



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

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FREE

Court Watching:

Three murder suspects bound over to circuit court for trial

By Rosemary K. Oztman
 Independent Editor

After holding two days of testimony from more than 16 witnesses and another partial day to wrap up the preliminary exam of three defendants charged with murder, 34th District Court Judge Tina Brooks Green bound them all over to circuit court to stand trial on the charges.

If they are found guilty they would all face life in prison. Their arraignments on the information are scheduled for 9 a.m., April 1, at the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice in Detroit.

All three have been held in the Wayne County Jail without bond since they were arrested late last year in the June 22, 2017, murder of Jacqueline Elizabeth “Egypt” Covington, 27, in her Van Buren Township duplex.

Egypt was a 2007 graduate of Belleville High School and a popular local singer. She was employed as an account manager for beer and wine distributor Rave and had worked at Johnny’s and Bayou Grill in Belleville.

All of the evidence in the case had been sealed by order of Judge Green until this preliminary exam.

Charged are:

- Timothy Eugene Moore, 35, of Toledo: first-degree premeditated murder, felony murder, home invasion first degree and four weapons charges.

- Shandon R Groom, 28, of Toledo: felony murder, home invasion first degree, first-degree premeditated murder, and three weapons charges.

- Shane Lamar Evans, 32, of Sumpter Township: felony murder, home invasion first degree, and two charges of felony firearm.

Moore and Evans are brothers and Groom



The preliminary exam for the three defendants in the Egypt Covington murder case were at 34th District Court with their attorneys on three days last week. At left are the defendants and their attorneys. Court officer Ken Brooks is at the rear, next to the court lockup. In the jury box, from left, are Rachel McDuffy, second chair, from the Wayne County Prosecutor’s Office; Michigan State Police Det./Sgt. James Plummer, officer in charge of the case; and Assistant Prosecutor Victoria Shackelford, who prosecuted the case. At right, is court clerk Michelle Buckberry. Behind her, hidden from view, is Judge Tina Brooks Green.

is Moore’s cousin.

Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Victoria Shackelford led the witnesses to tell the story of the investigation and then summed it up in a final statement.

Art Richardson was the first witness and he said he had known Groom for ten years. On June 6, 2017, Groom accompanied Richardson to Toledo Municipal Court. Richardson was driving his blue 2009 Ram truck. Richardson was sentenced to six months in jail and was taken into immediate custody. He said the sheriff handed Groom his friend’s truck keys and he may have driven it home, although he didn’t have a

driver’s license. Richardson said his phone was in his truck and he didn’t get out of jail until November.

Richardson had been arrested by Michigan State Police on first-degree murder charges, but the charges were dismissed when police learned Ohio officials had failed to tell them Richardson had been in jail at the time of the murder.

Richardson testified that the truck was parked on Bloom Street in Toledo when he got out of jail and its motor had been blown. His phone was in the apartment he owned at that address. Richardson testified he had never seen Timothy Moore at the time but Moore was dating Felicia Dillard, a cousin.

He testified the truck was registered in his little brother’s name, Arthur Greenly.

Testimony showed on June 12, 2017, Moore and Evans were in a vehicle accident in Ann Arbor and taken to the hospital.

That was ten days before the murder.

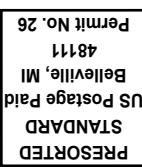
Danielle Mauss testified that Moore was staying at Nicole Dillard’s house in 2017, but Danielle helped him after his accident. She testified he was seriously injured in the shoulder and ribs and wore a neck brace. She said she had to help him off the couch.

She said twin daughters were born to Moore in a hospital in Toledo on June 5, 2017. She testified she went to the hospital with him from June 5 to the end of July to visit the babies. On the night of the murder the babies were still in the hospital. Mauss testified she never saw Moore drive a blue Dodge Ram.

She testified Evans was in the hospital after the accident at least 24 hours and he checked out after Moore. Mauss said Moore left against medical advice and walked out with cords hanging down.

Prosecutor Shackelford said Moore was

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SECOND FRONT PAGE

Court watching

(continued from page 1)

doing tattoos for Groom and friends in the home of Nicole Dillard in Toledo early in the evening of June 22, 2017. They left together and drove a blue pickup up I-75 to I-275, getting off at the Huron exit and ending up at Evan's home on Judd Road in Sumpter Township.

When Moore and Groom decided they wanted some marijuana, Evans led them to a duplex on Hull Road. Evans said a guy who grew marijuana lived there and he was gone to the Electric Forest festival and his place was empty. He knows because he cuts grass at the home.

Evans drove a borrowed older Chrysler 300 north on Sumpter Road and turned left on Hull, with a pickup truck carrying Moore and Groom following. In a statement to the Michigan State Police, Evans said he and his girlfriend were in the car and he stopped and pointed to the duplex where Egypt Covington lived inside the door on the left and Steven Edwards and Megan Coppock lived in the unit behind the door on the right.

He said he told them to enter the door on the right and then he drove off with his girlfriend and spent the night with her. He said he did get a text from Moore saying, "Wrong door. Oops."

According to Prosecutor Shackelford, Covington was sitting on her couch watching her favorite movie alone when the two entered her home, tied her wrists with Christmas lights behind her back, picked up a couch pillow and shot through the pillow, one shot to the back of her head.

The two were in Covington's home for about five minutes and then left, taking her personal cellphone with them. They threw the phone out the window near the Huron entrance to I-275 as they drove the pickup back to Toledo. The phone eventually lost power and died.

Curtis Meadows said he found the body of his girlfriend in her home at about 7:30 p.m. June 23, 2017, after being unable to reach her by phone all day. He testified they had exchanged "sweet dreams" texts at about 10 p.m. on June 22, 2017.

He testified that when he got to her home the outer duplex door was wide open and her inner door on the left was cracked open four to five inches. He went inside, screamed her name and her dog Ruby greeted him and led him to the body in a pool of blood. He ran out to his vehicle where his phone was and called 911.

There was no sign of a break-in, police report.

Van Buren Township Police investigated the murder for three years and then in late summer of 2020 turned it over to the Michigan State Police. Within a few months, MSP started making arrests.

Shackelford had a long line of officers testify from the Michigan State Police, and also from Van Buren Township Police and FBI, along with Covington's friends and a relative.

Circumstantial evidence came from the locations of various cellphones as proven by cell towers, Google geofence, and other techniques, and surveillance footage from the Citgo gas station at the corner of Hull and Sumpter roads, showing the Chrysler 300 and pickup in the area at the time of the murder.

VBT Police Sgt. Michael Rini, who was a patrol officer in 2017, testified he was called to the scene of the murder as a certified evidence technician and he collected evidence, put it in bags, and turned it in to the evidence room at police headquarters.

He said when he got there at about 7:45 p.m. June 23, 2017, he found the deceased female bound behind her back with a white strand of Christmas lights and trauma to the head. He said there was an empty shell casing (which turned out to be 9mm) and small amounts of marijuana throughout the apartment – not large amounts, he said.

He said the medical examiner came and removed the lights easily, since they were loose, and he placed them into an evidence bag. There also was a marijuana smoking pipe. He said a couch cushion had been fired through. There was a black iPhone with a black case and charger (which later was identified as her work phone).

During cross-examination, Moore's defense attorney Kristina Joseph noted the Van Buren Police Department no longer has the couch cushion and the phone was erased and asked if that was done by somebody in the property room.

"I don't know what happened after I put it in the property room," Sgt. Rini testified.

Lindsey Briley, Egypt's friend since grade school, testified she and Covington attended sessions at Starseed Yoga in Canton on the night of the murder and they parted around 8:45 p.m. She said Covington always had the Christmas lights around the back door.

Under cross examination by Joseph, Briley testified Covington liked older, white men, but also dated colored men and women. She said Curtis Meadows wanted to move in with Covington and Covington wanted to clean up the house.

Briley testified that Covington had had issues with her former boyfriend Kenny Michalak, but that is not the only person she had issues with. She said a month before her death Covington got in a car accident and Michalak helped her with a down payment for a new vehicle and she was driving that vehicle on the night she went to yoga before her death. Michalak also would take care of her dog Ruby when she was out of town and he likely had the code to her front door. The two had an

argument at Strawberry Festival a week before her death about Curtis moving in.

Steven Edwards testified that Evans worked for A&J Lawncare, who cut the lawn of the duplex on June 21. He said the company was owned by Antoine Jordan and Johnny Warren. He said he had puppies in his side of the duplex and Egypt was going to take care of them while they were gone to the festival.

He said Egypt had a drunk driving problem so she couldn't get a driver's license, so Kenny got her car insurance and in June 2017 she was still on his insurance. Edwards said when he and Coppock left for the festival they left the TV on, the lights on, and car in the driveway to make it look like it was occupied. He testified nothing was taken from either side of the duplex.

He said he had three ounces of marijuana in his cupboard. Edwards said he is a licensed caregiver, but he grows elsewhere.

He testified about five years earlier Egypt and Kyle Covington moved into that side of the duplex and she put lights over the curtain rod and plugged it in.

During discussions on March 25, defense attorney Joseph said there is no testimony saying the lights have Moore's DNA on them, but that they are investigating further. "There's no other DNA of his in the house," she said.

"It doesn't make sense to go in the home, tie up and shoot them to rob a home for marijuana," Joseph said.

Judge Green said the neighbor Steven Edwards had testified that his home was broken into for THC-related things that were stolen earlier in 2017. She said you can't say nobody's going to break in to steal marijuana.

Judge Green said dispensaries are more expensive and it's cheaper to buy from the guy on the corner.

"Tie her up and then shoot her doesn't make sense," Judge Green agreed.

Groom's defense attorney David Goldstein said there is no evidence in his client's case of firearms. He should not be bound over on firearms, Goldstein said. You have to know what is happening to aid and abet, he said.

Goldstein said while a case can be made on circumstantial evidence, 99.97% of the evidence against his client is circumstantial. He said they can show on June 22 where the phone was, maybe, and they can show where the truck was, maybe, but not where Groom was after dusk when he and Moore walked out of the home in Toledo together.

He said officer in charge MSP Det./Sgt. James Plummer testified the driver was a light-skinned black man from what he could see on the Citgo surveillance tapes.

Evans' defense attorney Coral Watt disputed adding the felony firearm counts to her client's charges. She said the testimony was that Evans knew they carried weapons, but didn't know if they

had weapons that day.

She said Evans didn't want to participate and he didn't participate. He pointed out the house where he believed nobody was home.

Prosecutor Shackelford withdrew two felony firearm charges for Evans. She also withdrew count 4 of Moore's charges, possession of firearm by a felon, since they didn't have evidence he had or held the gun.

Judge Green read a statement that said the court believes there is probable cause to believe the specific phones associated with Moore and Groom were present at the murder scene, along with Richardson's pickup, as circumstantial evidence.

Judge Green said there is an issue of fact for a jury to make a decision. There is probable cause that a crime was committed and these defendants were involved in committing that crime.

She said Groom was charged with first-degree murder because a pillow was taken and put over the face before shooting. There was a pause that rises to premeditation.

Gene Laroy Carrier, Jr.

Gene Laroy Carrier, Jr., 59, of Van Buren Township was before Judge Green by zoom for his probable cause conference on March 3 and then again on March 24. Defense attorney is Scott Weinberg. The probable cause conference now is set for 9:45 a.m., April 7, before Judge Martin.

Carrier is facing a charge of assault with a dangerous weapon (felonious assault) on Oct. 27 in the city of Belleville.

Sonya Gasper

Sonya Gasper, 45, of Sumpter Township is charged with two counts of welfare fraud on April 19, 2016. Her probable cause conference exam was adjourned until April 14 before Judge Martin.

The case is brought by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and court records show on March 2 the Inspector General's office called the court regarding the sworn warrant and the Attorney General's office called seeking information on the case.

The case was entered Oct. 5, 2020.

The adjournment of the probable cause conference was by Judge Green on March 24. Assistant Attorney General Robert Hayes was present by zoom and he said Gasper has repaid all restitution and they need extra time to get the charges resolved.

Jonathan Hordos of Neighborhood Defender Service had been serving as defense attorney, but it was noted that Gasper retained Maurice Davis as defense attorney a day before this hearing.

Lillie Lee Heard

Lillie Lee Heard, 40, of Van Buren Township is set to hold a live preliminary exam before Judge Green on May 5 on charges of home invasion-1st degree, malicious destruction of property, and two

(continued on page 6)

OPINIONS

Editorial

Details of Egypt's murder revealed in sworn testimony

It's been close to four years since popular local singer Egypt Covington was shot in the head and left dead in her rural Van Buren Township duplex. Since then, police have been silent on the details of the case to shield the ongoing investigation.

And, when there finally were arrests, Judge Green sealed the evidence from public disclosure until the preliminary exam, which took place over three days last week. This was the first time the public heard sworn testimony in the case.

The Michigan State Police took over the case from VBT after three years without an arrest, and almost immediately started arresting suspects.

The three defendants are all related. Two live in Toledo and one in Sumpter. The evidence against them is mostly circumstantial based on whether or not their phones and a friend's truck were in their possession at the time of the murder. There's no first-hand evidence of that. While the truck and a car were recorded by the Citgo surveillance tape, you can't see the drivers inside. No fingerprints. It's a maybe on DNA, but that wasn't entered as evidence.

The three defendants now head to circuit court for a possible trial and the MSP says it is still investigating.

Let's hope they have the right men and the evidence is enough to convict them. Conviction won't wipe away the pain left by the murder, but we can all start to heal.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

When we got to Hayward's last week with our *Independent* deliveries, the store was closed and a sign on the door said "Mike" Kouza had died after battling COVID. A sad notice, indeed. A friend of the family sent us an obituary, which is on page 7.

Ashley Nichols started a GoFundMe page to memorialize Mike with a bench outside of Hayward's or nearby. She has extended the project and is now seeking more donations for a nicer bench than first planned and additional plaques. Donations in excess, will go to his daughters.

The man who was found dead in Belleville on March 21 was actually found in the area behind AT&T on Sumpter Road, not behind the carwash, as was reported by Belleville Police. The carwash manager said they don't let people camp in the area behind their business.

At a court session last week, 34th District Court Judge Tina Brooks Green was asked when they would be moving into their new court building next door. She replied they would be in the new building "within the month." Great news.

In a recent Romulus case at 34th District Court, a man who worked at Amazon warehouse was charged with stealing 22 cell phones worth about \$9,000. It was noted there was a lot of surveillance tapes serving as evidence in the case.

The Huron River Drive bridge over the Huron River at Haggerty Road and the entrance to Lower Huron Metropark is closed again. They are finishing up the



repair work to the bridge and the sidewalk that was started last year. It's expected to be closed until April 5. Some of the detour is through the city of Belleville.

That was complicated on Tuesday when southbound Main Street in the city was cut down to one lane in front of Frosty Boy for some underground repair work. There was a lot of traffic, with southbound detours directed onto Second Street to Church Street to W. Columbia Avenue to get around the work. One southbound semi was seen turning down First Street and was having a bad time. Wonder how it did turning onto N. Liberty.

This Saturday, April 3, is the second Simply Give Double Match Day at Meijer to benefit the community food closet at the First United Methodist Church. But the \$5,000 goal was reached on its first Double Match Day on March 13, which will be matched by Meijer with \$10,000. Therefore, this Saturday any money put on the cards will only be worth the face value.

The food closet has received an email from the Meijer Simply Give Campaign that the food closet has been selected for Meijer's Spring Simply Give Campaign, April 11 through July 3. There will be only one Double Match Day for this campaign, on Saturday, June 19.

I think I've mentioned this before, but I find it odd that celebrations on Easter

weekend are coming before Easter Sunday, that marks the resurrection. That's what Easter is about.

The Flop E Bunny Candy Hunt, for example, is set for the day before Easter. While it doesn't call itself an Easter event, it always comes around Easter and has a bunny involved.

I remember when I was a small girl, at our house we spent a somber and prayerful Saturday before Easter to mark the time Jesus was in the tomb. Then, we celebrated after Sunrise Service on Easter because we had something to celebrate. That's when there were egg hunts for the children. This celebrating while there is nothing to celebrate yet just makes me confused. The timing is off.

Walgreen's on Belleville Road in Van Buren Township is offering in-your-car, do-it-yourself COVID tests that have results in from 2 to 24 hours. You have to get an appointment online. You go to the drive-up window and stay in your car.

On Tuesday, Congresswoman Dingell announced a \$15 million federal grant from the Department of Transportation for Willow Run Airport to construct a runway.





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Letters

What good is Easter?

To the editor:

It used to be that most people knew, or thought they knew, why we as a society celebrated Easter. That seems less likely today. The holiday evokes thoughts of eggs, candy and a family gathering, which are all very nice but have little (or nothing) to do with the origins of the day.

We suffer from a kind of cultural amnesia. However, if we can recollect the meaning of this holiday, perhaps we can experience the healing that it is intended to bring to our community, our families and our souls.

Let me see if I can shed a little light. About 2,100 years ago, a man, Jesus, predicted his death. He knew when he would die, how he would die, by whom he would die and, most importantly, why he would die. He said that his death would be a substitute for the sins of the world, bringing forgiveness to many and reconciling man to God.

Audaciously, he also predicted that he would rise from the grave three days later. He perished just as he said. As an innocent man he was brutally mutilated and unjustly punished for a crime he never committed. He died at the hands of a corrupt government and a self-righteous crowd. After his last breath, his frightened friends pulled his broken body into a borrowed grave. Everyone considered the tragic matter closed ... except the victim.

Three days later the unthinkable happened. He rose from the dead. Surprisingly, his friends recorded how he was no longer in the grave. Some actually saw him alive after his death: first a few, then more, then many. This man died by his own consent and then raised himself from the dead at his own direction.

If it was true, then surely his resurrection lent credence to his claims. The visible, (his resurrection), proved the invisible, (his substitutionary sacrifice for all). There was more. He called people to trust him with their eternal well-being. He also expected them to live on earth by the same ethics that they will live by in heaven.

He expected a changed life. He expected them to imitate him by giving instead of taking; to be generous instead of greedy; to care for others sacrificially; to yield their wants to others' needs. He knew that if large numbers of people lived this way, then people would be reconciled to each other the same way they were reconciled to God. They would share his definition

of right and wrong, which would lead to a greater peace in this world. And that would be a great hope indeed.

As we enjoy our family time this holiday, perhaps we should pause to reflect upon this man. And maybe then we will be able to answer the question, "What good is Easter?"

Wayde Hoppe
Van Buren Township

Don't conform to what they think you should be

To the editor:

Subject: Equality Act

I'm writing this letter not to the authors of some of the most hateful and ignorant letters I've read in this newspaper (which is saying a lot), but to the people this Bill actually affects.

To all the children out there who don't feel like they have a place in this world. To all the people who know what they see in the mirror and what they feel inside don't always line up with what society has told us you should be: We love you.

We love you just the way you are. We love what's inside you. We love the person you are. It doesn't matter if you want to dress a certain way, do your hair a certain way, be called certain name, we love you.

We want you to be the person you are as you decide it. We don't need you to conform to what some old architect or Bible-quoting grandma SAYS you are. We need you to be true and honest to yourself, to love yourself, because there's no better human to have in this world than one who knows who they are.

And if you're not sure who you are yet, that's fine! It can take a lifetime to find one's self. But the journey is what life is about. I get it, your journey is a tough one. Not falling neatly into a certain group or category can be tough. It can be lonely. If you start to feel that way, reach out. There are other's who share your experience and can provide guidance, or help, or advice, or even just a hug. Ask a teacher, ask a friend, ask someone you think you can trust.

Please remember this: people like you matter. You're important to us. And there are plenty of us who are in your corner. We support you. Just because the minority is vocal doesn't mean we aren't here. Ignore that noise. Come find us, we'll help you along the way.

Be Well,
Charles Larocque
Van Buren Township

CHRIST OUR LORD

IS RISEN!

HAPPY EASTER!



April 2 – Liz Hall, Chuck Nerswick
April 3 – Chelsea Hackett, Carol Bird
April 5 – Marie Monge
April 6 – Joan Bodnar
April 7 – Rosemary Fitzsimmons
April 9 – Tina Brooks Green, Linda Ostrowski

Do you have a birthday soon? Does someone you know have a birthday? Let us know and we will print the name as soon as possible. For more information, call (734) 699-9020.

Court watching

(continued from page 3)

charges of aggravated assault on Sept. 22 in Van Buren Township.

She is free on \$5,000 personal bond. Defense attorney is William Noakes.

Joseph Cory Johnson

Joseph Cory Johnson, 28, of Van Buren Township, was due for his live preliminary exam on March 24 before Judge Green. He had been charged with two counts of domestic violence – third offense and one count of assaulting / resisting / obstructing a police officer on Sept. 26 in the city of Belleville.

All charges were dismissed, the case closed, and conditional bond canceled on March 24.

Ronald Joseph Webb

Ronald Joseph Webb of Van Buren Township, was before Judge Green on March 24 for a preliminary exam via zoom on charges of home invasion-1st degree and assault with intent to do great bodily harm less than murder on July 13 in Van Buren Township.

He was free on personal bond of \$10,000.

On March 24, all counts were dismissed on the motion of the defendant and the bond was canceled. Robert Burton-Harris was defense attorney.

William Oliver Wood

William Oliver Wood, 36, of Southgate had his probable cause conference adjourned to April 7 on a charge of possession of narcotics (fentanyl) less than 25 grams on Oct. 6, 2019 in Van Buren Township.

He was present before Judge Green via zoom from Team Wellness on March 24. Wood was free on \$5,000/10% bond and Judge Green amended his tether rules to allow the defendant to go to and from work. Defense attorney is Luther Glenn, Jr.

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Obituaries



Terri Lynn Nowak

TERRI LYNN NOWAK

(December 17, 1970 – March 16, 2021)
Terry Lynn Nowak, 50, of Gibraltar, MI, died suddenly on March 16, 2021 at home. She was born in Detroit to Robert and Barbara Neldon. She was preceded in death by her father Robert Neldon, infant brother Christopher Neldon, grandparents Joseph and Mary Padlo, and stepfather Ray Rupert. She is survived by her partner Keith Farr, mother Barbara Rupert of Willis, the entire Farr Family, many aunts, uncles, cousins, and many friends.
Terri was like a Shooting Star whose light shines the brightest, but burns out quickly, leaving a trail of stardust. In her case, her trail was love and kindness to all the lives she touched. If you knew her, you were loved. She is greatly missed by all.



Mazin Kouza

MAZIN KOUZA

It is with great sadness that we announce the loss of the beloved Mazin Kouza. Loving son of Sami and Khalood Kouza. Beloved husband of Jennifer Kouza. Doting father of Samantha, Hailey and Julia Kouza. Cherished brother of Mary (John) Kouza Kalil, Melissa Kouza and Marvin (Rosa) Kouza.
He will be missed by all who knew him.
A Requiem Mass was held Friday, March 26, 2021 at Mother of God Chaldean Catholic Church in Southfield with Msgr. Zouhair Kejbou presiding. A Committal Service followed at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield.
Due to the ongoing pandemic, the use of masks and social distancing was required. The family apologizes for not accepting guests at their home. They will accept your condolences via phone calls, social media messages and texting.



Randall Wilkinson

RANDALL WILKINSON

(March 27, 1958 – March 9, 2021)
Randall (Randy) Wilkinson, aged 62, died suddenly on March 9 at his home in Charlevoix Michigan. Randy grew up the youngest son of Gary and Lucretia Wilkinson of Belleville. Randy attended Belleville High School and CCS, College for Creative Studies. He had a love for cars and went to work for Diversified Services Technologies (DST) where he mastered skills in auto body work. Randy went on to get a Certificate in Clay Modeling from CCS in Detroit, Michigan, and then began a Clay Modeling career at Ford Motor Company in the Design Studio. Randy's love for the outdoors inspired him to move to Northern Michigan to be able to continue working with cars, including doing custom paint work for Time Machines Unlimited and starting his own business. He loved the outdoors especially hunting, fishing, and sharing those passions with his nephews and friends. Randy is survived by his mother, 2 brothers, 2 sisters, and numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his father and grandparents. Randy dearly loved his family, especially his nephews and nieces. A graveside service will be at Hillside Cemetery in Belleville, MI.

“I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die”. John 11:25–26

Washed and Sheltered

The storm may rage and thunder roll,
Lighting flashes across the sky,
While I am safe within my home,
Sheltered from the passing storm.

Unlike many storms,
This one rages within my heart,
All the pain of years gone by,
Roll in like the ocean tide.

Past memories rush in then back out to sea
Like the hurts of my heart all washed away
by the Blood of my Saviour,
And drowned by the love of God's son.

JoAnne Ciaverella
Van Buren Township

No Word of God must be incredible to us,
as long as no Work of God is impossible to Him.
Rom. 4: 20, 21

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Fund raiser for bench to honor memory of ‘Mike’ Kouza at Hayward’s

A GoFundMe page has been set up by Ashley Nichols to honor the memory of Mazin “Mike” Kouza of Hayward’s Liquor Store and Marina who died recently after a battle with COVID.

Ashley praises the friendship of Kouza in her GoFundMe page and easily earned the amount needed for a bench she wanted to place outside Hayward’s or near the site with his name on it.

Now, she is seeking more donations to expand the memorial for a nicer bench and additional plaques. Excess donations will go to his daughters.

See <https://gofund.me/ad1bda13>.

COVID-19 death total in 48111 stays at 61, positive tests up to 2,468

The number of people who have died from COVID-19 in the 48111 zip code stayed at 61 over the week ending Monday, March 29.

The positive tests for COVID-19 in 48111 totaled 2,468 on Monday, March 29, up from 2,356 the previous Monday, March 22.

On Monday, March 29, the separate totals released by the Wayne County Health Department for the tri-community were: Van Buren Township, 1,617 positive cases, 33 deaths; city of Belleville, 400 positive cases, 21 deaths; and Sumpter Township 451 positive cases, 7 deaths.

Free Will Baptist Church sets FREE Giveaway Event for all

Belleville Free Will Baptist Church at 750 E. Huron River Dr. is holding a FREE Giveaway Event starting at 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 3.

First-come, first-served while supplies last. Masks and social distancing required to ensure safety for everyone in attendance.

They will have gently used clothing, household items, children’s items, and non-perishable food items.

They also will give away individually wrapped sandwiches, meatball subs, hot dogs, chips, baked goods, water, and a hot food item.

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Sumpter supports risk reduction program to help vulnerable people

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

An autistic child ran away from home and was hiding from police who were trying to find him. Police drove up and down the streets, playing the child's favorite song on a loudspeaker. The child came out of hiding and was rescued.

This is a story that was told by Sumpter Township Fire Lt. Jamie Goode to the township board at its regular meeting on March 23 via zoom.

Lt. Goode was illustrating what could happen with the new Community Risk Reduction Program he had laid out for his community of Sumpter, which has already been picked up by FEMA, is to be presented to the New York Police Department, and has been presented to 48 fire and police chiefs in Eastern Pennsylvania.

Lt. Goode prepared the program as research for his class at Fire Staff and Command School and it grew from there. He has talked to Van Buren Public Schools and Van Buren Township Fire Chief is interested. He said he will talk to Belleville, as well.

The program provides training for the police and fire departments for responding to incidents involving the special-needs community. It also includes working with the special needs families to pre-plan responses for emergency incidents. Also included is getting free smoke and CO detectors and helping residents install them, if necessary.

He said locally he will go around to families in their homes and fill out a page of names, favorite toys and TV shows, and triggers. He said this information would remain private, but would be put up into the computer aided dispatch system for a proximity alert for police and fire runs.

Lt. Goode said a custom ID card for the individual, with a copy for the caregiver, with contact information is included, along with highly reflected stickers for to mark Safe Rooms from inside and outside.

Sensory kits are also a part of the program and they will be carried in police and fire vehicles. They carry earmuffs to blot out noise, dark sunglasses if light is a problem, and sensory fidget toys to occupy the

hands, because if you occupy the hands, you occupy the mind, he said.

He also wants to help families build escape plans and safe places to meet in case of an emergency.

The start-up cost would be \$1,200. He said a donation of \$350 from Harbor Freight reduced the fidget box prices down to \$50 a box and there are 20 toys in each box. Man hours would be up to 15 hours a week or 60 hours a month.

Sumpter Public Safety Director/Police Chief Eric Luke said he saw Goode's presentation at the School of Staff and Command after he had done research on autistic individuals and, "It was great."

Chief Luke said first responders are not trained enough with dealing with autism. He said now Goode does training through FEMA and other state organizations.

"To me it's a no-brainer if it deals with personal safety," Luke said.

Board members were unanimously enthusiastic about the project and passed a motion in favor of supporting it.

Clerk Esther Hurst said they could apply to Burnham Flower, their insurance

company, for a risk reduction grant.

In other business at the March 23 meeting, the board:

- Approved on a 5-2 vote, Trustee Tim Rush's request to have Supervisor Tim Bowman form a committee to look into how the township newsletter is being done, with nay votes from Trustee Peggy Morgan

and Treasurer Jim Clark;

- Approved HR Coordinator and Payroll Services through ADP, due to urgent replacement services of vacancy, at an annual unlimited cost contract of \$55,000, plus \$6,000 one-time implementation from Foster Thomas, contingent on approval of

(continued on page 13)



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VBT planners OKs independent senior housing

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

A 128-unit independent senior housing apartment building received approval for construction on a 17.7-acre parcel on the west side of Belleville Road, just south of Robson Road.

Clover Communities of Van Buren plans apartment construction on 16.16 acres at 8740 Belleville Rd., with a 1.57 acre out-parcel along Belleville Road for commercial shops.

At the March 24 virtual meeting of the Van Buren Township Planning Commission, the commission unanimously approved special land use for the three-story, 45,860-square-foot project and also approved its preliminary site plan.

But it's been a long struggle to get to this point. In May of 2019, Beth Ernat came to a township meeting to tell of her

company's desire to build senior housing in VBT because studies show it is needed.

This was after Commissioner Medina Atchison urged the commission to help keep older residents in the community after they move out of larger homes.

Ernat helped the township write an ordinance for senior housing and then Clover presented its plan. There were problems with the apartment sizes and layout of the drive from the apartment building to Belleville Road because of a future plan for the extension of Robson Road to the west and a traffic signal. There also was a problem with the outside design of the building because the Belleville Road Overlay District required more brick. Also, the landscaping has to be moved a little. And, the planners wanted the garages to be broken up into smaller units, the transformer screened, and brick to be on

the balcony pillars. Finally, the revised project is ready to move forward.

"We had to work with the applicant for a long time," said Vidya Krishna of McKenna, VBT's principal planner. "It's come a long way from what was proposed."

At the March 24 meeting, Ernat showed pictures of similar Clover projects in Canton, Auburn Hills, and Alpine Township.

She said the company has 55 other senior housing projects throughout the country and those 55 and over are not peak traffic users because most are retired. She said they go to church, doctor's visits and the maximum they show is three movements a day. She said their average resident is aged 81.

"I know the area. I live in the area," Ernat said when Commissioner Brian Cullin voiced concerns about traffic on Belleville Road and the left turns to Meijer that would be required by residents.

When Krishna recommended breaking up the mass of the planned garages, commissioners agreed it would be better aesthetics.

"We're willing to split the garages," Ernat said. "It's not our preference, but we're willing to split the garages."

"We had high hopes for senior housing and Ms. Ernat helped explain her side of the project," said Commission chairperson Carol Thompson. "We're very excited

(continued on page 15)

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Congratulations to the BHS girls' bowling team for placing runner-up in the team state finals last weekend while the boys' bowling team finished fourth at the season-ending tournament. Belleville sent nine wrestlers to the regional tournament and four of them qualified for the Individual state finals coming up this weekend in Kalamazoo. They are Justice Shafer (112 Pounds), Connor Williams (152), Demond Harrison (160), and Blake Williams (189). Go, Tigers! BHS basketball teams came up short in their respective district games with the boys' team losing to Ypsilanti, 59-52, and the girls' team losing to Saline, 64-32. Congratulations, on a good season.

The Saturday, April 3, Flop E Bunny returns for socially distant photos at Victory Park at 5 Points, from noon until 2 p.m. Belleville's April Warner Photography will be providing free photos, but donations are welcome. Candy hunts will start at 12:15 for toddlers to 3-year-olds, 12:30 p.m. for 4-5-year-olds, 12:45 p.m. for 6-7-year-olds, and 1 p.m. for 8-10-year-olds. Belleville's CAFE5 will be selling pizza and drinks and DJ Unlimited will provide music, along with a used book sale by Belleville Kiwanis. Our local Belleville Girl Scout Troop will also be selling cookies. The Belleville Central Business Community presents the event, along with sponsors Genisys Credit Union, Tucker Insurance, Jack Demmer Ford, and Belleville Downtown on the Lake. See the CBC's ad in today's paper.

The Yankee Air Museum has gone back to its regular museum hours, which are Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. With spring upon us and the flip of the calendar to April, the museum is gearing up for the Thunder Over Michigan Air Show on Aug. 7-8 at Willow Run Airport. There will be no Blue Angels or Thunderbirds this time around, however, the all-new F-35A Lightning Jet Team will be performing. The \$80-million-dollar fifth-generation fighter was scheduled to perform last year at Thunder Over Michigan, but that event and others were cancelled due to the pandemic. Tickets are available at the museum's website at www.yankeearmuseum.org.

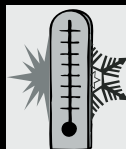
Our hearts and prayers go to Mike Kouza and his family, the owners of Haywards Liquor Store on Main Street as Mike passed away on March 24, leaving behind his wife Jennifer, and children-Samantha, Hailey, and Julia, along with his parents and siblings. Mike and his Dad Sami were the one-two punch of kindness with a smile given to everyone upon entering the store. Mike was a Detroit Lions season ticket holder and loved talking football and wearing Honolulu Blue. He loved his customers, too, and always made me feel like he kept Snapple Raspberry in his cooler just for me. Thanks, Mike.

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

"There is a cult of ignorance in the United States, and there has always been. The strain of anti-intellectualism has been a constant thread winding its way through our political and cultural life, nurtured by the false notion that democracy means that 'my ignorance is just as good as your knowledge.'"

— Isaac Asimov



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More Letters

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Hello, from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Buffalo District:

Great progress is being made in cleaning up the Luckey Formerly Utilized Sites

Remedial Action Program Site.

This afternoon our trucking contractor completed safely travelling one million miles disposing 116,017 tons of material contaminated with beryllium, radium-226, thorium-230, uranium-234, uranium-238, and lead at US Ecology in Belleville, MI.

Since the cleanup contract was awarded in 2015, the Corps of Engineers' contractor has worked over 435,000 hours without a lost-time accident. The soil cleanup, which began on April 16, 2018, is 50% complete. Excavation and backfill is complete in the Phase 1 and Phase 2 areas, and will resume in the Phase 4 area once on-site building deconstruction is complete.

Deconstruction of the maintenance office building at the site was completed on Feb. 12, 2021. Our contractor began deconstruction of the production building on Feb. 18, 2021. All building deconstruction debris will also be disposed of at US Ecology in Belleville, MI.

Our top priority is the protection of human health and the environment and the safety of our workers and the community. We are also actively monitoring the evolving COVID-19 situation and are in regular communication with our personnel and contractors to emphasize the importance of taking appropriate actions -- such as social distancing, wearing appropriate protective equipment, temperature screening of individuals before entry into the site, and personal hygiene measures -- to safeguard employee health and welfare while

working during the pandemic.

We will continue to provide updates to you via email and also in the form of an infographic that tracks our progress, which is posted weekly on our website at <https://www.lrb.usace.army.mil/Missions/HTRW/FUSRAP/Luckey-Site/>. If you know someone that would be interested in receiving updates regarding the Luckey Site, please ask them to contact us at fusrap@usace.army.mil.

Arleen K. Kreusch, APR
Outreach Program Specialist
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Buffalo District
Special Projects Branch, Environmental Project Management Section
1776 Niagara St., Buffalo, NY 14207
1-800-833-6390 (Option 4)

Writer scolds other writers for opinions

To the editor:

This is to Mr. Hoppe, Mrs. Bleeker, Mr. Kotlarek, and Ms. Oztman:

I'm honestly not sure where to begin with the four of you. The letters published over the last three weeks in regard to the Equality Act, and your so called "cancel culture" are some of the most ignorant, uneducated, uninformed, hypocritical letters I've seen in this newspaper. Something that isn't easy to do.

I'm not going to argue the specifics of political policy with you, or go further than pointing out nothing you've said is supported by science. I'm just going to tell you I don't agree. And there are many more like me. I don't agree with your handwringing and pearl clutching about bathroom use and jobs at women's shelters. Your shaded attempts to portray transgender people as some kind of deviants disgust me. Your mocking words in your letter disgust me. Free speech may protect you from the government punishing you for what you said, no matter how ugly the words are. But it doesn't protect you from judgment by the rest of us. You should be ashamed of yourself. Next time it occurs to you to speak that way, save it. Keep it in your own hateful head and heart, and spare the rest of us. Or maybe put yourself in their shoes, if you can, if you have any empathy in your heart. Imagine what it might feel like to be trapped in the wrong body. Or to think you're supposed to be one thing, but know in your heart you're another. Try to imagine the countless children who

have taken their own lives because people exist in our society that make them feel less than. Make them feel like they're "wrong" or need to be "fixed."

Your use of religion to justify your rationale makes me chuckle. You can have your religion. Enjoy. If it makes you comfortable, by all means, use it. But it's for you. It doesn't apply to me. I don't believe in it. And it's not allowed to govern my life. Our country was FOUNDED on religious FREEDOM. Which includes being free from policy and agenda that invokes religion. You don't want to see a "girl" as you define them in a specific bathroom? Well I don't want your religion in my life, or my government. I was lucky enough to be born in a country that is SUPPOSED to keep me free from religious persecution. So I don't have to and don't expect to be governed by your personal belief system.

And your fear of "cancel culture." Oh wow. Can't believe I have to explain this. Dr. Seuss is owned by a private company in a capitalistic country. They're in business to make money. And THEY decided to listen to consumers and remove some old, unpopular books from print because it was bad for their business. No one "canceled" it. Same thing with Mr. or Mrs. Potato Head. So relax. No one is taking away your childhood. Society is getting better (or at least trying) at not offending and marginalizing people. And that happens to coincide with businesses trying to turn a profit.

And, Mrs. Oztman. You've been at this a long time. You shouldn't have needed to be told that presenting a letter as a column without calling it an opinion is disappointing at best. You even used the mans picture. As if it was some informed piece of factual reporting. If there is anything that needs to be canceled, it's irresponsible journalism like that.

Lastly, I've written a few letters to this paper. I take pride in standing for what I believe in. I put my name to each letter. I've probably made some enemies from some of them; I'm sure I'll make more with this one. If you're reading this and don't like it, I welcome you to an open discussion with me. You don't have to hide from something you don't understand or agree with. I'm not opposed to conversation. I'm open to learning new things. I can appreciate that everyone has their own thoughts and feelings. So, let's discuss.

Charles Larocque
Van Buren Township

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VBT DDA hears report from Aerotropolis

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Chrisopher Girdwood, who has been head of the Aerotropolis program for a year and a half, gave a report to the Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority at its March 23 zoom meeting.

Girdwood said he was born and raised in Sterling Heights and then moved out of state and came back for his children to be near their grandparents.

He said the state named seven “Next Michigan Development Corporations” in the state and Aerotropolis was one and it is an arm of the state. It allows for banding together regionally for development.

He said Detroit Metro Airport is the 18th busiest airport in North America. Willow Run is being looked at by NASA for VTOLs, vertical takeoffs, in the future.

He said four communities are involved in Aerotropolis: VBT, Taylor, Romulus, and Huron Township. He said of the seven sites of 100 or more acres being sold for development in the Aerotropolis area, four are in VBT.

Girdwood said Wayne County Airport Authority gives Aerotropolis \$150,000 for marketing.

He said Haggerty Road needs upgrading and it is estimated that will take \$7 million, taking Haggerty to three lanes, updating the water and sewer lines, and adding a light.

Girdwood said they are looking at the first highway in the sky around Taylor for delivery drones.

He said they are looking at an autonomous vehicle/air mobility corridor in the center lane of Michigan Avenue or I-94, with a road to Van Buren Township.

They also have looked into data centers and what sites could be pad-ready for them.

“We don’t technically have an economic development director,” said VBT Supervisor Kevin McNamara. “We thought Aerotropolis could sift the leads and we could jump on it. We are thankful to the DDA for paying for Aerotropolis for us.”

The DDA has paid the annual \$25,000 dues for the township since the beginning of Aerotropolis.

In other business at the March 23 meeting, the DDA:

- Heard Executive Director Susan Ireland report she attended a meeting on the American Rescue Plan Act and they don’t know yet what the township can use the funding on. Supervisor McNamara asked if it could be used for water and sewer on Haggerty Road. He said VBT is getting \$2.8 million, which is “a drop in the bucket,” since the county is getting more than \$300 million. “How quick can you get easements to finish Belleville Road?” he asked Ireland. Ireland said “a house would have to go away” since the sidewalk would go right through the middle of it and the owners are an adamant, “NO.” “We can look at it again, she said.

INDEPENDENT CLASSIFIED ADS

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PUBLIC AUCTION

NOTICE is hereby given that on April 3, 2021 at 12:00 p.m., Full House Self Storage at 7886 Belleville Rd., Belleville, MI 48111 is holding a public auction. Unit(s) may or may not include the following: household items, recreational items, appliances, furniture, misc.
C115 & L508, Katrina Bryant; M576, Medina Tunupopo; F264, Mookie Dillard Jr.; I418, Teresa Houser; D160, Barbara Hailer; O724, Michael Riley; C128, Cheryl Lovely; F259, Emmanuel Jones; L516, N817, P756, Sunshine Inc.; D155, E215, Joyce Price; R938, Theresa McCuean; Q905, Tasha Davis; K656, Gary Croteau II; M564, John C. Johnston; R927, Marla Borders; D158, P771, Kandass Baldwin; N810, O715, S962, Terry Booth; I425, Belleville Cougars
Publish: March 25, and April 1, 2021

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– Ruth Bader Ginsburg

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NEED MONEY? Do you own a Winchester or Remington 22 caliber rifle, working or not? Looking to buy. John (734) 649-0909 04/08

FOUND

AMAZON DELIVERED TO WRONG address on Thursday (3/25) and USPS says not a valid address: Brandi (no last name), 308 Liberty (North? South?). Text (734) 262-4887 if you never received baby items. 04/15

FREE

ANTIQUE WINGBACK CHAIR and foot stool. (734) 941-9567 04/01

FREE WOOD CHIPS – 2 huge piles. U-pick-up. (734) 697-3247 04/08

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R & L Machine Products, Inc. is seeking a part-time office secretary. Will train, but prefer prior experience. Email resume to rlmachine@aol.com. Apply in person Tuesdays and Thursdays. 15995 S. Huron River Dr. Romulus, MI. 48174 P: 734-992-2574

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— Milton Berle

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HELP WANTED

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THE FAMILY-ORIENTED BUSINESS of Tornado's Pizza is looking for drivers and experienced cooks that are career-minded, hardworking, reliable, and fearless under pressure. Apply in person ONLY Sun.-Thurs., 1-3 p.m. @ 883 Sumpter Rd. 04/15

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Sumpter Twp.

(continued from page 8)

attorney of contract language. The action is estimated to save \$58,000 a year;

- Approved on a 5-2 vote the extension of Public Safety Director/Police Chief Luke's contract for three years, holding the same salary and benefits as of this date of \$103,376 annually, with Trustee Morgan and Treasurer Clark voting no;

- Approved Treasurer Clark and Deputy Treasurer Toni Clark attending the April 19-21 virtual conference and April 12-13 virtual pre-conference classes of the Michigan Township Association at a total cost of training at \$516;

- Approved, with regret, the retirement of Tim Armstrong from the fire department, effective March 7, after 22 years of service. Fire Chief Januszyk said all he wanted was his helmet, so he gave it to him;

- Approved Deputy Supervisor/Finance Director Michelle Cole to attend the MTA virtual conference at a cost of \$127, plus the Board Authorities and Roles pre-conference virtual class for \$99, for a total of \$227;

- Approved the supervisor's reappointment of Maria Beaudrie to the Zoning Board of Appeals with a term to expire March 10, 2024;

- Approved Parks and Recreation Commission's request for a park clean-up day and recognition of International Earth Day at Banotai Park on April 24. There will also be a presentation/discussion of the new butterfly habitat. A representative of the state Department of Natural Resources will be attending;

- Approved on a 5-2 vote adjusting the submission deadline for items for the township board agenda to be in the clerk's office by Monday at noon, one week before the regularly scheduled board meeting,

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention, to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

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



with Trustee Morgan and Treasurer Clark voting no;

- Approved the 2021-22 township budget;
- Approved township liability and insurance coverage by Burnham Flower at a cost of \$106,192.75;
- Approved having Clerk Hurst or her designee as the day-to-day oversight person for emergency-need Human Resources responsibilities; and
- Went into closed session to get an update on the pending Futernick litigation.

Rawsonville Elementary students compete with ideas on helping others

A fourth-grade class at Rawsonville Elementary School, doing virtual learning, wrote persuasive essays where they were



Jenifer

asked to convince the class to vote for their favorite social cause.

Fourth-grade teacher Kristina Brashear said each student chose a cause they felt personally connected to and had to figure out a way to help during the pandemic.

Once a proposal was chosen by the writer's peers, the whole class would all pitch in to help.

"Our class voted for the essay that wanted to help lift the spirits of children with cancer in the hospital," Brashear said. "Her idea was to give crowns to the boys and girls so they would feel like kings and queens while they fought their challenging diseases."

The winning essay was written by Jenifer Ibarra-Reyes, age 9.



Nathan

The second-place essay, aimed at helping the elderly, was written by Nathan Tsiloulou, age 9.

The class then began the process of gathering donations to purchase paper crowns, stick-on jewels and gems, ring pops, and chocolate gold coins. These "royal gift boxes" will be sent to those afflicted with childhood cancer at a local hospital, Brashear said.

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Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

There were 309 dispatch calls reported by Van Buren Township police last week including the following.

Sunday, March 21:

0029 – suspicious person/vehicle, Denton Rd.
0122 – breaking & entering, Mott
0737 – assist other dept., S. Liberty St.
0831 – property damage accident, S. I-94 Service Dr. / Quirk Rd.
0841 – civil matter, N. I-94 Service Dr.
0844 – sexual assault, E. Huron River Dr.
1029 – assist other dept., S. Liberty St.
1131 – operating while intoxicated, Ecorse Rd.
1324 – parking complaint, Belleville Rd.
1359 – suspicious person/vehicle, Rawsonville Rd.
1445 – disorderly, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1500 – property damage accident, Denton Rd./Michigan Ave.
1507 – animal complaint, Lohr Rd.
1550 – assist other dept., N. I-94 Service Dr.
1616 – disorderly, Sylvia Dr.
1733 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1813 – personal injury accident, Van Born/Sheldon
1844 – motorist assist, S. I-94 Service/Rawsonville
1937 – welfare check, Brookview Dr.
2203 – assist fire dept., Fret Rd.
2322 – assist other dept., Beckley Rd.

Monday, March 22:

0016 – assist fire dept., Estate Dr.
0036 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
0215 – assist fire dept., E. I-94/Belleville Rd.
0912 – suicidal person, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0918 – larceny from auto, E. Archwood Dr.
1034 – hospice death, Haggerty Rd.
1036 – suspicious person/vehicle, E. Huron River
1058 – suspicious person/vehicle, Sumpter/Hull
1112 – animal complaint, Birch Dr.
1232 – motorist assist, Belleville Rd./N. I-94 Service Dr.
1245 – disorderly, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1305 – private property impound, S. I-94 Service
1313 – private property impound, S. I-94 Service
1339 – road hazard, N. I-94 Service Dr./Belleville
1358 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1433 – private property impound, Denton Rd.
1438 – private property impound, S. I-94 Service
1455 – assist fire dept., Cobblestone Creek Dr.
1459 – juvenile complaint, Freedom Way
1524 – animal complaint, Quirk Rd.
1542 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, Belleville Rd./Ecorse Rd.
1553 – domestic, Old Rawsonville Rd.
1559 – suspicious person/vehicle, Hardwood Dr.
1622 – domestic, Marlowe Ave.
1656 – lost property/child, Brookside Dr.
1714 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belle Pointe Dr. /Lindsey Dr.

1733 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, Michigan Ave./Denton Rd.
1749 – suspicious activity, Hardwood Dr./Ironwood Dr.

1839 – welfare check, E. Archwood Dr.
1852 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1900 – parking complaint, Denton Rd.
1928 – misc. complaint, Denton Rd.
2136 – personal injury accident, S. I-275/Ecorse
2208 – civil matter, Parkwood Dr.
2249 – suspicious person/vehicle, S. I-94 Service
2354 – motorist assist, Belleville Rd. / S. I-94 Service Dr.

Tuesday, March 23:

0003 – domestic, S. Ponderosa Trl.
0049 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
0129 – civil matter, S. Ponderosa Trl.
0139 – civil matter, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0305 – found property/child, Tyler Rd.
0524 – assault & battery, Kirkridge Park Dr.
0706 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
0841 – animal complaint, Kirkridge Park Dr.
1021 – lost property/child, Van Buren St.
1115 – private property/property damage accident, Southport Apts.
1126 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville/Yost
1131 – parking complaint, Belleville Rd.
1210 – fraud, E. Huron River Dr.
1214 – suspicious person/vehicle, S. I-94 Service
1219 – fraud, Hull Rd.
1328 – welfare check, Belleville Rd.
1343 – juvenile complaint, McBride

1354 – suspicious person/vehicle, Van Born Rd. / Sheldon Rd.
1434 – welfare check, E. Huron River Dr. / Martinsville Rd.
1442 – suicidal person, Haggerty Rd.
1456 – welfare check, Belleville Rd.
1708 – private property/property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1851 – threat, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1904 – domestic, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1943 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1945 – disorderly, N. I-94 Service Dr.
2009 – welfare check, N. I-94 Service Dr.
2042 – property damage accident, Ecorse/I-275
2247 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.

Wednesday, March 24:

0120 – family trouble, Arthur St.
0526 – 911 welfare check, Winding Pond Dr.
0553 – property damage accident, Hannan Rd. / N. I-94 Service Dr.
0851 – suspicious person/vehicle, Haggerty Rd.
0939 – operating while intoxicated, N. I-94 Service
0956 – welfare check, Maple Dr.
1024 – ordinance violation, Savage Rd.
1031 – domestic, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1206 – suspicious person/vehicle, Harmony Ln.
1238 – juvenile complaint, Tyler Rd.
1238 – welfare check, Denton Rd.
1240 – juvenile complaint, Tyler Rd.
1241 – juvenile complaint, Tyler Rd.
1243 – juvenile complaint, Tyler Rd.
1244 – juvenile complaint, Tyler Rd.
1245 – juvenile complaint, Tyler Rd.
1247 – juvenile complaint, Tyler Rd.
1249 – juvenile complaint, Tyler Rd.
1250 – juvenile complaint, Tyler Rd.
1252 – juvenile complaint, Tyler Rd.
1253 – juvenile complaint, Tyler Rd.
1253 – juvenile complaint, Tyler Rd.
1432 – suspicious person/vehicle, Hull Rd.
1532 – suicidal person, Rawsonville/Martz
1645 – lost property/child, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1646 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / Ecorse Rd.

1650 – animal complaint, Brandi Dr.
1731 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / Robson Rd.
1742 – robbery, Ecorse Rd.
1801 – assist fire dept., Belleville Rd.
1804 – assist other dept., Belleville Rd.
1834 – fight, Jackson St.
1849 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd.
1847 – breaking & entering, Hamilton St.
1931 – civil matter, S. Ponderosa Trl.
2041 – suspicious person/vehicle, Denton Rd.
2143 – suspicious person/vehicle, Parkwood Dr.
2222 – domestic, Maple Dr.

Thursday, March 25:

0200 – noise complaint, Kirkridge Park Dr.
0731 – misc. complaint, Tyler Rd.
0823 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
0958 – animal complaint, Haggerty Rd.
1028 – ordinance violation, Wheeler north of McKinley
1051 – suspicious person/vehicle, Bemis Rd.
1121 – private property impound, S. I-94 Service
1122 – private property impound, S. I-94 Service
1132 – animal complaint, McBride Ave.
1154 – weapons violation, N. I-94 Service/Beck
1228 – private property impound, Denton Rd.
1229 – private property impound, S. I-94 Service
1358 – disorderly, Belleville Rd.
1412 – welfare check, Elwell Rd.
1433 – robbery, Belleville Rd.
1557 – civil matter, S. Ponderosa Trl.
1734 – private property impound, Chinkapin Dr.
1745 – larceny from auto, Oak Ln.
1806 – suspicious person/vehicle, W. Huron River
1923 – welfare check, Lancaster Dr.
1959 – civil matter, Arthur St.
2043 – motorist assist, N. I-94 Service/Oak Ln.
2047 – traffic offense, Belleville Rd.
2051 – mental subject, Outer Dr.

Friday, March 26:

0031 – suspicious person/vehicle, Kirkridge Park
0254 – assault & battery, Borgman Ave.
0257 – domestic, Parkwood Dr.
0417 – road hazard, Haggerty/I-94
0543 – road hazard, Ecorse Rd./Haggerty Rd.
0747 – hospice death, Wheatgrass Ln.
0801 – road hazard, Belleville/Quirk
1011 – welfare check, Ecorse Rd.

1301 – property damage accident, Belleville/Tyler
1320 – welfare check, Outer Dr.
1451 – traffic offense, E. Huron River/Haggerty
1527 – threat, Anna Dr.
1747 – fraud, Clayton Rd.
1910 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
2144 – assist fire dept., N. Ponderosa Trl.
2228 – noise complaint, Maple Dr.
2344 – juvenile complaint, Belleville Rd.

Saturday, March 27:

0458 – suspicious person/vehicle, Oak Blvd.
0650 – assist fire dept., Holly Ln.
0717 – disorderly, N. I-94 Service Dr.
0937 – civil matter, Van Buren St.
1013 – welfare check, S. I-275/Ecorse
1037 – threat, Chaney Ave.
1141 – larceny, S. Woodbury Dr.
1154 – 911 welfare check, Van Born
1201 – civil matter, Savage Rd.
1201 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / S. I-94 Service Dr.
1224 – animal complaint, N. Ponderosa Trl.
1241 – suspicious person/vehicle, Van Buren St.
1327 – domestic, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1537 – private property/property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1658 – traffic offense, Hull Rd./Elwell Rd.
1812 – disorderly, Rawsonville Rd.
1852 – malicious destruction of property, Lacey
1908 – noise complaint, Lighthouse Dr.
1914 – domestic, Coolidge St.
1935 – assist fire dept., Milton Dr.
1943 – traffic offense, Belleville Rd.
2019 – traffic offense, Belleville Rd.
2041 – mental subject, Elwell Rd.
2056 – traffic offense, Belleville Rd.
2108 – welfare check, N. Ponderosa Trl.
2116 – suspicious person/vehicle, S. I-94 Service
2139 – noise complaint, N. I-94 Service Dr.
2208 – abandoned auto, Belleville Rd./Ecorse Rd.
2306 – disorderly, S. I-94 Service Dr.
2307 – disorderly, N. I-94 Service Dr.
2334 – property damage accident, McBride Ave.
2337 – property damage accident, Huron River Dr./Hannan Rd.

Also on this week's log were 31 traffic stops, none of which were on the I-94 or I-275 freeways.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, March 21:

0028 – traffic stop, Main St./Fifth St.
0556 – intrusion alarm, South St.
0728 – suspicious person/vehicle, S. Liberty St.
1028 – unauthorized driving away of auto, S. Liberty St.

1431 – welfare check, Water Works
2315 – intrusion alarm, W. Columbia Ave.

Monday, March 22:

0307 – traffic stop, South St./Henry St.
1223 – juvenile complaint, W. Columbia Ave.
1335 – traffic offense, Belle Villa Blvd.
1413 – traffic stop, Sam's Place
1545 – property damage accident, Main St.
1820 – misc. complaint, E. Columbia Ave.

Tuesday, March 23:

0021 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
1015 – welfare check, Santa Clara St.
1453 – fraud, Menlo Park Dr.
1643 – malicious destruction of property, W. Thornhill Ct.
1731 – disorderly, High St.
1901 – assist other dept., S. I-94 Service Dr.
Wednesday, March 24:
0220 – traffic stop, Main St./Third St.
1212 – misc. complaint, Main St.
1429 – misc. complaint, S. Industrial Park Dr.
1627 – retail fraud, Sumpter Rd.
1905 – private property/property damage accident, Main St.

2232 – suspicious person/vehicle, E. Huron River

Thursday, March 25:

0609 – disorderly, S. Biggs Ave.
0907 – mental subject, S. Biggs Ave.
1027 – malicious destruction of property, S. Biggs
1057 – malicious destruction of property, Third St.
1212 – traffic stop, W. Columbia Ave.
1240 – misc. complaint, Sumpter Rd.
1813 – suspicious person/vehicle, Main St.
2054 – welfare check, S. Liberty St.

2332 – traffic stop, Main St./Fifth St.
2341 – traffic stop, W. Columbia Ave.

Friday, March 26:

0745 – juvenile complaint, W. Columbia Ave.
1004 – harassment call, N. Aberdeen Ct.
1226 – intrusion alarm, Sumpter Rd.
1233 – neighbor trouble, N. Liberty St.
1439 – property damage accident, Main St./High
2130 – traffic stop, Fifth St./Main St.
2244 – traffic stop, Sumpter Rd./Spencer St.

Saturday, March 27:

0012 – traffic stop, South St./E. Columbia Ave.
0032 – traffic stop, Fifth St./N. Liberty St.
0122 – traffic stop, E. Wabash Ave./South St.
0259 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
0448 – family trouble, Brain St.

There were 12 traffic stops on this week's dispatch log.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, March 21:

0012 – noise complaint, 40000 bl. Bemis Rd.
0120 – follow-up investigation, 40000 b. Bemis Rd.
0705 – alarm, 18000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
0926 – civil matter, 45000 bl. Willow Rd.
1128 – animal complaint, 24000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1156 – malicious destruction of property, 24000 bl. Haggerty Rd.

1310 – fire dept. assist, 47000 bl. Judd Rd.

1341 – fire dept. assist, 5600 bl. Oakville Waltz Rd.
1359 – suspicious circumstances, 48000 bl. Ray Ln.
1525 – fire dept. assist, 49000 bl. Wear Rd.
1843 – misc. detail, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1952 – noise complaint, 45000 bl. Judd Rd.

Monday, March 22:

0426 – animal complaint, Redwood Ct.
0630 – 911 hang up, 25000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
0925 – welfare check, 44000 bl. Clay Rd.
1046 – follow-up investigation, Virginia St.
1143 – animal complaint, Wear Rd./Karr Rd.
1240 – 911 hang up, 43000 bl. Judd Rd.
1443 – suspicious circumstances, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

1525 – suspicious person, 51000 bl. Willis Rd.
1611 – fire dept. assist, 46000 bl. Executive Dr.
1620 – civil matter, Hampshire

1728 – follow-up investigation, 46000 bl. Executive Dr.

1729 – neighbor complaint, Timberlane Ln.
1736 – citizen assist, 45000 bl. Willow Rd.
1817 – fire dept. assist, 46000 bl. Wear Rd.
1938 – citizen assist, 43000 bl. Harris Rd.
2047 – neighbor complaint, 25000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2140 – alarm, 29000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

Tuesday, March 23:

0400 – suspicious person, 11000 bl. Rawsonville
0943 – welfare check, Georgia St.
1403 – open burning, 28000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1449 – traffic complaint, Bemis Rd./Savage Rd.
1634 – ORV complaint, 19000 bl. Karr Rd.
1746 – fire dept. assist, 20000 bl. Wilmot Rd.
1922 – death investigation, Carriage Ln.

Wednesday, March 24:

0334 – misc. detail, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1053 – follow-up investigation, Carriage Ln.
1056 – 911 hang up, Birch Dr./Magnolia Dr.
1056 – mental health call, 44000 bl. Clay Rd.
1135 – suspicious person, 5400 bl. Oakville Waltz
1142 – fire dept. assist, 47000 bl. Willis Rd.
1512 – civil matter, 43000 bl. Willis Rd.
1631 – fire dept. assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1641 – animal complaint, 12000 bl. Rawsonville
1721 – fire dept. assist, 17000 bl. Sully Dr.
1858 – misc. detail, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1952 – animal complaint, 49000 bl. Judd Rd.
2051 – shots fired, 46000 bl. Willis Rd.
2200 – misc. detail, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2323 – suspicious circumstances, Carriage Ln.

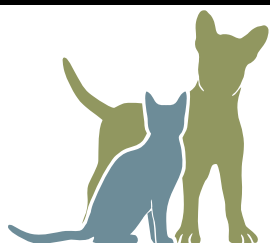
Thursday, March 25:

0042 – fire dept. assist, Arizona St.
1030 – suspicious circumstances, 45000 bl. Bemis
1100 – suspicious person, Sumpter Rd./Willow Rd.
1728 – fire dept. assist, 46000 bl. Claxton Dr.
1728 – fire dept. assist, 46000 bl. Claxton Dr.
1828 – misc. detail, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1941 – 911 hang up, Washington St.
2253 – welfare check, 40000 bl. Willis Rd.

(Continued on page 15)

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Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

(continued on page 14)

Friday, March 26:

- 0039 – shots fired, Edgewood Dr.
- 0149 – follow-up investigation, Edgewood Dr.
- 0833 – traffic complaint, 44000 bl. Willis Rd.
- 0934 – animal complaint, 45000 bl. Judd Rd.
- 0947 – welfare check, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
- 1004 – suspicious circumstances, 45000 bl. Judd
- 1139 – citizen assist, Carriage Ln.
- 1606 – traffic stop, Bemis Rd./Elwell Rd.
- 1634 – suspicious person, Judd Rd./Martinsville
- 1739 – suspicious circumstances, 43000 bl. Harris
- 1856 – subpoena service, 20000 bl. Karr Rd.
- 2133 – fire dept. assist, 18000 bl. Elwell Rd.
- 2334 – fire dept. assist, 25000 bl. Clark Rd.
- 2342 – follow-up investigation, 25000 bl. Clark

Saturday, March 27:

- 1747 – fire dept. assist, 41000 bl. Willow Rd.
- 1821 – traffic stop, Martinsville Rd./Willow Rd.
- 1844 – traffic stop, 22000 bl. Bohn Rd.
- 1852 – suspicious circumstances, 47000 bl. Willis
- 1856 – ORV complaint, 49000 bl. Wear Rd.
- 1947 – traffic stop, Judd Rd./Martinsville Rd.

Also on this week's log are 38 patrol checks. There were four traffic stops this week.

Things to do in the Belleville area...

• **Saturday, April 3** – Everything is free and everyone is welcome at the FREE Giveaway Event starting at 10 a.m. at Belleville Free Will Baptist Church, 750 E. Huron River Dr. There will be non-perishable food, wrapped sandwiches, hot food, gently used clothing, household items, children's items, and more.

• **Saturday, April 3** – Flop E Bunny free Candy Hunt begins at 12:15 p.m. and runs until the last hunt at 1 p.m. at Victory Park at Five Points in Belleville. Free pictures with the bunny. Food, books, and Girl Scout Cookies for sale.

• **Tuesday, April 6** – Forgotten Harvest Free Food Give Away runs from 2 to 4:30 p.m., or while supplies last, every Tuesday at Van Buren Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Rd.

• **Tuesday, April 6** – Forgotten Harvest Food Give Away at noon every Tuesday until further notice at Romulus High School, 9650 S. Wayne Rd. Sponsored by Wayne County Executive Warren C. Evans and hosted by Romulus Community School District. Information: Virginia Williams, (734) 673-8396

• **Saturday, April 10, and Sunday, April 11** – Girl Scout Cookies will be sold at the Fourth Street Square or Victory Park from noon to 6 p.m.

VBT Plan

(continued from page 9)

about Clover and we want the first one out of the gate to be wonderful."

In other business at the March 24 meeting, the commission:

- Approved a lot coverage zoning ordinance text amendment and sent it on to the township board for consideration. The amendment relaxes requirements for lot coverage related to unenclosed roofed structures;

- Discussed requested variances for the side and rear setbacks to allow the construction of a 5,400-square-foot roofed structure to shelter a waste transfer area at 44145 Yost Road, east of Sheldon. The cover is made necessary as part of the issuance of a license by the State of Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE). Comments will be sent on to the Board of Zoning Appeals. If the BZA approves it, it will come back to the planning commissions; and

- Discussed the requested construction of two, five-acre crop irrigation ponds on the 180.5 acres of land on the south side of Hull Road between Sumpter Road and Martinsville Road. The applicant is KW Land Development on behalf of owner Wilkin Farm Properties. The project would involve the removal of about 192,800 cubic yards of excavated material, some or all of which will be removed from the project site, which would have to be approved by the township board. Also, the ponds would need a soil erosion permit to be issued by Wayne County Department of Public Services.

Upcoming Events

- **Monday, April 5** – Van Buren Township work/study session at 4 p.m. Also, Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.

- **Tuesday, April 6** – Van Buren Township regular meeting at 6 p.m.

- **Thursday, April 8** – Keystone Academy school board, 6 p.m. Also, Belleville Planning Commission, 7 p.m.

- **Monday, April 12** – Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m.

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PENDING

36853 CHASE, ROMULUS

IMPRESSIVE AND PAMPERED 3 Bedroom, 2 1/2 Bath Home offering 23x18 Entertainment Room with Full Bath, 90+ Furnace, Large Full Basement, Massive 2 1/2 Car Heated Garage, Deck, Preferred Area and More. \$244,900

5 BEDROOMS



44208 WILLOW, SUMPTER TWP

PLEASURES OF PRIVACY 5 Bedroom 2 Bath Country Home with Upper Floor Master Bedroom, Master Bath + Walk Out Upper Patio Overlooking the Best of Nature on 2.6 Acres. Paved Road and Rural Living at it's Finest! \$275,000

FORD LAKE CONDO



PENDING

1736 S GROVE, YPSILANTI

LAKEFRONT CAREFREE CONDO! This 2 Bedroom Condo features Great floor plan with Open Space and Light, Fireplace and Overlooking Ford Lake. Great views in a community setting. Dock rental could be \$300 yr. \$139,900

8+ ACRES



48066 WILLIS, SUMPTER

JUST LISTED. Attractive 3 Bedroom 1 Bath Brick Ranch with Large Living Room, Fireplace, Open Kitchen-Dining Area & 1685 Square Feet. On 8.8 Acres, Paved Street, 3 Car Attached Garage with City Water and City Sewer \$249,900

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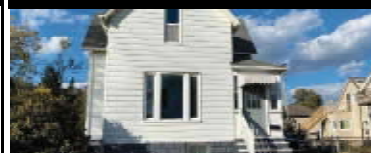
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TORREY 2.48 AC PERC & SURV \$39,000

VACANT RAWSONVILLE 2.6 AC \$95,000

JUDD 10 ACRES SUMPTER TWP \$80,000

00000 SUMPTER 243X687 3.63 AC \$40,000

COMMERCIAL CORNER OF ECORSE & WAYNE ROMULUS 4.27 ACRES \$350,000

WAYNE RD COM ZONE 1.48 AC \$149,000

SAVAGE 1 ACRE SUMPTER TWP \$45,000

25817 SUMPTER 80X529 .97 AC \$20,000

WILLIS SUMPTER 1.14 ACRES \$45,000

THREE 12+ ACRE PARCELS AT \$120,000 EACH CORNER WEAR AND HAGGERTY

VACANT LOUISA "DREAM LOT" \$70,000

VACANT VENETIAN 1/2 ACRE LOT \$60,000

HAGGERTY 1.5 AC VAN BUREN \$70,000

10 AC BUNTON YPSILANTI TWP \$155,000

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KARR RD 10 ACRES 661 FRONT \$100,000

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HURON TWP VAC CLARK 1.14 AC \$50,000

HURON TWP VAC CLARK .74 AC \$40,000

HURON TWP VAC OTTER 2.94 ACRES \$60,000

HURON TWP VAC ASH .87 ACRES \$55,000

41530 SAVAGE 30 AC VAN BUREN \$349,999



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