



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 26.10 Thursday, March 5, 2020 Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren FREE



Independent photos by Rosemary K. Otzman

Visitors take the stairs to the second floor of the new library. The elevator is on the left.



Volunteers line up starting from the old library to the new Belleville Area District Library on Saturday at noon. The books were passed from person to person from the old library until the very last books were in the new library.



Library employees manned the new main desk and helped people find their way around the new library.



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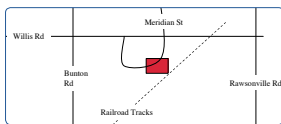
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SECOND FRONT PAGE

Mayor says it's too late in the year to stop 2020 Strawberry Festival

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Although the recommendation on the Strawberry Festival for 2020 was on the agenda for Monday's Belleville City Council meeting, no action was taken on the issue.

At the last meeting of the council, there was a lengthy discussion on whether the festival should be held at all or completely revamped if it should continue. It was turned over to the new interim City Manager Tracey Schultz Kobylarz for review and recommendation.

Mayor Kerreen Conley said Kobylarz was not ready to make a recommendation. Kobylarz had met with the Strawberry Festival committee and the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce and had requested documentations.

Kobylarz, who serves on the board of the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority, was not present at the council meeting because she was at a MMRMA conference. Mayor Conley said she was scheduled to be back in the office on Thursday.

"It's late in the game to stop it this year," Mayor Conley said, adding next year they can put life back into the festival and make it something the city can be more proud of.

Mayor Conley expected the council to vote on whether to approve or deny the festival's Administrative Policy and Responsibility Policy at the next meeting, March 16.

Councilman Tom Fielder said he talked to Councilwoman Kelly Bates and asked her to put together a "dream team" to allow everybody to put in ideas of what they'd like to see in the festival and they can come back and tell the council what other people want.

Mayor Conley said Councilwoman Bates and the city manager can put their heads together for a revitalization team.

In other business at Monday's 56-minute meeting, the council:

- Set this year's budget timeline as: Presentation of city budget at 6 p.m., April 20; budget review sessions at 6 p.m. April 27, May 11, and May 13 (if needed) and on May 18 call a budget public hearing for June 1, at which time the budget needs to be adopted as required by Charter Section 10.5;
- Was advised that Sumpter Township Deputy Supervisor Karen Armatis has invited the council to take part in Sumpter's celebration of 180 years as a township at its regular board meeting on April 14. Cake and coffee will be served that evening. A proclamation was a part of Monday's council packet and all the council members' signatures will be on the original to be presented to the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees on April 14;



Independent photo by Rosemary K. Otzman

At Monday's Belleville City Council meeting, David Robinson was sworn in by City Clerk Sherri Scharf as the city's new chief of police. Chief Robinson retired last July as deputy chief of the City of Dearborn Police Department. Present to watch the swearing-in were his wife Tera, daughter Jordan, and son Nicholas.

- Discussed the Belleville City Council Follow-Up List, that was expanded by City Manager Kobylarz from one page to six pages with lots of updates. As to the sidewalk repairs, DPW Director Rick Rutherford said they will keep updating the list and start repairs when the construction season starts. He said the DPW employees will try to do all the work they can themselves to save a lot of money. Also, as to the Recodification of Ordinances, Kobylarz obtained a \$16,000 quote from Muni-Code. They plan to look into the possibility of using Community Development Block Grant funds. Rutherford asked if it was OK to go out for bids for Doane's Landing restoration because it would be more than \$5,000 and he was told to go ahead;

- Approved accounts payable of \$114,397.10 and the following departmental expenditures in excess of \$500: to Western Wayne Co. F.D., \$2,220, annual fee from Fire Department budget; and to Mueller Systems, \$864.56 remote viewers from the Water Department budget;

- Heard Nathaniel Oregon of the Belleville Seventh Day Adventist Church tell of the projects his church is doing for the community, including a free dental clinic on Feb. 2 that furnished \$86,000 in services with help from the Lions Club and local dentist Dr. DeAngelo Webster of White Pine Dental Health; God's Closet which served 45 families with free clothes

last Friday, with another such event set for May 29; and Passport for Success series at Washtenaw Community College which started last Saturday and 14 youth attended. Session 2 of that series will be held March 29 and will include building a resume, with Session 3 being mock interviews. He also told of the six-week series, "Life in Belleville" being held at Wayne County Community College Ted Scott Campus that includes Opioid/Narcan, Child Abuse, CPR, Suicide Prevention, Healthy Cooking, and Anti Bullying;

- Heard Mike Kole of the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce tell of the free Non-profit Roundtable put together by five Chambers and teaching the non-profits how to ask for money. Over 60 non-profits attended the last session at Wayne County Community College, with the next session set in May. They plan to do it every three months. He also announced more than 200 tickets have been sold for the Chamber's March 21 Awards Dinner, which also has a \$10,000 raffle;

- Learned the FIRST Robotics competition will be held at Belleville High School on March 13 and 14. There will be no school on March 13 because of the event. The public is welcome to walk the pits starting at 8 a.m. and watch the competition from about 10 a.m. until 5 or 6 p.m., followed by practice. On Saturday, the competition begins at 9 a.m. and the finals start at 1

or 2 p.m. There is no charge to watch the competition, which has a Star Wars theme this year; and

- Heard Fire Chief Brian Loranger say the citizens voted for and passed the fire and police assessments and he had a hard time getting information he needs to have a grant written for a \$500,000 fire truck that the city would only pay \$50,000 for. He said he needs the city's bank routing number and was told no. He said that number only allows money to go in, not out. "I'm trying to do what I can, to do something for the city and I've been stopped," he said. Mayor Conley suggested Chief Loranger have the grant writer talk to Kelly Howey of Plante Moran, the city's financial person. "They're trying to cut me out," Loranger said. "That's the feeling I'm getting." Mayor Conley said there was a request for the city manager to look at needs. "People didn't vote for a fire truck or police car," Mayor Conley said. "They voted for public safety." She said they have to have a solid recommendation brought before the city council. Loranger said he asked for that last Friday and hasn't heard back. He said the grant writer is experienced and he's writing eight group grants. He said the deadline for the FEMA grant he wants is within the next two weeks.

VBT approves two contracts with PEA for Iron Belle Trail work

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

At its regular meeting Feb. 18, the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees unanimously approved contracts with PEA, Inc. for engineering work on two portions of the Iron Belle Trail that will be built in the township.

The first contract is for \$59,200 for the segment from Edgemont Street in the City of Belleville to Martinsville Road along the south side of E. Huron River Drive.

The work has been budgeted and will be paid for with the \$300,000 Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund grant the township received last year.

The work will include preparation of a topographical survey for that part of the route, including 50' beyond the edge of the road. Also, they will locate the right of way and approximate property lines of parcels along the route, along with existing utilities visible from the surface and as indicated on records.

Documents show \$32,500 is for construction drawings.

The second contract with PEA, Inc., is at a cost of \$34,000, and is called Section

(continued on page 13)

OPINIONS

Editorial

VBT board rejects two pricey projects

Trustee Sherry Frazier was home sick and Clerk Leon Wright was at the MMRMA conference on Tuesday when the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees tried to pass two pricey projects.

The board needs to have a majority of the seven members – four votes – to pass a motion. Since Trustees Reggie Miller and Paul White voted no, only three votes were ayes, so both motions failed.

One motion was to approve a \$132,000 low bid from Davenport Brothers Construction for entryway work for the township hall. It amounted to \$6,000 per column for 21 posts at the doorways to four entryways. The painting of the undersides of the metal roofs at the entries was included in the price.

The other 3-2 vote on a motion that failed was for the landscaping for the township hall. This was for \$133,092.15 by low bidder Crooked Tree Nursery of Owosso. This work was to be coordinated with the column work and be completed by June.

Russell Design, who designed the DDA's Splash Pad/Quirk Park project, designed the landscaping. Crooked Tree outbid local landscapers Gonczy and Randy Brown because Crooked Tree grows its own trees and gave low prices for top soil, as well.

Supervisor Kevin McNamara accepted the reality of the 3-2 votes and the meeting went on. You can be sure the votes will be retaken when they have a full board and the projects will continue. It's the end of the overall township hall renovations and they'll get it done.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

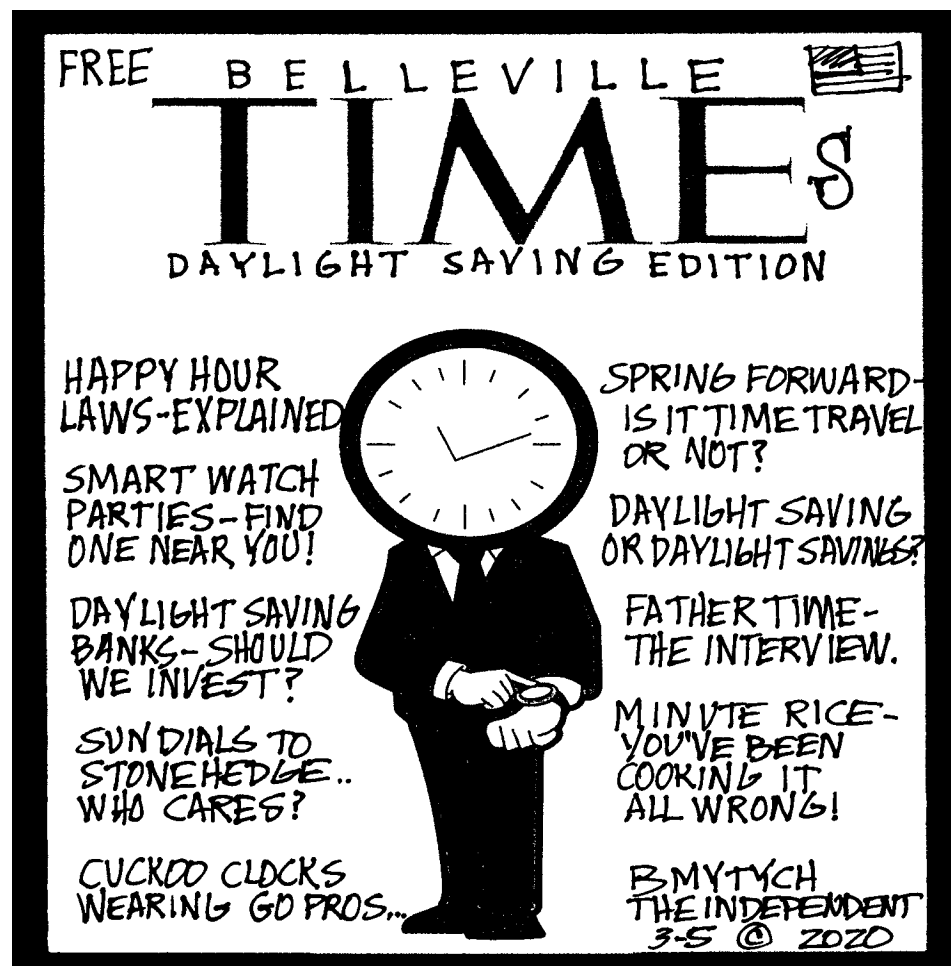
A crowd, estimated at around 300, turned out for the Book Brigade and soft opening of the Belleville Area District Library at noontime on Saturday. There were so many people willing to be part of the passing of the final books from the old Fred C. Fischer Library to the new district library that the line had to wind around outside and then wind some more within the new library. Everybody got to participate.

The books that were passed ended up in the hands of retired Belleville Library Director Deb Green, the last person in the brigade, who placed them on the shelf. The very last book had a camera on it and participants were urged to show their faces and say something as they passed it on. I'm sure this will be shared and then stored in the archives.

You are going to need a road map at first to get around the gorgeous, new \$14 million library. But, everyone there is very helpful and it'll be easy to navigate in no time.

There were a few hiccups Saturday that few noticed, like the colorful lights in the children's area being out of order and the chairwoman of the library board having laryngitis, so the vice chair had to speak up to get everything going. This, too, shall pass.

Peter Dodge of Florida was in town over the week end. His mother was Patsy Fischer Dodge and his grandfather Fred C. Fischer. Peter said it was bittersweet to see the Fred C. Fischer Library being shut down and the new library taking over. But, that's life. And, it's a beautiful new building. Peter reports he had gone through some health problems and was hospitalized, but he is



doing well now.

He said he looked online for an Airbnb place to stay in Belleville and found only one – right downtown. So, that's where he was staying and he said it is very nice and he was very satisfied.

At Monday's meeting of the Belleville City Council, John Juriga said the new building is 31,000 square feet, has just less than 90,000 magazines, books, and tapes and there are 110 magazines. Councilmembers congratulated the Belleville Area District Library Board, of which Juriga is a member, for their work in bringing this new library to the community.

He said the work isn't over yet. Now they have to demolish the old library, take out five feet of soil, put in a retention pond, build a parking lot and plant the landscaping – all before the July 25 grand opening.

Jim Wigginton of Van Buren Township showed me how to see brief videos on his sky jumping on YouTube. Look for: Wigginton Guinness Record Jump, Wigginton Dam Jump, and Wigginton Everest Skydive.

You may remember his skydiving picture from the Guinness jump on the front page of our Jan. 30 edition.

"Hopefully it leads to more awareness and help for thyroid cancer," he said. "The doctors I am helping have worked hard and have been able to increase life expectancy

for stage 4 cancer patients by almost two years, while substantially improving their quality of life, both of which are missions of our foundation."

Wigginton said in January he would go to great heights to remember and honor his beloved wife Nancy, who died of the disease.

He is still working hard at thyroid cancer awareness. He is going to be a keynote speaker at the International Parachute Association convention next February to talk about what, hopefully, will be three world records -- and thyroid cancer.

He just got back from Kansas where he climbed their tallest building four times (4,000 stairs up). He doesn't have the final results, but he believes he came in either fourth or sixth out of nearly 700 people.

Wigginton established the Punya Thyroid Cancer Endowed Fund at Michigan Medical and later gave gifts to establish professorships in her name at the University of Michigan Medical School. "Punya," a derivative of the Polish word for "Mrs.," was his nickname for Nancy.

A reader came into the office on Friday morning to inform us that a dead beaver had been at Haggerty and Riggs roads for about a week.



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"You do not really understand something unless you can explain it to your grandmother."
 — Albert Einstein

Letters

Commend you for showing great class

To the editor:

I commend you for showing great class in response to the article in the *Independent* this week (Feb. 27, 2020) about Sumpter hiring *The Eagle* newspaper and disregarding the *Independent* for legal notices. I laughed at the comment of putting your paper "out of business," since I see all of Belleville anxiously anticipating picking up an issue every week, me included.

Simply thanking the board for allowing the *Independent* to serve Sumpter said more than any other words.

Frankly, I've never gotten much from reading *The Eagle*. Our hometown paper is so much more entertaining, informative, community involved and interesting, giving it a personal touch. It stays progressive, yet keeps the nostalgic feel to a small-town paper, appealing to all ages. In fact, your paper has inspired me to try getting a little newsletter started soon on behalf of the Belleville Area Council for the Arts.

I really hope you paid no attention to the negative person quoted in the article. She certainly showed no class.

Sincerely,
 An avid *Independent* reader,
 BACA secretary/member
 Kathryn Wood

paycheck. This is why people fear Rob and Karen. But not me. I am not afraid to stand against them because if I lost everything today, I am still happy with my life and I am right with God.

One day I was told I can never win because I am not white, but I know in my heart this is a higher calling. If Someone up there is charging me to do this in my last chapter of life, I will not ignore what I am tasked to do, even if it is the hardest thing I have ever done.

I have spent 18 months of my life investigating Rob Young. All I say now is hearsay, but when I get into the Sumpter Township office, I know exactly where to start. I can say with confidence whose closets most of the skeletons will come tumbling out of. The people have the right to know what is happening in their town. I will expose the secrets and lies because it's the only way to bring Sumpter Township forward. Now is the perfect time for us to come together and put an end to this 35-year dynasty of liars, nepotists, and opportunists. Come out and vote this election so we can begin building a better life for everyone.

Thank you,
 Nelson S. Po

Any comments are appreciated and you can send me a note here: P.O. Box 2293
 Belleville, MI 48112
 or, NelsonPo8822@gmail.com

VFW, PLAV thank local businesses for help

To the editor:

After a recent meeting at the VFW Post #4434, I realized there were "NO" smoke/CO2 detectors in the building. Upon discussing this with the Post Commander it seems that due to the building's use, they are not required by law.

However, I was concerned about the safety of all who utilize the building for various community functions, so I sent a request for donations of 2-3 smoke/CO2 detectors to several local businesses.

Now, thanks to Belleville Hardware, Sumpter Hardware, and the Detroit Fire Department (thanks to VFW member, Firefighter Paul Joiner), the VFW and the PLAV posts have enough detectors to protect their guests.

The local donors are to be commended for their speedy response and I hope you return their generosity/donations by doing your shopping and support at Belleville Hardware (Mike Windiate) and Sumpter Hardware (Janet Targgart).

Thank you, local business owners.
 Pete Pitzen, Jr. Vice Commander
 VFW Post #4434

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You can't fool people of Sumpter Twp. – or me

To the editor and the people of Sumpter Township:

The people of Sumpter Township are no fools, and you can't fool me either. Anybody who has ever hired an attorney knows that they are after their bottom line first, and Rob Young has dug claws deep into the township.

To start, I have seen attorney statements to Sumpter Township charging from \$7,700 to \$15,000 per month. I am sure there are other much larger charges because attorneys are very expensive. How many taxpayers has Rob Young hurt in the name of Sumpter Township? What the police have done, it's not their fault. Attorney Young orchestrates dirty politics, pretending to be a nice guy who is just helping out. Sumpter residents know that his cases against them take away from the township's value. Rob Young uses the citizens and the municipality as a human shield for his own benefit, and the taxpayers are picking up the bill for it. Unfortunately, that is the way many attorneys operate their businesses, which is why the Attorney Grievance Commission stays busy all year round.

I have spoken with people who have stood up to Rob Young and his woman, Karen Armatis. Together, they draw upon the people's own tax dollars to wreak havoc on their lives. One taxpayer life destroyed is just another day and another

More Letters

Only latest board meeting will be available

To the editor:
I am writing this letter in regards to the Feb. 27 Sumpter Township board meeting. I want to start by saying that I recognize the *Belleville-Area Independent's* hard work and dedication. Sumpter is a dysfunctional mess and not enough people stand up to them out of fear for retaliation, which is completely understandable. I want to thank you for your courage and applaud you for standing in their line of fire. The township has discussed removing you as paper of record for a long time, yet you persisted. Clearly, it's not about money or notoriety for you and you have gained a large portion of my trust and respect.

When I heard news that the Sumpter board meetings will be posted on the website, I had some questions. Trustee Tim Rush announced that only the most recent board meeting will be available and the previous meeting will "go away". Trustee Don Laporte suggested it would be nice to have at least three or four months' worth of meetings to reference. Tim Rush responded, "They are large volume files and we will be charged for it. It's too much data, Don." Afterwards, Rob Young ironically states that he would like to clarify because the township likes to keep things "accurate". To further clarify, Sumpter Township is using YouTube to host these videos. YouTube is a free service and does not charge anything for any amount of data uploaded. Files are automatically optimized by YouTube.

I just wanted to point out what is an apparent, blatant mistruth and let the people sort out the information as they will. Removing previous video from a channel is only an added task and serves to fortify a political agenda. There is no

way to be misguided into believing that YouTube charges for the storage of video data. I would only like to know why such a frail fabrication would be allowed. It is my understanding that Karen Armatis is in control of these accounts, and at the expense of Mr. Rush's credibility, this distortion may have been nothing more than regurgitated information.

Just a thought,
David Hartford

Upcoming Meetings

- Monday, March 9 – Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m., BHS Commons.
- Tuesday, March 10 – Belleville Area District Library, 7:30 p.m., new library
- Wednesday, March 11 – VBT Local Development Financing Authority meets at 2 p.m. Also, Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m.

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Obituaries

Moses Franklin Askew

MOSES FRANKLIN ASKEW
(October 7, 1947 – February 25, 2020)
Age 72, of Augusta Township. Died unexpectedly at his residence Tuesday, February 25, 2020.

Moses is the beloved husband of Carlene for thirty-eight wonderful years; loving father of Logan (Mary) Askew of Belleville, Drew (Rachel) Askew of Clinton Township and Curtis (Carla) Askew of Detroit; proud grandfather of Isaiah, Alivia and Landon; cherished brother of Laura (J.C) Kelley of Ypsilanti, Cynthia (William) Griffin of Ypsilanti, Joyce (Al) Culbreath of Ypsilanti, Lowell (Dion) Askew of Romulus, Timothy (Sue) Askew of Minnesota and Walter (Samantha) Askew of Belleville. Mr. Askew is also survived by his aunt, Ruth Curry of Atlanta, Georgia.

Funeral services with military honors rendered were held at 11:00 AM, Saturday, February 29, 2020 in the main chapel of the David C. Brown Funeral Home of Belleville. The Askew family greeted guests from 9:30 AM until the time of the service.

Interment was held privately at Chapel of Memorial Gardens, Sumpter Township.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be directed to the wishes of the family.
www.davidcbrownfh.com

Ronald Thomas Howell

RONALD THOMAS HOWELL
(March 18, 1950 – February 25, 2020)
Ronald "Odie" T. Howell, age 69, of Romulus, February 25, 2020. Beloved significant other of Liz Johnson. Loving father of Ronnie Howell, Angel (John) Rowlands and Donald Howell. Proud and loving grandfather of many grandchildren. Cherished son of Leona Howell. He is also survived by his siblings Donna Popp, Rodger Howell, Robert Howell, David Howell and Cora Grimes. He is preceded in death by his daughter Charlie "Andrea" Snore, father Dale Howell, brothers Eddie and Raymond Lee Howell. Service was Tuesday, 1:00 PM at Michigan Memorial Funeral Home, (next to Michigan Memorial Park) 30895 Huron River Dr., Huron Twp., (734) 783-2646. Visitation was Monday, 1:00 ~ 8:00 PM. His cremation took place at "The Witness Crematory" located inside of Michigan Memorial Funeral Home.
www.mimemorial.com

Oscar T. Frederick, Jr.

OSCAR T. FREDERICK, JR.
(October 3, 1927 – February 25, 2020)
Oscar T. Frederick, Jr., age 92, long-time Belleville resident, passed away Tuesday, February 25, 2020 at his home, surrounded by family. He was born October 3, 1927 in Doniphan, Missouri, son of Oscar T. and Inez Blanche (Moots) Frederick, Sr.

Oscar proudly served his country in the U.S. Army during WWII. He was the proud owner of Pappy's Service and Arco (Sinclair) Station on the corner of Biggs and East Huron River Drive in Belleville for many years. He enjoyed snowmobiling in his younger years, and more recently, he loved wintering in Florida.

Mr. Frederick is survived by his devoted wife of 61 years, Janet M. (Miller) Frederick, three sons: Robert (Joy) Frederick of Belleville, MI, Ronald Frederick of Lapeer, MI and Alan (Gunesha) Frederick of Belleville, MI; 6 grandchildren: Michael (Mary) Puckett of Belleville, MI, Heather (Jake) Weichman of Ohio, Kyle Frederick of Grand Blanc, MI, Shannon Frederick of Flint, MI, Abigail Frederick and Allison Frederick, both of Belleville, MI; also numerous extended family and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents and six siblings.

Visitation was 4-8 PM Friday with a 1:00 PM Funeral Saturday, February 29, 2020 at David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI 48111 (734) 697-4500. Pastor Angela Ryo officiated. Interment will follow in Michigan Memorial Park, Flat Rock, MI. Memorial contributions may be made to an organization of the donor's choice.
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Susan Mary Myers Tuttle

SUSAN MARY MYERS TUTTLE
(January 30, 1938 – February 25, 2020)
In loving memory. Susan Mary Myers Tuttle, 82, passed away on February 25, 2020, peacefully, surrounded by family. Susan is survived by her son Fred, Paul (Lisa), and Russ (Vicky); her grandchildren Joel (Mary), Rachel, Kyle (Sarah), Brittney (Jacob), Ashley (Brad) and Amber (Craig), and her great-grandchildren Gavin, Conor, and Leon. Susan was well-loved by everyone she knew and always had a good word or thought for everyone she met. She will be truly missed.

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Obituaries



John Vannuck Ashby



JOHN VANNUCK ASHBY

(May 6, 1971 – February 28, 2020)

John Vannuck Ashby -- loving husband, father, son, brother, uncle, officer, and friend -- passed away on Friday, February 28, 2020, at the age of 48, after a courageous battle with cancer. John was born on May 6, 1971 in Lansing, MI, to John and Heidi (Vannuck) Ashby. He grew up in East Lansing among his large extended family of siblings, grandparents, aunts and uncles, and cousins. He enjoyed summers in Grayling, MI, where he spent his senior year and graduated from Grayling High School in 1989. In 1990, he met Valarie Burton in Ann Arbor, and they married in 1993. Their union brought them three children: Caleb, Caitlin, and Jonah. For the past 16 years, they raised their children in Saline, MI, where they attended Keystone Church. John enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1992. He was stationed at the 40th Engineer Battalion in Baumholder, Germany, until 1996. John served as an officer (corporal) and detective for the Sumpter Township Police Department for more than 20 years. He became the department's first DARE officer, and he was well respected for his fairness and empathy. John was also the proud co-owner and president of a successful private investigation business, which he founded in 2012. John was always known for both his tremendous sense of humor and the unfailing helpfulness and support provided to his family, friends, neighbors, and communities. For his entire life, he had an amazing ability to make others laugh, no matter the situation. He never hesitated to step up and help anyone in need, in any way that he could.

John was a very solid and comforting presence in his family, which he led with abounding laughter and playfulness, security and compassion, and common sense and faith in God -- all encompassed by love. He most enjoyed time spent with his wife, children, and other family, and was known for his fine photography; his coaching youth sports, including being head coach of 7th and 8th grade football at Saline Middle School; and managing his daughter's music band.

John is survived by Valarie Ashby, his wife of over 26 years; their children, Caleb Ashby, Caitlin Ashby, and Jonah Ashby; his parents, John Ashby and Heidi Rogge; stepfather Denis Rogge; his sister, Stacey (Steve) Kimbrell, and brother, Jake (Carolyn) Ashby; his

grandmothers, Colleen Vannuck and Lovella Ashby; four nephews; two nieces; and a multitude of treasured aunts, uncles, cousins, and in-laws.

John was preceded in death by his grandfathers, John Ashby and Allen Vannuck.

A Memorial service will be held on Saturday, March 7, 2020, at 11 a.m. at Keystone Church in Saline. Visitation for friends and family will be held before the service from 10 a.m. until the time of service at 11 a.m.

A luncheon will be served at the Sumpter Township Community Center, 23501 Sumpter Road, Sumpter Township, immediately following the service.

Memorial contributions in his name may be made to the Sarcoma Foundation of America. You may donate at www.curesarcoma.org. To sign John's guestbook, to leave a memory, or for more information and directions, please visit www.rbfhsalinel.com.



Frederick Soja

FREDERICK SOJA

(September 8, 1948 – February 29, 2020)

Age 71, a lifetime resident of New Boston, died peacefully Saturday afternoon at the Arbor Hospice residence of Saline.

Frederick is the cherished brother of Donald Soja of New Boston and Ronald (Henryka) of Belleville; loving uncle of Gregory Soja of Poland and Jacob Soja of Belleville. Mr. Soja is also survived by his dog "Alaska" and many loving extended family and friends.

Born on September 8, 1948 to Bernard and Antoinette Soja in Ypsilanti, Frederick was a lifelong New Boston resident. A graduate of Belleville High School (Class of 1966), Mr. Soja enjoyed roller hockey, gardening and driving his 1965 GTO that he won in a charity contest. He will be remembered as being a friendly man and he will be truly missed.

Funeral services were held at 11 a.m., Wednesday, March 4, 2020 in the main chapel of the David C. Brown Funeral Home of Belleville. The Soja family greeted guests one hour prior to the service. Visiting hours were also held from 4 to 8 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home. Interment was at Michigan Memorial Park, Flat Rock, MI.

In lieu of customary tributes, memorial contributions may be directed to the charity of the donor's choice. www.davidcbrownfh.com



Lucille "Lucy" Beltramo

LUCILLE 'LUCY' BELTRAMO

(July 18, 1930 – February 29, 2020)

Lucille "Lucy" Beltramo, age 89, of Romulus, Michigan passed away on Saturday, February 29, 2020. Lucille was born July 18, 1930 in Romulus, Michigan. She was the daughter of Stanley Rutkowski and Jadwiga (Matyniak) Rutkowski.

To cherish her memory she leaves three nieces and nephews; Carol (Ted) Gilliland, Gary Rutkowski and Patty (Gil) VonWagner, great aunt of several and great-great aunt of many. She was preceded in death by her husband Paul Beltramo, her parents Stanley and Jadwiga Rutkowski, and five siblings Charlotte, Joanne, John, Chester, and Walter Rutkowski. Visitation will be held at Crane Funeral Home, 36885 Goddard Road, Romulus, MI 48174 on Thursday, March 5, 2020 from 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and Friday, March 6, 2020 from 12:00pm to 9:00pm, with a rosary at 6:00 p.m. Prayers will be held at Crane Funeral Home on Saturday, March 7, 2020 at 10:30 a.m., with mass at St. Aloysius Catholic Church on March 7, 2020 at 11:00 a.m., with Father Sean Bonner officiating. Interment will take place at Michigan Memorial Park.

Online guests may leave condolences visiting www.cranefuneralhome.net.

More Letters

You're invited to Lions Health Expo on April 4

To the editor:

Thank you to all that joined the Belleville Area Lions on Saturday, for Leap Day.

Mark your calendars for April 4, 2020 at Ted Scott Campus on Haggerty Road. Your Community Health Expo will be there 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Vendors, exhibits, health stations, information sheets and pamphlets, speakers, hang-out table talks, and more.

I didn't know what hang-out table talks were. This is an example of one subject we will have by one of our citizens: Talking how he reversed his Type 2 Diabetes.

Community citizens are welcome to join him. Tell how you have, learn how you may, just join in the conversation. Have a cup of coffee while learning about diabetes or other topics presented by one of our fellow citizens.

If you have a topic you would like others to learn about, let the Belleville Area Lions know. These conversations are to support each other in what each of us need. Share information. Get support within our communities.

We look forward to hearing from our communities and seeing everyone on Saturday, April 4, 2020.

Jo Ann Gardner

Jo Ann (248) 390-9233, or balclionjo@comcast.net



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Memorial service being planned for Belleville's Walker, Aleta Skomski

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Arrangements for a memorial service for Aleta Skomski are in the process of being made at St. Anthony Catholic Church in Belleville. Father John Kiselica will do the memorial service and the food committee of the church will put on the meal, at cost.

Aleta was found dead in her Belleville mobile home on Feb. 11. Aleta is known as the woman who was seen by motorists for the last few years walking from place to place throughout the Belleville, Van Buren Township, and Ypsilanti areas. Before that she lived in Rawsonville Woods in Sumpter Township.

Linda LeBlanc, who owns the mobile home park in Belleville where Aleta lived, attended Monday's regular meeting of the Belleville City Council to ask the council to donate a small space in Hillside Cemetery for Aleta's ashes.

She said she came to them representing all three communities. She said people have been calling Brown Funeral Home and the *Independent* asking about Aleta's arrangements.

"Aleta lived in my trailer," LeBlanc said. "We have found her sisters and a gentleman came forward to pay for the arrangements.

"I've been elected to identify the body because the sisters don't want to do it," she said. She later explained that they didn't want to remember their sister that way.

"They have no money and one of their

phones is shut off because they couldn't pay for it.

"The person who's donating will help with the arrangements, but there is no place to put the ashes. If they aren't going to want to look at their sister, they certainly won't want her ashes.

"We need a small piece of land to put her in Belleville," LeBlanc said.

LeBlanc said Aleta didn't want people to help her and wouldn't even get in her car when she stopped on the bridge in 12-below weather and urged her to get in the car. She said Aleta said she knew it was Linda, but didn't want any help.

Before the city council could respond to LeBlanc's request, John Juriga spoke up from the audience.

He said the First United Methodist Church of Belleville, where he is a member, has a memorial garden and he's sure it wouldn't cost anything for Aleta to be put there.

"The people in the tri-community will thank you," LeBlanc said.

The arrangements will be announced when everything is set up.

This photo of Aleta was furnished by Alexis Bobbitt, co-owner of the Culver's franchise at Belleville Road and the North I-94 Service Dr., where Aleta liked to eat.



Aleta

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More Letters

What is Mr. Po's occupation, education?

To the editor:

I am a resident, citizen and taxpayer of Sumpter Township for 49 years and seek the TRUTH and do not appreciate the innuendo and ignorance that was in a Mr. Po letter to the editor last week. It would be interesting to know what his occupation is and educational level.

He questioned Ms. Karen Armatis' level of education and qualifications for her employment as the Deputy Supervisor for our Supervisor Mr. John Morgan here in Sumpter Township. I called to speak to her in regards to her specific education certifications from Central Michigan University.

These follow accordingly:

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2. CPFIM – Certified Professional Financial Investment Manager. Obtained in 2012 and recognized anywhere in the U.S.A. and Canada.

3. CPFA – Certified Professional Finance Administrator. Obtained in 2014 – Renewed in 2019 and recognized anywhere in the U.S.A. and Canada.

It is evident she is more than well-qualified in her position to serve in that office and to serve our citizens.

It is unfortunate that Mr. Po believes government grants and loans are easy to come by to do all the pie-in-the-sky plans that he suggests. Sumpter Township does not have the corporate, industrial, and commercial investment that provides for all the extras in infrastructure that other municipalities like Van Buren Township or Canton Township have. Their tax base is huge and passed on to all homeowners. What is Mr. Po's background? He seems to know very little about government procedures and government grants.

Sincerely,

Mary Ban

Sumpter Township

Enjoying Leap Day in Belleville and in Hell

To the editor:

The City of Belleville was abuzz with activities Leap Day February 29! Restaurants were packed, the new library made its debut. The weather cooperated with sunshine and no snow. I had a great lunch and wonderful conversation with a friend of mine.

I met candidate Ranjeev Puri and his wife and heard part of his campaign speech. All and all, February 29 turned out to be an enjoyable day.

Note: Those of a certain age can remember that on Leap Day ladies could propose marriage to their favorite person! I didn't see or hear of any such thing in Belleville. However, in Hell, Michigan several couples renewed their vows and other couples were married right in the Chapel of Love in Hell, Michigan that is!

P.S. I was not in Hell Michigan, I read and saw pictures of the events on social media.

Now go and enjoy your day.

Marian Caldwell

Ypsilanti/Belleville

Thank you, St. Jude

To the editor:

Thank you, St. Jude. Twice answered prayers.

C.S.

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A flock of penguins have been seen on some lawns in our area recently. Turns out they are the result of a fund-raising project of the youth group of St. John's Lutheran Church of Waltz. This group popped up Feb. 20 on the lawn of the Dolphs in Van Buren Township.

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The Belleville Area Women's Club honored Jane Vesche as its 2020 Member of Achievement.

Court Watching

Judge Parrott case adjourned to March 20 at Plymouth Court

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

On Friday, the scheduled pretrial for 34th District Court Judge David Mark Parrott on a domestic violence misdemeanor charge was adjourned until 8:30 a.m. March 20 by 35th District Court Judge James A. Plakas.

Judge Parrott's attorney Robert Coutts told Judge Plakas that there will be a substitution of attorney.

Prosecutor Tara Math Hindelang said the complainant was present at the court (but not in the courtroom) and she did not object to the adjournment. She said the complainant knows the defendant will be out of town for a week she would like to get some personal items out of the condominium they shared in Van Buren Township.

After she moved out of the condo, the court allowed Parrott with a Feb. 13 order to move back into his home.

Attorney Coutts said he will contact the complainant to let her know the

condominium will be vacant for that week.

After the brief court session, Coutts said he was not ready to say who the new defense attorney would be on the 93-day misdemeanor charge.

In testimony in Manistee on Feb. 25 in a bond hearing for Parrott's 93-day misdemeanor drunk driving charge from Christmas Day 2018, a Van Buren Township police officer testified that he talked to Parrott at the home of his attorney Coutts after the Feb. 8 incident at Parrott's condo, which was located nearby.

The complainant told police she pulled the window treatment from the window and that may have been what started the argument. She told police both of them had been drinking and she may have hit her forehead on the wall when he tackled her.

As part of the bond for both the Manistee and the Van Buren Township charges, Parrott has been ordered to wear Soberlink, a tether that reports any alcohol consumption four times a day to probation officers in both the Manistee and Wayne County courts.

Michael Nichols, Parrott's attorney on the Manistee County charge, has appealed that case to the Michigan Court of Appeals and is waiting for its determination.

Nia Washington graduates from Georgia State Univ.

Nia Washington of Belleville graduated with a bachelor's degree from Georgia State University during the Fall 2019 semester.

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Jesse Juriga praised for 'Loretta' Google ad shown at Super Bowl

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Jesse Juriga, creative director at Google Creative Lab in New York City, created a commercial shown on television during Super Bowl LIV that touched the hearts of millions.



Juriga is the son of John and Deborah Juriga of Belleville and a 2005 graduate of Michigan State University.

The ad showed an elderly man talking to his Google Assistant: "Hey, Google, show me photos of me and Loretta. Remember: She always snorted when she laughed."

Nearly 115 million people watched the ad and felt emotional together for the 90 seconds it took the commercial to run.

"We didn't set out to make a Super Bowl ad," Juriga is quoted by Caroline Brooks in a *MSU Life* article on Feb. 10. "We have a wonderful team that includes film makers, animators, writers – all kinds of creatives. The team was thinking about the Google Assistant and a designer was playing around with a recording of her grandfather's voice. It quickly came together with the details of her grandfather's life, and we kept his voice as the voiceover in the final ad."

According to a Google blog post, the ad reflects its goal to build products that help people in their daily lives, in both big and small ways.

Friends of the family at the Belleville Yacht Club were alerted that Juriga's commercial would be coming during their party to watch the Super Bowl together. After it was shown on the screen, the BYC erupted into applause and shouts, according to reports.

Juriga's ads have not only run during Super Bowl games, but also the Grammy Awards, the Oscars, and the Olympics.



March 4 – Ida Thompson
March 6 – Suzie Estermyer
March 8 – Juli Balestrieri, Jerrell Bostic
March 11 – Michael Ackron

Do you or someone you know have a birthday soon? Call the *Independent* and we will publish as soon as possible.

VBT votes to go out for bids on two new gateway signs

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Van Buren Township may have some new gateway signs by this summer.

At the Jan. 21 meeting of the township board, the board approved the designs presented by Elizabeth Renaud, executive assistant of public services, and Lisa Lothringer, assistant executive director of the VBT Downtown Development Authority.

The two have been working with Ideation Orange, a Michigan design group that specializes in wayfinding signage to help facilitate the design process.

The board's approval sends the designs out to get specifications prepared for bidding. Once the bids come in the board will know how much these signs are going to cost and then they will decide how many they can afford.

"This is not in the budget," said Supervisor Kevin McNamara. "We have a little money, but we will have to come back."

Later in the meeting he said the township paid \$12,000 to get these sign designs.

DDA assistant director Lothringer said she expects the DDA to consider paying for a large sign near Culver's. The DDA has reached out to the Michigan Department of Transportation on the plan. She said the sign has yet to come before the DDA board.

"We want the signs to be talked about, envied," said Supervisor McNamara.

Renaud said they developed larger signs and small signs for secondary entrances to the township. She said the large sign is 15' tall and 10' across, with red brick and lighted at night.

McNamara said the primary sign will be on Belleville Road entering from Canton Township.

While some trustees questioned the letters in a verticle design, McNamara said, "I love them both. We need to find out how

much these cost."

John Delaney speculated the sign costs would be from \$18,000 to \$30,000 each. He said he has been a sign contractor and

he suggested ways the signs could be improved. He said they have to be read by a motorist going 45 miles per hour.



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VBT

(continued from page 3)

“J”, the route area along the south side of E. Huron River Drive between Edison Lake Road and Haggerty Road.

The work will include developing preliminary plans, a topographic survey, rail crossing permit, construction drawings, and meetings.

This will be paid from the DNR mini-grant of \$50,000 the township received.

In her presentation to the board on the two contracts, VBT Parks and Recreation Director Jennifer Wright said this segment includes a rail crossing and is critical to the success of the overall route.

Rail crossing permit fees will be paid separately by the township. That includes a \$500 non-refundable railroad crossing application fee and from \$10,000 to \$15,000 railroad preliminary engineering review fee.

At the work/study session before the regular meeting, there was a question about the bridge expansion to allow for the trail to cross the Huron River to gain access to the entrance of the Lower Huron Metropark. Director of Public Services Matthew Best said the township has met with Wayne County, Wade Trim engineers and another firm and they’re working on the bridge. He said the township engineers will talk to their engineers.

Supervisor Kevin McNamara said there are no answers yet, but they are getting closer. He said he talked to Wayne County and Warren Evans and they are in agreement with the plan to widen the bridge to allow for the Iron Belle Trail to cross.

At the regular meeting, Trustee Paul White asked about the railroad crossing and the bridge.

Director Best said there are three challenges. The bridge is only so wide and the sidewalk is on the opposite side from

where the path is to go. He said it won’t be 10 feet on the bridge, but probably will be six feet.

The second challenge is the railroad crossing has to be at grade. There are rules on how the crossing goes and the timing of the lights, he said.

Third, “We listened to the residents and eliminated the crossing of E. Huron River Drive at Edison Lake Road,” he said, adding they are trying to move the trail back from the road because of the speed.

In other business at the Feb. 18 regular meeting, the board:

- Approved the supervisor’s reappointments of Joe Baskin and Victor DeLibera to the Downtown Development Authority with terms to expire March 9, 2024;

- Approved the appointment of John Herman to the Board of Zoning Appeals with a term to expire Dec. 1, 2022;

- Approved a Corrective Action Plan in accordance with PA 202 of 2017, Protecting Local Government Retirement and Benefit Act, which mandates local units of government have a corrective plan to fund OPEB liability by 40% within 30 years. As of Dec. 31, 2018, VBT’s retiree health care plan was funded 13.8%, thus requiring a corrective plan. After a study by an actuarial firm, plan revisions were made and this plan will be presented to the Michigan Department of Treasury for certification. An application for a waiver was submitted by the township and disapproved and the plan was required;

- Presented a proclamation celebrating 100 years of women’s suffrage to the League of Women Voters and accepted plaques for the mParks 2020 Outstanding Park Design Award for the Quirk Park Splash Pad;

- Heard Barbara Rogalle Miller ask the board to think about appointing a cultural committee or commission, the name is not important. She said the township needs to be looking down the road. She said cultural groups are growing, but only the Historical Society has a home. She asked the board to look at the highest and best use of its buildings. She said there is no place for the Belleville Area Council for the Arts to meet or store their records. The Belleville Chorus, Band, and other groups are in the same situation. She would like them to look at the real estate the township owns. She said she doesn’t wish to demean anyone, but the community is getting more

sophisticated and they need a home. “We need a committee to assess the needs of the various cultural organizations,” she said. Trustee White said when he was supervisor the township had a cultural committee and it was dismissed after he left office. He told Miller he supports her request. Supervisor McNamara told Miller, “Your idea just took seed”;

- Heard Ranjeev Puri of Canton introduce himself. He is running for state representative in the 21st District to replace term-limited Kristy Pagan; and

- Heard Treasurer Sharry Budd say she has a letter from the township attorney that says the source of funds is important and if they are earmarked for a particular use. She said she has a list of the donors who gave for the employee Christmas meal. “It was not illegal,” Treasurer Budd said, referring to Trustee White’s questions at a previous meeting. “We can put donations in a fund to hold them,” said Trustee Reggie Miller. Trustee Sherry Frazier said, “I understand the concern. If somebody looks at the voucher list, it looks like \$700 coats for kids and an employee luncheon. Looks like the township is paying for it.” She suggested a separate ledger for donations, noting what they are used for. Trustee White said when he looks at the voucher list it looks like the township is paying for these things. “It is illegal to use township funds for a Christmas party. If we comingle private donations in public funds it becomes public funds,” he said. He wants no misunderstandings. Trustee Kevin Martin said this is a practice known as a pass-through and they can document where the checks were from. “To keep saying it’s illegal, it’s wrong,” he said. Miller said, “It’s earmarked. Comingled? No.” Frazier said they should clarify where the money comes from and Budd said they should make a note that it is paid for by donation. Clerk Leon Wright said people who look at the voucher list don’t know what they are looking at and should call the township for information. McNamara said, “Three years, same complaint.” He said they have three legal opinions that say the same thing. Frazier said, “I think we’re in agreement -- to improve the notation.” White added, that Coats for Kids is for a public purpose and it’s different than the Christmas party for employees. “They make money and can buy their own lunch.”



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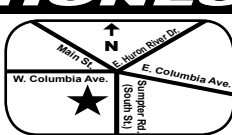
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Q-903, Mary Buckner; P-758 & O-706, Crit E. Smith; O-715 & S-962, Terry Booth; T-981, Chandler Cuts and Snow LLC; Q-905, Tasha Davis; E-216 & M-574, Katrina Bryant; O-703, Ralph Rice; I-403, Kimberly Boldin; K-657, Shunya Cleveland; I-527, Nicole Borowski; G-456, Henri S. Crawford; I-404, Amy L. Sexsmith; T-966, Michael Vernatt; L-513, Vicky Martin; O-711, Gerald Merriweather; S-946, Dawn Bird; L-530, Frank Murphy; Q-912, Sofroja Wooden; M-564, John C. Johnston

Publish: February 27, 2020, March 5, 2019

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Minding Your Business with Bob Mytych



The first batch of spring chicks has arrived at the Willis Feed Mill, located off Willis Road behind Boneheads BBQ next to the railroad tracks. Willis Feed Mill owner Bob Durham gets his chicks expedited and they come already vaccinated against Marek's Disease. For more info on breeds, sex, etc., visit him on Facebook and call (734) 461-1111.

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All the best to Belleville High School wrestler Blake Williams (41-6, 160 lbs.) who will be wrestling in the individual state finals at Ford Field this weekend. Blake will face Bloomfield Brother Rice in his opening bout. Congratulations is also in order to BHS Bowling Coach Sam Villa and the Lady Tigers as they travel to the state team and individual finals this weekend at Thunderbowl Lanes in Allen Park. The team is made up of Brooklyn Keele, Brooke Petty, Megan Fowler, Katherine Dybicki, Sydney Allison, Ka'lynn Savage, and Shannon Vandalen. Advancing to the individual tournament are Sydney, Katherine, Brooklyn, and Bradley Folks. Good luck, BHS!

Spring sports at Belleville High School start up March 9 with practice in soccer, baseball, track, golf, lacrosse, and tennis. For tryout info, locations, times and coach info, visit the BHS Athletic Office or call (734) 697-0016. Keep an eye out around town for cross country runners who frequently use Main Street and High Street this time of year to get their conditioning in.

Congratulations to Bob Gaffka of Atchinson Ford Sales in Belleville who reached the milestone of 6,500 vehicle sales last month. Pretty cool setting records at 70 years old. He's just one reason we have a national award-winning Ford dealership in our small town. Great job, Bob! To learn more, call (734) 697-9162 and visit www.atchinson.net.

Things to do in the Belleville area...

• **Saturday, March 7** – Country Breakfast at the Belleville Freewill Baptist Church, 750 E. Huron River Dr., 8-11 a.m. All welcome. Donations appreciated. Menu: Biscuits and gravy, bacon, sausage, ham, bologna, fried potatoes, eggs and fried apples.

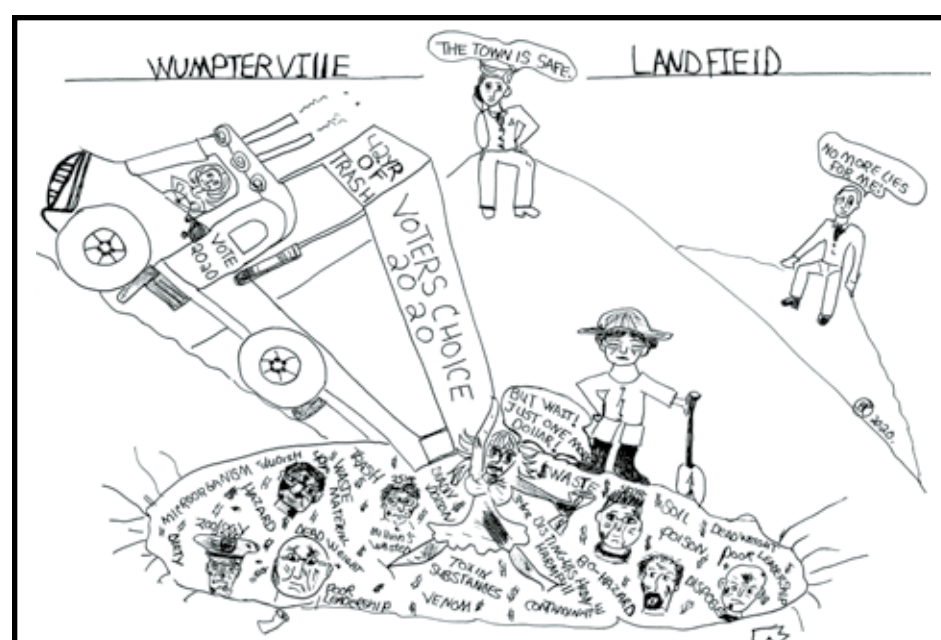
• **Sunday, March 8** – 37th annual All-Ford Swap Meet indoors at Gorno Ford, 22025 Allen Rd., Woodhaven. For performance parts, literature, collectibles, etc. 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Open to the public. General admission, \$3. Advance vendor space available. Call John Yarema (586) 596-2105.

• **Sunday, March 8** – Sunday Music from 2 to 5 p.m. at September Days Senior Center, 46425 Tyler Rd. This week it's Albert Muniz.

• **Wednesday, March 11** – Chicken Supper at Willow United Methodist Church, 36925 Willow Rd., New Boston, (734) 654-9020. Supper starts at 5 p.m. and continues until sold out. Carry-outs start at 4:30 p.m. Cost is \$12 per person; children 12 and under are \$5 each. Menu: Fried chicken, mashed potatoes, green beans, biscuits & gravy, cole slaw, dessert, beverage.

• **Wednesday, March 11** – Ring of Steel at 7 p.m. at Wayne County Community College Ted Scott Campus, 9555 Haggerty Rd., Van Buren Township, is part of the All About the Arts series. Ring of Steel is action theater and stunt people combining the historical with Hollywood, exploring and demonstrating a wide variety of stage and film combat techniques with a traveling, hands-on museum. Free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

Cartoon to the Editor



Sumpter Township considers reassessment of all residential parcels

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

The Sumpter Township Board of Trustees, at its Feb. 25 meeting, heard a proposal to pay \$114,540 to WCA Assessing for a residential reinspection program to update old records.

It was estimated the records had not been reinspected for 30 to 40 years

Aaron Powers of WCA said his company's proposal is intended to correct the outdated records to provide for accuracy of records. He said all records will be available on line. He said they would then be in compliance with the state.

"We want fair and equity reflected in our assessments," he said, adding the township could be losing tax dollars on improvements.

He said this could be done over 48 months. They will take a digital photograph of each of the properties and revalue the properties they identify.

He said they did a study of part of the township and found there are air conditioners not properly reflected on the assessments, new out buildings, and older buildings demolished.

"We are looking for accuracy of records," he said.

Trustee Matthew Oddy said he has seen the updated records in other communities, but he asked how they will get permission to go on the property.

Powers said WCA does the assessments in 23 of the 24 jurisdictions in Wayne county and have assessed over 200,000 parcels. He said you let the public know

on your website, newsletter, and word of mouth.

He said the law says they can go on the property if they don't disturb the homeowner. He said if they say no, they can use Google to see the property.

"We have very few problems with people," Powers said, adding they want to make sure the basis for the property taxes they are paying is clear and correct.

"I would not like to come home from work and find people roaming around my property," said Trustee Tim Rush. "I would not like that. If I knew you were coming, that's different."

"We could send postcards, if you want," Powers said.

He said they wear yellow, neon vests with picture IDs. People do question them taking photographs.

"Is this required by law?" Trustee Don LaPorte asked.

"No," said Powers, adding it is recommended by the State Tax Commission. "We've gone out and done samples [in Sumpter]. It's not a requirement, but recommended."

He said there are 3,820 residential parcels in Sumpter Township and they are not doing commercial and industrial properties now, but that may be recommended in the future.

Trustee LaPorte said WCA could be the bad guys, bringing higher taxes.

"If a neighbor has a deck and is not paying taxes on it and you are paying taxes on yours because your builder pulled a permit" that's a problem, he said.

Trustee Rush asked about dog bites and falls and Powers said they have experienced both and they have insurance.

WCA said they recommend 20% of the property be inspected each year. After this review, they wouldn't go out the next year. He said every 15 to 20 years is recommended.

They would begin this reassessment in April. They will inspect, measure, photograph, and do a digital sketch of each property.

Mary Ban said a man from the county was at her place taking pictures. He pulled up in the driveway and told her he was from the assessor's office at the county.

Powers said there is a checks and balance system for the local, county, and state systems. He said that is separate from their work.

The board passed a motion to table the proposal to the next meeting on March 24 until the whole board can consider it. Treasurer Ken Bednark and Trustee Donnie Swinson were absent.

Jim Posegay said three weeks ago an inspector was on their property inspecting Swan Creek. He was taking pictures away from the creek, Posegay said. He was

told that inspector was from the Drain Commission.

In other business at the Feb. 25 meeting, the board:

- Approved a contract extension for Human Resources Coordinator Michelle Bellingham without discussion. Her contract expired Feb. 13 and this extends her contract for an additional three years with an increase of \$2,000 per year and one additional week of vacation beginning Feb. 14. She is an at-will employee and if she is terminated without cause, she will get 60 days of severance pay along with accrued benefits through the date of separation;

- Approved Cari Ford's time not to exceed \$9,450 to correct cash accounts and their recording as recommended by Financial Director Elle Cole and submitted to the board by Supervisor John Morgan. This was made necessary by the switch from PNC to Comerica. It is necessary to get this straightened out in order to prepare the budget for the new fiscal year, Cole said. Ford works for Post, Smythe, Lutz & Ziel of Wayne. Trustee Oddy said he is satisfied that Post Smythe had no culpability in the problem and he is satisfied the corrections

(continued on page 17)



Sumpter Township Public Notice



SUMPTER TOWNSHIP 2020

MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW

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

<i>Tuesday, March 3, 2020</i>	<i>4:30 PM Organizational Meeting</i>
<i>Monday, March 9, 2020</i>	<i>1:00 PM - 9:00 PM Appointments</i>
<i>Wednesday, March 11, 2020</i>	<i>9:00 AM - 4:00 PM Appointments</i>

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

Written appeals are accepted as well and must be accompanied by a petition form and received in the assessing department by Wednesday, March 11, 2020 at 4:00 pm. No postmarks are accepted. Mail petitions to: Sumpter Township Board of Review 23480 Sumpter Road, Belleville, MI 48111.

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

Any questions regarding the Board of Review, contact the Supervisor's Office at (734) 461-6201 ext. 2229, or the Assessing Department, Tuesdays & Thursday at (734) 461-6201 ext. 2236.

Publish: February 20th, February 27th, March 5th

Esther Hurst
Clerk
Sumpter Township



City of Belleville Public Notice



City of Belleville PUBLIC NOTICE MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW MEETING



The City of Belleville Board of Review will meet on the following dates:

TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2020
TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2020

Hours will be from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 3rd. A second meeting will be on Tuesday March 10th from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

MEETINGS BY APPOINTMENT ONLY.

Please call (734) 697-9323 ext. 7014 or ext. 7015 to set up an appointment.

The meetings will be held in the Municipal Building, 6 Main Street, Belleville. The purpose will be to review the assessment roll and hear any objections. Resident and non-resident taxpayers are permitted to file protests in writing without personal appearance; letters must be received by March 10, 2019.

Sherri Scharf,
City Clerk/Treasurer
Publish: February 20, 2020
February 27, 2020
March 5, 2020

Sumpter Twp.

(continued from page 16)

are normally expected with changing banks;

- Unanimously approved, without comment, using The Eagle/Associated Newspapers as Sumpter Township's recognized newspaper of record, effective immediately as requested by Clerk Esther Hurst and Trustee Tim Rush;

- Approved dissolving the PEG channel and WEB site committees, since all objectives have been accomplished, as recommended by Trustee Rush. He said the website came in under budget and all objectives are met. There is no need for the

committees. He said the last board meeting was streamed to computers on command from the web site and 400 have viewed it. He said just the current board meeting will be available. He said the website is sumptertwp.org or .com or .net. He said the township will get charged if they save too many, so they will run just one at a time. Attorney Young said the recording on Chief Eric Luke's cell phone from the security system shows the equipment is operating correctly and it's Comcast that is to blame;

- Approved the West Shore Services proposal for the new digital encoder/control and VHF radio for the township emergency siren system at a cost of

\$11,199, as recommended by Trustee Rush;

- Approved a six-month leave of absence for fire fighter Daniel Frost as of Feb. 1 for personal reasons, as recommended by Trustee LaPorte;

- Heard John Johnson of Burnham Flowers give a report on its Par Plan Insurance coverage for renewal in April;

- Heard attorney Young say Keith Uutinen, who worked with the township on water and sewer and left 10 years ago, died Feb. 14 in Chicago. Young said he was a loyal engineer supportive of Sumpter Township and for a long time was an important part of this community;

- Heard Mary Ban identify herself as "Mrs. Watcher" and deliver a copy of the information she sent to Kroger concerning her suggestion that Kroger set up business in the vacant Kmart store in Van Buren Township. Ban complained about the cartoons in the *Independent*, quoted scripture, and told Karen Armatis she is blessed and great is her reward in heaven. She also sounded a warning for this country about socialist or communist candidates;

- Heard *Belleville-Area Independent* Editor Rosemary Oztman thank the board for allowing the *Independent* to serve as its newspaper of record for the last 13 years;

- Heard Jewell thank the township for the job on the web site. She said she has been proud of this township for 54 years. Now she can watch the website at any time;

- Heard Richard Harrison praise Public Safety Director/Police Chief Eric Luke and say he is happy they are changing to *The Eagle* for newspaper of record and the web site will give the community actual, factual comments. "We need a clear understanding

of what's going on," he said;

- Heard Tina Mears of Wear Road say she has lived in the township for 40 to 45 years and she wants equal protection under the law. She said she is tired of being harassed by the township, employees and its police department. She said a neighbor across the street had a dog barking and when police came, they issued a citation to her because her dog was barking at them when they came in her yard. "I'd get rid of that dog if he didn't bark," she said. She said they were shooting on her property and the police came and said there is no shooting in Sumpter Township and if we didn't stop we'd get a ticket. "We stopped," she said. She said a township employee wanted to buy her house and that's why she was targeted. She said she was harassed about the cars in her yard and she got them licensed. She went to the neighbors on either side of her and asked them if they got harrassed about their cars and they said no. "I talked to an attorney and they said to let the board know," she said. "I want the same protection under the law as everyone else... I'm tired of being harassed;

- Heard Sharon Pokerwinski talk about work she wants to do at both parks. She also noted she was astonished when she saw the cartoon in the *Independent* and everyone knew who it was. "I am so happy you went to *The Eagle*," she said. When asked where residents can get *The Eagle*, she said she will deliver it to people if they call her. She said it will be delivered "anywhere Rosemary delivered her garbage paper."

"Baseball is 90% mental, the other half is physical."

– Yogi Berra

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

VAN BUREN CHARTER TOWNSHIP 2020 MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW

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

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

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

No Appeals Heard at this Meeting

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

March 11th, Wednesday
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

March 12th, Thursday
5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

REVIEW IN PERSON IS BY APPOINTMENT

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

Letters of appeal must be received on or before MARCH 11, 2020.

Appointments to appeal in person may be scheduled by calling the Assessing Office at 734-699-8946 between 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. by MARCH 10, 2020.

Tentative ratios and estimated multipliers are as follows:

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

Leon Wright
Van Buren Charter Township

Publish: Thursday, February 20, 2020
Thursday, February 27, 2020
Thursday, March 5, 2020

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Charter Township of Van Buren Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on **March 25, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.**, in the Board of Trustees Room, 46425 Tyler Road, Charter Township of Van Buren, Wayne County, Michigan to consider the following zoning ordinance amendments:

1. **Zoning Ordinance Text Amendments:** Proposed amendments to add clarifications in order to distinguish commercial and residential / non-commercial land uses in the C, Local Business district with respect to maximum building size, and clarify restrictions on dwellings in non-residential zoning districts. The amendments will be to Section 3.105 – Footnotes to the Table of Permitted Uses and Special Land Uses by District, Section 3.110(D) – Required Conditions Of The C, Local Business District and Section 5.117 - Dwellings in Non-Residential Districts.

Please address any written comments to the Van Buren Township Planning Commission at, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, MI 48111 or by e-mail at dpower@vanburen-mi.org. Written comments will be accepted until 4:00 p.m. on the hearing date and all materials relating to this request are available for public inspection at the Van Buren Township Hall prior to the hearing.

Van Buren Township will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aides and services to individuals with disabilities who are planning to attend. Please contact the Van Buren Township Planning & Economic Development department at 734-699-8913 at least seven (7) days in advance of the meeting if you require assistance.

Posted: February 27, 2020
Published: March 5, 2020

Van Buren Township
Police Dispatch Log

Out of the 399 dispatch calls reported by Van Buren Township police, the following are selected for this column.

Sunday, Feb. 23:
0035 – fight, Belleville Rd./Ecorse Rd.
0217 – sexual assault, Village Center Dr.
0254 – suspicious person/vehicle, Quirk/Belleville
0319 – suspicious person/vehicle, Kirkridge Park
0605 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / W I-94
0951 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd./N. I-94 Service Dr.
1031 – missing person, Van Buren St.
1107 – harassment call, Oak Ln.
1209 – suspicious person/vehicle, Lancaster Dr.
1354 – suspicious person/vehicle, Rolan Meadows
1440 – suspicious person/vehicle, Elwell Rd.
1502 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1824 – shooting, Beck Rd.
1944 – disorderly, S. I-94 Service Dr.
2026 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
2056 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.
2154 – suspicious person/vehicle, Lighthouse Dr.
2258 – domestic, Beacon Trl.

Monday, Feb. 24:
0118 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Lighthouse Dr.
0718 – animal complaint, Denton Rd./Michigan
0924 – domestic, Stratford Dr.
1049 – abandoned auto, Oak Ln.
1049 – abandoned auto, Oak Ln.
1050 – abandoned auto, Oak Ln.
1124 – motorist assist, Belleville Rd. / N. I-94 Service Dr.
1239 – larceny, Brandi Dr.
1258 – abandoned auto, Alden Ave./Haggerty Rd.
1259 – parking complaint, Belleville Rd./Van Born
1350 – assist other dept., Holly Ln.
1749 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd./S. I-94 Service Dr.
1817 – mental subject, Jackson St.
1820 – neighbor trouble, Maple Dr.
1833 – civil matter, W. Archwood Dr.
1845 – assist other dept., Denton Rd.
2143 – trespassing, Berkdale Dr.
2144 – domestic, Denton Rd.
2220 – 911 welfare check, S. Bellridge Dr.
2330 – suspicious person/vehicle, Haggerty Rd.
Tuesday, Feb. 25:
0206 – 911 welfare check, Locust Dr.
0400 – suspicious person/vehicle, Denton Rd.
0628 – private property/property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd.
0809 – assist other dept., Winchester St.
1055 – civil matter, Beacon Trl.
1138 – mental subject, Peachtree Ln.
1332 – suspicious person/vehicle, Crowley Ave.
1523 – assist other dept., N. Woodbury Dr.
1535 – assist other dept., S. I-94 Service Dr.
1730 – disorderly, Maple Dr.
1738 – harassment call, Maple Dr.
1740 – suspicious person/vehicle, N. I-94 Service
1920 – larceny from auto, Westlake Cir.
2033 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.
2207 – misc. complaint, Rose Blvd.
2209 – suspicious person/vehicle, Wildbrook Dr.

Wednesday, Feb. 26:
0640 – suspicious person/vehicle, Amanda Dr.
0639 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd. / Martz Rd.
0816 – property damage accident, Tyler Rd.
0915 – animal complaint, Hannan Rd.
1426 – larceny from auto, W. Huron River Dr.
1629 – suspicious person/vehicle, Ironwood Dr.
1705 – fraud, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1709 – private property/property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd.
1739 – animal complaint, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1747 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1822 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1851 – animal complaint, Savage Rd.
2056 – suspicious person/vehicle, EB I-94/Beck
2215 – road hazard, EB I-94/Rawsonville Rd.
2301 – road hazard, Dewitt Rd./S. I-94 Service Dr.
Thursday, Feb. 27:
0004 – traffic offense, Belleville Rd.
0016 – traffic offense, Ecorse Rd./Belleville Rd.
0314 – 911 welfare check, Wildbrook Dr.

0418 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.
0614 – road hazard, Rawsonville/Snow Rd.
0751 – road hazard, S. I-94 Service Dr./Ryznar Dr.
0944 – property damage accident, Michigan Ave. / Denton Rd.
0958 – larceny, Lighthouse Dr.
1013 – mental subject, Parkwood Dr.
1015 – unattended death, Chloe Ct.
1101 – fraud, Pond Bluff Dr.
1157 – civil matter, Parkwood Dr.
1249 – private property impound, Maple Dr.
1317 – suspicious person/vehicle, Westlake Cir.
1335 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / N. I-94 Service Dr.
1519 – 911 welfare check, Maple Dr.
1547 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Old Michigan Rd.
1715 – personal injury accident, Rawsonville Rd.
1904 – suspicious person/vehicle, Hamilton St.
1915 – parking complaint, Rawsonville Rd.
2025 – threat, Western St.
2337 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd. / Martz Rd.
Friday, Feb. 28:
0721 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Westlake Cir.
0841 – domestic, Locust Dr.
0903 – property damage accident, Denton Rd. / Michigan Ave.
1055 – ordinance violation, Robson Rd.
1123 – misc. complaint, Lacy Dr.
1217 – civil matter, Hamilton Ct.
1256 – motorist assist, Belleville Rd. / S. I-94 Service Dr.
1351 – property damage accident, Sumpter/Bemis
1400 – property damage accident, Rawsonville / Bemis
1610 – larceny from auto, Hamilton St.
1622 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / N. I-94 Service Dr.
1719 – family trouble, Rolan Meadows Dr.
1912 – assist other dept., Haggerty Rd./Van Born
1925 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd. / N. I-94 Service Dr.
2011 – assist other dept., Lake Villa Dr.
2036 – disorderly, Belleville Rd.
2055 – shooting, Hardwood Dr.
2233 – suspicious person/vehicle, Beckley Rd. / S. I-94 Service Dr.
2238 – suspicious person/vehicle, Harmony Ln.
Saturday, Feb. 29:
1242 – disorderly, Belleville Rd.
1358 – motorist assist, Haggerty Rd./Ecorse Rd.
1455 – civil matter, Hanover Dr.
1704 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1721 – motorist assist, Savage Rd./Martinsville
1950 – juvenile complaint, Belleville Rd.
2030 – suspicious person/vehicle, Outer Dr.
2102 – suspicious person/vehicle, Parkside Dr.
2153 – 911 welfare check, Outer Dr.
2231 – suspicious person/vehicle, Haggerty Rd.
2243 – lost property/child, Haggerty Rd.
2253 – suspicious person/vehicle, Hampton Dr.
Also on this week's log are 148 traffic stops, 54 of which are on the I-94 and I-275 freeways.

Belleville Police
Dispatch Log

Sunday, Feb. 23:
1130 – follow up by officer, Church apt. 105
1608 – motorist assist, N. Liberty St./Main St.
1732 – traffic offense, Belleville/Quirk
2140 – welfare check, S. Aberdeen Ct.
Monday, Feb. 24:
0728 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
1332 – animal complaint, Menlo Park Dr.
1343 – PPO violation, Tyler Rd.
1422 – welfare check, Menlo Park Dr.
1442 – misc. complaint, W. Columbia Ave.
1639 – civil matter, Main St.
1941 – civil matter, Robbe St.
2143 – welfare check, W. Columbia Ave.
Tuesday, Feb. 25:
0424 – 911 welfare check, S. Edgemont Ave.
0637 – assist fire dept., Robbe St.
1233 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
1429 – hospice death, Brain St.
Wednesday, Feb. 26:
1157 – welfare check, Main St.
1705 – disorderly, Menlo Park Dr.

1846 – fraud, Bedell St.
2240 – assist fire dept., Sumpter Rd.
Thursday, Feb. 27:
0214 – assist other dept., Menlo Park Dr.
0849 – vehicle lockout, Church St.
0953 – threat, Main St.
1230 – follow up by officer, Main St.
1243 – motorist assist, E. Huron River/Edison Dr.
1336 – misc. complaint, Industrial Park Dr./Hull
Friday, Feb. 28:
0048 – background investigation, Main St.
0821 – assist other dept., W. Columbia Ave.
1234 – welfare check, E. Huron River Dr.
1336 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
1613 – animal complaint, Biggs Ave.
1650 – motorist assist, E. Huron River Dr./S. Liberty St.
1731 – harassment call, Main St.
1750 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
1818 – civil matter, Carmell
Saturday, Feb. 29:
0122 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
0737 – motorist assist, Sumpter Rd./Belle Villa Blvd.
0908 – assist fire dept., Sumpter Rd.
1155 – missing person, Belle Villa Blvd.
Also on this week's log are six traffic stops.

Sumpter Township
Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Feb. 23:
1249 – civil matter, Mulberry Dr.
1531 – reckless driving, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1537 – fire dept. assist, 49000 bl. Arkona Rd.
1630 – suspicious incident, Harris Rd./Haggerty
1801 – follow-up investigation, Second St.
1844 – property damage accident, Bemis/Sumpter
2024 – suspicious person, Georgia St.
2059 – alarm, 8300 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
Monday, Feb. 24:
0012 – welfare check, Karr Rd./Judd Rd.
0310 – mental health call, Redwood St.
0508 – civil matter, Edgewood Dr.
0544 – alarm, 8300 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
0846 – mental health call, Edgewood Dr.
1303 – civil matter, Country Club Blvd.
1536 – welfare check, Sherwood Rd./Wear Rd.
1745 – suspicious incident, 22000 bl. Carleton West Rd.
2207 – assist other agency, out of township
Tuesday, Feb. 25:
0323 – alarm, 19000 bl. Crandell Ave.
0715 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
0804 – fire dept. assist, 26000 bl. Elwell Rd.
0805 – breaking & entering, Rustic Ln.
1138 – fire dept. assist, 18000 bl. Martinsville
1447 – fire dept. assist, 24000 bl. Karr Rd.
1708 – fire dept. assist, Knollwood Dr.
1743 – fraud complaint, Savage Rd.
1915 – fire dept. assist, 40000 bl. Willis Rd.
2025 – fire dept. assist, 49000 bl. Wear Rd.
2138 – follow-up investigation, 23000 bl. Sumpter
Wednesday, Feb. 26:
0114 -- property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd. / Rustic Ln.
0159 – traffic complaint, Rawsonville Rd./Arkona
0528 – fire dept. assist, 19000 bl. Wilmot Rd.
0917 – property damage accident, 21000 bl. Elwell
1009 – fire dept. assist, 18000 bl. Lohr Rd.
1122 – suspicious incident, Wayside Dr.
1215 – welfare check, Oregon St.
1435 – suspicious incident, Carriage Ln.
1514 – suspicious person, 19000 bl. Crandell Ave.
1757 – property damage accident, Sumpter/Bemis
2147 – suspicious incident, Rustic Ln.
2244 – assault, 20000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
Thursday, Feb. 27:
1348 – welfare check, New Mexico St.
1422 – 911 hang up, 48000 bl. Willow Rd.
1442 – suspicious person, Clark Rd./S. Huron Rd.
2127 – mental health call, 50000 bl. Judd Rd.
2153 – civil matter, Washington St.
2156 – civil matter, 22000 bl. Bohn Rd.
2339 – traffic complaint, Rawsonville/Martz
Friday, Feb. 28:
0048 – noise complaint, 50000 bl. Willis Rd.
0424 – alarm, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
0851 – property damage accident, Sumpter/Kozma
1027 – welfare check, 43000 bl. Judd Rd.
1102 – civil matter, Rustic Ln.

1142 – fraud complaint, 48000 bl. Wear Rd.
1445 – found property, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1535 – civil matter, 48000 bl. Sully Dr.
1629 – breaking & entering, 26000 bl. Martinsville
1717 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1730 – alarm, 8100 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
1932 – mental health call, 8000 bl. Oakville Waltz
2001 – follow-up investigation, 8000 bl. Oakville Waltz
Also on this week's log are 30 traffic stops, 39 patrol checks, and seven miscellaneous details.

Court Watching
Sylvester Ross bound
over to circuit court on
armed robbery charge

On Feb. 19, Sylvester Ross, 59, of Clinton Township, was brought before 34th District Court Judge Tina Brooks Green for his preliminary exam on charges of armed robbery, possession of a weapon by a felon, and felony firearm-third offense notice in Van Buren Township on Sept. 5.



He was transported in chains from a cell in the Michigan Department of Corrections where he is incarcerated. Two MDOC guards stood in the courtroom during his court session.

Ross' defense attorney William Noakes from the Neighborhood Defense group, said his client wished to waive his exam and so Judge Green bound him over to circuit court for a Feb. 26 arraignment on the information.

At the Feb. 26 circuit court session, the arraignment on the information was adjourned until March 11.

Judge Green had noted the paperwork said he hadn't been fingerprinted, so she signed an order, but commented, "Aw, come on, people."

Ross currently is serving a term of six years, six months to 22 years, 6 months for two armed robbery charges that were pled down to one unarmed robbery and one habitual offender second notice. Date of thoses offenses were Sept. 12, 2019. Before that he was released from prison in 2017 after serving 22 years for six offenses including armed robbery charges.

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On The Web!
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Moving the Mitten's spoof video goes viral on Facebook

Moving the Mitten real estate firm in Belleville celebrated its fifth anniversary with the release of a version of Ariana Grande's tribute video, "7 Listings." The video was shot in Belleville and downtown Detroit.

"7 Listings" is a spoof of Grande's international megahit, "7 Rings," and parodies many of Ariana's signature looks. The video was released on the company's Facebook page in November, to commemorate Moving the Mitten's anniversary, and it's reached over 1.2 million views on Facebook.

"The idea for '7 Listings' was brought to me by one of my top-producing agents Jill Penna and I absolutely fell in love with it!" said Therese Antonelli, founder/owner of Moving the Mitten. "Then, through a series of brainstorming meetings we established a plan and executed."

"Agents, spouses, kids, friends and even clients all got involved," said Penna, one of the key producers of "7 Listings."

"It was awesome to see everyone contribute and have such a good time doing it," she said.

"Of course, I had hoped we'd get the momentum and go viral, but the primary goal was to positively impact our company and town culture," said Antonelli. "So getting 1 million views in exactly one month was just the icing on the cake!"

"The craziest part is I run into people I know, and people I don't know, all the time now and the conversation starts with 'I saw your video!'," Antonelli said.

Antonelli started Moving the Mitten in 2014. She chose to open her business in her hometown where "everyone knew her name." Five years later, 40 agents and three support staff strong, the brokerage sold \$100 million in real estate in 2019. The outlook for 2020 is even brighter, she said, with a staging company Mitten Home Staging & Design and a mortgage company Moving the Mitten Mortgage Group under the company's umbrella of services.

Moving the Mitten enlisted Belleville-based video and web production company Metaversal Media for the video. Vocals were performed by Ohio-based Sunset Harmony.

IS YOUR BUSINESS
A TARGET
FOR BURGLARS?

734-697-2888

BREAK-INS CAUGHT ON CAMERA

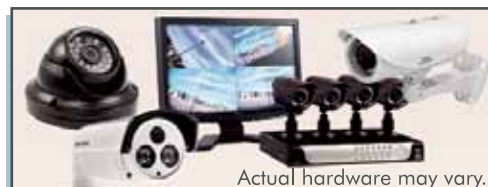
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PRIME LOCATION

QUARTZ KITCHEN

42101 S I-94 SERVICE DR VAN BUREN
YOUR OWN PRIVATE WORLD A Total of 5,263 Square Feet! 4 Bedroom 3 Full and 2 Half Baths. INTERIOR POOL, High End Premium Built Brick 3 Level Home, 100+ Feet Lake Frontage, Double Dock & SAND BEACH. \$898,900

48024 BEMIS, VAN BUREN TWP
ORIGINAL OWNER 2,500 Square Foot Brick Colonial Offering 4 Bedrooms, 2 Baths, Hardwood Floors Everywhere, Large Family Room with Fireplace, Basement, Huge Fenced Yard, 2 1/2 Car Garage. \$242,900

41405 TYLER, VAN BUREN
PRIME LOCATION. Corner of Haggerty and Tyler. Opportunity Awaits - 3 Bedroom, 1 Bath Home. Large Lot with Larger 2 1/2 Car Detached Garage. This Property could be the key to a larger development parcel. \$135,000

42889 STRATFORD, VAN BUREN
A MOST PREFERRED and Private Setting! 3 Bedroom, 2 1/2 Bath, Quartz Kitchen with Hardwood Floors, Fireplace, Large Deck, Jacuzzi Tub. Finished Basement with Wet Bar 3 Car Garage. BRAND NEW ROOF IN 2020. \$289,900

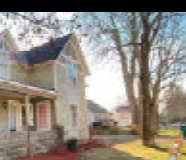
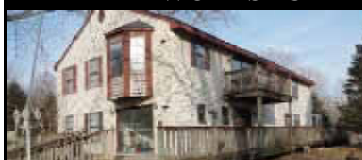
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4,224 SQUARE FEET

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FOR SALE OR LEASE



10106 WILLIS, WILLIS
HUGE HOME in the Village of Willis. Residential Zoning and used as a Duplex. 2 Kitchens, 2 Baths, 2 Living Rooms, and 5 Bedrooms. A Home Filled with Historic Character and Charm plus Basement, 90+ Furnace, 2 Car Detached Garage, Covered Porch and Large Lot. \$172,900

23560 SUMPTER, SUMPTER TWP
RESIDENTIAL OR INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY. Possible Residential, Day Care, Group Home, Apartments or Your Ideas Large front covered porch. Large Covered Patio & fireplace and patio area. Fire System. 10 Bedrooms, 2 Apartment Kitchens, 5 Bathrooms. \$225,000

17164 RENTON, VAN BUREN TWP
LARGE COUNTRY HOME on more than an Acre. Just minutes from expressways and shopping. Open Floor Plan with Huge Rooms, Wood Flooring, Fireplace, Rear Patio, Fire Pit with 2 1/2 Car Detached Garage PLUS Pole Barn. A Serene Setting with Mature Trees \$199,900.

44280 DUNN, SUMPTER TWP
LARGE 2,700 SQUARE FOOT COUNTRY HOME on 2.24 ACRES with Possible Split. This home could use some updating 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, bright and open kitchen, family room with wood stove, covered patio. Many outbuildings. \$189,500

500E HURON RIVER DR, BELLEVILLE
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SUMPTER EXETER TWP 8 ACRES \$65,000
VACANT RAWSONVILLE 2.6 AC \$95,000
19 AC BREST ROAD TAYLOR \$550,000

VACANT SUMPTER & WILLIS COMM & RESIDENTIAL ZONING 25 ACR \$250,000
JUDD 10 ACRES SUMPTER TWP \$100,000
SAVAGE 1 ACRE SUMPTER TWP \$45,000
25817 SUMPTER 80X529 .97 AC \$20,000
SHERWOOD 37.55 AC BY WEARS \$189,900
24053 BOHN 3.3 ACRES SUMPTER \$67,000

WILLIS SUMPTER 1.14 ACRES \$60,000
28710 SUMPTER ROAD \$10,000
VACANT BALL ROMULUS .34 AC \$19,000
GRANT ROMULUS 1.8 ACRES LT IN \$72,000
HAGGERTY 1.5 AC VAN BUREN \$70,000
VACANT LOUISA "DREAM LOT" \$70,000
16265 DIX SOUTHGATE 1.6 AC \$155,000

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MORTON TAYLOR 1.8 ACRES \$30,000
HURON TWP VAC ASH .87 ACRES \$70,000
10 AC BUNTON YPSILANTI TWP \$155,000

HURON TWP VAC CLARK .74 ACRES \$65,000
HURON TWP VAC CLARK 1.12 ACRE \$75,000
HURON TWP VAC OTTER 2.94 ACRES \$80,000
HURON TWP VAC BELL 2.48 ACRES \$75,000
HURON TWP VAC BELL 2.48 ACRES \$75,000
HURON TWP VAC ASH .87 ACRES \$70,000
VACANT BALL ROMULUS .34 AC \$19,000

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