



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 24.16 Thursday, April 19, 2018

Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

F R E E

Storm leaves ice-laden trees, flooding, lack of electrical power

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

More than 300,000 electrical customers in Southeastern Michigan lost power over the week end and Monday, following a storm that dumped about two inches of rain and falling temperatures that turned the raindrops to heavy ice on trees and shrubs.

Then, limbs and electrical lines started falling and burning. Fire fighters in Sumpter and Van Buren Township worked to keep roads cleared. Some extension cords were seen stretching across roadways in Van Buren and Sumpter townships. One resident with power explained that his neighbor across the road without power would have a flooded basement if he couldn't plug in his pump.

On Tuesday, a light smattering of snow fell in the morning, as temperatures hovered in the 30s.

On Monday, DTE was unable to give estimates for when the power would be resumed in the tri-community, but finally estimates started coming. Sixteen hundred electrical crews from out of state were called in to help.

Several churches on East Huron River Drive did not hold Sunday services because there was no power. The Belleville City Council gathered in the dark on Monday with LED lanterns lighting its brief regular meeting.

DTE reported 1,874 customers in the Belleville Road/Ecorse Service Drive area

lost power on Sunday, but that has been restored.

On Monday morning, more than 100 out-of-state crews were gathered at Willow Run Airport awaiting their assignments.

Also on Monday and Tuesday, Main Street in Belleville had no power and stores stayed closed. The city events sign was dark. City Hall was closed and so was Edgemont Elementary School.

On Tuesday, Garden Fantasy on Main opened in the dark with cash purchases being handled the "old-fashioned" way.

In nearby Romulus, the city complex including city hall, the library, and the 34th District Court was closed because there was no electricity.

On Monday, Sumpter Township opened a warming center at the community center for those had no heat at home. On Monday, the need was reported as low, but it was to be reopened on Tuesday, if needed. The police department also alerted the public that while 911 and Dispatch phones were working, the lines to the Sumpter police department offices were down.

Van Buren Township also opened a warming center Monday night after a family reported staying in a car to keep warm. It was to be open in the senior center/parks and recreation area, as needed.

Once the clean-up began, tree-trimming equipment and DTE trucks and their helpers from out of town were in high demand everywhere.



Photo courtesy of Richard Smith

Ice forming from the Saturday rain storm sent many tree branches crashing down. This branch was at 240 East Huron River Drive in the City of Belleville.



Independent photo by James Otzman

This pickup truck got stranded in the flooded roadway under the train trestle on Belleville Road near Yost early Sunday morning. As the day progressed more cars went around the barriers and got stuck, too.



Independent photos by William Otzman

Tri-community fire fighters were kept busy throughout the area tending to calls of wires and trees down. This arcing wire was on Robbe Street near Madelon in the City of Belleville.

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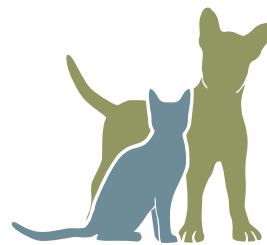
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SECOND FRONT PAGE

Groundbreaking set April 23 for 34th District courthouse

The public is invited to a ceremonial groundbreaking for the new 34th District Courthouse at 3 p.m. Monday, April 23, at the Romulus Municipal Complex, 11131 Wayne Road, Romulus.

The two-story, 50,000-square-foot courthouse will be located just west of the current courthouse. It will continue to serve five communities – the cities of Romulus and Belleville and the townships of Huron, Sumpter and Van Buren – plus Detroit Metropolitan Airport.

The new facility will be more secure and will replace a single-story, 26,000-square-foot facility that is often overcrowded and considered inadequate to handle a caseload that surpassed 87,000 in 2017.

The new courthouse and a rebuilt Veterans Memorial to the north of the building have an anticipated completion date of August 2019.

The \$17 million cost of the project will be paid for by its users, said Chief Judge Tina Brooks Green. About five years ago, the court began assessing a \$20 fee per ticket toward the anticipated debt reduction on the bonds that will finance the project through the City of Romulus. There will be no cost to taxpayers unless they get cited for a ticket.

The partners on the courthouse are the 34th District Court, the City of Romulus, AUCH Construction Co. and Partners in Architecture. All three judges – Judge Green of Huron, Judge Brian Oakley of Romulus and Judge David Parrott of Van Buren – are involved in the process, along with Court Administrator and Magistrate Alan Hindman.

Romulus Mayor LeRoy D. Burcroff said the courthouse will be a beautiful addition to the community and a much-needed replacement for the current facility, which was built in 1974.

Judge Green said the new facility will be the largest public project in Romulus history. She said it will be more energy-efficient, more high-tech and more secure for the 45 employees and customers.

“We are busting at the seams,” said Judge Green, the senior judge with 24 years of experience. “We don’t have enough space. We have people in makeshift offices. We’ve turned back rooms and closets into offices over the years.”

The new courthouse will have a central lockup facility that can be accessed by all four of the planned courtrooms. Currently, some prisoners have to be escorted through the main public area, creating a security issue.

“You will know this is a courthouse,”
(continued on page 12)



Belleville Area District Library Board members put the shovels into a pile of dirt on the ground for the ceremonial ground breaking for the new library. From left are Joy Cichewicz, Alma Hughes-Grubbs, Sharon Peters, Library Director Mary Jo Suchy, Tanya Stoudemire, LaChelle Reed Caver, Mary Jane Dawson, and John Juriga. After the board was done digging and posing for pictures, elected officials and others grabbed the shovels for photo opportunities, and then library patrons were invited to dig, as well.



Independent photo by Rosemary K. Otzman

U.S. Congresswoman Debbie Dingell addresses the crowd inside the Belleville Area District Library on Saturday as a storm raged outside. She praised libraries and said to get away from thinking about President Trump, she reads a novel every day. Library Board president Sharon Peters called out the names of all the local elected officials present as well as others who had helped the library. Then, the crowd went outside in the rain for the ceremonial ground breaking for the new library.

OPINIONS

Editorial

Trustee Frazier offers heart-felt apology to everyone

On Tuesday, after more than two hours of attacks on her by fellow board members, Van Buren Township Trustee Sherry Frazier offered a heart-felt apology to everyone, especially her family, her friends, and the township.

Trustee Frazier said all she could do was apologize and she has not had her day in court for her shoplifting arrest. She said she has sought counseling and is trying to understand why that happened.

"It takes a big person to forgive and I'm asking the board members and community to forgive me," she said.

"I'm committed to serving my community and help make a difference," Frazier said.

But Supervisor Kevin McNamara didn't want Frazier attending the Michigan Township Association convention next week where she was scheduled because it would be an embarrassment to other board members attending because people would point her out. But board members didn't support cutting off her funds for the trip.

On a 4-2 vote the board agreed Frazier had violated the ethics policy by committing retail fraud, failing to notify the supervisor, and taking credit for writing an article she didn't write, but deciding the penalty was problematic.

Board members were asked to email the supervisor with any ideas on the penalty which could be voted on at the next meeting.

Tuesday was not VBT's finest hour.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

At the regular meeting of the Belleville Area District Library Board, John Juriga reported that \$50,000 was raised at the recent Mayors' Ball at the BYC to be split between the Belleville and Romulus Boys and Girls Clubs. He said it takes \$150,000 a year to run each building.

Joy Cichewicz said at the recent Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce event at WCCC to hear reports on the tri-community and the school district, Juriga made sure they knew about the library, too.

Gary Edwards, 26, of Sumpter Township has been competing in the finals on The Voice on Channel 4 this week. He also is a part of Team Blake that was competing against Team Alicia. People who know him are following his every move and voting for him.

Library architect Dan Whisler told the library board at last week's meeting that they might want to go out for bids sooner than planned for the steel and foundation for the new library. Matt Ratzow, senior construction manager from O'Neal Construction, said there is a lot of questioning in the market on construction steel.

Library board member John Juriga said there is discussion about 15% increase in tariff on steel, so the sooner they order steel, the better.

In other discussion at the library meeting, it was reported that the new Art Committee that is working on public art met recently to discuss how to raise money for public art.

Reportedly, artist Tim Marsh suggested auctioning off chairs painted by artists. They discussed other things that could be painted,



including statues of cows, turtles, and other critters.

Sumpter Trustee Sheena Barnes said she had to get a birth certificate to complete her paperwork to run for clerk. That has been submitted with her petition and has been accepted. She will be on the ballot as a Democratic candidate for clerk in the August primary.

Sheena said that Antoine Jordan has submitted his paperwork for trustee on the Democratic ticket.

Treasurer Peggy Morgan and Ken Bednark have submitted their petitions for treasurer on the Democratic ticket. The filing deadline is next Tuesday. We'll report who's going to be on the August primary ballot next week.

When the lights went out in downtown Belleville on Sunday after the storm, Jim and I packed up our computers and headed home, since we were very fortunate that we still had electricity on our part of Haggerty Road. We set up everything on the kitchen table and a side table and got to work. No problem.

It was kind of fun since I remember 24 years or so ago, I put the *Independent* together on the same table in the kitchen. In those days, we had to actually cut (with scissors) and paste (with hot wax). My computer was upstairs in my bedroom, so every time I needed to print out something, I had to run upstairs.

Then, we had to drive the pasted-up pages to the printer, which was in Plymouth at the time. Then, in the morning, we'd go pick up the bundles of papers and a crew of volunteers started delivering.

Now, I write the stories on my laptop, Bob gathers the ads, Janet gets the classifieds and then we give it all to Jim, who does all the layout on our big computer. Then, he sends it by internet to the print plant in Adrian. In two or three hours, the bundles are delivered to our door.

Now (Tuesday afternoon) we've learned, the power is back up in downtown Belleville. We'll be packing up our equipment and heading back to Main Street in the morning. It was kind of fun being on the kitchen table again.

I almost missed the Belleville City Council meeting on Monday. Since the phones were out, I drove to city hall in the afternoon and went up to the front door. A sign said city hall was closed because they had no electrical power. I assumed the council meeting at 7:30 p.m. was cancelled. Wrong. I was at a school board meeting Monday when I learned the council was going to meet. I got there in time, but I saw another regular council attendee walking away from the dark city hall.





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-- Michael Jordan

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Letters

Incorrect: 'We are nation under God ...'

To the editor:

As an historian and someone who was raised Catholic I just wanted to respond to the April 12, 2018 Opinion Section of the *Belleville Independent*.

The anonymous writer who gave kudos to St. Anthony's for Father John K's blessing was incorrect on one *little* thing by implying that "we are a nation under God, founded by our forefathers..."

While the pledge of allegiance was first proposed for the Colombian Expo of 1892 it only read, "I pledge allegiance to my flag and the Republic for which it stands -- one Nation indivisible -- with liberty and justice for all."

The words, "Under God" were not added until 1954-56 by President Eisenhower after the McCarthy-era Communism Hearings and the Red Scare.

Similarly, our motto, "In God We Trust" was also added in 1956, long after our forefathers approved the constitution in 1787.

The forefathers made it so that our constitution did not hold one religion over another or mark America as solely a Christian nation; primarily because of those who had fled Europe due to religious persecution by the Church of England. America was to be a place where you were free to practice (or not practice) any religion.

I do support Christians of all denominations working together to make American a better place but let us not lose our knowledge of historical fact while doing so.

"A nation with no regard for its past will do little worth remembering in the future."
Abraham Lincoln

Katie Dallos, Director
Belleville Area Museum

Support Van Buren Public Schools

To the editor:

I'd like to thank you for your quick comment regarding unsigned letters to your paper. Those that care to share their opinion should not be afraid to take credit for them. I'd like to specifically address the letters from the 4/12/18 edition.

I am happy to acknowledge that everyone's situation is different. However, I believe as a community, one of the simplest ways we can support each other, our own interests, and the greater good, is to support the local school districts.

BC Cab
734-697-5222

This means support from every resident of the district. Not just those that have children in attendance. As a civil servant, I constantly hear people speak about paying taxes and essential services, while also worrying about property value. Then I hear developers speak about property values in relation to school district performance. To which I am constantly shocked when I see those in our community actively and passively deny support to our school district.

You published two letters this week (both unsigned); one implying they need relief from paying school taxes (which are only a portion of the property taxes levied against us, so why pick on that one specifically?) even after acknowledging five children that probably went through the school district, and another sharing a web site that had our district in a less than favorable ranking.

Folks, if you want to live in a premier community with solid and resilient property values, SUPPORT VAN BUREN PUBLIC SCHOOLS. These tax dollars groom our future leaders, provide for our children, and benefit the community as a whole. Think outside of your four walls and consider the greater good for the greatest number.

Charles Larocque
Van Buren Township
BHS class of '99

CA5, BYC raise \$6,300 to help student

To the editor:

On Tuesday, April 10, once again our communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren came together to support a 10-year-old student at Rawsonville Elementary and his family.

Devon Turner has been diagnosed with soft tissue cancer and is battling with surgeries and chemotherapy. CAF5 (Community Assistant Fund) and the BYC teamed up to host a spaghetti dinner and raised over \$6,300 to help this family.

CAF5 would like to thank the BYC for helping to host and fund this event. We would especially like to thank Scott Jones! We would also like to thank Applebee's, Starbucks, Springer's Complete Carpet Care, Meijer, and all the Van Buren teachers and staff that donated money and baked goods toward this event.

Thanks to the Belleville Kiwanis Club, Kathleen Springer and Michelle Gurney for all their help that evening! What a great group of businesses and people!

CAF5 is a non-profit organization to assist families and children in need within the communities served by the 34th District Court. Those communities are Belleville, Huron, Romulus, Sumpter, and Van Buren. CAF5 steps in to provide assistance only when resources are not available to fill a need. To make a donation to CAF5, please call (734) 941-3510, ext. 103.

Karen Skszek-Mida
Van Buren Township

More Letters

Trustee: Why does newspaper have info?

Friday, April 13, 4:28 p.m.

All Elected Officials,

Could an explanation be brought forward explaining why we learn significant damage was done to Riggs Park and I first learned about the damage by reading about the issue in our local newspaper? This is very inappropriate as to how information is disseminated to our elected officials.

Trustee Paul D. White

Van Buren Township

Reply from McNamara

Dear Trustee,

As you know, I meet regularly with my directors and weekly prepare a report for the board on what's going on in each department. I want a well-informed board. No other board as been updated in this manner in the history of Van Buren Township.

The director did not mention this in her report as this park (and all of our parks) are regularly vandalized. This was a discussion I had last March regarding teens using these parks and causing problems after hours, since they are such isolated areas. In response we stepped up patrols and lightened the problem.

The director has met with Matt Best and they are looking into possible fixes. One is security cams (very expensive, since the award-winning structure would require significant electrical upgrades, trenching and lights) and the other is possibly removing the river rock (large potato-shaped stones) and replacing with pea gravel. It is the river rock they are using to destroy the bathroom structure.

As for why it was not reported -- Rosemary is a workaholic who goes to everything and has hundreds of sets of eyes in the community. She is going to see things we miss. She also looks at things as newsworthy or not. That is not our job. Ours is to operate the departments. We do this very well, as Rosemary does her job very professionally.

I will speak to the director about your concerns. I am sure another reason she may not have told me is that the Tuesday board meeting has effected every department in our building negatively. I would love to have a college professor of political science come in and do a study on this issue's effects. Every department from Treasury, Clerk, DDA, Seniors has been having issues over this issue. Her meeting had to be cut in half the last two weeks due to our Tuesday issue. Once this issue is behind us, I hope things can get back to normal.

Kevin McNamara, Supervisor
Van Buren Township

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Obituaries



Ronald Grant Rounsifer

RONALD GRANT ROUNSIFER

(May 10, 1936 - April 12, 2018)

Ronald Grant Rounsifer passed away at the home of his daughter Renee on Thursday, April 12, 2018. He was born on Mother's Day, May 10, 1936, in Ash Township, MI.

Ron's boyhood was idyllic in that he was surrounded by loving parents and grandparents. He often said he could not have wished for a better childhood, hanging out with his grandpas on their farms, driving their tractors, being around the barns and farm animals. His parents took him on many vacations, hunting and fishing trips. He had many happy memories of his childhood and these memories comforted him as he got nearer the end of his life.

He loved growing up in the country and adored baseball, playing every chance he got. He went to Belleville High School and there ran cross country, played football and varsity baseball, graduating with the class of 1954. He married his high school sweetheart, Connie Watts, in 1955. Together they had four children.

He was a loving and generous dad to Brian, Mary Ellen, Renee and Tim. He loved and was loved by his dear grandchildren Grant, Alex,

Travis, Sarah, Mary, Ron, Vincent, Shannon and James Matthew. He was a loving and ever-present brother to his dear sister Beverly, loving nephew to Aunt Mary, and a dear friend to many. Ron was a good listener.

Few things gave him greater pleasure than to watch the grandchildren play little league baseball, fast-pitch softball, football and rugby. Although no longer married, Ron and Connie stayed friends and enjoyed many priceless hours watching their grandchildren play their various sports, attending graduations, etc.

Ron also enjoyed Rounsifer family reunions with cousins and other relatives. He was a member of the BHS Class of '54 Reunion Committee and enjoyed many happy class reunions with cherished classmates. His dear daughters Mary Ellen and Renee were his staunchest supporters and a great source of pride and comfort to him.

The family appreciates all the prayers and kindnesses shown throughout Ron's illness and especially wishes to thank friend and caregiver Frank for all his caring hair cuts, shaves, baths, and general joking around that Ron enjoyed, and Don for all his wonderful baseball conversations, care giving and heavy lifting, as well as Grace Hospice and all the gentle folks who visited Ron.

A Memorial Service will be held June 16, 2018, 10 a.m. at David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Drive, Belleville. In lieu of flowers the family is suggesting donations be made to Grace Hospice, 2755 Carpenter Rd., Ann Arbor, MI and/or Alzheimer's Association, Michigan Great Lakes Chapter, 564 South Main Street, S-200, Ann Arbor, MI 48104.

EDWARD THOMAS WEBBER, SR.

(May 18, 1939 - March 30, 2018)

On Good Friday we lost a great man in our lives. It is with sadness that the family of Edward Thomas Webber announces his passing after a brief illness. Ed was preceded in death by his wife Marie (Ricci) and daughters Lily and Laurie.

Ed will be lovingly remembered by his companion Claire Heien; surviving children Therese, Edward Jr. and Greg; his 9 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and sisters Elizabeth (Betty) Carlesimo, Florence Catherine (Katie) Mallory and Patricia (Pat) Malik in addition to many nieces, nephews and extended family. In lieu of a funeral service please make memorial donations in memory of Ed, Sr. to:

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Obituaries



The Honorable
William J. Szlinis

THE HONORABLE WILLIAM J. SZLINIS

(September 12, 1930 - April 13, 2018)

Age 87, of Belleville. Died peacefully with his family at his side, on April 13, 2018.

Judge Szlinis is the beloved husband of Ann for sixty-three wonderful years; loving father of Bill (Mary) Szlinis Jr. of Washington Township, John (Thekla) Szlinis of Canton and Marianne Szlinis of Ann Arbor; proud grandfather of Michael (Kristin) Szlinis, Johnny Szlinis, Alex DeBacker and Stephanie LaVigne. William is also survived by his great-grandchildren, Gavin, Madeline, Dominic and Emma. Sadly, he is preceded in death by his sister, Francis (d.2016).

Born on September 12, 1930 to Bronislaw and Phyllis Szlinis of Detroit, Judge Szlinis was a graduate of Detroit Catholic Central High School and proudly served his country by enlisting in the United States Marines. Ultimately, he received his Juris Doctorate from the Detroit College of Law.

A Belleville area resident since 1969, Judge Szlinis sat on the bench in the 34th District Court for seventeen years. In his spare time, he enjoyed playing golf, was an accomplished stained-glass artist and was a very active Rotarian. A devout parishioner of St. Anthony's Catholic Church, Judge Szlinis enjoyed being active in the Men's Club of St. Anthony's. Mostly, he enjoyed spending time with his family.

A Memorial Mass with military honors rendered will be held Wednesday, April 18, 2018 at 11:00 AM at St. Anthony's Catholic Church, 409 W. Columbia Ave., Belleville with visitation one hour prior.

In lieu of flowers, memorial tributes may be directed to the Fr. Solanus Guild or the St. Anthony's Catholic Church.

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— Ronald Reagan



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GERALD GENE ZANDER

(August 20, 1938 - April 16, 2018)

Age 79, a lifelong Belleville-area resident, died peacefully with his family at his side, Monday afternoon, April 16, 2018.

Gerald is the beloved husband of Sharon for fifty-eight wonderful years; dear father of Deborah (Butch) Skuse of Jackson, Gerald Zander Jr. of Belleville and Fred (Barbara) Zander of Brownstown. Mr. Zander is also survived by his grandchildren, Lauren, Diana, Megan, Sage, Sienna, Willie, Jessica and Samantha; nine great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren and many loving family and friends.

Gerald had a deep love of the outdoors, particularly hunting and fishing. A devout member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Mr. Zander above all loved spending time with his family. A Funeral Service has been arranged for 11:00 AM, Thursday, April 19, 2018 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 47445 W. Huron River Dr., Belleville. The Zander family will greet guests from 10 AM at the church.

A procession with interment prayers will follow to Hillside Cemetery, Belleville.

Visiting hours were arranged for Wednesday from 1 until 8 PM at the David C. Brown Funeral Home of Belleville, (734)-697-4500. In lieu of customary flowers, memorial tributes are suggested to Beaumont Hospice.

AILEEN MAE KUNZ

(November 13, 1926 - April 16, 2018)

Age 91, of Canton. Died at Regency Bluffs Park of Ann Arbor. Survived by children Susan and Karl, 4 grandchildren, siblings Thomas, Karin and Kenneth. Arrangements by David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville.

Upcoming Meetings

- Tuesday, April 24 – Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority, 5:30 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township workshop at 6 p.m., regular meeting at 6:30 p.m.

- Wednesday, April 25 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m.

- Monday, April 30 – Special 6 p.m. meeting of Belleville City Council to consider 2018-19 budget.

Semi truck, motorcycle crash leaves motorcyclist dead in Van Buren Twp

On Thursday, April 12, at about 8:01 p.m., a 24-year old Romulus man died after a semi truck reportedly turned left to enter the Costco distribution center in front of his motorcycle.

Maurice Dante Murphy, who was traveling on Belleville Road at Yost Road in Van Buren Township, wasn't able to stop in time and struck the semi truck, officials said. He was pronounced dead at the scene. Police said Murphy was wearing a helmet at the time of the crash. Neither alcohol nor drugs appear to have

been a factor in the crash, police said.

On Monday, Lt. Kenneth Floro reported that the VBT Accident Investigation Team had been dispatched to the scene to conduct the investigation and collect physical evidence. The incident now has been forwarded to the Wayne County Prosecutor's office for review and potential criminal charges.

Anyone with information related to the incident is asked to contact Detective Mike Long or Lt. Floro at (734) 699-8930.



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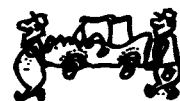
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Photo courtesy Sherry Frazier

The winner of the \$1,000 Senior Scholarship from the Belleville Area Council for the Arts is Daphanie Farkas, a Belleville High School student who will be attending Eastern Michigan University in the fall to pursue a degree in Art Education. The judging of senior portfolios was done at Saturday's Student Art show. From left are BACA board members Sherry Frazier and Elaine Gutierrez, BACA president Mendie Russell, Daphanie, and BHS art teacher Ryan Petersmark.



Independent photo by Rosemary K. Otzman

The annual student art show of the Van Buren Public Schools was held Saturday and students brought their parents and grandparents and friends to see their creations which were displayed in the Commons area at Belleville High School.

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Southwest Way



Photo courtesy of Jo Ann Gardner

Donate Life Day was celebrated at the Belleville Secretary of State office on April 11 as staff was thanked for working to expand the Michigan Organ Donor Registry by asking customers throughout the year if they wanted to sign up. Secretary of State Ruth Johnson said when she took office in 2011, only 27% of Michigan adults had signed up on the registry and now that number is 63% -- an addition of nearly 3 million people. Johnson changed the way organ donation was promoted and it grew. One person can transform the lives of up to 75 people through organ, tissue, and eye donation. On Donate Life Day, volunteers from Gift of Life Michigan, Eversight, and Michigan Lions visit Secretary of State offices across the state to tell their stories of organ donation. Anyone can join the Michigan Organ Donor Registry by visiting www.Michigan.gov/organdonation or any Secretary of State office.

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Phyllis Guerra, a member of the Western Wayne Quilters Guild, won the first-place Viewers Choice award in this year's quilt show at the Belleville Area Museum. Her quilt was "Sun Bonnet Sue through the Year." Susan Czaplicki of Belleville won the gift basket. This year more than 300 visitors came to the museum during the month of March when the quilt show was on. A Disney Princess quilt made by Wendy Gladhill and quilted by Bob Green, was sold with all of the proceeds going to the museum. Chairing the quilt show were Roxann Baker and Bob Green of the Quilt Guild.

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Drawings courtesy of City of Romulus.

New courthouse

(continued from page 3)

Judge Green said. "We have tried to incorporate a judicial look and feel. We'll be moving out of a 1970s-era facility and into something that has a lot more glass. We're trying to do everything as green and energy-efficient as possible."

Court Administrator Alan Hindman, who has worked at the court for 39 years, said the current facility averages 148,700 people in the building annually. He said parking will expand and lighting will be enhanced at the new court, the building will be more user-friendly and customers will have the option of paying tickets at a kiosk.

The groundbreaking comes 50 years after the start of the 34th District Court, which serves 13 police agencies: the five municipalities, the airport, the Michigan State Police, the Wayne County Sheriff's Department, the Department of Natural Resources and the Huron-Clinton Metroparks Authority along with task forces and federal units that operate in the district. The Romulus court also handles weekend felony cases from around the region.

Robert McCraight, director of the Romulus Department of Public Services, said that to make way for the new building the existing Veterans Monument will be disassembled, refurbished and reassembled

once the new courthouse is complete. The rebuilt monument will offer additional space so that the names of other veterans can be placed on the wall.

"The existing monument was built in 1991 and is in dire need of reconstruction," McCraight said. "When the monument is reassembled, we will replace the broken blocks and granite that have succumbed to time and the elements. In addition to repairing the weathered monument, we will be adding additional wall space to accommodate our veterans."

Judge Green said that a formal ribbon cutting will be planned when it's time for the courthouse's grand opening. She said the public will be invited to that as well.

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Sumpter Township police officers honored for work in 2017

During the April 10 Sumpter Township board meeting, police department awards for 2017 were presented by Director of Public Safety/ Chief of Police Eric Luke. The following awards were announced:

Officer of the Year - Officer George Salajan, III - significant contribution to the mission of the Sumpter Township Police Department.

This year's winner exemplifies what our mission is all about. He performs his duties in a diligent, respectful, and professional manner. He's respected by his fellow officers and supervisors alike and is a dedicated individual who displays a great work ethic as a police officer. He's a prototypical team player and we're happy to have him on "our" team.

This award is recognized with a citation bar to be worn on the officer's uniform shirt, the officer's name on the "Officer of the Year" perpetual plaque in the police department lobby, and a desktop award.

Valor - Sergeant Brian Steffani, Officer Joseph Balowski & Officer Chris Herrick - Awarded to a department member who exhibits boldness, determination, and bravery in a difficult task involving great personal risk to the member's safety. The member must have been fully aware of the imminent threat to his/her safety and acted above and beyond the call of duty at the risk of his/her own life.

On the night of January 22, 2017, Sgt. Brian Steffani was dispatched to a residence in the 43000 block of Willow on the report of a male on the front porch telling the homeowner that he'd been assaulted. While at that location investigating the incident Sgt. Steffani heard at first a single shot followed shortly thereafter by a volley of gunfire in very close proximity and requested backup.

Upon arrival of backup units (Officers Balowski and Herrick), they located a male lying in the driveway of the house to



Independent photo by Rosemary K. Otzman

Sumpter Township Police Officer George Salajan, III, left, was named Officer of the Year for 2017. Director of Public Safety/Chief Eric Luke, right, presents the trophy Officer Salajan earned.

the East, suffering from a gunshot wound to his leg and crying out for help. Without knowing exactly where the shooter was, Officer Balowski tactically approached the victim and began dragging him down the driveway and towards the cover afforded by his nearby patrol unit. He was assisted by Sgt. Steffani and Officer Herrick who also provided additional cover due to the victim stating that he had been shot by his father, who was still inside the residence.

After turning the victim over to medical personnel on scene the three Sumpter officers, with assistance by officers from Huron Township, Metroparks, Van Buren Township, Belleville, and Michigan State Police were able to eventually talk the father out of the residence and take him into custody without further incident.

This award is recognized with a citation bar to be worn on the officer's uniform shirt. **Life-Saving** - Sergeant Chris McGlynn, Sergeant Beth Egerer and Officer Joseph Balowski - Awarded to department members who are credited with actively saving a human life.

Sergeant Chris McGlynn - Awarded for his response on Oct. 21, 2017, to the parking lot of a business at Sumpter and Bemis. Sgt. McGlynn was dispatched to an unresponsive opioid overdose victim in a vehicle and upon arrival, the victim stopped breathing. He began provided life-saving measures as the fire department arrived on scene and administered several doses of Narcan, saving her life.

Sergeant Beth Egerer and Officer Joseph Balowski - Awarded for their response on July 28, 2017, at a location on Nevada Street in Holiday West. The officers were dispatched to an unresponsive opioid overdose victim with the needle still in her arm. Upon arrival, the officers were able to quickly assess the situation and administered several doses of Narcan, saving her life.

This award is recognized with a citation bar to be worn on the officer's uniform.

Academic Achievement - Sergeant James Cayce - This award is presented to a department member who advances their educational level while continually working for the department.

Awarded for his graduation from the Eastern Michigan University School of Police Staff and Command in October 2017. This award is recognized with a citation bar to be worn on the officer's uniform.

Valued Service - Sergeant James Cayce - Members qualifying for this award shall have accrued a minimum of 20 years of continued service. The employee must demonstrate a consistent commitment to the department through the quality of work performed. This award is recognized with a citation bar to be worn on the officer's uniform.

Chief's Recognition

1. Malissa Paquette, Operations Coordinator - Awarded in Recognition of her exceptional work ethic, non-stop motivation and positive attitude in maintaining the highest level of professionalism and service to the community. Her performance is what excellence is all about and she is truly "one of a kind."

2. Detective/Sergeant John Toth, Lieutenant Patrick Gannon, Sergeant Beth Egerer, Sergeant Brian Steffani, Officer Jerry Cox, Jr., Officer Colleen Gottschalk and Officer George Salajan, III

Awarded in recognition of their contribution to the successful outcome of the "Nelson Po case" (#16-02283). Their contributions as a whole led to his guilty plea in the criminal case, in addition to successful civil court outcomes confirming the department's actions as lawful and proper in both the department's civil action against Mr. Po and his civil actions against the department. This award is recognized with a certificate.

Director/Chief Luke concluded his remarks with: "Thank you all for your dedication and service to the community."

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Court Watching:**Brad Fields found competent to face murder charges**

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Brad Edwards Fields, 28, has been found competent to face murder charges in the death of his girlfriend's child, Gabby, in a Sumpter Township mobile home on New Year's Day.

34th District Court Judge Brian Oakley was told the prosecutor and the defense attorney both stipulated to Fields' competency so the case can move forward. A preliminary exam was set for 8:30 a.m., May 11, before Judge Oakley.

Fields is charged with felony murder, second-degree murder, child abuse, and torture. He is lodged in the Wayne County Jail without bond.

His co-defendant, the child's mother Candice Renea Diaz, 25, is being held without bond on the same charges. She had been sent for a competency exam, as well.

Santana Brown Guillen

Two criminal sexual conduct charges against Santana Brown Guillen, 17, were dismissed by Judge Oakley on April 11 when the six-year-old victim refused to testify.

The victim and her family had been waiting at court for three hours before it was determined the little girl wouldn't testify and the Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor asked Judge Oakley to dismiss the charges without prejudice, meaning they could be refiled in the future.

Judge Oakley said the charges were dismissed because there is "no witness who will talk."

On April 4, Judge David Parrott adjourned Guillen's preliminary exam until April 11 because his court-appointed defense attorney David Lankford said he just got the discovery information. Lankford said he needed time to study the evidence in order to provide a defense for his client.

The young witness also had waited hours that day to testify, but then the testimony was postponed a week.

Guillen was charged with two counts of criminal sexual conduct-1st degree, with a person under age 13, on July 1, 2017 in Van Buren Township. He was free after posting

bond of \$50,000/10% and now his bond was to be returned.

Tasha Lee Wiggins

Three felony counts of identity theft against Tasha Lee Wiggins, 20, were dismissed without prejudice when the victim didn't show up to testify against her at her scheduled preliminary exam on April 11.

Wiggins was charged with the crimes that allegedly occurred on May 27, 2017 in Van Buren Township.

Judge Oakley reminded her that she was still scheduled for a pretrial on May 15 for a separate charge of driving while license suspended in VBT.

Rondell Lowell Cook

The preliminary exam for Rondell Lowell Cook, 29, was set for 1:30 p.m., May 2, on a charge of criminal sexual conduct-third degree (person between the ages of 13 and 15) on Dec. 2 in VBT. Judge Oakley was told there are three witnesses expected to testify. Cook's court-appointed attorney is Tatanisha Reed.

Cook was present in Judge Oakley's courtroom by video from St. Clair where he is lodged on another offense.

Rebecca Lynn Fletcher

Rebecca Lynn Fletcher, 43, waived her preliminary exam on charges of operating while intoxicated-third and fleeing police in a vehicle on Jan. 26 in Sumpter Township. She is scheduled to be at the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice in Detroit on April 25 for her arraignment on the information. Fletcher is free on \$1,000 personal recognizance bond.

Shauna Simone Taylor

Shauna Simone Taylor, 37, has her preliminary exam set for April 18 on a felony charge of first-degree retail fraud on April 1 in VBT. She is lodged on bond of \$50,000/10 %.

BELLEVILLE STRAWBERRY QUEEN PAGEANT 2018 ENTRY FORM

Friday, June 15, 2018 at 7:30 PM – Belleville High School Auditorium
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Board awards contracts for first phase of library building construction

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

At its regular meeting April 10, the Belleville Area District Library Board officially awarded contracts for Bid Pack 1 for site construction of the new library to the following subcontractors:

- Survey and Layout - Midwestern Consulting, \$16,600;
- Earthwork, Grading and Underground Utilities - Blue Ribbon Contracting, \$766,600;
- Fencing - Industrial Fence, \$23,376;
- Landscaping - Salisbury Landscaping Group, \$67,351;
- Site Concrete - Fessler & Bowman, Inc., \$113,400;
- Flag Pole - Rocket Enterprise, Inc., \$2,966.

All were low bidders, except for the low flag pole bid of \$1,875 from Pole Tech which was not all-inclusive, according to Matthew Ratzow, senior project manager for O'Neal Construction.

The board decided to hold off accepting the low base bid of MadRax at \$764 to supply bike racks. If the budget allows they could want a more creative design instead of the basic.

Ratzow said the sealed bids were opened publicly at the library at 2 p.m., March 27, and read aloud and recorded.

Digging is expected to start in mid-May, Ratzow said.

Ratzow reported that on June 9 they will move the construction fence to make way for the museum's Rosie the Riveter event on Fourth Street that will include a band.

Building Committee chairman Joy Cichewicz reported that representatives met with Sumpter Township officials and attorneys to work out the lease agreement for the hexagon building in Sumpter.

Board chairman Sharon Peters said the work in Sumpter is important to the board and some of the communications aren't going through. She referred to the *Independent's* report that the April 14 groundbreaking was announced at the Sumpter meeting earlier that evening, but there was confusion on where the ceremonial groundbreaking would be held.

"Our information needs to be as full and complete as can be," Peters said. "As important as the business of our building on which we are going to break ground, our work in Sumpter is very important."

When discussing the construction schedule in Belleville, Ratzow said he expects the new electric poles to be up by the end of April. The Edison lines will be in place above, but the Comcast and AT&T lines below will have to be moved, as well.

Library Director Mary Jo Suchy said there are piles of poles at the corner of Third and Charles.

Board member John Juriga said DTE works at night when it can so it doesn't affect churches and businesses.

The next bid package for everything else in the construction is to go out in early to mid-May, Ratzow and Cichewicz agreed, but architect Dan Whisler said there is a concern about the steel availability because it takes 18 weeks for delivery once it is ordered.



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2000	FORD	VN	1FDRE14W7YHA20042	18-5417
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At 11:30am, the auction will move to **Great Lakes Towing** and storage, 42350 Van Born Rd. Belleville MI, County of Wayne, where the following vehicles will be offered for sale to the highest bidder.

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1997	HONDA	4D	1HGCD5605VA176776	18-4534
2005	FORD	4D	1FAFP53295A141754	18-4625
2001	CHEVROLET	4D	1Y1SK528X1Z439573	18-4772
2002	FORD	4D	1FAFP55U62G171690	18-4870
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1990	MAZDA	4D	JM1GD2226L1807490	18-5154
2002	FORD	4D	1FAFP55U62G103566	18-5154
2000	MERCURY	4D	1MEFM50U4YG604747	18-5154
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2001	FORD	4D	1FAFP36371W110332	18-5154
2003	FORD	4D	1FAFP55U63G203460	18-5154
2002	SATURN	4D	1G8ZH52802Z159710	18-5154
2009	CHEVROLET	4D	2G1WT57KX91171824	18-2668
2003	DODGE	SW	2D4GP44R43R285213	18-3337
2011	CHEVROLET	4D	1G1ZA5E17BF107137	18-3798
1998	CHEVROLET	SW	3GNEK18R6WG111544	18-4017
2002	PONTIAC	2D	1G2NW12E12C164141	18-5843

All vehicles are sold in "as is condition." Bidding on all impounded vehicles will start at the amount due for towing and storage. Vehicles may be deleted from this list at any time prior to the start of the auction.

Leon Wright, CMC, Van Buren Township Clerk

Published: April 19th, 2018

Things to do in the Belleville area...

• **Thursday, April 19** – Belleville Area Museum's Third Thursday Lecture and Pizza Party starts at 6 p.m. Cheryl Martin will present "Military History." Free to members of the Historical Society; \$5 for non-members.

• **Friday, April 20** – "Into the Woods" continues its run at 7 p.m. at the Belleville High School Auditorium. Continues on Saturday at 2 and 7 p.m.

• **Saturday, April 21** – Red Cross Blood Drive from 9 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. at Trinity Episcopal Church, 11575 Belleville Road.

• **Saturday, April 21** – State Rep. Joseph Bellino will hold local office hours from 9 to 10 a.m. at Biggby, 26614 Telegraph Road in Flat Rock, and from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at Tim Horton's, 404 S. Monroe Street in Monroe. Among other communities, Rep. Bellino represents Sumpter Township in Lansing.

• **Saturday, April 21** – It's Earth Day and the public is invited to help clean up Lake Erie Metropark in Brownstown and Oakwood Metropark in New Boston, starting at 10 a.m. Bring a pair of work gloves. Register at metroparks.com/earth . Phone (734) 379-5020 for Lake Erie and (734) 782-3956 for Oakwoods.

• **Saturday, April 21** – Eighth-annual Free-Style boutique at Willow United Methodist Church, 36925 Willow Road, New Boston, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. or until all the items are gone. The public is invited to come to the church basement and take home any clothing items available that they might need, without charge. Just show up and take what is needed and pass it one, no questions asked. Information: (734) 654-9020.

• **Saturday, April 21** – That's Amore XIII dinner and live auction to benefit the ChadTough Foundation for pediatric brain cancer research through the University of Michigan. The event is at the Van Buren Eagles, 9961 Beck Road, Belleville, with doors open to the public at 5:30 p.m. with dinner at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$30 at the door and \$25 in advance. Italian dinner prepared by Nico & Vali Italian Eatery in Plymouth. Complimentary beer, wine and soft drinks. DJ entertainment. Dancing. Information: (734) 699-8836; (734) 657-0048; or thatsamore777@yahoo.com .

• **Sunday, April 22** – Free Sunday Music, 2-5 p.m., at September Days Senior Center, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township. Music today by Jay Frandsen/Sax. Information: Jimmy Baleja, (734) 223-4824 or Lynette Jordan, (734) 699-8918.

• **Monday, April 23** – You're invited to the ground breaking for the new 34th District Court building at 3 p.m. It will be built in front of the present site at 11131 Wayne Road, Romulus, not far from Romulus City Hall.

• **Monday, April 23** – State Rep. Kristy Pagan will meet with constituents at 7 p.m. at the Canton Administration building, 1150 S. Canton Center Road. The April meeting in Belleville has been cancelled.

• **Thursday, April 26** – Belleville National Strawberry Festival meeting at 5:30 p.m. at Victory Station at Five Points. Help plan this year's festival.

• **Friday, April 27** – Induction ceremonies for the Belleville High School Honor Society and the BHS Distinguished Graduates at 7 p.m. at the BHS Auditorium. Preceded by 5 p.m. dinner for all Distinguished Graduates and others in the BHS Commons and a 6 p.m. tour of BHS. Call BHS at 697-9133 for info.

Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

Out of the 450 dispatch calls for service reported by Van Buren Township police for the past week, the following are selected for this column.

Sunday, April 8:

0044 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Ironwood Dr.
0419 -- breaking & entering, S. Bellridge Dr.
0455 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Parkwood Dr.
0545 -- 911 welfare check, S. Bellridge Dr.
0547 -- domestic, Oak Ln.
0603 -- domestic, Oak Ln.
0919 -- property damage accident, Haggerty/Tyler
1044 -- domestic, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1056 -- domestic, Belleville Rd.
1300 -- 911 welfare check, Parkwood Dr.
1428 -- traffic offense, Rawsonville/Martz
1614 -- PPO violation, Maple Dr.
1907 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Lighthouse Dr.
2002 -- malicious destruction of property, Assembly St.

2033 -- assault & batter, Oak Blvd.
2124 -- operating while intoxicated, Belleville Rd. / Ecorse Rd.

Monday, April 9:

0102 -- threat, W. Huron River Dr.
0104 -- noise complaint, Oak Ln.
0315 -- malicious destruction of property, Haggerty Rd.

1219 -- animal complaint, Country Walk/Savage
1341 -- mental subject, I-94 S. Service Dr.
1729 -- robbery, Holly Ln.
1739 -- civil matter, N. Ponderosa Trl.
1813 -- property damage accident, Hoeft Rd.
2050 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Haggerty
2214 -- retail fraud, Belleville Rd.

Tuesday, April 10:

0611 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Rawsonville Rd. / Michigan Ave.
0922 -- property damage accident, Tyler/Haggerty
1112 -- fraud, Morton Taylor Rd.
1228 -- disorderly, Parkwood Dr.
1234 -- sexual assault, Hamilton St.
1524 -- fraud, Sylvia Dr.
1545 -- found property/child, Belleville Rd.
1600 -- 911 welfare check, Belleville Rd.
1634 -- juvenile complaint, Belleville Rd.
1705 -- fraud, Oak Ln.

1733 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville/TylerSe

1836 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Ecorse Rd. / Haggerty Rd.
1937 -- larceny from auto, Jackson St.
1949 -- family trouble, Beacon Trl.
2302 -- trespassing, Belleville Rd.
2333 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Vernon St.

Wednesday, April 11:

0426 -- suspicious person/vehicle, S. I-94 Service
0717 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Timberview Ct. / Stonebridge Dr.

0718 -- animal complaint, Savage/Country Walk
0824 -- fraud, Holly Ln.
1025 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Robson Rd.
1042 -- ordinance violation, Dellor Rd.
1320 -- found property/child, Van Buren St.
1345 -- property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1452 -- fraud, Denton Rd.
1519 -- fraud, Winding Pond Dr.
1550 -- civil matter, Kirkridge Park Dr.
1649 -- civil matter, Belleville Rd.
1719 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Elwell Rd.
1758 -- animal complaint, Winding Pond Dr.
1858 -- disorderly, Belleville Rd.
1919 -- suspicious person/vehicle, S. Bellridge
1958 -- civil matter, Oak Ln.
2056 -- harassment call, Greenbriar Dr.
2331 -- traffic offense, Ecorse Rd.

Thursday, April 12:

0755 -- property damage accident, Sumpter Rd.
0822 -- road hazard, E. Huron River Dr./Haggerty
0933 -- larceny, N. Ponderosa Trl.
1015 -- private property/property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1045 -- found property/child, Bemis
1123 -- private property/property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd.
1221 -- fraud, Rawsonville
1317 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Rawsonville Rd.
1329 -- road hazard, Haggerty/I-94
1336 -- private property/property damage accident,

Belleville Rd.

1359 -- animal complaint, Beck Rd.
1455 -- property damage accident, Belleville/N. I-94 Service Dr.
1505 -- animal complaint, Jackson Ct.
1610 -- domestic, Marlowe Ave.
1613 -- suspicious person/vehicle, S. I-94 Service
1628 -- animal complaint, Savage Rd.
1634 -- larceny, Haggerty
1736 -- juvenile complaint, Menards
1752 -- trespassing, S. Ponderosa Trl.
1808 -- juvenile complaint, Redwood Dr.
1821 -- disorderly, Hull Rd.
1828 -- animal complaint, Martz Rd.
1855 -- domestic, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1945 -- retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1942 -- harassment call, Sylvia Dr.
2001 -- personal injury accident, Belleville Rd.

Friday, April 13:

0253 -- noise complaint, Parkwood Dr.
0706 -- property damage accident, Haggerty Rd. / Ricardo Dr.
0713 -- domestic, Belleville Rd.
0722 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Maple Dr.
1212 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Lighthouse Dr.
1322 -- suspicious person/vehicle, N. Woodbury
1451 -- private property impound, Bld. Meadows of Van Buren

1710 -- shooting, E. Huron River Dr.
1713 -- private property impound, Van Born Rd.
1722 -- private property impound, Sawgrass Ct.
1913 -- noise complaint, Ivy Dr.
2130 -- 911 welfare check, Belleville Rd.
2204 -- larceny, Crowley Ave.
2245 -- harassment call, Kirkridge Park Dr.
2358 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Parkwood Dr.

Saturday, April 14:

0025 -- assault & battery, N. I-94 Service Dr.
0026 -- trespassing, N. Ponderosa Trl.
0701 -- property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
0745 -- malicious destruction of property, Oak Ln.
0848 -- domestic, Maple Dr.
0925 -- larceny from auto, E. Archwood Dr.
0954 -- juvenile complaint, S. Ponderosa Trl.
1029 -- property damage accident, W I-94 / Haggerty
1331 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.
1630 -- property damage accident, Ecorse/Denton
1818 -- road hazard, Denton Rd./Ecorse Rd.
1847 -- traffic offense, E. Huron River Dr. / Haggerty Rd.
1902 -- traffic offense, Bemis Rd./Lohr Rd.
2007 -- property damage accident, Greenbriar Dr.
2052 -- retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
2111 -- suicidal person, Haggerty Rd.
2205 -- holdup alarm, Belleville Rd.
2300 -- noise complaint, N. Woodbury Dr.
2329 -- suicidal person, Outer Dr.

Also on last week's log are 194 traffic stops, 29 of which were on the I-94 and I-275 freeways.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, April 8:

0149 -- 911 welfare check, Belle Villa Blvd.
0715 -- miscellaneous complaint, South St.
1309 -- fraud, Harbour Pointe Dr.
1803 -- civil matter, Estrada
1938 -- welfare check, Loza Ln.
2044 -- assist other dept., Romulus PD
2341 -- assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.

Monday, April 9:

0030 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Loza Ln. / E. Huron River Dr.
0236 -- intrusion alarm, South St.
1134 -- abandoned auto, Potter Dr./Wexford Ave.
1341 -- warrant arrest, Main St.
1453 -- property damage accident, High/Main
2109 -- assist fire dept., Bedell St.
2134 -- road hazard, Savage Rd./Victorian Ln.
2336 -- traffic offense, Church St./W. Columbia

Tuesday, April 10:

0718 -- malicious destruction of property, Victorian Ln.
0823 -- assist fire dept., Carmell St.
0859 -- hold-up alarm, Main St.
1638 -- property damage accident, Main St.
1706 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Sumpter Rd. / Belle Villa Blvd.
1822 -- suspicious person/vehicle, N. Liberty St.
1945 -- assist other dept., Oxford Ct./Victorian Ln.

2013 -- operating while intoxicated, Sumpter Rd. / Industrial Park Dr.

Wednesday, April 11:

0154 -- assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
0305 -- intrusion alarm, N. Liberty St.
0941 -- intrusion alarm, E. Columbia Ave.
1840 -- assist other dept., Victorian Ln.
1859 -- assist fire dept., N. Liberty St.
2014 -- vehicle lockout, Fourth St.
2056 -- assist fire dept., Astor Pl.

Thursday, April 12:

0140 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Clarence St.
0249 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Main St.
0428 -- traffic offense, Main/Third
0752 -- assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
0929 -- parking complaint, W. Columbia Ave.
1114 -- fraud, S. Industrial Park Dr.
1218 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Carmell St.
1523 -- suspicious person/vehicle, W. Columbia
1523 -- vehicle lockout, Fourth St.
1534 -- assist fire dept., N. Aberdeen Ct.
1810 -- disorderly, Main St.
2022 -- disorderly, Anaheim St.
2211 -- civil matter, Harbour Pointe Dr.

Friday, April 13:

0308 -- civil matter, Anaheim St.
0959 -- assist fire dept., Victorian Ln.
1635 -- animal complaint, Victory Park
1827 -- parking complaint, N. Liberty/Fifth St.
2151 -- warrant arrest, Belleville/Michigan

Saturday, April 14:

0006 -- suspicious person/vehicle, W. Columbia
0131 -- ordinance violation, Belleville Rd./Denton
0703 -- assist other dept., Belleville
1055 -- civil matter, Sumpter Rd.
1313 -- welfare check, South St.
1423 -- assist fire dept., High St.
1446 -- assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
1516 -- property damage accident, Main/Denton
2055 -- traffic offense, Victory Park
2111 -- traffic offense, Ormond/W. Huron River
2129 -- traffic offense, Ormond/W. Huron River
Also on last week's log are 70 traffic stops.

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Belleville Planning Commission hears changes to library plan

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

Library architect Dan Whisler told the library board at its April 10 meeting that he was going to attend the April 12 meeting of the Belleville Planning Commission to tell them of the changes made that impacted the exterior of the new library.

"They are doing a detailed engineering review and we hope to be able to get building permits," Whisler told the board.

He said the vacating of some of Fourth Street is part of the city's process.

"When the drawings go to the city in May, we don't want the planning commission to

say, 'Hey, there are changes!' ... This could prevent any speed bumps ... by crossing t's and dotting i's," Whisler said.

Belleville Planning Commissioner Randy Priest was at the library board meeting and he said he had requested the mechanical screen required on the top of the new library building to be put on the April 12 agenda for reconsideration. He said it was put on the agenda and then later removed from the agenda.

"I have a lot to say on it," Priest said, adding removal of the screen could save the library some money. "You, might want to come," Priest said to the library board.

On April 12, architect Whisler was at the planning commission meeting, along with Matthew Ratzow, senior project manager of O'Neal Construction, and library board members Sharon Peters, Mary Jane Dawson, and Joy Cichewicz.

When the commission agenda was voted on for approval, Commissioner John Juriga (who is also a library board member) didn't vote, so City Manager Diana Kollmeyer called for a roll-call vote.

"I approve this one," Juriga said of the original agenda that was revised to remove the screening issue.

"It was voted on," Kollmeyer stated.

After the roll-call vote was taken, the revised agenda was approved -- without the roof screen item.

Later Juriga said the Jan. 11 meeting

minutes show a vote was taken on this and Whisler's request to remove the requirement for rooftop screening was denied.

Then Whisler launched into his report on the changes to the exterior of the new library building.

"We're crossing our t's and dotting our i's so there's no hiccups," he said to the commission. He said the library site drawings have been into the city for some time for review. Changes have been made predominately to the exterior of the building and there is no change to the footprint.

He told of cutting back the sizes of some of the windows to save money on steel.

Also, there is change to the brickwork. He said they had planned some banding and other changes in plane, so there would be extra shadow lines. But, this has been simplified and the bricks are all in the same plane to save money.

They had planned different bricks and a limestone product on the stair tower, but that has been simplified so there is no limestone and it is all brick.

He said they had a sunshade area on the second floor terrace on Roys, wrapping around to Charles, and now the sunshade has been made an alternate and it will be determined if they can afford it or not.

When asked if the sunshade could be added later, Whisler said it could be added during construction. But, it is bolted onto the building and it was designed to have a structural steel support stick out of the building for the bolting.

"It's challenging. It's not prudent or easy to do it later," he said.

Whisler said another major design change is the entry. The circular entry has been shortened by six feet. He said there is glass all the way up and now it has the same roofline as the roof, where before it was above the roof and light came in 360

degrees.

"Mostly aesthetics," he said.

He said the other circular structure was brought down a foot. It is three stories of stairs and it allows maintenance workers climbing up to the roof. He said the roof is a single-ply membrane roof.

"Essentially, it's a flat roof that slants to a drain," he said.

He showed the commission the colors of the bricks.

"There's not a building in Belleville that would have brick like this," Whisler said, calling it "unique."

He said in this day and age they felt it was necessary to put in more exit doors around the building than required so people can easily get out of the building if there is an emergency.

City Building Official Rick Rutherford said he expected full approval of the engineering drawings by the first of the week.

In other business, Kollmeyer reminded commissioners of the Planning and Zoning training session from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 26, put on by Van Buren Township. She said attendance is open to staff members and local board, council, and commission members of Van Buren Township, the City of Belleville, and Sumpter Township.

Kollmeyer said the city has made attendance mandatory because of the importance of the training. She said she and Rutherford will be attending. She thanked VBT for including them in the training.



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34th District Court of Michigan



Groundbreaking Ceremony

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24409 SHERWOOD 1.15 ACRES	\$30,000
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49317 ARKONA 40.28 ACRES	\$180,000
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SUMPTER 8 AC NEXT TO 28200	\$49,000
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45885 SOLD AT PRESS TIME	\$25,000
MORTON TAYLOR	\$20,000 AND \$20,000
VACANT LOUISA "DREAM LOT"	\$70,000
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50435 BOG ROAD .55 ACRES	\$50,000

VACANT BOG ROAD 1.36 ACRES	\$30,000
VACANT BOG RD 12.83 ACRES	\$129,000
47441 MARTZ ROAD 17+ ACRES	\$176,000
739 SAVAGE PAVED ST 1.02 ACRES	\$30,000
45109 S SERVICE DR 2+ ACRES	\$274,900
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