular meeting.

Dan Power, director of planning and economic development, explained the proposal that the township has been working on for months and had been before the planning commission and township board.

Director Power said there are 13,446 square feet of renovations and a 16,411 square-foot gymnasium to be added in the eastern side of the existing municipal building.

Power said there are still some things to be worked out before the final site plan approval. The east edge of the parking lot, which adjoins a residential area, needs to have a 4.9' setback instead of the 20' setback required in the ordinance and he asked the commissioners to grant that change.

He said the construction of the gymnasium cuts off the around-the-building access to the employee and police department parking lot. There will be a 5' high decorative fence and gated access to the lot for security. Power said the staff recommended restricted access to this parking lot.

He talked of the dry detention basins to the

south and how he wants a designated snow storage area in the parking lot.

Architect Stephen Gedert, the applicant, spoke of the performance plaza with a large lawn at the south end of the gymnasium and the outdoor fitness patio to the west of the building. A new sidewalk will go to Quirk Park.

The Black Box Theater, across from the new entrance, will have back space for the props and changing rooms for the theater. It will hold 150 people in seating that comes out like bleachers from the wall. He said there is no stage and it is suitable for theater in the round or small plays.

Gedert described the teen area with three, four-seat booths for teens to do homework or other activities, and other furniture to be determined. He told of the party rooms, senior room, child-watch playroom and dance studio.

He said the gym contained a high school basketball court and two middle school courts, and layouts for pickleball and volleyball courts. Upstairs at the gym, reachable by elevator and stairs, is a three-lane jog and walk track. There is an emergency stairwell to the south, which on the outside is the

(continued on page 12)

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Sumpter Twp.

(continued from page 9)

a paid-on-call fire fighter, contingent on his passing a physical and drug test;

- Approved hiring Samantha Herman as full-time clerk's office assistant effective March 14 at the current (90-day) American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME-CB) rate of pay. Trustee LaPorte abstained from the vote because he said he was related;

- Removed from the agenda the assigning of AFSCME employee Dawn Hadyniak to the full-time responsibilities of payroll clerk/elections specialist in the clerk's office, effective immediately at the current AFSCME-CBA rate of pay. It was explained that the clerk doesn't need the permission of the board to assign duties to employees in her office;

- Approved the at-will contract for Chris Brinkmeier as contracted building inspector and consultant effective immediately, for non-inspection-related, specific incremental services billed as incurred. He will earn \$50 an hour in 15-minute increments, plus expenses;

- Approved paying not to exceed \$1,274 for Deputy Treasurer Erica Campbell to attend the Michigan Municipal Treasurers' Association basic institute training, April 24-29 in Mt. Pleasant;

- Approved the third-quarter budget adjustments;

- Approved Diversified Excavating bid of \$9,368 to demolish township-owned buildings at 24985 Sumpter Rd. There were three bids;

- Heard resident Randy Miller warn that with spring coming, so are the weeds that grow up along the roadways that hide the signs and intersections and cause accidents. He proposed ways to solve the problem that he has been working on for three years and he is "beyond frustrated";

- Heard resident Mary Sherwood ask about snow shoveling for seniors and she was told that seniors can call the supervisor's office to sign up and the DPW has 68 or 70 on the list and the snow clearing was done three times this season;

- Heard resident Mary Ban complain about the roads that will be impassable with the thaw. She also asked when the museum would reopen and how many people would use the \$6.5 million bike path. Ban also said since abortion was ruled on by the Supreme Court in 1973, 63 million people are not here because they were aborted and those people could have been filling the jobs that need workers. She said she hopes the Supreme Court will get rid of Roe vs. Wade;

- Heard Cory Blue say he represents six families who don't want a commercial development next to their homes behind the closed medical clinic on Sumpter Road. He said Trustee LaPorte lives in that area, too, but he hasn't asked him how he feels about it. He said several property owners asked to buy the property or to split it up, but they were denied and the township said they could bid and had to have a plan and start work immediately. He

said he is an engineer and coming up with a plan is no problem. The \$42,000 bidder said he couldn't start within three to five years. Bowman chastised him for moving to a place that was next to commercial zoning and Blue could put up a berm with trees and make it go away. "It's all about money," Blue said and left the podium; and

- Heard Trustee Rush remind everyone that Skywarn training is at 6 p.m., April 7, at Fire Station #1 and the public is invited. Huron Township is invited and those who took it before are urged to come again because new information is available.

VBT Plan

(continued from page 11)

background for the performance plaza. The locker room is near the entrance.

Commissioner Jeff Jahr said this is a very nice, flat-roof addition to the building that already has a flat roof. "It's an acceptable roof," he said.

"We at the township board have been looking at this for a long time," said Treasurer Sharry Budd who sits on the commission. "We want this to be so perfect and so good."

In other business at the 2-hour meeting on March 9, the board:

- Following a public hearing on Applebee's special land use and site plan requests for a "To-Go" booth, sent a recommendation for approval of the special land use to the township board and then approved the preliminary and final site plans together. Applebee's wishes to construct a 11'x14' "To-Go" booth for online and pickup orders for the restaurant at 10526 Belleville Rd. Orders will come by phone or mobile app and no orders will be taken at the window. Because of the pandemic, to-go orders increased and crew members now have to run out to the cars in all times of the day and weather to deliver the orders. Applebee's developed the to-go booth and this restaurant will be the first in Michigan to have the booth. Applebee's has been in Van Buren Township since 2000; and

- After a long discussion, granted final site plan approval, with a performance

bond attached to the landscaping, to Sam Patel of JSB Builders, LLC, to construct a 16,280-square-foot, multi-tenant light industrial building with truck well and related site improvements at 6032 Schooner Dr. Before construction can begin, the mystery of the details of a storm water detention has to be unraveled and documents found. Engineer Potter from Fishbeck Engineering, the township's consultant, said he is willing to work with the developer to track down

the details of the community detention pond. Potter said before construction can begin there will have to be plans for water detention. Scott Wright, project architect, said Patel (who was not present because his wife was in the hospital) is relocating his business from Ann Arbor and will put his business in the west part of the new building and have the rest filled by multiple tenants. He needed the truck well for the semis that come to his business, Wright said..

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District Library

(continued from page 1)

Joy Cichewicz said they won't be able to call it a renewal.

Chairwoman Peters said if they put it on the ballot last year they could have called it a "renewal," but now they can't call it a renewal. She said it technically "replaces" the millage that expired in 2021 and they will have to explain that to the voters.

"It would have cost us a lot of money to have a special election and have the clerks have to open the polls for a piddly number of voters," Peters said.

"We want the most amount of voters," Cichewicz said.

Peters said they no longer will have to contend with the Downtown Development Authorities and the Local Development Finance Authority with this replacement millage.

The board voted unanimously to direct their attorney to draft ballot language for the replacement millage.

"If it fails?" asked John Juriga.

"Go for it again," Peters said.

At the April 12 meeting the board plans to finalize the language to submit for the ballot by May 10.

Although the board can't legally campaign in favor of the millage, a ballot committee will be organized to support its passage.

In other business at the one-hour-and-25-

minute meeting, the board:

- Heard marketing committee chairperson Alma Hughes-Grubbs report on plans made for both the April 9 open-house and ribbon-cutting and the April 29 special party for donors. For the open house the ribbon-cutting will be held outside under the canopy and the band will be next to the fireplace. Food will be in the Cozzad Room and Councilman Steve Jones will be the disc jockey. Arrangements were made to have a library board picture taken by Shannon Photography to be a part of the display on the construction of the new building;

- Heard Cichewicz give a building committee report all the air quality updates are in place but can't be turned on because the pressure is too low at the gas line and they have to wait for DTE to come out and take care of it. The air equipment added another BTU to the system, so more pressure is needed. She also discussed the Frost Block outside the Cozzad door, adding guards over the fire alarms so the children can't pull them, and ongoing problems with the dishwasher;

- Heard Director Suchy say that COVID numbers have continued to fall since last month and both the state health department and the CDC have adjusted their COVID recommendations. Wayne County is currently at low community risk for COVID, so masks are no longer recommended for most settings. "We have a little bit of relief right now," she said;

- Heard Suchy also report that the library is having trouble getting service for the paper recycling bin in the parking lot. Frequently, cars are parked nearby, effectively blocking the dumpster. The bin is expected to be repositioned so the recycling truck can have access when the adjacent parking spaces are in use;

- Learned part-time Adult Services Librarian Marissa Lasoff-Santos has left her position here to become full-time librarian at the Westland Library;

- Heard vice chairwoman Mary Jane Dawson ask the board to remember the people in Ukraine and donate and pray for them. Board secretary Hughes-Grubbs also requested prayer for the people in Ukraine;

- Heard Cichewicz ask about the use of the branch in Sumpter Township and was told it has little users. Peters said, "We hope to see it pop" in the future and Suchy say, "We have to give it some more time";

- Heard Peters say the board members have said they will have their celebration of the new library "when we won't have to wear masks. We've been waiting for years. I'm really excited." The celebrations, probably without masks, are planned for April 9 and 29. She also reported she attended the Music Lady's (Beverly Meyer's) "Judy Darling Memorial Concert for Children" and it was a great experience, with more people with white hair attending than children. Judy Darling was greatly loved, she said; and

- Learned this was the first meeting since all the new signs are up in the library and it would be a good time to make another tour of the library to see them.

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Upcoming Meetings

- Monday, March 21 – Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m., BHS Commons. Also, Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, March 22 – Sumpter Township board meeting, 6 p.m.
- Wednesday, March 23 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, March 30 – Sumpter Township Zoning Board of Appeals, 6 p.m.
- Monday, April 4 – Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, April 5 – Van Buren Township Board of Trustees, 5 p.m. workshop, 6 p.m. regular meeting
- Monday, April 11 – City of Belleville special budget session, 6 p.m. Also, Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m., BHS Commons.
- Tuesday, April 12 – Sumpter Township board meeting, 6 p.m. Also, Belleville Area District Library, 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 13 – City of Belleville special budget session, 6 p.m. Also, Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m.
- Thursday, April 14 – Keystone Academy School Board, 5 p.m. Belleville Planning Commission, 7 p.m.
- Monday, April 18 – Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.

‘Michigan Saves,’ public dedication coming soon to Belleville Library

• “Michigan Saves” program on Wednesday March 23, at 7 p.m.

This program will be presented in person and via Zoom. Use your email address when registering if you would like a Zoom link to the program. Learn how you can improve your home’s energy efficiency and your family’s comfort with Michigan Saves, the nation’s first nonprofit green bank. They help homeowners and small business owners find contractors to perform clean energy improvements such as air sealing, heating and cooling systems, insulation, appliances, and more. You can then explore low home improvement financing options through Michigan Saves lender partners.

• **New Library Dedication Ceremony on Saturday, April 9, from 1-3 p.m.**

At long last the Belleville Area District Library looks forward to officially dedicating the library and to thanking the community for helping to make it happen. Although the new building first opened for business in 2020, the pandemic delayed the community celebration. You are invited to attend the Belleville Area District Library Dedication Ceremony and Open House. The dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony will be followed by light refreshments, music, children’s activities, and library tours.

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– Henry Ford

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“The problem with socialism is that you eventually run out of other people’s money.”
– Margaret Thatcher

VBPS

(continued from page 1)

Kudlak said on March 7, he notified the board of the incident by a text message and the staff by email. Next time he will alert the staff to read their emails, he said. Parents were notified by text and phone three times that day, including notice of a parent meeting at 6:30 p.m. at the auditorium. Between 80 and 100 parents came to the meeting. He said there was a staff meeting after school and another staff meeting with more information on Wednesday.

He said he had the debriefing with police who said a lockdown of the school could have been done once the student was out of the building. Also, it would be better for the police to approach the student with the gun and he probably would have stayed in the bathroom until Sgt. Faull arrived.

Kudlak said if something is getting hot, the police should be involved and it depends on the situation. He said they were in an isolated area near the cafeteria at 8 a.m. when the cafeteria wasn't busy.

He said Chief Robinson said they could have had a lockdown as soon as someone said they saw a gun. If the student had been in the classroom and angry, announcing a school lockdown could propel a student to do something.

When the student was out of the bathroom and in the school store and they were not sure whether there was a gun or not and he doesn't want you to look through his backpack, the school could have been put on lockdown, Kudlak said police advised him.

Also, after the student left the building instead of calling his mother, they should

have had a lockdown, locking all the doors, and the Early Childhood Development Center next door should have been locked down, he was advised.

Kudlak said lockdown means they announce on the public address system they are on lockdown and lock all the doors.

"We learned something," said board member Calvin Hawkins. "It's a lesson learned for the staff. I side with the police. I'd rather have the police handle this. We need to rethink that process."

Kudlak said his next steps include putting the detailed account of that day on the website March 16 and sending a survey to high school parents to see if they are interested in metal detectors or clear backpacks. He said maybe only the 80 to 100 parents who attended the meeting want metal detectors.

"I'm not a metal-detector fan," Kudlak said, noting there are a lot of articles written on metal detectors. He said he will debrief all the staffs the next day and will review with administrative teams the Emergency Operating Plan passed by the board. They will do tabletop exercises and this will be an ongoing procedure, two to three times a year.

Board secretary Darlene Loyer Gerick asked if the survey was just for the high school. She said such incidents happen in all grade levels.

A father in the audience asked if it was a standard process to search students in the office and Kudlak said it was. He said in this case the student didn't want to be in the store and was going to be confrontational.

"They knew him and let him go," Kudlak said.

Gerick said Chief Robinson did a good

job at the parent meeting and Kudlak said he made sure the city knew how much the school appreciated him.

Hawkins said at the end of the meeting he was glad the district "didn't duck it," concerning public discussion of the gun incident.

In other business at Monday's one-hour-and-26-minute meeting, the board:

- Approved \$757,331 to purchases 16 buses in the 2022-23 school year. A total of \$121,050 is expected in trade-ins for eight 71-passenger buses at \$12,200 each, one 16-passenger at \$15,650, and one 24-passenger for \$7,800;

- Approve raises for 35 employees not affiliated with a union as of July 1. Kudlak said they do this every year in April or May, but this year they are doing it earlier so the employees know they are getting raises and don't go looking for other jobs. He said all staff members had considerable raises this year;

- Heard a quarterly update on the 2019 bond projects and their progress from Rob Kakoczki of Plante Moran Cresa. He detailed this summer's work to be done on Owen Intermediate School, which was built in 1964;

- Approved hiring Tavis Dudley as a teacher at Owen Intermediate School as of March 14;

- Approved resignations of Tiffany Tomlin as a custodian after less than a year of service as of March 4 and Matthew Murphy as administration IT after four years of service as of March 31; and

- Heard Kudlak report the school nurse has set up medical emergency response teams at each school. On March 3, a student was choking at lunch and a McBride team member did the Heimlich maneuver and after three thrusts a grape popped out. He also reported the batting cage donated by Peggy Curtis is almost ready for the teams to use. He said the bowling team was tied for eighth place in the state championship and then ended up ninth. They bowled well, he said.

Board vice president Susan Featheringill presided at the meeting in the absence of president Amy Pearce, who had tested positive for Influenza A and was not at the meeting.

Sheena Barnes says IRS is after her for money she never got from twp.

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

Sheena Barnes told the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees at its March 8 meeting that the Internal Revenue Service is after her for getting retirement checks from Sumpter Township that she never saw.

Barnes said she has lived in the township for all of her 63 years and her parents had a business in the township. She said when Clarence Hoffman passed away she was appointed to the township board. She said there was a \$9,000 difference in her pay from other trustees and she was told it was because she was single and not married. She said other trustees got \$14,000 and now it's up to \$22,000. She said she felt it was shady at the time and not fair.

She said she tried to run for office in 2019 and was the top vote-getter in all precincts, but she didn't win and she felt it was shady.

Now, she said, in March 2022 she is told she had been receiving a retirement check through this administration.

"I know I didn't win the election in 2019," she said.

On Jan. 28, she said she received a letter from the Social Security office saying there was no information from her about her retirement account. On March 4 she said she had a telephone conference with Mr. Hamlett from the Social Security Administration and he told her how much she was getting – that she wasn't getting.

"Social Security had a red flag from the IRS. It was shady," she told the board.

"The retirement check? Where's it at?" she asked. She said Social Security couldn't take her word for it and she has to prove she didn't get the checks from the township.

She said they gave her several steps to follow and this is her second step. She needs a letter from the township saying she was appointed in 2017 and clocked out in 2018.

"I haven't had anything since 2018 and this is 2022," she said.

Trustee Tim Rush, who is deputy supervisor, said he would be in the office the next day and he would be happy to help her out and give her a letter of clarification. He asked her to bring in the documentation she has.

"I promise I will help you," he said.

"I hope you can help. This definitely is not over," Barnes said.



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Court Watching:**Timothy Porter bound over to circuit court for driving while intoxicated**

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

After Van Buren Township Police Officer Mark King pulled Timothy Porter over for weaving all over Belleville Road while driving on Oct. 14, 2020, he gave him three roadside sobriety tests, and he failed them all.

Porter is facing the felony charge of operating while intoxicated, third offense.

At Porter's March 9 preliminary exam before 34th District Court Judge Lisa Martin, Officer King testified he was dispatched to southbound Belleville Road for a reported intoxicated driver that had just had an incident at the Meijer gas station. They got the license plate number of the vehicle.

King testified that he found the car with that license plate number near Harmony Lane and the car was weaving back and forth and nearly struck another vehicle. He turned on his lights for a traffic stop. The driver was slow to respond and finally stopped near Quirk Road approaching the Belleville Bridge.

King testified the driver had no identification. He said the pupils of the driver who turned out to be Porter stayed at pinpoints regardless of the light he shone in his eyes. He reported Porter kept falling asleep when he was doing the roadside tests and when he was talking to him. He said Porter said no to a blood test and then said yes, as shown on King's body camera. King took Porter to St. Joseph Mercy Hospital for the blood draw and left him there because of the possibility of drugs. He took the blood back to the police department where it was sent to the state police lab.

Defense attorney Andrew Sullivan of Neighborhood Defender Service argued that the body camera showed his client didn't want the blood test and it should be thrown out and the charge dismissed. He said Porter should have been made to sign to approve the test or they should have gotten a warrant.

King reported the Blood Alcohol Content was .000, no alcohol detected. At the end of the exam, Judge Martin said she listened to King's testimony and reviewed the Michigan State Police lab report that showed Porter had methamphetamine and fentanyl in his blood.

Judge Martin said Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Jane Gillis met the burden of probable cause with her witness' testimony, so Judge Martin bound Timothy Allen Porter, 47, of Woodhaven, over to circuit court for a March 23 arraignment on the information.

Alexander Joseph Forsythe

A live preliminary exam for Alexander Joseph Forsythe, 28, of Livonia and formerly of Van Buren Township, has been set at 34th District Court for March 28 on

four charges resulting from an incident in Van Buren Township on Feb. 21.

Forsythe is charged with unlawful imprisonment, assaulting / resisting / obstructing a police officer, indecent exposure, and domestic violence.

Wayne County special prosecutor Sona Movsisyan said she expects to have two or three witnesses. Defense attorney Tyrone Bickerdt said his client has no means to post the bond set at his Feb. 23 arraignment of \$10,000 cash or surety and remains in the Wayne County Jail. Bickerdt told 34th District Court Judge Lisa Martin at the probable cause conference on March 9 that his client could live with his mother in Livonia if released and would have no contact with his wife, the victim.

Bickerdt said Forsythe was on a new drug for his mental health when the incident took place and he has since stopped taking that medication.

Prosecutor Movsisyan said an off-duty police officer was a witness to the domestic violence and when he tried to intervene to help the victim, the defendant barricaded himself in their home with his wife and child. It took many officers to end the standoff, she said.

She also noted that Forsythe has just pled guilty to domestic violence in another case. Judge Martin agreed that case was pretty fresh but reduced the bond to \$10,000 personal bond with tether. He is not to return to his Willow Way address.

Speed Marcell Miller

Speed Marcell Miller, 25, of Romulus, had a probable cause conference set for Dec. 22 on charges of home invasion-first degree and domestic violence on Nov. 24 in Van Buren Township. A live preliminary exam was set for March 9. He was free after posting surety bond of \$12,500. He was ordered to have no contact with the victim or an address on N. Bellridge.

On March 9, he was tardy for his exam and Judge Martin had signed a warrant for his arrest, when Miller showed up in the courtroom. The Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor told Judge Martin she was unable to proceed because the complainant failed to appear. Defense attorney Riggins of Neighborhood Defense Service made a motion to dismiss. Judge Martin dismissed the charges and released his bond.

Tedarall Antoine White

Tedarall Antoine White, 44, of Van Buren Township was present before Judge Bronson via zoom Aug. 11 for his preliminary exam on a charge of operating while intoxicated-third offense on June 15, 2020. But that date turned out to be an error and he actually was stopped on Aug. 15, 2020. White's defense attorney Danien Wood filed a motion saying that the warrant for the blood draw was defective because it had the wrong dates.

Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Alexander Kurrie said the wrong date was filed and it was a harmless error. Van Buren Township Officer Michael Edge, who made the arrest, said the 6 and 8 for the months of June and August could have been misread.

Judge Bronson said the blood draw

warrant and affidavit said June and actually it was August and, "Does the wrong date nullify the warrant?" Prosecutor Kurrie said the error was harmless, just a typo, and there was no bad faith.

Judge Bronson denied the motion, noting as a visiting judge he does not have his Michigan Combined Laws or Supreme Court documents available.

Attorney Wood asked the judge if he would grant a stay in the exam to give her time to appeal to circuit court on the matter and Judge Bronson granted the stay.

Van Buren Township Detective Michael Long offered the information that the blood draw date was Aug. 15, 2020, it was submitted to the lab on Aug. 25, and the result came back on Aug. 31. The case was scheduled for review for a jury trial on Sept. 30 and then on Dec. 29. Then the review was set for March 1 and then to May 2.

Michael Todd Roberts

Michael Todd Roberts, 46, of Sumpter Township was virtually arraigned by Judge Martin on Aug. 13 on four counts, along with a habitual offender label, which could bring him twice the maximum sentence.

Roberts is charged with unarmed robbery, possession of a financial transaction device not his own, retaining a financial transaction device without permission, and domestic violence on Aug. 11 in Sumpter Township.

Sumpter police asked for a \$5,000/10% bond and no contact with the alleged victim and Judge Green gave him that bond. His probable cause conference was set for Aug. 25 before Judge Oakley by zoom.

On Aug. 25, Judge Oakley set the preliminary exam on the charges for Sept. 14. His defense attorney Kendrick Riggins said his client has been in jail for two

(continued on page 17)

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice**SEEKING BIDS**

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN
BID INSTRUCTIONS FOR
LANDSCAPING MAINTENANCE SERVICES**

**VAN BUREN
CHARTER TOWNSHIP**

The Charter Township of Van Buren, will receive sealed bids for the landscaping maintenance services at the Office of the Township Clerk, 46425 Tyler Road, Charter Township of Van Buren, MI. 48111 until Friday, March 18, 2022, at 3:00 p.m., local time. No Bids will be received after that time.

Bid documents will be available on the Township website and at the Office of the Township Clerk. Bids will be accepted only on provided forms. Bids must be sealed in an envelope marked "LANDSCAPING MAINTENANCE SERVICES" and submitted to the office of the Township Clerk. Bids will be publicly opened at 3:00 p.m. on Friday, March 18, 2022.

A mandatory pre-bid tour and meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 18, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. at the Charter Township of Van Buren Municipal Center, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, MI 48111. All questions by interested bidders are to be raised at this time.

The Charter Township of Van Buren reserves the right to waive any discrepancies or irregularities in the bid. The Township reserves the right to reject any and all bids, and is not required to accept the low bid. Bidders should direct questions and correspondence to Hugo Cardenas, Building and Grounds Superintendent, at hcardenas@vanburen-mi.org.

Published: February 24, 2022
March 3, 2022
March 10, 2022
March 17, 2022

Court watching

(continued from page 16)

weeks because he cannot post bond and he would like a personal bond set.

Prosecutor Elen Rozek objected to the reduction, saying Roberts, who was living with his mother, assaulted his mother and took money and her credit card and now is asking his mother to post his bond.

Riggins said his girlfriend gave his mother his debit card for his bond. He said the mother can be cared for by a sister and Roberts will have no contact with her.

Judge Oakley reduced the bond to \$5,000 personal bond and a GPS tether. He must have no contact with his mother. Judge Oakley also closed out three pending civil cases for time served in the jail.

After the preliminary exam on Sept. 14, he was bound over to circuit court for a Sept. 28 arraignment on the information. A calendar conference was set for Oct. 6. Then a final conference was set for Nov.

29 and a pretrial for Jan. 11, reset by the court to Feb. 3. On Feb. 7 he pled guilty to possessing a financial device not his own and larceny from a person and the other charges were dismissed. Sentencing was set for March 23.

Michael Christopher Towshack

Michael Christopher Towshack, 35, of Romulus was scheduled for a live preliminary exam on Aug. 18 in front of Judge Martin, but the exam was delayed beyond its scheduled time and defense attorney Blasé Kearney told Judge Martin he was concerned about being late for two other cases he had at 36th District Court.

The prosecutor, witness and officers were present for the exam, and although Judge Martin was not in favor of adjourning the case, she relented and granted Kearney an adjournment of the live exam until 12:30 p.m., Nov. 3, due to a "court scheduling issue."

Towshack was charged with assault with a dangerous weapon (felonious assault) and felony firearm on April 17 in Van Buren Township.

On Nov. 3, the only witness in the exam was Jim Foley who testified that vehicles he and Towshack were driving had bumped into each other during a Michigan left at the Ecorse Road / Belleville Road intersection. Foley said when they were stopped at the light heading eastbound on Ecorse, he got out and went to Towshack's driver's window and asked if he wanted to go to the police station or wait there for the police to make the report.

Foley testified that Towshack got out of his car with a gun and pointed it at him. He said he got back in his car and called 911. He testified three or four Van Buren police cars arrived. Police asked who had the gun and Towshack raised his hand and was put into handcuffs.

Defense attorney Kearney played a short bit of body cam from Officer McCarthy's camera in which Towshack said his version of what happened.

Kearney said his client was afraid and told Foley to get back because he didn't

know him. He said everyone knows about road rage incidents that bring gunfire. He said both sides did nothing wrong here.

Judge Martin bound Towshack over to circuit court for a Nov. 17 arraignment on the information. Circuit Court set a pretrial for Feb. 25 which was then adjourned until March 11 at the request of the defense.

Leesha Marie Corum

Leesha Marie Corum, 31, of the City of Belleville, failed to appear for her live preliminary exam before Judge Martin on Aug. 18 and so a bench warrant was put out for her arrest.

She is charged with malicious destruction of personal property between the value of \$1,000 to \$20,000 on April 7, 2019 in the City of Belleville and was due for her exam. She also was due for her arraignment and pretrial on a misdemeanor charge of malicious destruction of property to a building less than \$200 on June 10, 2019 in the city of Belleville.

On Nov. 24, she again failed to appear before Judge Oakley for her arraignment and probable cause conference for receiving and concealing a stolen vehicle on Jan. 9, 2020 in the City of Belleville. A warrant is out for her arrest. She is Thomas John Strunk, Jr.'s co-defendant.

Thomas John Strunk, Jr.

Thomas John Strunk, Jr., 24, of the City of Belleville failed to appear for his Nov. 24 arraignment and probable cause conference on a charge of receiving and concealing a stolen vehicle on Jan. 9, 2020 in the City of Belleville. A warrant was signed for his arrest and he was apprehended in January and his bench warrant arraignment was on Jan. 12 before Judge Oakley. His probable cause conference was set for Jan. 26 and on that date he was present from the Wayne County Jail and waived his preliminary exam. Judge Oakley bound him over to circuit court for a Feb. 2 arraignment on the information. A calendar conference was set for Feb. 22 and he pled guilty to the charge. Sentencing is set for April 11.

At his bench warrant arraignment, Belleville Police Officer Bart Devos said

the defendant is homeless and police do not have a good address, email, or phone number for him.

Strunk told the judge that while his address now is in Inkster, the best place to send mail for him is to his grandmother's address in the City of Belleville. Judge Oakley had set a bond of \$10,000/10%, but that was reduced to \$5,000 personal bond at circuit court.

James Shelby Najmat Almas Blake

James Shelby Najmat Almas Blake, 45, of Ypsilanti failed to appear for his live preliminary exam before Judge Martin on Aug. 18, so a bench warrant was signed for his arrest.

He had been charged with using a self-defense spray device on June 2 and also malicious destruction of fire or police property and reckless driving on June 16, all in Van Buren Township.

His \$10,000 personal bond on the June 16 charges was revoked, as was his \$5,000 personal bond on the June 2 charge. His conditional bond had required him not to return to AT&T or Atchinson Ford, both on Belleville Road.

On Nov. 16 he was arraigned on his bench warrant by video while in custody of Van Buren police and a probable cause conference was set for Nov. 24. On that date a preliminary exam was scheduled for Jan. 5.

On that date his attorney William Glenn asked Judge Oakley for a competency referral. He said he had concerns about his client's ability to assist in his defense, adding, "I don't believe he knows what's going on." Judge Oakley referred Blake for a competency exam by the forensic center in Ypsilanti. Blake said he has PTSD and he is a veteran. He said he is being treated at the VA in Ann Arbor. He became upset and hung up the phone used by Judge Oakley to communicate with him. Glenn said he would contact Blake and explain the competency exam.

The competency exam has been set for March 14.

Gary Steven Priess

Gary Steven Priess, 61, of Ypsilanti had his probable cause conference adjourned until Sept. 1 by zoom because his attorney Stephanie Farkas said he needs electronic discovery. Priess is charged with embezzlement by an agent or trustee between \$1,000 and \$20,000 on Oct. 21, 2019 in the City of Belleville.

Farkas asked for personal bond because of his client's age and his residing in Ypsilanti most of his life. She said he retired from Detroit Diesel. Judge Martin set \$5,000 personal bond. On Sept. 1 his live preliminary exam was set for Oct. 13.

On Oct. 13, Assistant Prosecutor Alex Kurrie said the People were not ready to proceed but a new witness could testify if the case was adjourned to another date. Farkas objected saying this case was from October-November 2019. Judge Oakley dismissed the case without prejudice, meaning it could be refiled.

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March 25	10am-5pm
March 26	11am-3pm
March 27	11am-3pm

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- John Lennon

Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

There were 272 dispatch calls reported by Van Buren Township police last week including the following.

Sunday, March 6:

- 0011 – suspicious person/vehicle, America
- 0102 – suspicious person/vehicle, Denton Rd.
- 0112 – welfare check, Oak Ln.
- 0339 – suspicious person/vehicle, Country Walk Blvd.
- 0341 – assist other dept., Maple Dr.
- 0606 – intrusion alarm, N. I-94 Service Dr.
- 0726 – domestic, Parkwood Dr.
- 0732 – suspicious person/vehicle, Jackson St.
- 0917 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
- 0946 – 911 welfare check, Westlake Cir.
- 1015 – animal complaint, Village Center Dr.
- 1018 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, Haggerty Rd./S. Metro Pkwy.
- 1110 – misc. complaint, Jewell Ave.
- 1146 – larceny, Oak Ln.
- 1255 – civil matter, Jewell Ave.
- 1335 – assist fire dept., Belleville Rd.
- 1343 – assist fire dept., Paloma Dr.
- 1442 – property check, Edison Lake
- 1501 – juvenile complaint, Country Walk Blvd.
- 1514 – property damage accident, Country Walk Blvd./Savage Rd.

- 1619 – hospice death, Wheatgrass Ln.
- 1653 – suspicious person/vehicle, Hayes St.
- 1656 – missing person, Quirk Rd.
- 2044 – intrusion alarm, Stamford Rd.
- 2120 – suspicious person/vehicle, Lincoln Ct.
- 2125 – welfare check, Spruce Ln.
- 2205 – suspicious person/vehicle, W. Huron River
- 2211 – welfare check, Sugarbush Ln.

Monday, March 7:

- 0412 – property check, Belleville Rd.
- 0431 – property check, Belleville Rd.
- 0803 – animal complaint, Bog Rd.
- 0838 – suspicious person/vehicle, Harmony Ln./S. I-94 Service Dr.
- 0909 – 911 welfare check, McBride
- 1022 – civil matter, Cobblestone Creek Dr.
- 1030 – breaking & entering, Paloma Dr.
- 1258 – private property/property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
- 1436 – private property impound, Van Born Rd.
- 1500 – neighbor trouble, Bog Rd.
- 1516 – intrusion alarm, Jeremy Rd.
- 1657 – civil matter, Meadows Ln.
- 1659 – larceny, Belleville Rd.
- 1716 – unattended death, Wildbrook Dr.
- 2005 – noise complaint, Parkwood Dr.
- 2010 – road hazard, Tyler Rd./Belleville Rd.
- 2144 – suspicious person/vehicle, S. Ponderosa Trl.
- 2306 – suspicious person/vehicle, Ecorse/Denton
- 2316 – juvenile complaint, Sheldon Rd.

Tuesday, March 8:

- 0331 – shooting, Ecorse Service B Dr.
- 0338 – assault & battery, N. I-94 Service Dr.
- 0811 – assault & battery, Ecorse Rd.
- 0842 – property damage accident, Bemis Rd.
- 0846 – animal complaint, Tyler
- 0902 – welfare check, Denton Rd.
- 0940 – larceny from auto, S. I-94 Service Dr.
- 0953 – civil matter, Brandi Dr.
- 1003 – misc. complaint, Paloma Dr.
- 1012 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.
- 1033 – 911 welfare check, McBride Ave.
- 1128 – suspicious person/vehicle, Republic Dr.
- 1128 – malicious destruction of property, Beckley
- 1307 – family trouble, S. Ponderosa Trl.
- 1403 – traffic offense, Belleville Rd.
- 1501 – property damage accident, Haggerty/Van Born

- 1513 – assist other dept., N. Aberdeen
- 1553 – family trouble, E. Sadie Ln.
- 1557 – lost property/child, Lake Villa Dr.
- 1627 – suspicious person/vehicle, Wheeler St.
- 1815 – road hazard, Ecorse/I-275
- 1818 – misc. complaint, Tyler Rd.
- 1831 – follow up by officer, Brandi
- 1831 – suicidal person, Senate St.
- 1841 – fraud, Jackson St.
- 1933 – vehicle lockout, S. I-94 Service Dr.
- 2036 – suspicious person/vehicle, S. I-94 Service
- 2215 – assault & battery, S. I-94 Service Dr.

Wednesday, March 9:

- 0245 – warrant arrest, St. Joseph's

- 0259 – larceny from auto, Sumpter Rd.
- 0748 – domestic, McKinley St.
- 0805 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.
- 0834 – trespassing, Haggerty Rd.
- 0907 – domestic, Bentley Dr.
- 0911 – assist other dept., Haggerty Rd.
- 0926 – 911 welfare check, Belleville/Yost
- 1132 – mental subject, N. I-94 Service Dr.
- 1220 – parking complaint, Jackson St.
- 1341 – intrusion alarm, Forestdale Dr.
- 1342 – animal complaint, Tyler Rd.
- 1342 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
- 1344 – welfare check, S. I-94 Service/Haggerty
- 1408 – malicious destruction of property, Lake Villa Dr.

- 1440 – welfare check, Cedarhurst Dr.
- 1641 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.
- 1745 – misc. complaint, Rickman Dr.
- 1822 – traffic offense, Belleville Rd.
- 1823 – assist other dept., Kirkridge Park Dr.
- 1836 – suspicious person/vehicle, Haggerty Rd.
- 1846 – assist fire dept., Belleville Rd.
- 1906 – traffic offense, Hannan Rd./Ecorse Rd.
- 1918 – malicious destruction of property, Salem Ct.
- 2102 – fight, Parkwood Dr.
- 2246 – traffic offense, Haggerty Rd./Riggs Rd.
- 2331 – motorist assist, Belleville Rd./Brookview

Thursday, March 10:

- 0229 – suspicious person/vehicle, Landmark
- 0246 – domestic, Holly Ln.
- 0517 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
- 0719 – vehicle lock out, Belleville Rd.
- 0756 – property damage accident, Sumpter/Bemis
- 0945 – animal complaint, Jeremy Rd.
- 1023 – larceny, W. Huron River Dr.
- 1025 – assist other dept., Hoeft Rd.
- 1058 – civil matter, Brandi Dr.
- 1333 – assist other dept., Belleville
- 1502 – personal injury accident, Haggerty/I-94
- 1519 – welfare check, Rose Blvd.
- 1541 – threat, Haggerty Rd.
- 1541 – larceny from auto, Belleville Rd.
- 1627 – property damage accident, Ecorse Rd.
- 1635 – disorderly, Belleville Rd.
- 1657 – fight, Belleville Rd.
- 1735 – misc. complaint, Tyler Rd.
- 1737 – family trouble, Robbe Rd.
- 1839 – trespassing, Salem Ct.
- 1900 – threat, Maple Dr.
- 1948 – Menards property check, Belleville Rd.
- 2300 – noise complaint, Maple Dr.
- 2318 – welfare check, Holly Ln.

Friday, March 11:

- 0044 – animal complaint, Denton Rd.
- 0149 – missing person, Freedom Way
- 0424 – larceny from auto, S. Ponderosa Trl.
- 0746 – personal injury accident, rest area
- 0813 – animal complaint, Western St.
- 0849 – property damage accident, Wildflower Ct. / Wheatgrass Ln.
- 0959 – animal complaint, S. I-94 Service Dr.
- 1054 – assist other dept., S. Bellridge Dr.
- 1108 – mental subject, Tyler Rd.
- 1127 – parking complaint, Solitude Ln./E. Walden
- 1200 – animal complaint, Birch Dr.
- 1224 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
- 1243 – larceny from auto, Westlake Cir.
- 1307 – intrusion alarm, W. Huron River Dr.
- 1508 – welfare check, S. I-94 Service/Belleville
- 1548 – property damage accident, Ecorse Rd. / Crossroads

- 1650 – civil matter, Bentley Dr.
- 1716 – domestic, Haggerty Rd.
- 1751 – larceny, Parkwood Dr.
- 1855 – breaking & entering, Andover Dr.
- 2052 – assist other dept., Sumpter Rd.
- 2134 – misc. complaint, Hull Rd./Martinsville Rd.
- 2333 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.

Saturday, March 12:

- 0014 – suspicious person/vehicle, N. I-94 Service
- 0117 – disorderly, N. I-94 Service Dr.
- 0139 – 911 welfare check, W. Sadie Ln.
- 0243 – disorderly, N. I-94 Service Dr.
- 0310 – assist other dept., S. I-94 Service Dr.
- 0505 – assist other dept., E. Main St.
- 0532 – intrusion alarm, Haggerty Rd.
- 0702 – larceny from auto, N. I-94 Service Dr.
- 0705 – civil matter, S. Bellridge Dr.
- 0740 – animal complaint, Parkwood Dr.
- 0834 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
- 0853 – road hazard, Belleville Rd./N. I-94 Service
- 0953 – civil matter, Haggerty Rd.
- 1129 – threat, Kirkridge Park Dr.

- 1205 – vehicle lockout, Quirk Rd.
 - 1217 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / E. I-94
 - 1243 – civil matter, Bradley Dr.
 - 1301 – narcotics crime, N. I-94 Service Dr.
 - 1415 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
 - 1527 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
 - 1822 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
 - 1840 – personal injury accident, EB Michigan Ave. / bypass
 - 1921 – suspicious person/vehicle, Holly Ln.
 - 2012 – harassment call, Tyler Rd.
 - 2154 – noise complaint, S. Ponderosa Trl.
 - 2306 – intrusion alarm, S. I-94 Service Dr.
 - 2338 – suspicious person/vehicle, Ecorse/Edwards
 - 2340 – assist citizen, Westlake Cir.
 - 2352 – property damage accident, Haggerty Rd. / E. Huron River Dr.
- Also on this week's log are 73 traffic stops, six of which were on the I-94 freeway.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, March 6:

- 1824 – neighbor trouble, Carmell St.
- 1954 – traffic stop, Main St./Second St.
- 1956 – traffic stop, Second St./Charles Ct.
- 1957 – traffic stop, Second St./Charles Ct.

Monday, March 7:

- 0413 – intrusion alarm, W. Columbia Ave.
- 0504 – traffic stop, Third St./N. Liberty
- 0820 – juvenile complaint, W. Columbia Ave.
- 0933 – harassment call, Menlo Park Dr.
- 1046 – harassment call, Anaheim St.
- 1639 – assault & battery, Owen St.
- 1647 – intrusion alarm, W. Columbia Ave.

Tuesday, March 8:

- 0129 – property check, Owen St.
- 0429 – assist other dept., Sumpter Rd.
- 0754 – juvenile complaint, W. Columbia Ave.
- 0830 – traffic stop, Main St./High St.
- 1106 – parking complaint, Harbour Pointe Dr.
- 1124 – property check, W. Columbia Ave.
- 1149 – traffic stop, E. Columbia Ave./South St.
- 1509 – trespassing, N. Aberdeen Ct.
- 1727 – traffic stop, W. Columbia Ave.
- 1811 – traffic stop, Main St./Fifth St.
- 1828 – traffic stop, W. Columbia Ave.
- 1854 – traffic stop, W. Columbia Ave.

Wednesday, March 9:

- 0821 – juvenile complaint, Henry St.
- 0843 – suspicious person/vehicle, Santa Clara St.
- 0947 – 911 welfare check, Menlo Park Dr.
- 1128 – suspicious person/vehicle, Main St.
- 1646 – sexual assault, Owen St.
- 1819 – property damage accident, Main St./Fifth

Thursday, March 10:

- 0848 – breaking & entering, S. Industrial Pk. Dr.
- 1338 – domestic, Loza Ln.
- 1438 – disorderly, Loza Ln.
- 2121 – traffic stop, Main St./Roys St.
- 2251 – traffic stop, South St./E. Wabash Ave.

Friday, March 11:

- 0411 – traffic stop, E. Huron River Dr./S. Liberty
- 0504 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
- 1140 – traffic stop, Belleville Rd./Harmony Ln.
- 1235 – traffic stop, High St./Main St.
- 1332 – traffic stop, High St./Edison Ave.
- 1407 – assault & battery, W. Columbia Ave.
- 1423 – intrusion alarm, E. Huron River Dr.
- 1426 – larceny from auto, N. Aberdeen Ct.
- 1527 – traffic stop, W. Columbia Ave.
- 1540 – property damage accident, Main St.
- 1608 – traffic stop, Church St./Second St.
- 1631 – traffic stop, Church St./Second St.
- 1811 – traffic stop, Main St./Third St.
- 1940 – traffic stop, Main St./Third St.
- 1956 – traffic stop, Main St./Second St.
- 2108 – traffic stop, E. Huron River Dr./Wexford
- 2143 – traffic stop, Main St.

Saturday, March 12:

- 0423 – suspicious person/vehicle, Menlo Park Dr.
- 0503 – intrusion alarm, Main St.
- 0753 – suspicious person/vehicle, Carmell St.
- 0814 – domestic, Dos Rios St.
- 1124 – suspicious person/vehicle, Menlo Park Dr.
- 1233 – welfare check, N. Liberty St.
- 2043 – traffic stop, N. Liberty St./Fifth St.
- 2109 – traffic stop, Savage Rd./Sheldon Rd.
- 2116 – traffic stop, Savage Rd./Victorian Ln.

- 2154 – traffic stop, Main St./Third St.
 - 2229 – traffic stop, Tuscan Manor
 - 2312 – traffic stop, W. Columbia Ave./Church
- There are 30 traffic stops on this week's log.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, March 6:

- 0001 – disorderly person, 51000 bl. Willis Rd.
- 0305 – assault, 46000 bl. Harris Rd.
- 0615 – suspicious circumstance, Rustic Ln.
- 0705 – fire dept. assist, First St.
- 0747 – fire dept. assist, 17000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
- 1346 – 911 hang up, 23000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
- 1411 – alarm, 44000 bl. Clay Rd.
- 1551 – neighbor dispute, 19000 bl. Sherwood Rd.

Monday, March 7:

- 0104 – noise complaint, 39000 bl. Willis Rd.
- 0526 – suspicious circumstance, Delaware Rd.
- 0856 – civil matter, 23000 bl. Bohn Rd.
- 0959 – mental health call, 39000 bl Willis Rd.
- 1241 – 911 hang up, 39000 bl. Willow Rd.
- 1527 – welfare check, Edgewood Dr.
- 1609 – larceny, Idaho St.
- 1633 – suspicious circumstance, 45000 bl. Willis
- 1829 – assault, Country Club Blvd.
- 1832 – suspicious person, 29000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
- 2038 – 911 hang up, 22000 bl. Bohn Rd.
- 2056 – disorderly person, 23000 bl. Sherwood Rd.

Tuesday, March 8:

- 0412 – fire dept. assist, Rustic Ln.
- 1334 – follow-up investigation, 23000 bl. Sumpter
- 1444 – follow-up investigation, Rustic Ln.
- 1549 – suspicious vehicle, 21000 bl. Elwell Rd.
- 1724 – suspicious person, 29000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
- 1840 – property damage accident, Willow Rd. / Sherwood Rd.
- 2347 – warrant arrest, Will Carleton Rd.
- 2350 – assault, Brookview Dr.

Wednesday, March 9:

- 0912 – family trouble, 45000 bl. Harris Rd.
- 1420 – citizen assist, Rustic Ln.
- 1853 – fire dept. assist, Rustic Ln.
- 1915 – fire dept. assist, 44000 bl. Willow Rd.
- 1929 – family trouble, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
- 2002 – suspicious circumstance, 25000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
- 2255 – suspicious circumstance, Redwood St.

Thursday, March 10:

- 0100 – family trouble, 17000 bl. Savage Rd.
- 0236 – fire dept. assist, 19000 bl. Wilmot Rd.
- 0302 – citizen assist, Rawsonville Rd./Bemis Rd.
- 1116 – fire dept. assist, Magnolia St.
- 1404 – animal complaint, 48000 bl. Willis Rd.
- 1422 – animal complaint, 41000 bl. Willis Rd.
- 1656 – 911 hang up, 48000 bl. Willow Rd.
- 2045 – juvenile complaint, Creekside Dr.
- 2054 – traffic complaint/hazard, 44000 bl. Willis
- 2156 – noise complaint, Timberlane Dr.
- 2355 – citizen assist, 48000 bl. Wear Rd.

Friday, March 11:

- 1553 – neighbor dispute, 10000 bl. Rawsonville
- 1856 – 911 hang up, 41000 bl. Willis Rd.
- 2008 – family trouble, New Mexico St.
- 2046 – juvenile complaint, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
- 2157 – property damage accident, Martinsville Rd. / Willis Rd.
- 2215 – follow-up investigation, 20000 bl. Martinsville Rd.

- 2357 – alarm, 44000 bl. Willow Rd.

Saturday, March 12:

- 0104 – welfare check, Rustic Ln.
 - 0455 – fire dept. assist, 21000 bl. Elwell Rd.
 - 0615 – 911 hang up, 21000 bl. Elwell Rd.
 - 0734 – fire dept. assist, 22000 bl. Fenster Dr.
 - 0803 – 911 hang up, 18000 bl. Savage Rd.
 - 0953 – suspicious circumstance, 10000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
 - 1924 – 911 hang up, 44000 bl. Clay Rd.
 - 2035 – family trouble, 47000 bl. Willow Rd.
- Also on this week's log are 147 patrol checks, 77 traffic stops, and five misc. details.

“I am reminded of the professor who, in his declining hours, was asked by his devoted pupils for his final counsel. He replied, ‘Verify your quotations.’”
– Sir Winston Churchill

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Minding Your Business

with Bob Mytych

Milton Pharmacy at 248 Main St. in downtown Belleville is doing a BOGO free sale on all over-the-counter items during the months of March and April when you mention the code "MiltonRX" at the register. Owner and Pharmacist June Milton offers medication consultations, immunizations, pet meds, easy prescription transfer, and free medication delivery. Business hours are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Follow them on Instagram and Facebook for specials and updates. Be sure to see their ad in today's paper and call (734) 391-0190.

Residents living in and around the Belleville community can learn about their risk for cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis, diabetes, and other chronic, serious conditions with affordable screenings by Life Line Screening. The Van Buren Eagles on Beck Road will host these screenings on March 29. The screenings can check for vascular health, cholesterol levels, diabetes, bone density, kidney and thyroid function, and more. Special package pricing starts at \$159 and a simple consultation can customize a package that is right for you, based on your age and risk factors. Pre-registration is required. Call 877-237-1354 and visit www.lifelinescreening.com. Be sure to check out their flyer inserted into today's paper.

Van Buren Eagles on Beck Road will be holding a St. Patrick's Day dinner on Thursday, March 17, from 5 p.m. until all the food is gone. Dinners are \$15 each and will give you a plate of corned beef, cabbage, carrots, potatoes, rutabagas, bread, and butter. The Eagles also will be holding a Chili Cook-off on Saturday, April 2, beginning at 5:30 p.m. with judging at 6:30 p.m. Chili contest entries are for members only, however the general public is invited for the tasting after the judging.

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The newspaper welcomes some new advertisers to our pages this week, including Scharp Blades LLC, a local lawncare business with over 10 years of experience, who will provide free estimates for residential and smaller commercial businesses. Owner Keith Scharp prides himself on offering the best customer service in the industry. To learn more or to schedule an estimate, call (734) 985-8719 and see his business card ad in today's paper.

Jeff Barnett of Barnett Roofing and Siding, Inc. has announced his latest incentives with the purchase of new roofing and siding this season, where you'll get 2021 prices for complete roof and siding installation through April 30, along with their CertainTeed 4-Star warranty on full roof replacements. Ask how you can also receive a free \$250 Cabela's Gift Card. See their ad in today's paper and call (734) 397-8122. Visit www.barnettroofing.com.

The Belleville Area District Library will be holding "Michigan Saves" at 7 p.m., Wednesday, March 23. It's a free program where homeowners can learn how to improve their home's energy efficiency by finding the perfect clean energy contractor when it comes to heating and cooling, air sealing systems, insulation, appliances, and more. Call (734) 699-3291. The library is also gearing up for its official open house, building dedication, and ribbon-cutting on April 9, from 1 to 3 p.m. The event will also feature refreshments, live music, and activities for children. See their display ads for these events in today's paper.

Do you have a business item you would like to see in this column? Call Bob Mytych at 734-699-9020.

Things to do in the Belleville area...

• **Thursday, March 17** – St. Patrick's Day dinner at the Van Buren Eagles #3996, 9961 Beck Rd., Van Buren Township, serving from 5 to 8 p.m. or until gone. Menu: corned beef, cabbage, carrots, potatoes, rutabagas, bread & butter. Cost: \$15.

• **Thursday through Saturday, March 24 -26** – Belleville High School hosts the 2022 FIRST Robotics competition. Open to the public without charge. Thursday is registration for 39 other schools and BHS. Friday and Saturday is competition.

• **Saturday, April 2** – Chili Cook-off at Van Buren Eagles #3996, 9961 Beck Rd., Van Buren Township. Judging at 6:30 p.m. Public welcome for testing after judging (\$1 each test), but only members can enter contest. Questions? Call Jim Foley at (734) 536-1941.



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