



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

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Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

FREE

Council tables opting out of emergency sick leave act

By Rosemary K. Oztman
 Independent Editor

At the end of an hour-long discussion during a zoom teleconference on Monday, the Belleville City Council voted unanimously to table a proposal to opt out of the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act for police officers and fire fighters.

The special meeting was called by interim city manager Tracey Schultz Kobylarz who said city attorney Steve Hitchcock told her if the city doesn't opt out of the paid leave entitlements under the federal Families First Coronavirus Response Act, it will be considered as opting in.

She said the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act poses a severe threat to the health of the public by creating critically low staffing levels for the police department and fire department.

Kobylarz said most of the municipalities in Wayne County have opted out and the only one not out is City of Dearborn.

Mayor Kerreen Conley said Northville or Northville Township are not out and neither is Dearborn Heights.

Councilman Ken Voigt said Van Buren Township Fire Chief Dave McNally didn't

know anything about it.

Mayor Conley asked about Sumpter Township and Councilman Voigt said he talked to Public Safety Director Eric Luke and he didn't know anything about it. Neither does Huron Township, Voigt added.

Under the Act, which is in effect through Dec. 31, there are six reasons employees are eligible for paid leave up to two weeks, including caring for an individual who is quarantined or seeking a medical diagnosis for COVID-19 and caring for his or her child whose school or place of care is closed or child-care provider is unavailable due to COVID-19.

If an officer or fire fighter gets COVID-19, that is covered under workman's compensation, Mayor Conley said.

Councilwoman Kelly Bates asked who would cover the city if it is short and Mayor Conley said Belleville had mutual-aid agreements, but under the pandemic the number of calls tend to decrease.

Voigt reported Director Luke said Sumpter's calls have gone down precipitously, but give it a couple of weeks and the domestic disputes will go up with people forced to be living at home together for so long.

"We have not seen a reduction in calls," said Mayor Pro Tem Jesse Marcotte, who works at the Northville Township Fire Department. "Our calls have gone up, for some reason."

Kobylarz said she talked to Van Buren Township Supervisor Kevin McNamara and he said the call level has decreased by at least 26% in Van Buren Township and the City of Belleville. Van Buren Township's emergency dispatch also serves Belleville.

Kobylarz said the city doesn't have a backup plan and would have to depend on mutual aid.

(continued on page 10)



City of Belleville to distribute free masks to residents on Friday

The City of Belleville has received several donations of disposable and reusable masks and will be making them available to city residents between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Friday, April 17.

Residents are invited to come to the Police Department at City Hall to pick up their masks.

Interim City Manager Tracy Schultz Kobylarz said a very generous donor made the masks available. She said those coming should do social distancing.

Thanks to those at Davita Kidney Care

To the editor:

First of all, I wish to thank all the doctors, nurses, and first-responders who are giving their time and lives to help others during this terrible pandemic.

I would like to honor another group, who are my heroes. They are the technicians who work at Davita Kidney Care on Belleville Road in Van Buren. I have been a patient there for one year and they are such caring women. They treat all the patients like family with loving care. Our technicians Cindy, Josie, and Jenn take care of our needs, from needle insertion to computer monitoring on the dialysis machine, to any other need we may require.

The first patients arrive at 4 a.m. The last leave after 6:30 p.m. But they still aren't done. They must clean and sterilize all the chairs and machines which they also do

between each shift of patients. They never stop except for a short lunch break.

On days they aren't at Belleville Road, they may be asked to fill in at another Davita facility. This means more hours and days to work.

We also have great nurses at Davita. Chidi, our head nurse, has help from Jessica, Sarah, and sometimes Gina. They also check on patients and assist them in and out of treatment. All patients are checked before entering the treatment room for temperature and given face masks.

These people are keeping alive patients with end-stage kidney disease and for this we are eternally grateful. We send them our love and ask them to stay safe.

Patricia Cox
 Belleville

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 This Space On The Front Page.*



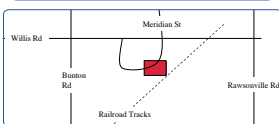
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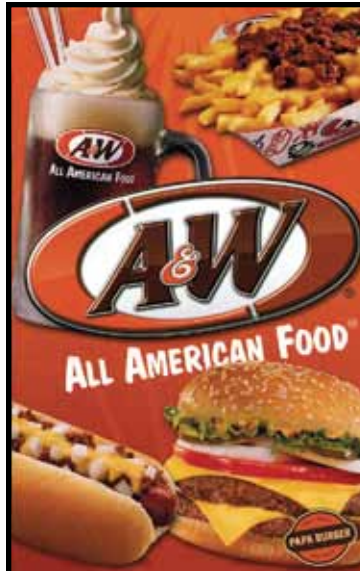
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SECOND FRONT PAGE

VB School Board hears report on teaching students at home

By Rosemary K. Oztzman
Independent Editor

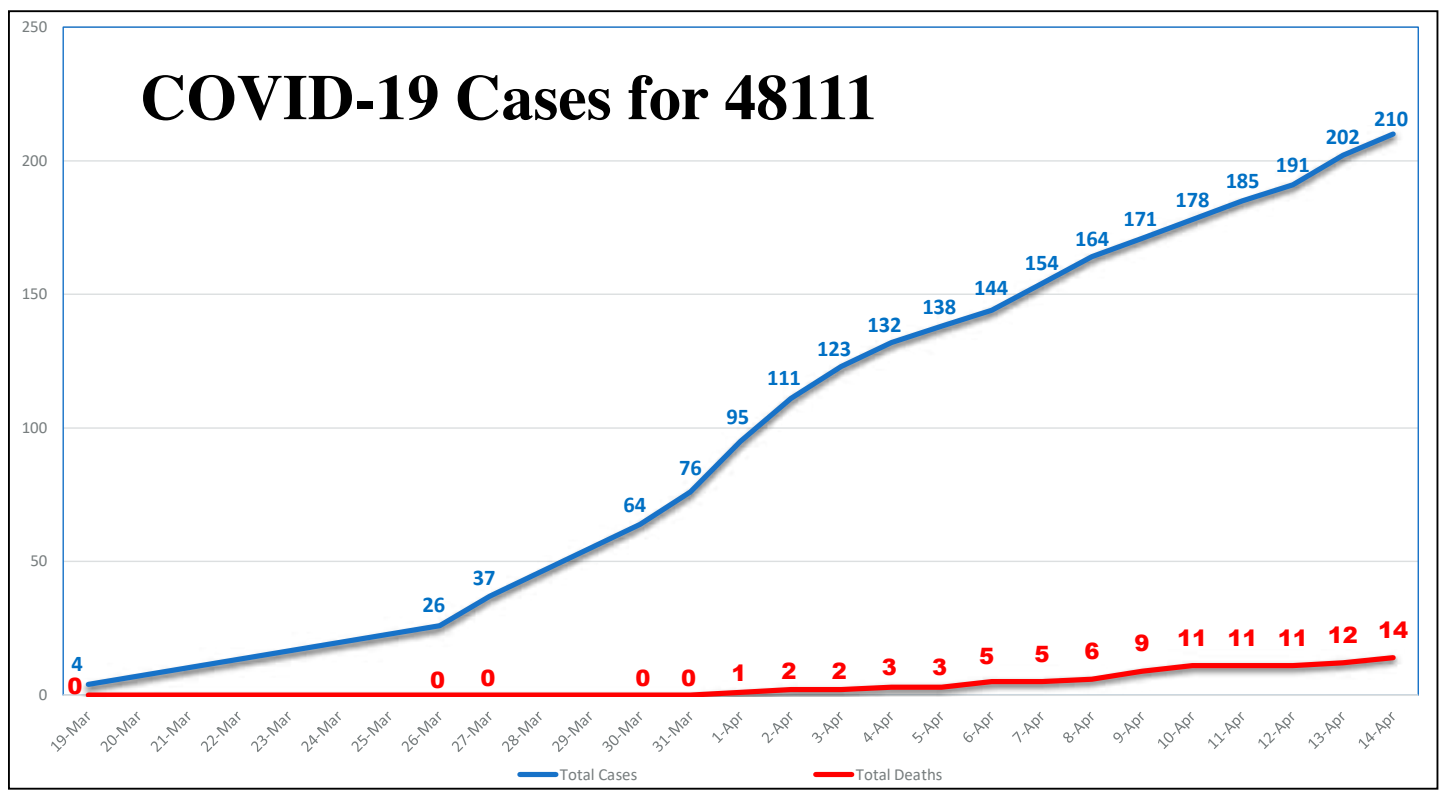
The Van Buren Public School Board of Education received a long report Monday on how the district is complying with state rules on teaching students at home so it can receive state aid.

The meeting was held by way of zoom teleconferencing, with board members in their homes or other locations. It was announced there were ten members of the audience also in on the teleconference.

Most of the two-hour meeting was spent listening to Curriculum Director Jeff Moore explain how the district was complying with the governor's order.

He said per Governor Gretchen Whitmer's Executive Order No. 2020-35, school will be closed through the end of this school year ending in June. Instructional days will not need to be made up as long as the district follows the guidelines of the order, including creating a "Continuity of Learning" plan for the students for the remainder of the year.

Director Moore said the plan, developed by a group from the district, will be submitted to the Wayne Regional



Numbers by Wayne County Health Department; chart by James Oztzman.

The COVID-19 numbers from the Wayne County Health Department for this area started with just "Belleville" rates and around the first of April started breaking them into Belleville, Van Buren Township, and Sumpter Township. The number designated "Belleville" has consistently been the highest and rising. Many people believe the total for 48111, as shown above, is the most accurate for the situation in the tri-community, since what's on a driver's license may or may not be the most accurate designation of residence. Also, the "confirmed" cases listed are only the ones that have been tested.



Independent photo by James Oztzman

There's a new, all-weather paper box in front of the *Independent* office at 152 Main St. in downtown Belleville. On Monday, Advertising Director Bob Mytych put the box in place to hold the weekly newspaper so people don't have to enter the building to get the paper. The paper will now be available at this location 24/7. When the building is open, a copy of the previous week's paper will be available just inside the door, for those that missed that edition. The *Independent* obtained a used box from its printer in Adrian and Mytych cleaned the box up and painted it.

Educational Service Agency on Friday and RESA will submit it to the state. As soon as it is approved it will be posted on the district's web page, he said.

He said the district has to make sure student learning continues to take place under a teacher or there is no funding.

He said as part of the plan they will be distributing Chromebooks to students who need them in grades K-6. If other students in the home already have a Chromebook, the students will be asked to share.

He said they also are buying "Stretch Learning" books that usually go out during the summer to keep the learning going.

He said grades 7 and 8 already have Chromebooks, but they may not have internet at home, so paper packets will be distributed.

Sean Garland said 277 Chromebooks will be handed out at Owen until all the Chromebooks are gone. Next Monday they will hand out the Chromebooks at Tyler. He stressed it is one per household and if you don't have internet, don't sign up for Chromebooks. He said the district will show families how to get low-cost internet.

Moore said the grading policy is one of the requirements for the state plan and they will send out report cards at the end of the school year. He said K-4 will get cards marked "adequate progress," "needs support," or "not evident."

Students in grades 5-8 will get "pass" or no mark. At Belleville High School it gets more complicated. He said it entails

average grade, essays or portfolios and other items, with credit or no credit for the semester. Also graduation requirements are being adjusted through the Michigan Department of Education.

He said the state wants to make sure the students are engaged and the district is offering five days of personal development for the staff. He said every child will get a phone call from their first-hour teacher to find out how they are, if they have internet, and other questions.

He said students will be taught full time in a virtual sense beginning next week with two lessons provided per week at a minimum. He said if a student is not participating, the student is referred to a committee who will look into it.

He said they foresee needing Chromebook power cords in the future, at a cost of \$5,400, and \$24,500 for the Stretch Learning books for a total of \$30,000 for this plan.

School Supt. Pete Kudlak said this is an unfortunate situation, but it's all across the nation with schools closed for the coronavirus. He said teachers like to see the gleam in a student's eye when he learns something and this virtual education is not what they signed up for. But, they will give it the "old, college try," he said.

"I think kids are tech-savvy and they'd rather be on a computer than in a classroom," said Trustee Simone Pinter. "I think they'll do well."

In other business at Monday's virtual

meeting, the board:

- Heard presentations on District Music Recognition by teacher Kathy Courter and Winter Sports Athletic Recognition by athletic director Joe Brodie;
- Approved the employment of Samantha Meeker as a special education teacher at Owen Intermediate School as of Aug. 26;
- Awarded the engineering design services contract for the roof-top unit replacement and control upgrades sinking fund project at Edgemont and Rawsonville elementary school to Integrated Design Solutions for a total award of \$27,300, as presented. Director of Plant Operations Jim Williams said this project was planned through the sinking fund, but wasn't selected and now is going through the bond fund. The project will proceed once restrictions are lifted;
- Awarded the technology design services contract also to Integrated Design Solutions for a lump sum of \$150,000 for the 2019 VBPS Bond Program. Rob Kakoczki of Plante Moran CRESA said IDS will work on the Early Childhood Center and the bond projects through all of the three bond series;
- Heard Supt. Kudlak give a report on the Enhancement Education Millage proposal renewal that is expected to be on the November ballot. The first 2-mill, 6-year millage was approved countywide in 2016 and expires in 2021. If it doesn't get on this year's ballot, it can't go on the ballot again until 2022 after it expires. It needs school

(continued on page 9)

OPINIONS

Editorial

City Council, School Board hold virtual meetings on Monday

Virtual meetings take a lot longer because every motion has to be voted on in a roll-call vote to make sure everyone is participating.

On Monday, we had two, back-to-back, virtual meetings, with most of those involved participating from their homes.

The Belleville City Council had a special meeting at 5 p.m. on a COVID-19 related business matter. Everyone on the city council was present on the screen except for Councilman Tom Fielder, who was participating by phone.

Before the meeting, Councilman Ken Voigt showed everyone how to change their backgrounds and he changed his to have the seal of the City of Belleville behind him, which brought lots of compliments. That meeting had everyone able to talk freely.

In the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education virtual meeting at 7:30 p.m., Trustee Kelly Owen was frozen in place in her position on the screen a few times. But, former board president Keith Johnston was frozen in place a good deal of the time and was unable to voice a vote on one motion. Board members agreed Johnston would have agreed with the motion and went on with the meeting.

Not a good idea. Trustee Johnston was a good sport about it and didn't complain. But, he was there and he should have been given a chance to cast his ballot, no matter the subject. Got to fix that before the next virtual meeting.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

A reader called and said he got a call from someone asking for his bank account information so he could get his check from the IRS. He knew it was a scam and did not provide any personal information. He wanted our readers to be aware there are scam calls.

One of the Governor's recent orders is no motorized boats on Michigan waters. Wonder how that's going to go on Belleville Lake. We can't have plants and seeds, home improvements, gardening supplies, golf, and heading to your cottage up north. Dear me.

You'll notice that our local police departments have stopped doing traffic stops during the pandemic. I usually count them up and post them at the end of each dispatch log, but I don't have anything to count for the past few weeks.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services recorded 5,929 deaths in March 2020. It also reported the average for March between 2015 and 2019 has been 8,542 deaths.

Many communities report that traffic crashes are down during the coronavirus mitigation, with crime down and 911 calls down.

We received an update from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District, on the Luckey, Ohio FUSRAP cleanup that has been sending truckloads of contaminated soil to the hazardous waste landfill on the I-94 North Service Drive in Van Buren Township.

...By Rosemary K. Otzman



FUSRAP stands for "Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program" and this site was used by the Atomic Energy Commission between 1949 and 1958 and it was contaminated with beryllium, uranium, lead, radium, and other substances.

The update says 30% of site excavation is complete as of March 27 and there have been 3,813 truckloads of soil – 63,924 tons – brought to VBT for disposal.

A new bit of news is that starting this week they have to transport 1,537,209 gallons of contaminated water offsite that will be treated by the City of Toledo public-owned sewer treatment works. There was too much contaminated water for treatment on site, so some of it had to be transported off site.

The U.S. Census Bureau reports that as of Saturday, the following percentages of residents had self-responded to the 2020 Census.

The State of Michigan as a whole had a response rate of 54.5%, and so did the City of Belleville, 54.5%. Sumpter Township had a response rate of 45.4% and Van Buren Township had a response rate of 54.9%.

The ones who haven't responded so far will be contacted further by the Census Bureau, so it can get a real count.

The deadline for filing for 34th District Court Judge and all the township elective positions in Sumpter and Van Buren is 4 p.m., April 21.

Those filing for district court judge, as of Tuesday noon, are: Robert P. Coutts, who filed a petition with 692 signatures on March 19; Lisa Martin, who filed a petition with 423 signatures on March 3; and incumbent David M. Parrott, who filed an affidavit on Nov. 25.

All three candidates live in Van Buren Township.

For the Van Buren Township offices, all seven incumbents have filed for reelection to their current offices: Supervisor Kevin McNamara, Treasurer Sherry Budd, Clerk Leon Wright, and Trustees Sherry Frazier, Kevin Martin, Reggie Miller, and Paul White. No one else has filed, so far.

In Sumpter Township, these incumbents have filed for reelection as of noon Tuesday: Supervisor John Morgan, Clerk Esther Hurst, and Trustees Matt Oddy, Don LaPorte, Don Swinson, and Tim Rush. Others filing, so far, are Sherry Olds and Lesa Foster, both for clerk.

We'll see what the next week brings.

We're real proud of our refurbished paper box in front of our office building at 152 Main St. in downtown Belleville. People can now come in the middle of the night, if they like, to get the latest Independent. Thanks to Bob Mytych for all his work to make it look so spiffy.



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Letters

Thanks to DiPietro & Day for the tulips

To the editor:

On Saturday morning, April 11, around 10:30 a.m., my wife (Erin Gensterblum) and I went to the CVS on Belleville Road. On our way back home through the village around 11:15 a.m., we crossed the bridge and passed DiPietro & Day PC on Main Street.

She saw a sign which read, "FREE TULIPS." We circled back to the sign. There was a pick-up truck with beautiful pots of tulips! There was a man, who kept his distance, but said that he wanted to spread Easter cheer to the community. I asked him his name. He pointed with his thumb over his shoulder and said his name was on the building!

I wanted to share this with the *Belleville-Area Independent* and to thank DiPietro & Day PC for their kindness, their generosity, and for spreading holiday cheer!

Steven Gensterblum
Van Buren Township

Stop the nonsense, don't be so patronizing

To the editor:

My husband of 61 years came home Friday with the copy of the *Independent* in hand. Scanning the front page, I was encouraged to see the township had received a \$20,000 grant from the United Way as part of a COVID Emergency Response Grant.

That sounds nice, I thought, until I read it. I agree, there are probably "44%" of families struggling with meeting their basic needs, but then reading more it shocked me to read that only \$5,000 of this grant was going to them and that \$15,000 was going to "feed senior citizens."

My blood pressure went up as I continued to read. Don't the elected officials know that even the most "vulnerable" is not losing a dime in this plague and in fact this week each senior will receive \$1,200 additional in their account.

It certainly isn't fun to be homebound at this period in time, but don't be patronizing. It is dangerous for seniors to go out, especially, when they are the ones that mob the stores and ran them out of a lot of products by their over-buying. (I prefer to go later in the day with the normal people.)

There are seniors out there that would be better served by a call from someone asking if they need anything. They would love to have a shopper bring them things that they truly need and they could pay for.

Most seniors know what toiletries they prefer (and don't need) and certainly they don't need the liquid nutrition that is mostly sugar anyway. This is a critical time for our country and we seniors can help dig it out. We were raised during the war and

know what "doing without" is.

Our kids and grandkids need to get back to work as quickly as possible and will need a hand up and not a hand out. Our public officials need to set examples by not spending to get applause, but spending wisely. While they are not in the office, perhaps they can call some of the citizens to find out what they truly need.

JoAnn Sech Kotlarczyk
Van Buren Township

Thanks to all who are helping at this time

To the Editor and Readers:

Easter Services were undisturbed by coronavirus. Church services were held via electronic equipment. Because the virus is very contagious, people were asked to shelter within their houses. This indeed changed the order of Easter but did not take away the meaning.

As I made a promise to rally against bullying and to promote a kinder and gentler world, the world was captured by coronavirus. It took a virus to bring out the kindness and giving back to others -- gratitude to the medical staffs, first responders and so many others who sometimes we don't appreciate what it takes to run a hospital, nursing home, fire and police departments. These people, plus many others, give 100% service to their professions.

Companies and individuals donated needed equipment to help patients breathe. Hats off to these who stepped up to the situation. This writer believes that the U.S.A. should return to manufacturing much-needed medical equipment. I think our companies have the expertise to deliver first-rate products; we have high quality control and have workers who are proud of their work.

The time has come to bring quality and jobs back to the U.S.A.

Marian Caldwell
Ypsilanti/Belleville

P.S There are so many other people who help every day, but it would take a page to name all. So, you know who you are and I THANK YOU, THANK YOU.

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Vic and Joan, Van Buren Township

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More Letters

Candidate filing coming by mail to township

To the editor and the people of Sumpter Township:

I hope everyone is staying safe during this difficult event. It is important for us all to take the recommended steps to keep each other healthy. My wife and I are doing okay and we have been very mindful to respect the precautionary guidelines. I appreciate the offering for help and assistance, but it is important that we allow distance in order to keep each other safe from unseen hazards. Those who are charged with the responsibility to handle these ordeals will be the ones to carry most of the weight. I never thought I would be thanking employees of grocery stores, restaurants, deliveries, etc. for their service. These are really an unusual times. Thank you to everyone who continues to perform their duties and care for others.

Our communities and municipalities were not prepared for a global health crisis. This brings forward a very important objective for our local leaders. If elected, I will prioritize in the formulation of a broad relief plan that can be implemented in case of any emergency that affects the public. We didn't expect the way this all unfolded, and we are still learning. We have to be prepared, but not only for this sort of event, because we can never know what circumstance may bring us hardship in the future. The current administration has been too complacent for too long. They have not been making the same progress as a new administration would in order to prove their efficacy to the public.

I have no objections over Mary Ban's letter on behalf of Karen Armatis. I have heard Mrs. Ban served as a nurse for many years, and I have great respect for her. She was against the landfill, which was a deal I regard with suspicion. Very few people were in support of a landfill in our beautiful township. That is not something I would have supported, either. Now that it has been here, it is used to alleviate the very stressed budget. My goal is to cut expenses, which are heavily loaded into legal and attorney's fees, unnecessary departmental expenses, waste and abuse, and more than I can list here. By carefully budgeting our expenses, we should have no problem providing for our seniors and firefighters without added expense to residents. We don't have to go to the sky to get the pie, we can make it right here in Sumpter Township, and there is enough pie to go around for everybody.

I will be turning my nominating petition and affidavit in to deputy clerk Anthony Burdick by mail per his request. I know that is not the ordinary process for submitting a candidate application, so please, Mr. Burdick, don't make my application disappear.

Thank you,
Nelson S. Po
Sumpter Township

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

Grieving during the COVID-19 pandemic

To the community:

These are unprecedented times. As a nation we are fearful and anxious. We may be asking: Will this virus strike us or any of our loved ones? How long will we be impacted by it? When will we be able to go back to work? Will we still have a job after all of this?

But we may also be asking: Will I be able to see my loved one again before they die? A friend / relative / loved one has died. How can I grieve when there isn't a visitation or funeral that I can attend? A friend / relative / loved one died in the past. Why does my grief feel so much worse now than it did only a few weeks ago?

As a Grief Counselor, I cannot answer the

questions from the first list, but can offer some suggestions that might be helpful with regards to the second list. The reality is that NO, with the current quarantine in place, we might not be able to see our loved one before they die, but the truth of the matter is that in life, we always run that risk. Our loved ones leave for work each normal day without an absolute guarantee that they will return home alive. We say goodbye to our parents or children after a visit not knowing with absolute certainty that we will see them again. Yes, it is unfair that due to this virus, our loved ones might not live and we might not be able to see them again, but we can love them. We can still speak to them on the phone. We can still write to them, and we can still pray for them.

The next question is about grieving and paying our respects when there isn't a visitation or funeral that we can attend. This is another unfortunate reality of the world we are currently living in. When state regulations restrict gatherings to 10 people at a time,

which makes it impossible to have a traditional gathering, our hearts and minds miss out on a very important step in the process of grieving and mourning. The act of gathering together helps us to begin the process of accepting the permanence of the death. When we are unable to gather, we must begin that process alone. It might help to rely upon photos of the deceased or on talking with others (via phone or internet) to tell stories about the deceased. Once the restrictions have been lifted, consider gathering as a group to celebrate the life of the deceased.

Finally, what if your loss happened before this pandemic occurred, why might you be feeling the grief more intensely now than in weeks past? This can be for many reasons. The biggest one that I have seen recently has occurred after someone has lost a spouse. When there was a crisis, they had their spouse with them to help make sense out of the chaos. Without their spouse, they are left to figure

(continued on page 7)

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Includes arrangement conference, local transportation, crematory, cremation container, website obituary and video tribute.



Obituaries



George Stencil

GEORGE STENCIL
 (April 26, 1965 – April 6, 2020)
 George Stencil, age 54, of Belleville, passed away suddenly on Monday, April 6, 2020. Everybody who knew George loved him, he was extremely easy to get along with and had a sense of humor that was unmatched. His grandchildren were his world and he was excited to have a 4th one on the way. George loved attending Lions games with people he loved and spending as much time with his family as he could. George is preceded in death by mother Eileen and father John. He is survived by wife, Cathy Stencil; children Rebecca Johnson, Amanda (Matt) Rue, Anthony (Kathleen) Briones; siblings Kathleen, (James) Utley, Michael (Michelle) Stencil, Steven (Krista) Stencil, Paul (Kathleen) Stencil; grandchildren Scott Johnson, Brandon Johnson; Lillian Briones and many nieces and nephews. His cremation took place at "The Witness Crematory" located inside of Michigan Memorial Funeral Home.



Michael Scott Reiter

MICHAEL SCOTT REITER
 (June 29, 1987 – April 8, 2020)
 Michael Scott Reiter, age 32, Belleville resident, passed away Wednesday, April 8, 2020. He was born June 29, 1987 in Dearborn, MI, son of John & Cindy Reiter. He graduated from Belleville High School class of 2005. He went to Washtenaw Community College and studied welding and was an independent welder. He loved the outdoors, hunting waterfowl, bonfires and was an avid golfer. Mike is survived by his parents John & Cindy Reiter of Van Buren Township, MI, grandparents Richard and Jo Ann Darin, brother Christopher (Sara) Reiter of Monroe, MI, two nieces Hannah & Morgan Reiter, also numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and friends. He was preceded in death by his grandparents Gloria & Sonny Reiter. Dignified cremation rites have been accorded. Arrangements by David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville, MI. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations to American Brain Tumor Association at <https://www.abta.org/ways-to-donate/> would be greatly appreciated. www.davidcbrownfh.com



Warren Gaylord Butzin

WARREN GAYLORD BUTZIN
 (June 27, 1957 – April 8, 2020)
 Warren Gaylord Butzin, age 62, of Ypsilanti, MI, died unexpectedly on Wednesday, April 8, 2020, at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Ypsilanti, MI. He was born June 27, 1957 in Superior Township, MI, the son of Leonard W. and Marion Lucille (Moncrieff) Butzin. He graduated from Lincoln Consolidated High School, Ypsilanti, Class of 1975. After graduation, he married Paula Rae Sheldon, and they celebrated their 43rd wedding anniversary on March 12th of this year. He had many jobs in his early years -- working for Ray Schultz Farms, Pinter's Flowerland, Ford Motor Company. Afterward, he became joint owner of Butzin Lumber & Supply in Belleville from 1979 through 2012. Warren and Paula regularly attended Lincoln United Methodist Church. Warren is survived by his wife Paula; children: Lindsey Marie Butzin (Paul Keehl) and Christopher Ryan Butzin (Brianna); grandchildren: Kash Keehl, Maksim Butzin and Paisley Butzin; sister Tarriann Carlton (John Pastorius) and brother Micheal Walter Butzin (Susan), also many extended family and friends. He was predeceased by his parents and parents-in-law Fred and Alice Sheldon. Private family visitation has been held due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Interment was in Alban Cemetery, Ypsilanti Township, MI. Arrangements by David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville, MI. Memorials can be made to Lincoln United Methodist Church or the family to be used as the family wishes. www.davidcbrownfh.com

More Letters

(continued from page 6)

things out on their own. This is reminiscent of shortly after the death, so it brings back those thoughts and that pain.

If you are facing the death of a loved one and are feeling uneasy because you cannot visit them, know that you are not alone. If you have recently experienced the death of a loved one and are struggling, know that you are not alone. If you are struggling right now even though your loved one died some time ago, know that you are not alone.

The Brown Family Center is owned and operated by the David C. Brown Funeral Home as a service to anyone in the Greater Belleville Community. We provide no-cost Grief Support to anyone that is hurting following the death of someone important to them. Please contact Patricia Monroe at the Brown Family Center to schedule a time to talk. You can reach Patricia by phone at (734) 697-5090 or by email at BrownGriefCare@att.net.

Patricia Monroe, Brown Family Center
 Belleville

More Obituaries on page 8

Obituaries



Tracy Hugh Cook

TRACY HUGH COOK

(October 1, 1939 – April 7, 2020)

Tracy Hugh Cook, age 80, long-time resident of Belleville, MI, passed away Tuesday, April 7, 2020 at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Ypsilanti, MI. He was born October 1, 1939 in Vanleer, Tennessee, son of Hugh Tracy & Roberta Cook. Tracy retired from United Airlines after 38 years of loyal service as a baggage handler. He was a former member of Milan Baptist Church. In his younger years, he was an avid bowler and golfer. Besides his family, his passion was youth sports. He dedicated many decades to Van Buren Little League and football.

Mr. Cook is survived by his loving wife of nearly 62 years, Violet Marie (Smith) Cook; three children: Pamela (Jeff) Hargan of Jackson, MI, Tracy A. (Lisa) Cook of New Boston, MI and Tony Cook of Romulus, MI; nine grandchildren: Travis, Jeff, Jamie, Travis, Cicely, Elizabeth, Jimmy, Austyn and Jordan; three siblings Neal Cook, Geraldine "Gay" Holshoe, and Patrick (Susan) Cook. Tracy is also survived by numerous great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, extended family and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, step-mother Dorothy, also a sister Martha Cook.

Private family services were held. Interment was in Tyler Street Cemetery, Van Buren Township, MI. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Forgotten Harvest or St. Jude.

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Ethel Faye Simpkins

ETHEL FAYE SIMPKINS

(September 13, 1939 – April 9, 2020)

Ethel Faye Simpkins, age 80, of Van Buren Township, MI, passed away peacefully Thursday, April 9, 2020 at her daughter's home. She was born September 13, 1939 in Vincennes, Indiana, the third child of seven to Lloyd Andrew & Lola Oval (Stevens) Devine. She retired from the Oakwood Hospital System where she worked as a Nurse Aid and as a Radiology Assistant. She will be remembered for her kindness, her beautiful smile, her laughter and her great advice. Her family was truly her greatest love. She enjoyed camping and crafting. Her projects ranged from crochet to the complicated art of stained glass. She also enjoyed Facebook and texting.

Mrs. Simpkins is survived by daughter Linda (Jim) Bailey of Willis, MI; two sons: Paul (Leona) Simpkins of Willis, MI and Jerry (Cheri) Simpkins of Calumet, MI; two grandchildren: Brandon Craiger and Shyla (Chris) Henderson; also five great-grandchildren: Julian Henderson, Calvin Craiger, Everly Henderson, Carley Craiger, and Caden Henderson. Ethel was preceded in death by her parents, five of her siblings and her beloved husband Paul W. Simpkins on July 25, 2010.

Dignified cremation rites have been accorded. Arrangements by David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville, MI.

Memorial contributions may be made to support research specific to chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). A specific organization/institution has not been chosen yet.

Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a very small chapel service was held on Saturday, April 11, 2020 for immediate family. A celebration of her life will be held at a later date.



Theodore William Klein



THEODORE WILLIAM KLEIN

(November 16, 1927 – April 7, 2020)

Theodore William Klein, age 92, of Wayne, MI, formerly of Belleville, MI, died Tuesday, April 7, 2020 at Regency at Canton. He was born November 16, 1927 in Detroit, MI, son of Theodore & Minnie (DeVergilio) Klein. He proudly served his country in the U.S. Coast Guard. He was a member of Fair Haven Baptist Church and the National Rifle Association.

Theodore is survived by three children: Susan (Richard) Bevens of Saline, MI, April Gehring of Wyoming and Mark (Nancy) Klein of Milan, MI; six grandchildren: Heather (Brent) Jurgensen of Wyoming, Ryan (Katie) Gehring of Colorado, Nathan Bevens of Carson City, MI, Rebekah (Charles) Beal of Saline, MI, Paul Klein of Milan, MI and Kate Conley of Milan, MI; seven great-grandchildren: Paisley, Royce, Piper, Marlee, Joshua, Seth and Meghan; siblings: Shirley Wake of Pinehurst, North Carolina, Walter Klein of Whitmore Lake, MI and Ronald Klein of Westland, MI; also many extended family and friends. Sadly, he was preceded in death by his wife Judith Carole (Wininger) Klein on November 27, 2019, daughter Heidi (d.1979) and long-time cat, "Buddy" (d.2019).

Private visitation and funeral services were held. Interment was in Soop Cemetery, Van Buren Township, MI.

In lieu of flowers, please consider memorial contributions to Fair Haven Baptist Church.

www.davidebrownfh.com

More Letters

'It is Written' launches virtual online event

To the editor:

"It is Written," known for the tenth longest-running television series by the same name, is conducting a virtual, online event starting April 17 entitled *Hope Awakens*. Livestreamed from Collegedale, Tennessee, in English, Spanish, and American Sign Language, this event will share hope especially needed in this time of uncertainty.

Presented by world-wide speaker and "It is Written" host, Pastor John Bradshaw, *Hope Awakens* will present the prophetic message of the Bible while speaking to hearts burdened by anxiety, fear, and uncertainty.

The interactive online meetings begin April 17 at 7 p.m. EDT with additional viewing opportunities for other time zones. Individuals who register will be directed to a mobile app and online viewing platform. Individuals are encouraged to sign up for the series at hopeawakens.com.

Nathaniel Oregon, Pastor
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VBT planners discuss change in Commercial zoning ordinance

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

At its regular meeting on March 11, Van Buren Township Planning Commission members briefly discussed proposed zoning amendments to Local Commercial zoning regulations.

Although the wording in the present zoning ordinance is standing in the way of the Hampton Manor 84-bed assisted-care facility proposed for the southeast corner of Morton Taylor and Tyler roads, Vidya Krishnan of McKenna, the township's planning consultant, said this change is not for this project.

The several parcels proposed for the project are owned by Walter and Joyce Rochowiak, active community members. Walt Rochowiak is a former township board member and presently serves on the Water and Sewer Commission. Joyce Rochowiak serves on the Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority. Together they run the Garden Fantasy business from their home, across the street from the property in question.

"Recently while working on other ordinance amendments, it came to our attention that the C (Local Commercial) district has a footnote that regulates the size of any single-use building," Krishnan said.

"Typically, the size of a development in most districts is dictated by required setbacks, greenbelts, parking, storm water detention and other site-design standards in the ordinance that must be met.

"The C district, however, has a limitation on the maximum building size for a single use. To our knowledge no other zoning district limits the principal-use building size. Building size limitations are only used to differentiate warehouses from distribution centers, accessory uses within a large industrial, or office-technology development, etc.

"The intent behind this limitation in the C district was to restrict the traffic generated from any *single commercial use*. *This standard was not intended for residential type uses in the commercial district.* (emphasis by Krishnan)

"The background and the intent was determined upon conversation with the planner who worked on the recent complete zoning ordinance update," she wrote in a memo to the commission.

"The C district currently allows for sit-down restaurants strip commercial buildings, professional medical and dental offices by right. These uses typically occupy a smaller footprint building but generate a significant amount of traffic and road trips.

"To address any concerns that the proposed amendment will result in an increase in traffic generated on a C parcel, we have provided an addendum showing trips generated by some of the uses allowable in the C district per the latest Institute of Traffic Engineers manual.

"Based on the trips generated by commercial uses, the building size limitation for a commercial use is well-placed. However, such a limitation for a residential use is not practical or reasonable," she said.

"The current C district regulations have been part of the zoning ordinance for over a decade. The township zoning map has a handful of parcels zoned C and no new project has been reviewed on any of these parcels in a very long time. Therefore, when the ordinance was reviewed and updated a few years ago, the provision limiting building size was not scrutinized.

"The intent of the amendment at this time is not to address a specific project, but to correct a requirement of the ordinance that is too generalized and inappropriate for general application," she said.

"Typically when a new ordinance is adopted, we review the existing ordinance to check for any points of conflict and correct them. However, with a zoning ordinance spanning 348 pages, an occasional point of conflict is overlooked."

She attached a proposed zoning ordinance update to be considered.

Matthew Best, director of public service, said this is the first step in the process of deciding what to do about the ordinance.

He said the planning commission would take no action today, but where there are gaps in information it should be pointed out and staff will find the information.

A member of the audience, who is a neighbor opposed to the proposed assisted-care project, asked if after this discussion that evening, could this result in a change of the ordinance.

Chairperson Carol Thompson said yes, it could work its way to an amendment.

Krishnan said if the planning commission wants to change the ordinance, they will set a public hearing and the notice will be published in the *Belleville-Area*

Independent, the newspaper of record.

Chairperson Thompson said almost every time they do a change, something comes up and they have to take another look. She said it is not the staff's fault. She said there are hundreds of pages in the ordinance and they don't notice a problem until someone comes in and wants to do something.

"We cannot always plan for every eventuality," Krishnan said.

"Oh, I need to fix this so the project can go through. It's not that," Krishnan said.

School Board

(continued from page 3)

districts in Wayne County with more than 50% of the students to approve putting it on the county ballot and it will be on the agenda of the next school board meeting for Van Buren to decide. He said Detroit schools have 30% of the students and if they approve going for the millage, only 17% more is needed. He said VBPS will lose about \$300 per student if the millage is not renewed. The district received \$1.6 million in the past. He said charter schools are now eligible for the millage, as well, so the district's per-student amount will be down slightly from the current \$360;

• Heard Human Resources Director Abdul Madyun announce virtual doctor visits have been added to the insurance plan, tests for COVID-19 are free, and open enrollment will be set for the insurance;

• Heard board president Amy Pearce say the cell phones have been lifelines for students to keep in contact with their friends and she is grateful for that. She said after this is over parents can start yelling at the students again for being on the phone so much; and

• Heard Kudlak describe the food distribution project on Tuesdays and Thursdays praising the many people who have volunteered. He said a charter school parent said their school sent their students over to Van Buren for free food. Kudlak said if the charter schools don't feed them, they don't get their money. "We don't mind feeding them because we get reimbursed," Kudlak said.



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City Council

(continued from page 1)

Belleville Police Chief Dave Robinson said the first week on the job he put together a plan. He said if his department of seven officers is down four, they would go to 12-hour shifts.

“If we get down to two officers, I’ve talked to Sumpter Township and Van Buren Township and the State Police and they would supplement us,” he said.

He said, actually, Monday was the first day all seven Belleville officers were on duty. He said previously one was off on sick leave and one was quarantined after traveling overseas.

Councilwoman Bates said the Family and Medical Leave Act has been expanded to include COVID-19.

At this point, Councilman Tom Fielder made the motion to approve opting out and Mayor Pro Tem Marcotte supported. Fielder said this was so the motion could be discussed.

Marcotte said he was not in favor of voting on this. He said it would discourage employees from taking care of a family member.

“We don’t have a lot of people and a contingency plan is better,” he said, adding opting out is asking a staff member to come to work if a family member is infected and then infect the rest of the staff.

“It’s important the staff knows we support them,” Marcotte said.

“The optics aren’t the greatest,” Voigt said. “It makes us look like we don’t support them.”

He said this wouldn’t affect a paid-on-call fire department much.

Voigt said if the city opts out, employees couldn’t get the 80 hours of pay through the Act, but could still get the FMLA (Family and Medical Leave Act) pay on their own.

“It depends on what bucket it’s coming from,” Conley said.

“Is action required at this moment?” Fielder asked.

“According to Mr. Hitchcock, if we don’t act, we’re in,” Kobylarz said.

Voigt asked if they could wait and Kobylarz said, “If we wait until some person needs action ... It’s better to act on it before waiting until somebody needs it.”

Marcotte said that the council has talked

a lot about retention of officers and the council is at a point of not having offered hazard pay and this current issue is a net negative for retention.

Chief Robinson said his department has all protocols and plans in place and being in the same room as a COVID-19 positive doesn’t mean you can just go into quarantine. He said if you start having symptoms, you contact the hospital and follow their directions that this person needs to be quarantined.

“They could take off and I can’t afford to have two officers off for the next two weeks,” Chief Robinson said.

Fire Chief Brian Loranger asked if there wasn’t a rule that officers can’t take off for the Strawberry Festival and he was told it’s in their bargaining agreement.

“Can’t we do that?” he asked.

“No,” said Chief Robinson. He said he had one officer on sick leave and one in quarantine from a trip and he finally has those two back. He said it was difficult to have double coverage from 8 to 4 and it was hard on the officers.

“I’d like more information on this,” Voigt said. “I’d be in favor of tabling... I don’t have a problem with opting out as long as we have a way of helping officers with COVID-19.”

Marcotte said there are gray areas and he would rather not vote that evening and wait to see if they can work out something.

Chief Loranger said the fire department has a lost-wage rider on its insurance and “a couple of times it has gone unpaid and I would like to see that [coverage] continue.”

Kobylarz said the city has Provident Insurance with Burnam Flower and she just was able to get a copy of it.

Chief Robinson said sick duty is under worker’s comp even though the officer could have got infected on the job or in the grocery store on the way home.

“They need to know they’re taken care of if anything happens,” Mayor Conley said.

Kobylarz pointed to No. 5 on the Employee Rights list that said employees are entitled to two weeks off with pay in case the child-care center is closed and every one with a child would be affected because child-care centers are closed.

Mayor Conley said it affects all children under 18 and she thinks some should be able to take care of themselves at that age.

“We have several employees with children under the age of 18,” Kobylarz said.

Chief Loranger said there is only one on his department that has children under the age of 18.

“I have no problem opting out as long as we have some kind of plan to cover these folks,” Voigt said.

“If they are told by a doctor to quarantine, they’re covered,” Chief Robinson said.

Marcotte said the employee would have to choose whether to take care of the family or to get paid and everyone has bills to pay. If they come to work, they expose everyone, he said, noting some are asymptomatic while carrying the virus.

Chief Loranger said he was playing the devil’s advocate in pointing out fire fighters never get workman’s comp. Councilwoman Kelly Bates said the governor’s executive order says now it must cover that.

“It’s different when you’re in the line of duty,” said Mayor Conley. “You’re made whole.”

Marcotte said if the employees are made whole then the leave for family members could have a written agreement. He said he wouldn’t want all seven police officers leaving. Marcotte noted the executive order covers part-time fire fighters.

Chief Robinson said he has talked to all members of the police department and, “All members of the police department understand it. It’s crystal clear on how anybody would be taken care of.”

Mayor Conley said she wants to make sure they don’t have to worry about that and there should be something in writing to tell that to the groups.

Voigt asked how long it takes to get workman’s compensation and Mayor Conley said it usually isn’t long and the employee doesn’t go without being paid.

“That’s my experience as well,” Kobylarz

said, adding, “What I’m hearing is that opting out is acceptable and you prefer we meet with the union to negotiate No. 4 and 5” on the Employee Rights list.

Voigt noted that the Department of Public Works employees also are essential personnel and should be included.

Councilman Fielder said there should be a document or letter that covers these issues and it be shared with all departments.

It could be a letter of agreement, Mayor Conley said. Or, a memorandum of understanding, Fielder said.

Kobylarz said it could say the city is paying for their workman’s compensation. She said the Employee Rights information was sent to all employees and is posted in the building.

Fielder said the city has to make sure it has adequate staff and to do everything it can to make the employees whole.

The previous motion to approve was amended to “table” the issue and that was seconded, and passed. The decision on opting out was put off until next Monday’s meeting when a memorandum of understanding would be available.

‘A Nightmare on Haunted Hill’ streaming on line without charge

The movie “A Nightmare on Haunted Hill” is streaming on line for families who have to Stay Home, Stay Safe. Families are invited to watch it without charge. The movie is a funny, scary ghost story filmed on location in Sumpter Township on an old Indian reservation. It is based on a true story.

See www.anightmareonhauntedhill.com

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Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice



VAN BUREN

CHARTER TOWNSHIP

For Immediate Release

Contact: Alysha Albrecht & Ryan Nichols
Phone: (734) 740-0547
Email: Communications@vanburen-mi.org
Website: vanburen-mi.org

Van Buren Township CLOSED Until April 30 & All Events Canceled Until July 5

VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP, Mich., In response to Governor Whitmer's Executive Order 2020-42 (COVID-19) to extend the "Stay Home, Stay Safe" order, all Township Administration Offices will remain closed until April 30, 2020.

All Township events have been canceled until July 5. This includes fireworks, the first session Summer Camp and R.E.A.L summer jobs program. Refunds will be issued for those who have registered for camp. The Senior Center will continue with the emergency foods program such as Meals on Wheels, but will remain closed for senior activities.

Emergency Services (Police, Fire & Dispatch) will remain open. Van Buren Township will continue to work remotely. For emergencies, such as a water main breaks, please contact the Van Buren Township Dispatch at 734-699-8930. For non-emergencies, government services and/or general questions (building permits, Focus Hope, etc.) please call 734-699-8910 and leave a message. A staff member will return your call in a timely manner.

We're encouraging residents to pay taxes and water bills online or use the Drop Box:

- Tax and utility payments via debit, credit card or Echeck at <https://bsaonline.com/Home/WelcomePage>
- Sign up for automated debit for your utility bill payments with this form: https://vanburen-mi.org/Forms/Automatic_Water_Bill_Payment.pdf
- Drop box in front of Township Hall - checked daily (checks only please)
- Drop box located in Public Safety Lobby - checked daily
- Mail in personal checks and/or money orders to: 46425 Tyler Rd.

Please note, when paying online you will be charged a processing fee.

Waste Management has postponed all Yard Waste & Bulk Pick Up until further notice. They're running their daily operations with essential staff only to make sure that trash and recycling are operating as scheduled.

For Police and Fire reports, please submit a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request available on the Township website: <https://vanburen-mi.org/officials/clerk/>. The FOIA request form can also be emailed and/or faxed to you directly by contacting the Records Office at (734) 699-8939 or by emailing Tina Harman at tharman@vanburenmi.org. When sending email requests, please write FOIA Request in the subject line.

Copies of traffic crash reports can be obtained on the CLEMIS website: www.clemis.org. You will need to know your report number in order to obtain a copy of the report. These reports can also be obtained by submitting a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request form. If you do not know your report number, please contact the Records Office at (734) 699-8939.

Due to records window closure at this time, local background checks will not be done at the window. You can visit the State of Michigan website: www.michigan.gov to obtain an ICHAT background check through the State of Michigan.

The Township is committed to supporting our at risk populations. Our website has a list of local resources available to assist our residents seeking food, shelter, utility assistance, mental health resources, un-employment information, small business loans, grants and more. For more information visit <http://vanburen-mi.org/>.

We've partnered with the Van Buren DDA and Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce to create a COVID-19 Business Directory. Visit <https://vanburendda.com/> to see which businesses are open as essential services. If you're a business that has remained open please visit the website and fill out the form that only takes three minutes.

We're closely following the COVID-19 situations and will update our staff and residents as new information is reported. Thank you for your patience and understanding. Please Stay Home and Stay Safe.

To view the Governor's Executive Order please click the link below:
https://www.michigan.gov/whitmer/0,9309,7-387-90499_90705-525182-,00.html

INDEPENDENT CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE

FOOD GRADE BARRELS – Various sizes & styles. Inventory & pictures at www.mattsbarels.com Call/text (734) 474-5981. Located in Willis. 05/07

4 TIRES, 235/65R18. Used for 90 miles. \$325 OBO. (734) 697-4947 04/23

ONE TO 85 ACRES of vacant recreational land for sale. Huron School District. (734) 652-7601 04/30

12 GAUGE MOSSBERG PUMP ACTION SHOTGUN. Great for hunting or personal home protection. \$750 OBO. (734) 461-9699 04/30

VEHICLE FOR SALE

2009 PONTIAC VIBE GT. Runs great. \$2,650 OBO. (734) 695-0819 04/16

1999 FORD ESCORT ZX2 COUPE. Automatic. Excellent running condition. Low miles. \$1,600. (734) 695-0819 04/16

2010 ESCAPE LIMITED. Non-smoking car. Like new. New tires, struts & brakes. 98,000 miles. In Carleton. \$7,500. (734) 818-6068 04/30

OLD SCHOOL 1992 FORD RANGER XLT Pickup w/truck cap. Auto, 6 cyl., w/ power. No rust. Very low miles. \$2,750 OBO. (734) 695-0819 04/30

WANTED

WANTED – ANY SIZE MEN'S JEANS for the homeless. Please drop off at Bladez's 601 E. Huron River Drive. (734) 697-5600 TFN

WANTED – SMALL CONTAINERS of shampoo, toothpaste, etc. to take to homeless in Detroit. Drop off at Bladez's, 601 E. Huron River Dr. (734) 697-5600 TFN

CASH PAID for sports cards and comic books. '50s, '60s, & '70s. Private collector can come to you. (734) 697-3546 04/16

FOR RENT

1-BEDROOM APARTMENT, 2nd Floor, \$675/mo. + security. Corner of 5th & Liberty. Includes heat & water. 1 yr. lease. Must have good credit. No pets. (734) 516-5654 05/07

2-BEDROOM APARTMENT, 2nd Floor, \$750/mo. + security. Corner of 5th & Liberty. Includes heat & water. 1 yr. lease. Must have good credit. No pets. (734) 516-5654 05/07

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AREA TRAINEE for local Real Estate Firm. For appointment call. (734) 697-1800 TFN

NURSE AIDE NEEDED. Day shift 6 am-3 pm. Part-time. Experienced, driver's license & references. (734) 482-4847 04/30

HELP WANTED

LOOKING FOR A YOUNG/ENERGETIC ENTRY LEVEL PERSON FOR THE AFTERMARKET AUTO PARTS INDUSTRY.

Applicants must have a clean driving record, be able to read and write, and have basic math skills. Mechanical experience needed. Position is a multi-tasked job; sales/delivery/stock that may require heavy machinery and driving skills. Applicants should have no visible facial tattoos, a non-smoker, and present a clean cut/professional image. Applicants will also need reliable transportation to and from work and will be drug tested, including pot. Advancement potential for the right person. Not a job for lazy people. Apply in person with Resume to Plumb Bob, 6397 Middlebelt Road, Romulus. Hours: M-F 9am-5pm, Sat. 10am-2pm. Position is approximately 45 hours per week, no Sundays or evenings. No phone calls.

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The Belleville-Area Independent Website is Online! Visit us @ bellevilleareaindependent.com

MANUFACTURED HOMES FOR SALE

NEW & USED HOMES in Belleville/Canton area. Family Communities: Holiday West (734) 461-9797 & Holiday Estates (734) 495-0500. Senior Community: Royal Holiday (734) 455-2666 04/23

Cartoon to the Editor



Van Buren School Board honors students for music achievements

At Monday's virtual meeting of the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, Owen teacher Kathy Courter presented a list of students to be honored for Music in Our Schools month.

For more than 30 years, March has been officially designed by the National Association of Music Education for student music recognition.

"Our music programs in VBPS are full of students who take pride in their craft, whether it be singing, playing an instrument, composing music or dancing," Courter said.

"Here are a few students we would like to recognize this month for their achievements in music."

BHS Band – Chailyn Wacasey

McBride Choir – Anaya Goff
BHS Choir – Kayla Williams, Maddie Lieb

Owen Band – Ava Fitzsimmons, Jaedyn Jones, Janiyah McGowan

Edgemont Elementary – Kenzee Jones, Carter Meadows, Nathan Freeman, Malie Barr, Carter Phillips

Rawsonville Elementary – Aria Alonzi, Ayanah Washington, Christopher Shevovich, DaeCorion Robinson

Tyler Elementary – Deon Sado, Joshua Ashwood, Hosanna Goff

Savage Elementary – Eain Butts (3rd), Daniya Alrawas (4th), Celeste Baker, Madison Garcia, Isabelle Meimaridis, Alicyn Palmer, Rylee Sherwood, Heavenly Taylor-Hassell, Shaylynn Toney

Gov. Whitmer extends 'Stay Home, Stay Safe' order through April 30

On Thursday, Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer extended her former "Stay Home, Stay Safe" order through April 30.

Her new Executive Order 2020-42 also limits gatherings and travel and requires all workers who are not necessary to sustain or protect life to stay home.

She said Executive Order 2020-42 also imposes more stringent limitations on stores to reduce foot traffic, slow the spread

of the coronavirus, and save lives.

"It's clear that staying home is the most effective way we can slow the spread of COVID-19 in Michigan," said Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Chief Deputy for Health and Chief Medical Executive Dr. Joneigh Khaldun.

"This aggressive action will help us protect more people and ease the strain on our health care system," Dr. Khaldun said.

Minding Your Business with Bob Mytych



Hayward's Liquor Store on Main Street in Belleville is open and providing essential items and services, such as check cashing, bill payments, DTE, propane exchange, bathroom tissue and everything else you would expect to find at a party/convenience store. See their ad coupon in today's paper for a 24 pack of bottled water for \$2.99. They also have an ATM and accept EBT. Call (734) 699-0369.

Thank you to the folks at Burhop's Collision & Glass on Davis Street for renewing your business card display ad with us for another year. Burhop's was established as a small-town collision shop in 1946 by William Burhop. His goal was simple. Succeed by providing high-quality collision repair with the same pride and integrity you would expect from a neighbor. In 1963, William hired his nephew Alan Arndt and by 1977 Alan assumed all responsibilities for the shop, and in 1996 Alan hired his son Sam to assist and insure that Burhop's would remain a family owned business for years to come. With continuous improvements, state-of-the-art equipment, quality supplies and trained certified techs, they have the ability to service your vehicle to your complete satisfaction. Sam told me last week that he has purchased Fielder's Collision shop on South Street adjacent to Family Dollar and he likes the bigger location, but wasn't sure what will be moved over to that place, or when, with everything going on in the world and with Michigan's economy. Watch this column for updates. By-the-way, a 52-week run in the Independent will give our customers the largest discount we offer -- 35% off. To learn more, call me at (734) 699 9020.

Atchinson Ford on Belleville Road may not have its dealership doors open to the public these days, but they are providing sales and service remotely Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call (734) 697-9161 and visit their website for information and chat windows at www.atchinson.net.

How is everyone holding up during our stay-home-shelter-in-place directive from the Governor? Good as can be, I hope. Me, I'm in restoration mode. With all my flower and plant beds cleaned out to welcome the perennials, I'm just waiting for better weather to fire-up my waterfall, which I usually do around Mother's Day, the same weekend I put out hummingbird feeders. I'm hoping the pair of orioles make a return this year. They loved the little cups of grape jelly best, by me, anyway. Last weekend I restored an old newspaper box our office purchased that we now have available outside our office here at 152 Main St. You can now pick up an Independent 24/7. It was a fun project as the three-day weekend also gave me time to rehab and relocate an old, eight-hole community birdhouse that's been falling apart. The sparrows approved the repairs, giving me wings up. Our lawn tractor is getting fresh oil this week and the other lawn essentials (to us) are on standby. What's next? I'm working on a sign for a new restaurant and I have some canvas on order for delivery in May. It's been a while since I broke out the acrylics. Be sure to grab an Independent around town or here at the office. If you can't get out, you can always view the newspaper online at www.bellevilleareaindependent.com. Be safe if you have to venture out and take care of each other.

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.

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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.



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Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

These are the 169 dispatch calls reported by Van Buren Township police for last week.

Sunday, April 5:

0034 – family trouble, Ecorse Rd.
0229 – family trouble, N. Ponderosa Trl.
0358 – civil matter, N. Woodbury Dr.
0423 – suspicious person/vehicle, S. Woodbury Dr.
0725 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
0738 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
1149 – assault & battery, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1156 – domestic, Winchester St.
1534 – traffic offense, Borgman Ave.
1548 – animal complaint, Maude Ct.
1631 – found property/child, E. Huron River Dr.
1634 – domestic, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1842 – suspicious person/vehicle, N. I-94 Service
1916 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1952 – suspicious person/vehicle, Mansfield Ct.
2024 – suspicious person/vehicle, Cross St.
2310 – harassment call, Robson Rd.

Monday, April 6:

0028 – disorderly, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0134 – suspicious person/vehicle, N. I-94 Service
0215 – suspicious person/vehicle, N. Bellridge Dr.
0343 – welfare check, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0530 – suspicious person/vehicle, Parkwood Dr.
0548 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
0902 – intrusion alarm, Cobblestone Creek Dr.
0917 – suspicious person/vehicle, Ecorse/I-275
1045 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1104 – suspicious person/vehicle, W. Huron river Dr.
Lake Point Blvd.

1221 – animal complaint, Denton Rd.
1241 – domestic, E. Archwood Dr.
1425 – dumping complaint, Denton Rd./Cedar St.
1634 – assist fire dept., Belleville Rd.
1654 – suspicious person/vehicle, Bak Rd.
1714 – 911 welfare check, Ecorse Rd.
1720 – 911 welfare check, Belleville Rd.
1933 – traffic offense, Fret Rd./Martinsville Rd.
1939 – noise complaint, Kirkridge Park Dr.
2010 – suspicious person/vehicle, Hannan/Ecorse
2008 – suspicious person/vehicle, Lighthouse Dr.
2105 – suspicious person/vehicle, Denton Rd.
2110 – threat, Quirk Rd.
2124 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
2137 – shooting, Village Green Ln.
2141 – suspicious person/vehicle, N. I-94 Service
2151 – family trouble, S. Ponderosa Trl.
2210 – shooting, America
2233 – noise complaint, Parkwood Dr.
2256 – traffic offense, Pebblebrook Dr.
2309 – property damage accident, Alden Ave.
2325 – noise complaint, S. Bellridge Dr.
2338 – welfare check, Denton Rd.

Tuesday, April 7:

0733 – domestic, Savage Rd.
0752 – 911 welfare check, Richard Run Dr.
0922 – private property/property damage accident,
Victoria St.
0957 – noise complaint, N. Woodbury Dr.
0957 – vehicle lockout, Belleville Rd.
1228 – hospice death, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1237 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd. /
Harmony Ln.

1426 – welfare check, Denton Rd.
1515 – suspicious person/vehicle, Lake Villa Dr.
1536 – suspicious person/vehicle, Jackson St.
1540 – unattended death, Denton Rd.
1733 – larceny, Parkside Dr.
2014 – suspicious person/vehicle, Cedarhurst Dr.
2126 – intrusion alarm, Hannan Rd.
2157 – 911 welfare check, Riggs Rd.
2250 – domestic, Lighthouse Dr.

Wednesday, April 8:

0153 – suicidal person, N. Cumberland Dr.
0846 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Oak Ln.
0937 – malicious destruction of property, S. I-94
Service Dr.
0938 – welfare check, Rose Blvd.
1024 – unattended death, Sumpter Rd.
1216 – domestic, S. Ponderosa Trl.
1218 – domestic, S. Ponderosa Trl.
1226 – found property/child, Maple Dr.
1408 – welfare check, Sawgrass Ct.
1453 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1510 – private property/property damage accident,
Landmark

1513 – disorderly, Independence Ln.
1543 – civil matter, Woodgrove Dr. / Whitewood Cir.
1608 – fraud, Meadows Cir.
1658 – fraud, Walden Blvd.
1710 – family trouble, Cedarhurst Dr.
1731 – animal complaint, Jeremy Rd.
1818 – welfare check, Hanover Dr.
1837 – disorderly, Lighthouse Dr.
1846 – malicious destruction of property, Denton
1858 – welfare check, Harmony Ln./Sunrise Ln.
2018 – property check, S. Woodbury Dr.
2022 – disorderly, Savage Rd.
2101 – suspicious person/vehicle, Rawsonville Rd.
2141 – suspicious person/vehicle, W. Huron River
2204 – suspicious person/vehicle, Westlake Cir.
2243 – welfare check, Colony Ln.
2302 – property check, Tyler Rd./Andover Dr.

Thursday, April 9:

0001 – 911 welfare check, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0004 – disorderly, N. I-94 Service Dr.
0015 – noise complaint, Birch Dr./Maple Dr.
0017 – suspicious person/vehicle, S. Woodbury
0109 – suspicious person/vehicle, Fay Dr.
0150 – noise complaint, Oak Ln.
0229 – welfare check, N. I-94 Service Dr.
0240 – parking complaint, Oak Ln.
0419 – suspicious person/vehicle, Oak Ln.
1040 – property check, Cobblestone
1046 – larceny, Ecorse Rd.
1057 – property damage accident, Hull Rd.
1120 – vehicle lockout, Parkwood
1148 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1220 – neighbor trouble, Brandi Dr.
1224 – civil matter, Denton Rd.
1256 – private property/property damage accident,
Belleville Rd.

1522 – suspicious person/vehicle, W. Huron River
1525 – animal complaint, Amanda Dr.
1550 – animal complaint, Ayres Ave.
1616 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1636 – suspicious person/vehicle, Westlake Cir.
1748 – suspicious person/vehicle, S. Woodbury
1901 – civil matter, Winding Pond Dr.
1906 – disorderly, Locust Dr.
1918 – assist citizen, Denton Rd.
2207 – intrusion alarm, Robson Rd.
2214 – noise complaint, Lighthouse Dr.

Friday, April 10:

0210 – suspicious person/vehicle, N. I-94 Service
0253 – harassment call, Denton Rd.
0516 – assist other dept., S. I-94 Service Dr. /
Haggerty Rd.
0558 – personal injury accident, Maple Dr.
0716 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.
1013 – intrusion alarm, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1235 – intrusion alarm, Harmony Ln.
1239 – civil matter, Parkwood Dr.
1428 – suspicious circumstances, Quirk/Belleville
1523 – threat, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1930 – mental subject, W. Huron River Dr.
1935 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.
2007 – civil matter, Outer Dr.
2145 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
2206 – traffic offense, Ecorse Rd./Belleville Rd.
2220 – civil matter, Outer Dr.

Saturday, April 11:

0013 – shooting, Colony Ln.
0034 – disorderly, Oak Ln.
0122 – suspicious person/vehicle, Rawsonville
0711 – intrusion alarm, Ecorse Rd.
0846 – leaving the scene of a property damage
accident, Winding Pond Dr.
1029 – intrusion alarm, Samuel Barton Dr.
1047 – abandoned auto, Marina Dr.
1316 – threat, Belleville Rd.
1325 – malicious destruction of property, Assembly
St.

1407 – noise complaint, Maple Dr.
1413 – welfare check, E. Huron River Dr.
1442 – intrusion alarm, Haggerty Rd.
1454 – malicious destruction of property, Colony
1514 – welfare check, Martinsville Rd.
1513 – family trouble, Westlake Cir.
1526 – suspicious circumstances, Denton Rd.
1729 – family trouble, Winchester St.
1837 – unattended death, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1912 – disorderly, Assembly
2014 – property check, Belleville Rd.
2214 – disorderly, Oak Blvd.
2221 – traffic offense, Colonial Rd./Savage Rd.
2239 – suspicious person/vehicle, S. Woodbury
2304 – disorderly, Parkwood Dr.

On this week's log there were no traffic stops.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, April 5:

1647 – welfare check, Sumpter Rd.
1904 – assist other dept., Sumpter/Hull
2246 – noise complaint, Astor

Monday, April 6:

0118 – parking complaint, S. Industrial Park Dr.
0142 – parking complaint, Liberty Square
1203 – background investigation, Main St.
1414 – animal complaint, Harbour Pointe Dr.

Tuesday, April 7:

0831 – intrusion alarm, W. Columbia Ave.
1257 – intrusion alarm, N. Liberty St.
1300 – motorist assist, Main St.
1350 – background investigation, Main St.
1413 – suspicious person/vehicle, High St.
1644 – welfare check, W. Columbia Ave.
2028 – assist citizen, Belleville Rd./Denton Rd.
2214 – intrusion alarm, Sumpter Rd.
2216 – intrusion alarm, Water Works

Wednesday, April 8:

0226 – assist other dept., Santa Clara St.
0620 – assist fire dept., Carmell St.
1029 – intrusion alarm, Sumpter Rd.
1033 – property damage accident, Main St. / E.
Huron River Dr.

1229 – assist citizen, Main St.
1338 – civil matter, Loza Ln.
1811 – assist fire dept., Menlo Park Dr.
2113 – suspicious person/vehicle, W. Columbia Ave.
2116 – welfare check, Menlo Park Dr.
2208 – property check, Belle Villa Blvd.

Thursday, April 9:

1223 – background investigation, Main St.
1437 – juvenile complaint, Carmell St.
1534 – assist other dept., S. I-94/Belleville Rd.
1906 – assist fire dept., E. Huron River Dr.

Friday, April 10:

0339 – abandoned auto, N. Edgemont/Potter Dr.
1204 – intrusion alarm, N. Liberty St.
1529 – civil matter, Main St.

Saturday, April 11:

0157 – suspicious person/vehicle, Sumpter Rd.
0850 – intrusion alarm, Sumpter Rd.

On this week's log there are no traffic stops.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, April 5:

0337 – prisoner check, S. Huron Rd.
0927 – fire dept. assist, 45000 bl. Willow/Karr
1318 – civil matter, Carriage Ln.
1402 – suspicious circumstances, Clark Rd. /
Oakville Waltz Rd.

1528 – 911 hang up, 22000 bl. Bohn Rd.
1651 – 911 hang up, California St.
1822 – juvenile complaint, 25000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1909 – noise complaint, Knollwood Dr.
2007 – follow-up investigation, 25000 bl. Elwell
2335 – suspicious circumstances, Edgewood Dr.

Monday, April 6:

0242 – fire dept. assist, Wayside Dr.
0905 – animal complaint, 11000 bl. Rawsonville
1413 – citizen assist, 50000 bl. Willow Rd./Karr
1457 – follow-up investigation, 10000 bl.
Rawsonville Rd.

1624 – animal complaint, 22000 bl. Bohn Rd.
1651 – citizen assist, 41000 bl. Judd Rd.
1850 – 911 hang up, 46000 bl. Willis/Rawsonville
1857 – disorderly person, 17000 bl. Lohr Rd.
1903 – 911 hang up, 22000 bl. Bohn Rd.
2027 – 911 hang up, 46000 bl. Bemis Rd.
2047 – missing person, 21000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
2239 – follow-up investigation, 21000 bl. Sumpter

Tuesday, April 7:

0530 – traffic complaint, 28000 bl. Clark Rd. /
Oakville Waltz Rd.
1234 – alarm, 10000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
1348 – ordinance violation, 24000 bl. Sherwood
1523 – animal complaint, 48000 bl. Willis Rd.
1841 – neighborhood trouble, 41000 bl. Willis Rd.
1849 – alarm, 46000 bl. Wear Rd.
2121 – neighborhood trouble, 17000 bl. Sully Dr.

Wednesday, April 8:

0226 – suspicious circumstances, 48000 bl. Judd

1248 – extra patrol – SU, Mulberry Dr.
1736 – suspicious circumstance, 13000 bl.
Rawsonville Rd.
1836 – fire dept. assist, 20000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
1837 – malicious destruction of property,
Rawsonville Rd. / Bemis Rd.
1911 – noise complaint, 45000 bl. Willis Rd.
1914 – found property, Rustic Ln.
2205 – alarm, 25000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2321 – fire dept. assist, 44000 bl. Judd Rd.

Thursday, April 9:

0039 – suspicious vehicle, Rustic Ln.
0134 – fire dept. assist, 21000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
0555 – fire dept. assist, Rustic Ln.
0844 – fire dept. assist, 11000 bl. Rawsonville
0900 – 911 hang up, Washington St.
1016 – citizen assist, 45000 bl. Willis Rd.
1043 – 911 hang up, 23000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1142 – animal complaint, 20000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
1334 – suspicious circumstances, 21000 bl. Fenster
1405 – follow-up investigation, 20000 bl. Haggerty
Rd.

1704 – follow-up investigation, out of township
2043 – follow-up investigation, Rustic Ln.
2125 – suspicious person, 20000 bl. Wilmot Rd.
2237 – welfare check, 23000 bl. Carleton West Rd.

Friday, April 10:

0309 – alarm, 9100 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
0739 – citizen assist, 24000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1001 – civil matter, 24000 bl. Clark Rd.
1202 – follow-up investigation, 24000 bl. Clark
1710 – animal complaint, Willis Rd./Rawsonville
2035 – suspicious circumstances, 40000 bl. Bemis
2138 – citizen assist, 27000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

Saturday, April 11:

0129 – mental health call, Hampshire Dr.
1209 – larceny, Greenmeadow Dr.
1355 – civil matter, Carriage Ln.
1359 – mental health call, Pecan St.
1510 – alarm, 49000 bl. Willis Rd.
1712 – citizen assist, 20000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1858 – ORV complaint, 24000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
2031 – welfare check, First St.
2101 – suspicious vehicle, Willow Rd./Karr Rd.
2150 – fire dept. assist, 47000 bl. Wear Rd.
2208 – suspicious vehicle, 24000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

Also on this week's log are 86 patrol checks, 16 traffic
stops, and 10 miscellaneous details.

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Correction: Parrott yet to be tried in drunk-driving charge

In the April 9 edition of the *Independent*, on page three, it was stated that 34th District Court Judge David Parrott "... also had a misdemeanor drunk driving charge in Manistee County on Christmas Day 2018 and that conviction has been appealed to the Michigan Court of Appeals with a

decision pending."

His attorney Mike Nichols of Lansing pointed out that it was not a "conviction" and Parrott has yet to go to trial. He said they are awaiting a ruling from the court of appeals to admit evidence that they believe will help clear his name of the OWI charge.

Also, Judge Parrott is in his 18th year on the bench, not his 12th year.

And, Soberlink is a hand-held cellular-based device that also captures an image of the subject while he is delivering a sample.

It is not a "tether" as stated in the April 9 story.

We regret the mistakes and apologize.

Attorney Nichols also gave an update on Judge Parrott continuing take the opportunity to work on his mental and emotional health. He has been having telephone conferences with his therapist. When in-person group sessions were suspended after March 13, he did telephone conferences three times per week and then resumed two times weekly zoom meetings

as of last week.

"David is feeling a lot better about himself and about things," Nichols said. "On the one hand these are very anxious times but he is striving to achieve an inner peace."

Rosemary K. Oztman, editor

Birthdays

April 17 – Jodi Gibson Varner

April 18 – Kollin Sobocinski, Vickie Lenhardt

April 19 – Jennifer Leonard, Asondra Smith, David Sauers, Sr., April McGuire

April 22 – Emily LaPalme, Chris Donley, Vesta Losen, Danielle Lynch

Upcoming Meetings

• Monday, April 20 – Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m. See city website to get online address to attend this virtual meeting.

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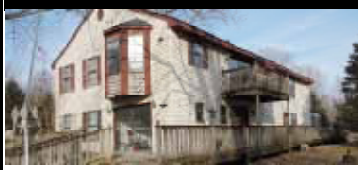
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44280 DUNN, SUMPTER TWP
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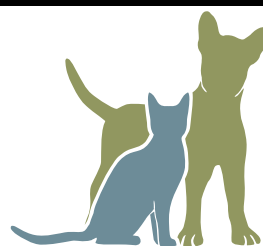
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