



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 31.17 Thursday, April 24, 2025

Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

FREE

VBT OKs engineering variances for Sheetz, Tractor Supply

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

The Van Buren Township Board of Trustees unanimously approved variances to the township's engineering standards for both the Sheetz gas station and Tractor Supply projects.

Clerk Leon Wright was the only board member absent.

At the board's April 15 regular meeting, Ron Akers, director of municipal services, explained that the Van Buren Township standards were last updated in 2014 and will be upgraded soon to comply with Wayne County stormwater standards.

He recommended the board approve the variances.

Treasurer Sharry Budd said she hopes the drainage work Sheetz is doing on their property at the corner of Haggerty and Ecorse will help alleviate the flooding at that corner. A representative of Sheetz said they are working with Wayne County on that and Sheetz plans two detention ponds. The water will drain from the ponds into the county drain.

He said they expect to break ground in the fall and it will take six months to build.

Tractor Supply hopes to break ground in May and be done in 30 weeks.

In other business at the April 15 meeting, the board:

- Heard Trustee Kevin Martin read a board proclamation naming April 28 as Workers Memorial Day, with State Rep. Reggie Miller accepting the framed proclamation on behalf of the AFLCIO, who could not attend, and the state of Michigan;

- Heard 34th District Court Judge Lisa Martin invite everyone to the fourth-annual open house at the court on May 1, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.;

- Heard Deputy Supervisor Dan Selman announce the March 30 death of 94-year-old James Pollard, one of the township's

(continued on page 15)



A family gathers around Flop E Bunny at Victory Park in Belleville on Saturday to pose for a free photo with the bunny. The event, sponsored by the Central Business Community, also offered candy hunts in different age groups, a chance to climb on a Belleville fire truck, a DJ, books, inflatables, and food trucks.



Families took pictures of their children posing with the Bunny and Sparky on Saturday during Sumpter Township's Easter Egg hunt event and games at Graham Park. A large crowd attended the annual event sponsored by the Sumpter Township Parks and Recreation Committee.

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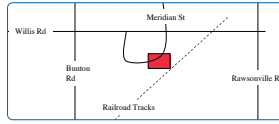
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SECOND FRONT PAGE

'Schoolhouse Rock Live! Jr.' at VBT Black Box Theater

The Van Buren Community Players will present the youth musical "Schoolhouse Rock Live! Jr." at the Community Center Black Box Theater May 9-11 and 16-18.

The story follows a young schoolteacher named Tom who is worried about his first day of classes. As he tries to relax by watching TV, pieces of his personality emerge, showing him how to win over his students using his imagination and catchy music.

Director Emily Lange and assistant director Carter Salata, along with a cast of 11, will present this musical based on the children's educational Saturday morning cartoon series on television. Director Lange said, "'Schoolhouse Rock Live! Jr.' has been a blast to work on! Everyone on our team is so talented, especially our actors: one minute they are a train and the next they are Napoleon! You do not want to miss this super-fun show full of classics like 'Conjunction Junction,' 'Just a Bill,' and more!"

The cast includes local actors: Samantha Keliher of Canton as Tom, Roland Toole of VBT as George, Lauren Broughton of VBT as Dori, Sophia Sloan of VBT as Shulie, Laila Tapp-Hall of Pittsfield Twp. as Joe, Emilie Crosby of VBT as Dina, Delilah Frawley of Canton as Janet, Wende Acoff of VBT as Elvis, Ava Marshall of VBT as the Statue of Liberty, Harper Tapp-Hall of Pittsfield Twp. as ensemble, and Jackson White of VBT as ensemble.

Audiences will hear "Schoolhouse Rock" classic songs and a few songs in this show will take viewers down memory lane, reminiscing about being a kid again, sitting



Some of the actors in the upcoming presentation of the Van Buren Community Players are, from left, top row: Sophia Sloan, Roland Toole, Laila Tapp-Hall, and Emilie Crosby; middle row: Wende Acoff, Samantha Keliher, and Delilah Frawley; bottom row: Jackson White, Harper Tapp-Hall, Ava Marshall, and Lauren Broughton.

in front of the TV and singing along with "Schoolhouse Rock," Lange said.

Performances are May 9-11 and 16-18 at the Black Box Theater, inside the VBT Community Center, 46425 Tyler Rd., Van Buren Township. Friday and Saturday performances are at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday performances are at 2 p.m.

Tickets to the performances are \$16-\$20 each and can be purchased online by

going to <https://vanburentwp.recdesk.com/Community/Program> or in person at the Community Center Desk Monday-Friday 6 a.m.-8 p.m., Saturday 8 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sunday 9 a.m.-2 p.m. For ticket assistance via phone, call (734) 699-8921. If there are any remaining tickets, they will be available for purchase at the Community Center Desk one hour prior to show time.

"Schoolhouse Rock Live! Jr." is presented

through special arrangement with Music Theatre International. All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.

For more information on this show and all upcoming shows, visit www.vanburencommunityplayers.com, email vanburencommunityplayers@gmail.com, or call (734) 796-7900.

Notable *Independent* of the past belonged to Henry Ford

By Don Sherman
Guest Writer

The name "Independent" is a favorite for newspapers because it implies freedom from government and corporate influence. The *Belleville-Area Independent* began 30 years ago and has thrived with Rosemary Otzman as editor for more than 1,500 issues.

Another Detroit suburb previously used the same name. The *Dearborn Independent* was founded in 1901 as a weekly paper edited by Marcus Woodruff. In 1918, that publication was purchased by Ford Motor Company's Ernest Liebold to establish what was called the Dearborn Publishing Company. Liebold's boss and the president of this new enterprise was none other than Henry Ford.

The Ford Motor Company, founded in 1903, was Henry Ford's third attempt at building automobiles. Considered by many to be the auto industry's spiritual father,



Ford invented the five-day work week, the \$5-per-day salary for his employees, and the Model T, a car practically everyone could afford.

In January 1919, the *Dearborn Independent* became the Ford Motor Company's official organ. On its masthead it was dubbed The Ford International Weekly. A regular column was titled Mr. Ford's Page. Ford dealers were required to promote this newspaper, driving circulation to a claimed 700,000-900,000 copies. It had a 16-page format and cost five cents per issue or \$1 per annum. Unfortunately, Henry Ford had an ulterior

motive: espousing antisemitism. The front page of his May 22, 1920, issue shrieked "The International Jew: The World's Problem." He also blamed what he called German-Jewish bankers for starting World War I.

This provocative stance prompted fervent reactions. In 1921, 100 notables including President Woodrow Wilson and ex-president William Howard Taft signed a statement titled "The Peril of Racial Prejudice," denouncing the *Dearborn Independent* as un-American because of its antisemitic stance. In addition, a few large cities forbade the paper's sale.

Following a \$1-million libel suit brought by attorney Aaron Sapiro, the Anti-Defamation League, and B'nai B'rith, a Jewish service organization, the *Dearborn Independent* ceased publishing in 1927.

Henry Ford lived 20 more years. His great-grandson William Clay Ford Jr. is now the Executive Chair of the Ford

Motor Company, the world's sixth-largest automobile producer. Many Ford employees reside in Van Buren Township and enjoy the *Belleville-Area Independent* every week.

(Information for this story was sourced from Central Michigan University's Clark Historical Library.)

Upcoming Meetings

- Monday, April 28 – Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m., BHS Commons
- Monday, May 5 – Belleville City Council, 6:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, May 6 – Van Buren Township Board of Trustees, 6 p.m., and workshop at 5 p.m. as needed
- Thursday, May 8 – Keystone Academy School Board annual meeting, 5 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township Planning Commission, 6 p.m. Also, Belleville Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.

OPINIONS

Editorial

Data centers to seek increased electricity sources in this area

Where is all the electricity to come for all of the data centers being lured into our state by recent legislation? In late December and mid-January, Gov. Whitmer signed bipartisan bills to award tax breaks to businesses that spend at least \$250 million to build or expand data center. These data centers will be eligible to pay no sales or use taxes on equipment.

That has opened the floodgates with the end not in sight. The University of Michigan and Los Alamos National Laboratory already had a plan to develop a facility for high-performance computing and AI research just over Rawsonville Road in Washtenaw County. A mini-nuclear plant in that facility has been discussed. There reportedly are more facilities to come in this area with no end in sight behind them.

The Detroit Three automakers, Rocket Mortgage and even DTE are among businesses using a tremendous amount of data. Residents also are using increased data. Van Buren Public Schools have five free electric buses coming and are figuring out how to plug them in.

DTE Energy is considering expansion of its nuclear plant in Monroe County or even building a second plant there. The tri-community is in the danger zone for nuclear accidents there. Experts are doing analyses on what can be done. Maybe this growth will qualify for federal grants.

We're located in the middle of what could be a huge energy-generating and storing center. Keep watch.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

An April 14 story in Crain's Detroit Business explains what's going on in Van Buren Township. Recently, a sudden need came up at the planning commission to pass an ordinance to regulate battery storage. It was mentioned that a business was interested in battery storage and, meanwhile, the state had passed a law that gave communities a little bit of control.

Crain's reporter Kurt Nagl wrote about Our Next Energy, a 659,000-square-foot facility on Ecorse Road in the Ashley Capital complex that got a lot of press in 2022 when it came up with billions of dollars in investments and a \$237-million state grant from the governor during the EV fever, to make lithium iron phosphate batteries.

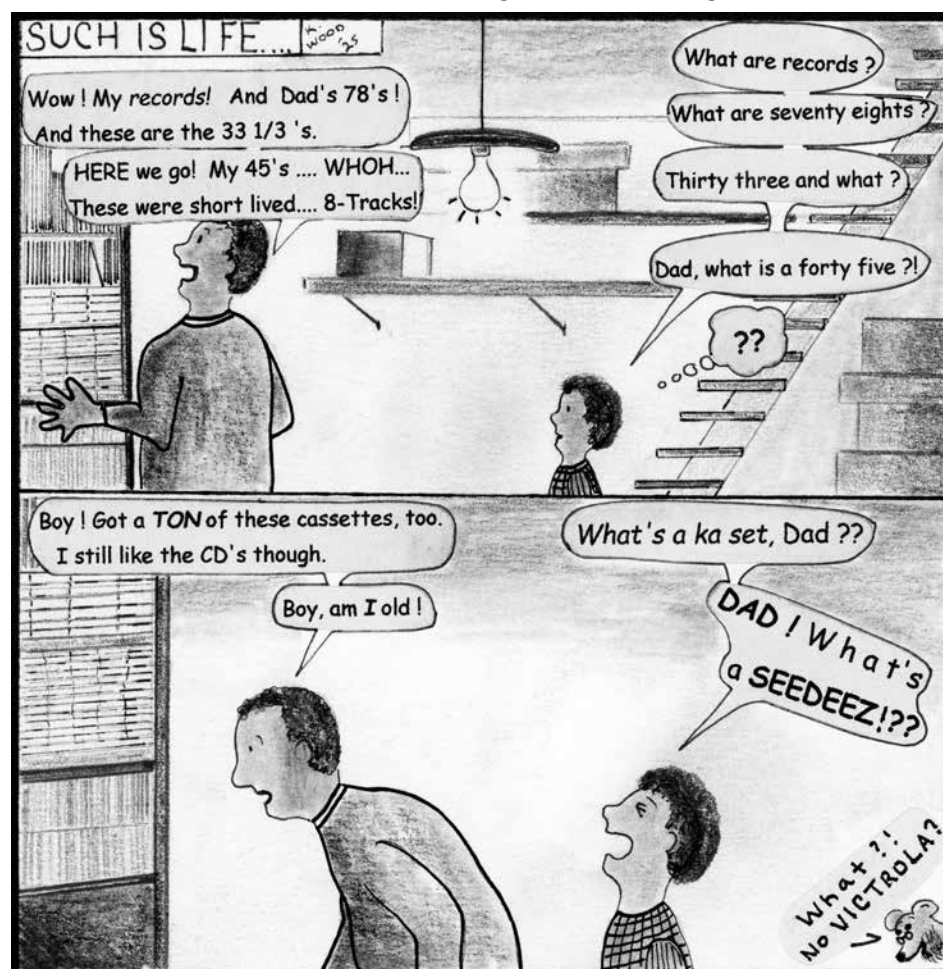
ONE had committed to spending \$1.6 billion and creating 2,112 jobs in VBT by Dec. 31, 2029. But the need for EV batteries was widely overshot by companies and some businesses have shut their doors. ONE currently has \$70 million invested and 50 jobs.

But the ONE company recently landed an energy storage contract with a utility integrator worth hundreds of millions in annual revenue. Cells built at the VBT plant will supply modules also to be built by ONE. Although the modules were to be built in a new location in metro Detroit, now they may be built in VBT, adding around 100 jobs.

They plan to begin module production by September 2026. The company is designing new grid storage modules that stand upright with manifolds that plug into the container floor and allow for proper ventilation and protect from thermal runaway, a big problem with many grid storage systems.

Fire was one of the concerns of the VBT planning commission as it considered what to do about a grid storage ordinance. The

...By Rosemary K. Otzman



planners were told: "They are basically shipping containers that move power in and out of the grid, like a huge room of boxes that hum. They are placed on concrete pads with gravel."

Currently, the township's Battery Energy Storage System ordinance is still in its developmental stage. A public hearing was set for March 26, but then removed from the agenda. It may be on the May 14 agenda. The commission was told a developer on Rawsonville Road is waiting patiently for them to take action. The ONE plan wasn't mentioned.

A reader called to say that he used to ride motorcycles in his younger days and he knows gravel on downhill slopes can be very dangerous, especially wet gravel. He was referring to the rocks across the Iron Belle Trail on East Huron River Drive in Van Buren Township near the bridge. He said bikers hitting wet rocks and gravel will fall and the current situation on the trail is an accident waiting to happen.

"Maybe somebody will care," he said of his concerns.

We were alerted to a story on page 2A in Saturday's *Detroit Free Press* mentioning Dan Besson. We remember Dan being elected to the Belleville City Council and then being forced to give up that position because he was appointed Van Buren Township fire chief. The city thought a councilman shouldn't work for the township. (Incidentally, Besson in VBT and newly retired Belleville fire chief

Brian Loranger were both promoted to fire chief in their departments the same week in August 2012.)

In Saturday's story, Dan, who has been Leland Township Fire and Rescue Chief since 2017, said that firefighters in his department rescued a man who was rock hunting with his girlfriend on April 12 when got sucked down waist deep in a pile of sand on a Lake Michigan beach.

Chief Besson speculated the man was walking in an area where sand from harbor dredging had been deposited and it wasn't stable. "We've never had an incident like this," Besson said, adding they will be putting up warning signs.

We've been informed that former BHS quarterback Bryce Underwood used his NIL (Name, Image and Likeness) deal with Feldman Chevrolet to arrange for a new Chevy SUV for Belleville security guard Mychal Darty. That was on April 6. Underwood said the Darty helped him and his Tiger teammates during his days at BHS.

Underwood left BHS as a senior without graduating in December to early enroll at the University of Michigan so he could start training to play football either this spring or fall at U of M. He is 17 years old. Bryce, his mother, and his father already have new cars as part of the deal.



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Letters

Friends of Library used-book sale is May 3, 4

To the editor:

Thank you to the patrons of the Belleville Area District Library who donated used books for the "Spring Fever" Book Sale, starting Saturday, May 3.

Thousands of used books will be available, including adult, teen and children's fiction and non-fiction, with the different genres: biography, classics, cookbooks, fantasy, gardening, history, literature, photography, religion, self-help, and more.

A members-only preview sale will take place 11 a.m. – noon for the Friends of the Belleville Library. Memberships will be available at the door.

The used-book sale will be open to the public:

Saturday, May 3, 12-3 p.m.

Sunday, May 4, 1-4 p.m.

Used books will be discounted as follows: Adult and teen hardcovers, 2 for \$1; paperbacks, 4 for \$1; children's books 4 for \$1; audio books, Blu Rays, CDs, and DVDs, all 4 for \$1.

On Sunday only, there will be a bag sale. Fill a bag for \$4 each.

Credit cards will be accepted.

There will be a table of collectible, special-priced books including boxed sets, coffee-table books, and complete series, perfect for Mother's Day gifts.

Proceeds from the sale are used to maintain the rooftop beehives, summer reading programs, participation in Lake Fest, Harvest Fest, Winter Fest, and other library programs.

For more information and membership applications, visit www.belleville.lib.mi.us.

Elaine Gutierrez

Friends of the Library

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Musings
By Janet Millard
Independent Advertising Director 

This is the last paper to advertise the May 3 Mother's Day Market at WCCCD Ted Scott Campus so get that on your calendar if you haven't already. There will be a wide array of crafters, many local, for you to select your Mother's Day or special occasion gifts.

The first weekend in May is always very busy. Let me remind you that the annual perennial swap by the Belleville Garden Club is on May 3 and it runs from noon until 2 p.m. They will be on the side lawn on Charles Street and you should show up on time to get some good swaps!

Hope you have taken the opportunity to visit many of the restaurants during restaurant week. It ends on Sunday, April 27, so you still have a few days to dine a few more times.

If you haven't noticed the ad from Van Buren Township for the Open House Workshop this is your opportunity to learn more about your community and give input in many different areas. It is scheduled for April 30, 6-8 p.m. in the Van Buren Township board meeting room on Tyler Road.

Do you have a business item you would like to see in this column? Call Janet Millard at (734) 699-9020.

Garden Club: Hear how gardens improve mental, physical health

The Belleville Area Garden Club is opening its 7 p.m. meeting on Monday, April 28, meeting to ALL gardeners in the area.

Tom Bucci, Michigan State Master Gardener, will be giving a presentation on Therapeutic Gardening. The public is invited to hear Tom tell how gardens improve the mental and physical health of the gardener as well as those who visit them.

The presentation will be at the Belleville Area District Library at 167 Fourth St., Belleville.

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Things to do in the Belleville area...

• **Thursday, April 24** – A support group for the blind and visually impaired meets the fourth Thursday of each month from noon to 1:30 p.m. at the Sumpter Community Center, 23501 Sumpter Rd. Transportation is available for those who live in Belleville, Sumpter Township, and Van Buren Township by calling (734) 461-9373. For information, call (734) 507-6282.

• **Thursday, April 24** – Southwestern Wayne (County) Democratic Club's Annual Chili Cook-off, 6 p.m. at the Wayne County Fairgrounds, 10871 Quirk Rd., Van Buren Township. \$20 to enter a pot of chili, \$10 to taste and vote. Entry includes hot dog, chips, beverage, and light dessert.

• **Friday, April 25** – The Belleville High School Distinguished Graduate Induction Ceremony, along with the BHS induction ceremony will begin at 7 p.m. in the high school auditorium. A recognition dinner for the Distinguished Graduates and their guests will be from 5-6:15 p.m. in the BHS cafeteria (the Commons). Distinguished Graduates are treated to the meal and others will pay \$30 cash at the door. Register for the dinner by April 17 at dspicer@vanburenschools.net or call (734) 697-9133, ext. 2015.

• **Friday, April 25** – Dinner at 5 p.m., meat auction at 6:30 p.m., and DJ Betty/karaoke mix at 7:30 p.m., all at the Van Buren Eagles #3996, 9961 Beck Rd., Van Buren Township. Open to the public.

• **Saturday, April 26** – Earth Day cleanup at Banotai Park, 24598 Sherwood Rd., in Sumpter Township from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Bring your own rake, gloves, etc. Pick up litter, recycle, light gardening, planting. Pizza for all volunteers.

• **Monday, April 28** – The Belleville Area Garden Club invites the public to its 7 p.m. meeting at the Belleville Area District

Library, 167 Fourth St., Belleville, to hear Michigan State Master Gardener Tom Bucci tell how gardens improve mental and physical health.

• **Thursday, May 1** – Fourth-annual Community Day at the 34th District Court, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., 11129 Wayne Rd., Romulus. Public safety demonstrations, tours, pet adoptions, car show, food trucks.

• **Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, May**

1, 2, 3 – Annual Indoor Flea Market, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Thursday and Friday and 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 19109 Craig St., New Boston, (734) 753-9048. Antiques, collectibles, furniture, and more. Sponsored by Ladies Aid and Men's Club.

• **Saturday and Sunday, May 3 and 4** – Used-book sale at Belleville Area District Library. Saturday hours are noon-3 p.m.

Sunday hours are 1-4 p.m. Deadline for book donations is April 30.

• **Saturday, May 3** – Michigan Association of Fire Fighters/Sumpter Fire Fighters pancake breakfast is from 9 a.m. to noon at the Sumpter Township fire hall at 20550 Sumpter Rd. Breakfast is \$5 at the fund raiser.

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Belleville DDA tables Techtown Detroit proposals for training

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

At its April 16 meeting, the Belleville Downtown Development Authority tabled proposals from Techtown Detroit for consulting and training to create a local entrepreneurship hub at the former hardware store at 458 Main St.

The DDA purchased the hardware store in February 2024 and put in a new public parking lot behind it, attached to the adjoining city lot. Repairs have been made to the building's wall and they are looking at upgrading the restroom.

DDA manager Steve Jones brought a sample carpet square to the meeting to show what could be put on the floor, which is 4,900 square feet of space. He said Friend's Floor Covering said at \$3.30 per square foot, the carpet would total \$60,000.

Jones also furnished the Techtown Detroit proposals to the DDA for use in the former hardware store. It included consulting for space and development, \$75,000; retail boot camp seats to train two Belleville entrepreneurs per year, \$83,000 per year;

and a \$2,500 package per company to offer services depending on their needs, \$2,500-\$25,000.

Before the DDA got to that part of the agenda, Jack Ridenouer spoke during the public comment period, noting he has a master's degree in business and said before spending lots of money on Techtown there is a free service at Eastern Michigan University's business school the city could use.

He suggested the DDA call the dean at the business school and get connected with the professors in the marketing courses to work with local businesses. The professors don't do the work, but they advise their students on what to do. The students write papers on their work.

Ridenouer said the business school is highly valued, EMU is very close, and the professors are always looking for opportunities for their students.

DDA member Sabrina Richardson-Williams said she went to EMU business school. She asked how Ridenouer found out what the DDA was planning to do. He replied that he reads the *Independent* every week. Others in the audience called out they, too, read the *Independent* to find out what's going on.

Ridenouer said students in the business school also may be looking for a place to start their businesses.

When the item came up on the agenda later in the meeting, Mayor Ken Voigt said Techtown has a great track record and it is a good concept, but they do charge a lot of money and it's worthy to explore other options.

Mayor Voigt said he attended EMU's business school, as well.

He said classes start in September and the professors like to get everything settled down before starting projects, so this won't get going until the end of the year.

"It's worth discussing," Mayor Voigt said and the DDA agreed to table Techtown.

In other business at the one-hour-15-minute meeting on April 16, the DDA:

- Tabled a proposal from T-Mobile for public wireless in 12 sites in the DDA district including Horizon Park, Main Street, Fourth Stree Square, Third Street, Welcome to Belleville sign, and Doane's Landing. Jones brought the proposal of \$15,857 plus \$357 a month. It was noted there already is free wifi at the library and in its parking lot. At the last meeting, the item was tabled so someone from the company could attend a meeting to explain the proposal's worth;

- Unanimously voted to hire Kathleen Springer's social media service temporarily for \$800 a month until the end of the year and meanwhile talk to the Central Business Community to find out if the DDA couldn't get a better price because many of the services could

(continued on page 8)

Obituaries

PATRICK MICHAEL PAIGE, I

July 14, 1944 – February 22, 2025
Age 80, of Romulus. Survived by wife Kay; four children Patrice Sharkey, Pam Becker, Kirsten Paige, Patrick Paige, III; 9 grandchildren; 6+ great-grandchildren; sister Diane Paige; sister-in-law Patricia Turner; best friend Carl Hall. Cremation rites accorded.

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LORA MAUS

April 24, 1963 – April 18, 2025
Age 61, of Belleville. Survived by husband Michael Maus, mother Yvonne Rickel, daughter Corrine Maus, grandson Maverick Badder, brother Charles Rickel. Visitation is 10:30 a.m. April 25 at David C. Brown Funeral Home, followed by service at 1:30 p.m. Burial at Hillside Cemetery.

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Belleville DDA

(continued from page 7)

be shared. Springer said she was open to discussions. DDA chairman John Winter said before discussing the item that the DDA needs a decision in a professional sense and not in a personal way, referring to past discussions. Marketing committee chairman Chris Donley said Springer has been giving the DDA free services to show what they can do and the visits to the DDA website have grown exponentially;

- Approved a \$5,000 budget for the high school's last day of school event from 1-4 p.m. on June 13, proposed to take place on Main Street, which would be closed from Third to Roys streets. Chairman of the project is Sabrina Richardson-Williams, who had proposed a \$10,000 budget. The expenses had included Kona Ice, several large inflatables, artists, live DJ, photo booth, porta johns, t-shirts for volunteers, and other items. There also will be several food trucks. Richardson-Williams gave the DDA a copy of a letter that will be given to members of the Youth Alliance who attend DDA meetings to learn about local government;

- Heard Jones report that the Victoria Commons footbridge repair can be done by city workers and it does not have to be replaced completely;

- Tabled a proposal to bring Goodbye Geese to Village Park to chase the geese away at a cost of \$4,950. Jones said the geese chasers worked at Horizon Park. Richardson-Williams said that's a lot of money to spend and she said she just steps around goose droppings on the sidewalk. The president of the Victoria Commons Homeowners Association said he had received no complaints about geese in the subdivision and if there are geese, it is transitory. The DDA agreed to monitor the situation;

- Approved paying \$2,154.60 to KBE Hoist & Fabrication of New Baltimore to repair the kayak launch before it is reinstalled for the summer;

- Tabled a proposal to buy about 60 American flags for \$15 each because the current flags for the lamp posts are 15 years old and will need to be replaced. There was discussion on making sure the ones purchased will be tough enough to withstand the winds and that they are made in the U.S. Jones said he will buy one flag each from vendors so the DDA can have samples to consider the quality. If the old flags have to be put up for another year, they can do that, Voigt said;

- Heard Jones report that he talked to Craig Atchinson who is giving a \$10,000 donation to help the DDA replace the non-working clock on the Fourth Street Square. He said the \$26,000 traditional clock is ordered and probably will be here in July. The DDA agreed to a small plaque on the clock acknowledging the Atchinson donation would be a good idea;

- Heard Marketing Committee chairman Chris Donley thank the DDA for approving the Springer contract. He explained the marketing program for hotels that offers

special QR codes for hotel residents giving them special discounts in Belleville. He said he sent DDA members the links to an interactive calendar and map for the community that is "really, really cool" for \$55 a month. He said he'll take it out of the marketing budget;

- Learned the new outdoor sculptures will be installed May 27 in Belleville and Van Buren Township. Mayor Voigt said Belleville Tax & Accounting agreed to buy the third goat sculpture and so all three goats near the Secretary of State's office now will be installed as permanent sculptures for Horizon Park;

- Heard Donley thank Craig Atchinson for the donation for the clock and gave a big thank you to the Atchinson family for everything they do for the community. Donley said he saw some bronze wings in Cozumel and he would like to see one

(continued on page 9)

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Charter Township of Van Buren Downtown Development Authority Public Notice



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Charter Township of Van Buren

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Specifications may be downloaded from the Van Buren Township website at www.vbtmi.gov or a proposal may be obtained at the Downtown Development Authority Offices, 10151 Belleville Road, Van Buren Charter Township, Michigan 48111 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

For additional information contact: Merrie Coburn, Van Buren Township DDA at 734-699-8941 or by e-mail at mcoburn-dda@vbtmi.gov

Publish: April 24, 2025

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They're reading the *Independent* Everywhere

On April 3, Van Buren Township resident, Jim Wigginton, moved another step closer to climbing the stairs of the tallest building in every state, with his 49th climb in Anchorage, Alaska. He climbed the 23 floors of the ConocoPhillips headquarters building, and they made a generous donation to Folds of Honor. Also, Fox News did a television interview with him that was aired across Alaska. This is his ninth World Record on behalf of Folds of Honor, which has provided over 59,000 scholarships, over the last 18 years, for the families of fallen military and first responders. Jim also climbs for his wife's Punya Thyroid Cancer Foundation, which has helped fund research and treatment of thyroid cancer patients. The University of Michigan thyroid cancer doctors have developed treatment protocols that have extended the lives, by five times for more than 5,000 stage-four thyroid cancer patients over the last 11 years. Jim's final climb will be the 104-floor, new World Trade Center building in New York on June 1, the culmination of this eight-year project.

You, too, are invited to submit a photo of you reading the *Independent* in an exotic location. Please include the name and address of the person you wish to get the free subscription when it is printed. Include your phone number if you want us to let you know just before goes in the paper. A person may use this offer to get a total of two free subscriptions – and no more.

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Court Watching

Blake Dylan Coskie

Blake Dylan Coskie, 22, of Sumpter Township is charged with failure to report an accident to fixtures on Nov. 25, 2024 in the city of Belleville. The complaint was issued Feb. 28, 2025. His arraignment / pretrial was set for March 19. He said he just retained defense attorney William Maze and Maze filed by email on March 19. On March 20, the case was adjourned until April 2 for a remote arraignment/pretrial by zoom. At that time, he pled guilty. His fine was \$245 and he was given six months delayed

Belleville DDA

(continued from page 8)

like that metal sculpture in Horizon Park. It costs \$10,000 and will last forever. He said he is hoping to get businesses to support it;

- Heard other DDA members echo the thanks to the Atchinson family; and

- Heard a member of the audience say, "I don't know who cleared Doane's Landing, but the tree stumps are this high. I walk and it looks terrible." Jones said the city workers did the clearing. Ridenour said phragmites are starting to grow by the seawall. Donley asked Jones to have the company hired to work on the phragmites at Victoria Commons to look at that.

Absent from the April 16 DDA meeting were Valerie Kelley-Bonner, Kelly McWilliams, and Mike Gatterli.

sentence upon which time the charge will be dismissed if there are no other charges.

Jalal Salim Safah

Jalal Salim Safah, 30, of Detroit is charged with assault/assault and battery and receiving and concealing stolen property less than \$200 on May 14, 2021 in Van Buren Township.

His remote pretrial was set for March 19, 2025. He is not to return to Meijer.

On March 5, his mother paid 10% bond in cash to cancel her son's warrant. He is in the Oakland County Jail and was due to be made present remotely for his March 19 pretrial. He was out of custody and failed to appear so a bench warrant was issued and then recalled. He was scheduled for a remote show cause / arraignment / pretrial on April 16. He now is scheduled for a final pretrial on May 14.

Justin Case Smith

Justin Case Smith, 41, of Perrysburg, Ohio, was video-arraigned in custody before Judge Oakley on April 22 for two charges of possession of narcotics on May 17, 2023, brought by Western Wayne Narcotics, and four bench warrants for retail fraud charges on May 2, 7, 8, and 11, 2023 in Van Buren Township.

His next court date on the drug charges is a probable cause conference on April 30. He is set for a remote pretrial on May 13 on the retail fraud charges.

The defendant has a \$10,000/10% bond on the drug charges and \$1,000 personal bond on the retail fraud charges.

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Independent photo by Rosemary K. Oztman

Van Buren Township Trustee Kevin Martin, at left, read a township proclamation at the April 15 regular board meeting naming April 28 as Workers Memorial Day, with State Rep. Reggie Miller accepting the framed proclamation on behalf of the AFLCIO, who could not attend, and the state of Michigan;

Van Buren Charter Twp. Proclamation for Workers Memorial Day

WHEREAS, on April 28th, 1971, the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) went into effect, promising every worker the right to a safe job, and

WHEREAS, every year on April 28th, communities and worksites honor friends, family members, and colleagues who have been killed or injured on the job; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Labor and the Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that Michiganans have died while on the job at an average rate of 147 people per year over the past decade; and

WHEREAS, the 2024 National Census of Fatal Occupational injuries found a worker died every 99 minutes from a work-related injury; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to honor the memory of the courageous and dedicated members of Michigan's labor force who have been injured, disabled or have died as a result of workplace accidents; and

WHEREAS, we remember those who have died in workplace catastrophes, suffered

occupational-related diseases, or have been injured due to dangerous conditions; and

WHEREAS, recognition of the integrity of Michigan's workforce and its achievements on behalf of the economic growth of our state is necessary; and

WHEREAS, the Charter Township of Van Buren wishes to pay tribute to the workers who have died or been injured or disabled in workplace accidents. We honor the contributions of Michigan's workforce and call for increased workplace safety; and

WHEREAS, the Charter Township of Van Buren renews efforts to seek stronger workplace safety, health protections, standards and enforcement, and fair and just compensation. The Township rededicates itself to improving safety and health in every municipal workshop;

LET IT BE RESOLVED, the Charter Township of Van Buren hereby proclaims April 28, 2025 as Workers Memorial Day and urges all citizens to recognize and honor the contributions of Michigan's workforce and call for increased workplace safety standards. Signed by Supervisor Kevin McNamara, Treasurer Sharry Budd, Clerk Leon Wright, and Trustees Kevin Martin, Donald Boynton, Jr., Bryon Kelley and William Frazier.

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A reader took 10 pictures of the bank of Horizon Park in Belleville on Monday morning and wanted to share some of them with other readers. He said while the boardwalk was repaired where the child's leg went through, the leftover pieces of wood from the repair were thrown onto the bank and into the water. He said besides looking trashy, the new pieces of wood thrown there are sure to have chemicals in them that will get into the already troubled lake water. The pictures also show other trash thrown along the bank and an overflowing, unemptied trash can.

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Page 12

District Library Board discusses President Trump's executive order

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Members of the Belleville Area District Library Board voiced concerns about President Trump's March 14 executive order that adversely affects the only federal agency that provides resources to the nation's libraries, museums, and archives.

At its regular board meeting on April 8, library director Mary Jo Suchy said the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) is a federal program which funds statewide grants and services in Michigan. In response to President Trump's executive order, almost all of the staff of the IMLS has been placed on leave and all processing of grants has been suspended.

Director Suchy said through IMLS funding, the Belleville library's patrons have received free access to Melcat, the statewide interlibrary book loaning service,

as well as a wide variety of Michigan eLibrary (MeL) databases.

She said that included Learning Express (resume and cover letter assistance, GED test prep, ACT and SAT test prep, computer basics video courses, etc.), auto repair guides, and search databases.

"I do not yet have any information regarding the discontinuation or interruption of these services, or if a library will be able to fund them independently of the loss of IMLS funding," Suchy told the board. She said MeL and MeLCat are paid for through \$3.4 million in federal funding and \$1.4 million in state funding.

Suchy said she doesn't know the next step, but 20 states have filed an emergency restraining order.

Board member Joy Cichewicz suggested board members reach out to their elected

(continued on page 13)

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Charter Township of Van Buren Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on **May 14, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.** The meeting will be held in person at Van Buren Township Hall, located at **46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, MI 48111**, in the Board Room.

Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment:

- o **Exterior Lighting Standards**
 - Article 8: Environmental Performance Section 8.105 Exterior Lighting. The proposed amendments will include definitions, color temperature, shielding, illumination levels, light trespass limits, up-lighting, exempt lighting, exempt lighting, prohibited lighting, administration.
- o **Regulating Signage for Residential Developments**
 - Article 11 Section 11.108(A) pertaining to Sign Regulations Applicable to the AG, R-1, R-2, RM and RMH Districts. Specific regulations include Monument sign language, severability, repealer, savings clause, effective date and adoption.

Please address any written comments to the Van Buren Township Planning Commission at, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, MI 48111 or by e-mail at rakers@vbtmi.gov. Written comments will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. on the hearing date and all materials relating to this request are available for public inspection at the Van Buren Township Hall prior to the hearing.

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

Posted: April 21, 2025
Published: April 24, 2025

Belleville Area Independent/April 24, 2025

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ORPHAN OF THE WEEK DELUCA



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Deluca isn't shy about voicing his opinions either! Whether it's letting you know he wants attention or simply sharing his thoughts on life, he'll keep you laughing with his vocal personality. But it's his boundless love and need for affection that will steal your heart. He's always ready to snuggle up and shower you with attention.

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District Library

(continued from page 12)

political representatives.

Board vice chairperson Linda Priest suggested they call a website she knows where you just fill in the blanks and it sends your message to five places.

"If there's any savings for the government, it's penny wise and pound foolish," said

chairperson Sharon Peters, who noted the funding allows libraries to share across the state.

"It's important for us to pay attention," she said.

Deputy Director Hilary Savage said she and Suchy are looking at priorities as the upcoming budget is being prepared.

"We need to let the public know what they will be missing," Peters said. "People of means won't miss much, but those

without means will."

"Not everything is on Google," Suchy said, referring to where those without means will seek information.

"And, they hit paywalls," Savage noted.

Suchy said they should stay tuned because there is no announced time line on this.

Peters said the government is not being responsive to the courts and there is "stuff we can do."

Later in the meeting, Peters said, "Our appreciation to the library staff who stay on top of all of this, and explain it to the board, 'so we can understand.'"

BS&A Cloud Accounting Software

The board also heard Suchy describe how she had to move forward to find new accounting software.

"Tyler Technologies will discontinue our old government accounting software, FundBalance, in December 2026," Suchy said, adding she and accountant Sharon Duckworth have been exploring three possible replacement systems.

"A lot has changed since the last time we chose accounting software, including the price, but new software will provide us with a secure, cloud-based product that will offer more flexibility and reporting functionality," she said.

She said BS&A is also used by the city of Belleville, the Canton Public Library, the Plymouth District Library, and the Orion Township Library.

Suchy said the change for the Belleville library is almost like going from a horse and buggy to a car. It will take four to five months for transition and they will time it as best between the budgets.

The library's current software is Windows using the Pervasive database engine which was released in 2008.

The total cost for BS&A Cloud is estimated at \$18,125 and the final invoice will reflect actual expenses following the completion of all training activities based on the Federal Guidelines.

The board voted unanimously to purchase the new BS&A software and Peters said, "We have a 21st century building and now we have 21st century software."

In other business at the 70-minute meeting, the board:

- Heard Suchy report that Matt Ratzow of O'Neal Construction came out to meet

(continued on page 14)

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District Library

(continued from page 13)

with the installer and the electrician at the bathrooms to plan the installation of the automatic doors. It probably will be done on April 25 when the library is closed for a staff and service day. She said the work is expected to take a day or two;

- Was informed that during the recent rain storms, there was a leak from the green roof into the Cozadd room, but the storms are over and the leak is now dry. The places have been patched up where there might have leaks, but they won't know for sure until the next big storm;

- Heard Suchy say she has been in contact with the new Wayne County commissioner Allen Wilson concerning the penal fines issue. She said the County Ways and Means Committee met regarding this issue, but this library has not received any official communications from the commissioner or the county;

- Heard Maria Jackson-Smith, chairperson of the Outreach committee, say she met with library staff to get ideas on what needs doing. She said they suggested getting input from the community and how to attract those who don't use the library. She said an update of the library's strategic plan is in order and Suchy agreed that it's been a while since the last one was put together. Priest said a lot of people work from home these days and haven't come to the library. Peters said when the power goes out, especially during the cold months, people

crowd into the library to keep warm and get around the fireplace. Suchy said when they need to concentrate, they'll come to the library. She said during COVID when she was working from home, "The next thing I knew, I was doing the laundry." Sometimes it's hard to concentrate at home, she said;

- Heard Peters report that there are two displays of homegrown art at the library each year: student art in the spring, which is up now, and Belleville Area Council for the Arts art contest winners in the fall. She said the library is very grateful to have the volunteer help of Michele Montour, a professional artist who curates and mounts the art for display. Savage said they have found that there will be about three and a half weeks of empty art area this spring and they will fill that with art from library employees. It will go up the last week in May;

- Heard Nikki Pickeral explain how she was allowed to look through the items at the Belleville Area Museum when it was closed. She said she found a letter from the Civil War and other early letters. She said there are letters between Fred C. Fischer and his wife and letters between his wife and her friend in Colorado, who is an extremely charming person. Pickeral's first public event at the museum on old letters was set for April 12, but there are so many letters that she said she will have other such events in the future; and

- Was informed that the library's annual staff in-service day is Friday, April 25.



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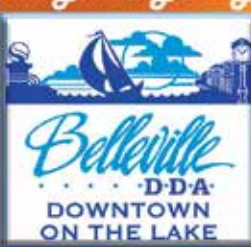
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in the **B** city of
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Sunday, April 20th - Sunday, April 27th

A&W - 148 W. Columbia Ave
Baan Phad Thai - 528 Main St
Bait Shop Bar & Grill - 609 Main St
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Captain Nemo's Subs - 144 3rd St
Crafted Beanery - 381 Main St
Egan's Irish Pub - 396 Main St
Hildago Mexican Restaurant - 333 Industrial Park Dr
Jet's Pizza - 284 E. Columbia Ave
Johnny's on the Lake - 146 High St
Rusted Crow on the Lake - 569 Main St
Sam's Place - 60 Main St

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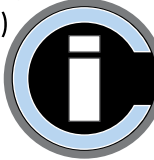
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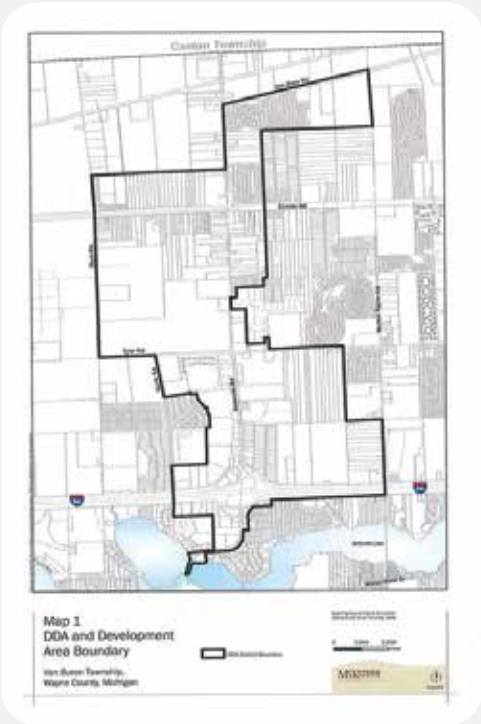
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- WHAT IS THE DACC?**
- A citizen-led advisory council that works with the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) and Township Board to help guide the Development and Finance Plan.
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If 100+ people live in the DDA area, a council of at least 9 residents must be formed.

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READY TO APPLY?



SCAN TO APPLY?



VBT
(continued from page 1)

longtime pickleball players;

- Learned that Allison Greff, Van Buren Township Firefighter and member of the Western Wayne County Urban Search and Rescue Team, was awarded a Meritorious Service Award for her part in the rescue of a construction worker trapped in a collapsed trench;
- Was invited to the Van Buren Park cleanup from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, May 3. Also, on May 3, everyone was invited to the Van Buren Little League opening day ceremony at Beck ball field;

- Heard Director of Public Services Larry Luckett ask people to help get the roadways clean. Supervisor Kevin McNamara said, "We never paid to get the roads clean before";
- Approved the appointment of Trustee Will Frazier as board liaison to the Water and Sewer Commission;
- Approved the purchase of two F-150 pick-up trucks from Atchinson Ford at a cost of \$47,000 each, totaling \$94,000 to be paid from the Water Capital Outlay account. They are replacing 2010 and 2011 trucks which will probably go to auction;
- Approved the purchase of eight new ICP-2 precinct tabulators and seven updated ADA-accessible voting machines at a cost of \$74,319, which includes \$1,000 buyback for each of the old machines being turned in. The clerk's office said in 2017, the township acquired 12 ICP-1 tabulators from Dominion Voting Systems. After eight years of use, the technology has become slow and outdated. The updated machines process ballots more quickly, making them better suited to meet the demands of the seven large precincts currently being created;
- Approved the personal service agreement for Gary Dosey to fill a vacancy as the new Network Systems Administrator in Information Technology. Human resources director Nicole Sumpter said Dosey has more than 20 years of experience in a public school system and comes highly recommended;
- Approved the first reading of a zoning ordinance amendment to add provisions for commercial, office, and industrial planned unit developments. The second reading and final approval will be at the next meeting;
- Approved the first reading of a zoning ordinance amendment to rezone 12 properties near Van Born and Haggerty roads to M-1, Light Industrial at the request of Ashley Capital Crossroads. The second reading and final approval will be at the next meeting;
- Approved the American Fireworks Company as the contractor for the VBT Fireworks Show for \$25,000. The company also did the fireworks displays in 2023 and 2024. This year the fireworks will be on June 28 at Beck Ball Fields, with a rain date of June 29;
- Approved selection of low-bidder PEA

(continued on page 17)

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RUMMAGE SALE 575 SUMPTER ROAD. 10am – 4pm, April 24, 25, and 26. 4/24

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

– Yogi Berra

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"Anyone who stops learning is old whether at twenty or eighty. Anyone who keeps learning stays young. The greatest thing in life is to keep your mind young."

– Henry Ford

VBT

(continued from page 15)

Group for an improvement design plan for the front section of Van Buren Park at a cost of \$29,500, plus reimbursable expenses. McNamara said this is fully funded by a Wayne County grant. He said they are going to see if they can get more grant money to

bring the project to a higher level;

- Approved low-bidder Pioneer Landscaping and Lawn Maintenance as the contractor for landscaping maintenance services at a cost of \$131,700;

- Approved Pioneer Landscaping and Lawn Maintenance as the contractor for lawn mowing services at a cost of \$447,300;

- Approved awarding a contract to Premier

Group Associates, LC for \$179,801.10 the lowest of eight bids for the Tyler Road Sidewalk Gap project. Bids were opened publicly at 10:30 that morning and reviewed by engineers and recommenders contacted. McNamara said Wayne County awarded federal grant money of \$300,000 which has to be spent by October, so it has been put on the fast track for completion. He

said the sidewalk project was ready to go, so the grant could be used. The project is filling in sidewalk gaps along Tyler Road and now more can be done such as repairing sidewalks, replace some by Parkwood, and other options;

- Approved the second reading and adoption of an ordinance to amend the zoning ordinance to rezone the property at 10401 Belleville Rd., from RM, Multiple Family to C-1 General Business. The property owner wishes to build a car wash, but this board action was only to rezone it to C-1 in line with the master plan;

- Heard Rick Williams of the 44000 block of Tyler Road demand the township stop building which he says is backing up the McClaughrey county drain. He said he has begged the township to take care of the water. He said it is not a 100-year flood, it's every year. He said the drain works well to his house but when it goes under Tyler Road it is blocked and so the water backs up. McNamara invited him to his office after the meeting to show him on a map where it is blocked. Also, Williams said he hasn't let the township change his water meter and he is being billed a \$72 fee on an estimated reading and he objects to the reading being

(continued on page 19)

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN ORDINANCE RZ 03-18-25

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN ZONING ORDINANCE 05- 2-17(2) AS AMENDED, BY AMENDING THE ZONING MAP IN CONNECTION THEREWITH.

The Charter Township of Van Buren Ordains:

SECTION 1. ORDINANCE AMENDMENT.

The Zoning Map in connection with the Charter Township of Van Buren Zoning Ordinance shall be amended as follows:

Ordinance No. RZ 03-18-25

An ordinance to amend the Charter Township of Van Buren Zoning Ordinance 05-02-17(2), as amended, to amend the zoning map by rezoning the following parcel from RM – Multiple Family Residential District to C-1 – General Business District: the property is located at 10401 Belleville Road, Parcel ID Number V-125-83-058-99-0014-002. The legal description of the parcel is as follows:

15H2B PART OF NW 1/4 SEC 15 T3S R8E BEG AT W 1/4 COR OF SEC 15 TH N5DEG 52M 19S W 100FT TH N88DEG 54M 50S E 497.27FT TH S5DEG 52M 19S E 100FT TH S88DEG 54M 50S W 497.27FT POB 1.14 AC

SECTION 2. SEVERABILITY

In the event any article, section, paragraph, sentence, clause, or word of this ordinance is deemed invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such portion deemed severable and shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance.

SECTION 3. REPEALER.

Any and all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are repealed only to the extent necessary to give this ordinance full force and effect.

SECTION 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.

The provisions of this Ordinance are hereby ordered to take effect seven (7) days after publication of the notice of adoption in a newspaper of general circulation within the Township. This Ordinance shall be immediately recorded by the Township Clerk in the Township Ordinance Book as soon as it is adopted, which record shall be authenticated by the signatures of the Supervisor and Clerk and shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the Township within fifteen (15) days of passage. A copy of this Ordinance may be purchased or inspected at the Clerk's Office, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, MI 48111 during normal business hours.

This Ordinance is hereby declared to have been adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Van Buren, County of Wayne, State of Michigan, at a Regular Meeting, called and held on the 1st day of April, 2025.

YEAS: McNamara, Budd, Boynton, Martin, Frazier and Kelley

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Wright

ABSTAINED: None

I hereby approve the foregoing Ordinance,

Leon Wright, Clerk

Kevin McNamara, Supervisor

Adopted: April 15, 2025

Published: April 24, 2025

Effective: May 1, 2025

Notice to Advertisers:

The *Belleville-Area Independent* will not be liable for failure to publish an ad as requested or for more than one incorrect insertion of an advertisement. In the event of any error or omission in printing or publication of an advertisement, you must notify us within five days of publication or on the date of insertion, if an ad is scheduled as part of a package, so there is time to correct subsequent publications. The *Independent's* liability shall be limited to an adjustment for the cost of the space occupied by the error with a maximum liability being cancellation of the cost of the first incorrect advertisement or republication of the corrected advertisement. Under no circumstances shall the *Independent* be liable for consequential damages of any kind.

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.



Birthdays

April 27 – Amy Hinks, Nicholas Hinks
April 29 – Barbara Miller, Gary Koeppel

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
MINUTES - APRIL 15, 2025

Supervisor McNamara called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room. Present: Supervisor McNamara, Treasurer Budd, Trustee Boynton, Trustee Martin, Trustee Frazier and Trustee Kelley. Absent/Excused: Clerk Wright. Others in attendance: Deputy Supervisor Selman, Recording Assistant Beaudry, Director of Community Services Renaud, Deputy Director of Community Services Dohring, Director of Municipal Services Akers, Director of Water and Sewer Miner, DDA Director Coburn, HR Director Sumpter, IT Director Barbaza, Director of Public Services Luckett, Director of Parks, Locke, Director of Recreation Gerhart and an audience of nine.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA: Budd moved, Kelley seconded to approve the amended agenda adding New Business Item #11: To consider approval of a variance request from the Township’s Engineering Standards as it relates to the Township’s standard to provide a forebay for the Tractor Supply detention pond and to move New Business Items #11 and #12 to #12 and #13. Motion Carried.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE AGENDA: Supervisor McNamara outlined the items appearing on the agenda.

ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA: Frazier moved, Boynton seconded to approve the Consent Agenda: Board Meeting Minutes of March 18, 2025, Prepaid List of March 20, 2025, Prepaid List of March 27, 2025, Voucher List of April 1, 2025, Prepaid List of April 3, 2025, Prepaid List of April 10, 2025, Voucher List of April 15, 2025, and Approval of the appointment of Trustee Will Frazier as Board Liaison to the Water and Sewer Commission. Motion Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING: None
C O R R E S P O N D E N C E / ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS: The 34th District Court is hosting a Community Day on Thursday, May 1st from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m.; community member and pickleball player James Pollard passed away on March 30th; Allison Greff, Van Buren Township Firefighter and member of the Western Wayne County Urban Search and Rescue Team, was awarded a Meritorious Service Award for her part in the rescue of a construction worker trapped in a collapsed trench; there will be a community clean up event at Van Buren Park on Saturday, May 3rd from 10 a.m. until 12 p.m.; Van Buren Area Little League has invited the Board and community to attend their opening day ceremonies on Saturday, May 3rd; and State Representative Miller accepted a Proclamation for Worker’s Memorial Day on behalf of the AFLCIO and the State of Michigan.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Unfinished and New Business): None.
UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:
Kelley moved, Boynton seconded to approve the purchase of two F-150 pick-up trucks from Atchinson Ford at a cost of \$47,000 each, totaling \$94,000 to be paid from account 592-5536-971-000 Water Capital Outlay- Vehicles and Equipment. Motion Carried.
Boynton moved, Kelley seconded to approve

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

the purchase of eight new precinct tabulators and seven updated ADA accessible voting machines at a cost of \$74,319. Motion Carried.
Boynton moved, Budd seconded to approve Gary Dosey’s Personal Service Agreement for the Network Systems Administrator in Information Technology. Motion Carried.
Kelley moved, Martin seconded to approve the first reading of Ordinance 04-15-25(1), a zoning ordinance amendment to add provisions for commercial, office and industrial planned unit developments. Motion Carried.
Martin moved, Boynton seconded to approve the first reading of Ordinance 04-15-25(2), a zoning ordinance amendment to rezone 12 properties near Van Born and Haggerty Roads to M-1, Light Industrial. Motion Carried.
Boynton moved, Budd seconded to approve the selection of American Fireworks Company as the contractor for the 2025 VBT Fireworks Show for \$25,000. Motion Carried.
Kelley moved, Boynton seconded to approve the selection of PEA Group for the Van Buren Park: Front Section Capital Improvement Design Plan for \$29,500, plus reimbursable expenses. Motion Carried.
Budd moved, Kelley seconded to approve the selection of Pioneer Landscaping and Lawn Maintenance for 2025-2027 Landscaping Maintenance Services at a cost of \$131,700. Motion Carried.
Boynton moved, Budd seconded to approve the selection of Pioneer Landscaping and Lawn Maintenance for 2025-2027 Lawn Mowing Maintenance Services at a cost of \$447,300. Motion Carried.
Budd moved, Boynton seconded to approve an Engineering Standards variance request for Sheetz Gas Station and to approve request from the Township’s Engineering Standards as it relates to the Township’s standard to provide a forebay for the Tractor Supply detention pond. Motions Carried.

Boynton moved, Budd seconded to approve of awarding a contract for the Tyler Road Sidewalk Gap Project to Premier Group Associates in the amount of \$179,801.10. Motion Carried.
Martin moved, Budd seconded to approve the second reading of Ordinance 03-18-25, an ordinance to amend the Township zoning ordinance to rezone the property at 10401 Belleville Road from RM Multiple Family to C-1 General Business. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: Boynton, Martin, Kelley, Frazier, Budd, and McNamara. Nays: None. Absent/Excused: Wright. Motion Carried.

REPORTS: None.
PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: a resident discussed the state of McLaughrey Drain and the effects of development in the area, his disagreement with a \$72 water meter fee and questioned Supervisor McNamara’s daily schedule. Director Akers gave an update on Wayne County’s plan to address county drains.

BOARD COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: None.
ADJOURNMENT: Frazier moved, Boynton seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:19 p.m. Motion Carried.
Leon Wright, Township Clerk
Kevin McNamara, Supervisor
Published: April 24, 2025

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN
ORDINANCE RZ 03-18-25
NOTICE OF ADOPTION

Notice is hereby given that on Tuesday, April 15, 2025 at the regular meeting of the Charter Township of Van Buren Board of Trustees, the second reading of the following proposed amendment to the Van Buren Township Zoning Ordinance 5-2-17(2) was approved and is hereby adopted:

ORDINANCE RZ 09-17-24(1): REZONING. An ordinance to amend the Charter Township of Van Buren Zoning Ordinance 05-02-17(2), as amended, to amend the zoning map by rezoning the following parcel from RM – Multiple Family Residential District to C-1 – General Business District: the property is located at 10401 Belleville Road, Parcel ID Number V-125-83-058-99-0014-002.

A true copy of the proposed Ordinance may be viewed and inspected at the office of the Township Clerk located at 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, Michigan during recent business hours, Monday through Thursday, 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The adopted Zoning Ordinance amendment will be effective seven (7) days after the date of publication.

Adopted: April 15, 2025
Published: April 24, 2025
Effective: May 2, 2025

To build a better world, start in your own community!

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

POLICE VEHICLE AUCTION

On April 29th, 2025, the Van Buren Township Police Department will conduct a public auction of impounded and abandoned vehicles. The auction will begin at 10:30am, at **J&T Towing** and Storage, 287 Industrial Dr. Belleville MI, County of Wayne, where the following will be offered for sale to the highest bidder.

2016	CHEVROLET	4D	1G1BE5SM2G7263706	25-2813
2012	FORD	4D	3FAHP0JG8CR197648	25-3029
2010	FORD	SW	2FMDK4KC2ABA06372	25-1749
2006	PONTIAC	4D	1G2ZG558664117618	25-2110
1987	SYLVAN	BT	SYL31562E787	25-3595
2019	NISSAN	4D	3NIAB7AP5KY336337	25-3657

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, are offered for sale to the highest bidder.

1999	FORD	PU	1FTNF20L6XEC24137	25-2417
2009	AUDI	4D	WAUCF78K99N053769	25-3630
2002	SATURN	4D	1G8ZH52872Z182305	25-2456
2003	VOLKSWAGEN	2D	3VWBK21C83M401432	25-2563
1989	HONDA	MC	1HFSC2202KA101634	25-2252
2018	BMW	4D	WBA8A3C56JA505154	25-2497
2004	HONDA	SW	SHSRD78854U257105	25-2052
2018	KIA	4D	KNAGT4L34J5236252	25-3309
2015	CHRYSLER	4D	1C3CCCAG4FN731208	25-2052
2013	GMC	SW	2GKFLZE33D6200817	25-1971
2015	CHRYSLER	4D	1C3CCAB6FN547229	25-1789

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 MMC, CMMC., Van Buren Township Clerk,
Published: April 24th, 2025

VBT

(continued from page 17)

estimated. "Let us change out the water meter," McNamara said; and

• Heard Director Akers give an update on the county drains. He said three drains have petitions for cleaning. He said in the past the county could only pay \$5,000 a mile for maintenance and that has been lifted to \$10,000, which should help. "We're actively going after the county for drain cleaning," McNamara said. "But we can't move the county."

Developing the 'Ford Property'

A 26-minute work study session was held at 5 p.m. before the regular meeting on April 15 to discuss the Downtown Development Authority and township putting out a request for qualifications for a consultant on the development of the 181 acres the township owns referred to as the Ford Property.

Absent from the work-study session were

Clerk Leon Wright and Trustee Donald Boynton.

A committee will consider the applicants and recommend two of those for final interviews with the township board.

Supervisor McNamara said he would like to add on the airport's property of 10 acres that adjoins the township property, as well as the 25 acres owned by the University of Michigan along Beck Road.

"The bigger the pie, the better," McNamara said.

"I'm always for adding more parks and housing is a big priority," said Trustee Bryon Kelley.

Treasurer Sharry Budd said seniors don't want trailers.

"We got a grant to look at housing," said Director Akers. He said they could be looking at grants and public/private partnerships.

"Van Buren is never going to have a downtown, but we could have things there like a town," said Trustee Martin.

Akers said they will get citizen input on what people want there.

"A look into the future," Martin said. "With things conducive to their lifestyle."

McNamara pointed to a proposed plan on the meeting room screen, noting the consultant can propose a plan like that one. Martin said, "Or a better plan, with ideas they didn't have."

McNamara said they have to find the right person.

Applicants have a May 29 deadline for proposals. Finalist interviews will be June 9-11.

McNamara said the U of M wants \$100,000 an acre for its land. He said if it's considered a park, it could be a lot cheaper.

The planning commission is holding an open house from 6 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, April 30, to get public input on proposed developments through the housing grant study. The Ford property is one of the proposed developments.

Gov. names Daniel Gadbois of Romulus to health safety board

On April 10, Governor Gretchen Whitmer announced appointments to a number of boards and commissions, including Daniel Gadbois of Romulus to the Board of Health and Safety Compliance and Appeals.

Gadbois is the senior director of safety and health for L.S. Brinker. Previously, Gadbois was director of safety and field operations for Corrigan Construction.

Gadbois serves as a board of zoning appeals member for the City of Romulus and as a Wayne County reserve officer. Gadbois is also a certified OSHA outreach trainer and a graduate of Schoolcraft Community College's police officer reserve training program.

Daniel Gadbois is appointed to represent management in the construction industry for a term commencing April 10, 2025, and expiring March 18, 2029. Gadbois succeeds James Dion, whose term has expired.

The Board of Health and Safety Compliance and Appeals reviews all contested Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MIOSHA) cases involving safety and health citations, orders, and appeals. The board may order testimony at hearings, compel witnesses or require depositions, and further promulgates rules of procedure for hearings, maintaining consistency with any federal occupational safety or health standard.

This appointment is subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

Public Notice

Van Buren Township – Belleville Road Widening Project Open House

The **second open house** for the **Belleville Road Widening Project**, a critical infrastructure initiative aimed at improving traffic flow, safety, and accessibility along Belleville Road between Ecorse and Tyler Roads.

This event will provide an excellent opportunity for you to learn more about the project's final design, ask questions, and share any thoughts or concerns you may have. Your feedback is important as we work together to enhance our community's roadways, pedestrian facilities and utility infrastructure.

Event Details:

Date: Wednesday, May 7, 2025

Time: stop in anytime between 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Location: Van Buren Township Hall Board Room 46425 Tyler Road

At the open house, you will have the chance to review project plans, speak with project team members, and provide input. We are committed to transparency and collaboration, and we look forward to hearing your thoughts on this important project.

Should you have any questions before the event or require additional information, please feel free to contact us at mcoburn-dda@vbtmi.gov or 734-699-8941.

Published: April 24, 2025, May 1, 2025 and May 8, 2025

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN WORK STUDY MEETING MINUTES APRIL 15, 2025

Supervisor McNamara called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. in the Board Room. Present: Supervisor McNamara, Treasurer Budd, Trustee Frazier, Trustee Martin, and Trustee Kelley. Absent/Excused: Clerk Wright and Trustee Boynton. Also in attendance: Recording Assistant Beaudry, Deputy Supervisor Selman, Director of Water and Sewer Miner, Director of Municipal Services Akers, Director of Public Services Luckett, Director of Community Services Renaud, Deputy Director of Community Services Dohring, DDA Director Coburn, HR Director Sumpter and an audience of one.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: Discussion on the publication of the Request for Qualification (RFQ) Consultant for Van Buren Township Property Development also known as the Ford Land.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

BOARD COMMENT: None.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further discussion Kelley moved, Frazier seconded to adjourn the Work Study Session at 5:26 p.m. Motion Carried.

Leon Wright, Township Clerk
Kevin McNamara, Supervisor
Published: April 24, 2025

Van Buren Twp. planners hear Housing Master Plan proposals

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

Planning consultant Vidya Krishnan of McKenna gave a lengthy presentation on the Housing Master Plan at the April 9 meeting of the Van Buren Township Planning Commission.

The planning work was made possible with a grant. She said the township already has been named a Redevelopment Ready Community.

She said the current master plan tells what housing is needed and, "We are implementing the master plan," she said.

"This study helps make the housing a reality with zoning, to fill in the gaps we may have and provide what is missing."

She said the Michigan Statewide Housing plan is like a master plan for the entire state. The study presents examples of what could be done on three vacant parcels: the 20 acres of Lakewood shopping center on Rawsonville Road (now for sale), the 180 acres of "Ford property" at Belleville/Tyler roads (owned by the township), and the 20 acres of vacant property at Hull/Martinsville roads.

A public open house/workshop has been set from 6-8 p.m. on April 30 to get public input on the proposals;

In other business at the April 9 meeting, the commission:

- Approved temporary land use for a TNT Fireworks tent in the parking lot of the Walmart store at 10562 Belleville Rd. from June 20 to July 6. TNT has been in that location without any problems for the last two years;

- Approved setting public hearings on May 14 for a residential development sign standards zoning ordinance amendment and a zoning ordinance amendment for commercial exterior lighting standards;

- Heard Jahr say he would like to empower the staff to approve fireworks tents each year, if they have had no issues the prior year. He said the first approval should bring them to the commission, but not every year for 12 years, like one has come. "I feel bad having them come every year to get approval for the same two weeks," he said. Krishnan said the commission can approve that as a policy and Jahr asked Akers to draft a policy;

- Heard Akers say the April 23 commission meeting will be long and will have preliminary site plan approvals for McDonald's, Contract Welding, Autokiniton (former L&W), and Chick Fil-A, along with a public hearing for Chick Fil-A, and perhaps a facade amendment for a subdivision; and

- Heard chairman Brian Cullen ask about the piles of fill dirt on the open land along Independence Lane, behind the newly reopened gas station. Akers said the township is aware of that and has sent a violation letter.

Van Buren Public Schools Public Notice

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID

VAN BUREN PUBLIC SCHOOLS ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID

Van Buren Public Schools will receive sealed bid proposals until **1:00 p.m. on May 6, 2025**, for the EV Bus Chargers Project. Bids will be opened and publicly read aloud via Microsoft Teams meeting immediately following the deadline for submission. Van Buren Public Schools will not consider or accept a bid received after the date and time specified for the bid submission.

A non-mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at the Van Buren Public Schools Bus Garage, 300 Davis Street, Belleville, MI 48111, on **April 28, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.**

Bids must be submitted electronically before 1:00p.m. local time, May 6, 2025 to:
EVBUSChargersProposal@docs.e-builder.net

Each Proposal must be submitted on the forms included in the RFP and must be completed in full.

Bid Security, Cashier's Check or Certified Check in the amount of at least five percent (5%) of the bid must be included along with a sworn and notarized statement disclosing any familial relationship that exists between the owner or any employee of the bidder and any member of the board, board of directors, or the superintendent of the School District. A sworn and notarized Iran Disclosure Statement must be included. A sworn and notarized criminal background check affidavit must be included and a sworn and notarized non-collusive affidavit must be included. Accepted bidders may be required to furnish Performance and Payment Bonds in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the Contract Price.

Bid documents may be viewed and downloaded at:

<https://app.e-builder.net/public/publicLanding.aspx?QS=6aac690550954373aa3cbba1797e30f2>

Documents will be available for viewing on **April 21, 2025**. Any questions, contact Rob Kakoczki, Plante Moran Realpoint, at rob.kakoczki@plantemoran.com.

Published: April 24, 2025

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City of Belleville Public Notice



Hillside Cemetery Advisory Committee

REQUEST FOR VOLUNTEERS

Flag Placement for Memorial Day 2025

8:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 10th

(Rain date: May 17th)



The Cemetery Advisory Committee will be placing American Flags on the graves of all veterans who are buried at Hillside Cemetery on Denton Road.

We will begin placing flags on Saturday, May 10th at 8:30 a.m. and need volunteers to help. Each Cemetery section takes only about one hour of work.

Should you wish to volunteer, contact the City Clerk. If you would like to work in a specific section, the Clerk's office must be contacted, or that section may not be guaranteed.

Please consider this small sacrifice of time and join us to honor our veterans who fought to keep us free.

Briana Hootman
City Clerk/Treasurer
(734) 697-9323 ext. 7010
clerk@belleville.mi.us



PUBLISH: Apr 10, 17, 24, and May 1, 2025

Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

There were 312 dispatch calls reported by Van Buren Township police this week including the following.

Sunday, April 13:

0155 – threat, Brandi Dr.
0249 – missing person, Boulder Pond Blvd./Savage Rd.

0324 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Parkwood Dr./Tyler Rd.
xxxx – welfare check, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0952 – intrusion alarm, Samuel Barton Dr.
1050 – welfare check, E. Huron River Dr.
1353 – neighbor trouble, Turnberry Ct.
1300 – property check, Parkside Dr.
1433 – ordinance violation – all 7300 MICR codes, Hull Rd./Elwell Rd.

1326 – malicious destruction of property, Daisy
1344 – intrusion alarm, Revere Dr.
1407 – parking complaint, Mida Dr.
1355 – malicious destruction of property, Rose
1630 – intrusion alarm, Venetian Ave.
1651 – misc. complaint, Tyler Rd.
1707 – overdose, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1708 – threat, Rose Blvd.
1826 – juvenile complaint, Lauren Ct.
1829 – road hazard, Belleville Rd./E. I-94

1842 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Hardwood Dr./Cottonwood Dr.

1836 – welfare check, Belleville Rd.
1912 – motorist assist, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1915 – domestic, I-275/Van Born

Monday, April 14:

0041 – assist other dept., Old Michigan
0219 – welfare check, America
0448 – property damage accident, Michigan Ave. / Denton Rd.

0645 – traffic offense, Belleville Rd./Tyler Rd.
0859 – welfare check, Haggerty Rd.
1040 – misc. complaint, Edgemont
1041 – misc. complaint, Edgemont
1041 – misc. complaint, Edgemont
1216 – parking complaint, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1244 – property damage accident, Senate St.
1339 – ordinance violation – all 7300 MICR codes, Belleville Rd.

1346 – ordinance violation – all 7300 MICR codes, Belleville Rd.

1358 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1448 – welfare check, E. Archwood Dr.
1526 – civil matter, Van Born Rd.

1615 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Sumpter Rd.

1635 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Fay Dr./Sondra Dr.

1644 – traffic offense, Martz Rd./Lohr Rd.
1828 – welfare check, Lake Point Blvd.
1847 – welfare check, Spencer Ave.
1938 – intrusion alarm, Hannan Rd.
1956 – intrusion alarm, Haggerty Rd.
2022 – fraud, Rolan Meadows Dr.
2025 – juvenile complaint, Parkwood Dr.
2308 – noise complaint, Mida Dr.

Tuesday, April 15:

0312 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Haggerty Rd.

xxxx – repossession, N. Woodbury Dr.
0755 – larceny from auto, Fret Rd.
0739 – property damage accident, Beck Rd./Tyler
0827 – larceny from auto, Farm Rd.
0809 – misc. complaint, Yost
0917 – larceny, Tyler Rd.
0932 – assist other dept., Ecorse Rd./Jeremy Rd.
xxxx – personal injury accident, Jeremy/Ecorse
1105 – larceny, Richard Run Dr.
1212 – fraud, S. Bellridge Dr.
1258 – animal complaint, S. I-275/Ecorse Rd.
1338 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / Tyler Rd.

1352 – neighbor trouble, S. I-94 Service Dr.
xxxx – felony assault, E. Huron River Dr.
1450 – neighbor trouble, Parkside Dr.
1528 – 911 welfare check, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1528 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd.
1620 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1657 – intrusion alarm, Fairbanks St.

2032 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Solitude Ln.

2045 – background investigation, Tyler Rd.
2112 – 911 welfare check, Parkwood Dr.
2123 – unattended death, Hardwood Dr.

2324 – harassment call, Tyler Rd.

Wednesday, April 16:

0008 – assist fire dept., Michigan Ave./Dellor St.
xxxx – disorderly, Belleville Rd.
xxxx – repossession, Oak Ln.
0443 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
0517 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
xxxx – civil matter, Belleville Rd.
0728 – traffic offense, S. I-94 Service Dr./Denton
0929 – road hazard, E. I-94/Haggerty Rd.
0930 – property damage accident, S. I-94 Service Dr. / Belleville Rd.

1052 – ordinance violation – all 7300 MICR codes, Haggerty Rd.

1101 – ordinance violation – all 7300 MICR codes, Haggerty Rd.

1108 – ordinance violation – all 7300 MICR codes, Haggerty Rd.

1238 – trespassing, Capitol Dr.
1333 – civil matter, Elwell Rd.

1420 – missing person, Kirkridge Park Dr.
1404 – assist other dept., EB I-94/Rawsonville Rd.

1425 – assist fire dept., Denton Rd.
1439 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.

1505 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1540 – neighbor trouble, Tompkins St.

1532 – assist fire dept., S. I-94 Service Dr.
1804 – welfare check, Sylvia Dr.

1817 – juvenile complaint, Quirk Rd.
1836 – welfare check, N. I-94 Service Dr.

1915 – malicious destruction of property, Maple
1846 – 911 welfare check, N. I-94 Service Dr.

1903 – traffic offense, Bemis Rd./Sumpter Rd.
2015 – malicious destruction of property, Oak Ln.

2046 – neighbor trouble, Purple Sage Ct.
xxxx – neighbor trouble, Purple Sage Ct.

2106 – 911 welfare check, Kirkridge Park Dr.
2117 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Denton

2218 – threat, Colonial Rd.
2217 – assault & battery, Belleville Rd.

2230 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Tyler Rd.

2258 – vehicle lockout, Haggerty Rd.

Thursday, April 17:

0026 – larceny, Ecorse Rd.
0125 – intrusion alarm, Chandler Dr.

0230 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
0308 – 911 welfare check, N. I-94 Service Dr.

0338 – welfare check, S. Adams
0455 – assist other dept., Belleville Rd.

0548 – road hazard, Beck Rd./N. I-94 Service Dr.
xxxx – private property impound, Belleville Rd.

1031 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Barnwell Dr.

1100 – property damage accident, Ecorse/Marlowe
1150 – mental subject, Freedom Way

1312 – parking complaint, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1313 – parking complaint, S. I-94 Service Dr.

1331 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Village Center Dr.

1402 – assist fire dept., North Shore Dr.
1553 – disorderly, Belleville Rd.

1619 – welfare check, Wildflower Ct.
1630 – assist other dept., Haggerty Rd.

1702 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Savage Rd.

1703 – assist fire dept., W. I-94/Belleville Rd.
1902 – welfare check, Belleville Rd./Ecorse Rd.

1901 – welfare check, Haggerty Rd./E. Huron River Dr.

2102 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Lake Villa Dr.

2203 – warrant arrest, Eureka Rd.
2246 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Belleville Rd.

Friday, April 18:

0011 – civil matter, S. Ponderosa Trl.
0400 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Ecorse Rd.

0421 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Parkwood Dr.

xxxx – repossession, Hardwood Dr.
0823 – property damage accident, Ecorse Rd.

0932 – misc. complaint, Colony Ln.
0945 – larceny, N. I-94 Service Dr.

1018 – assist other dept., Capitol Dr.
1058 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.

1222 – intrusion alarm, Cambridge Ct.
1241 – fraud, Anna Dr.

1359 – domestic, Kirkridge Park Dr.
1431 – noise complaint, Arlene

1452 – 911 welfare check, E. Huron River Dr.
1626 – intrusion alarm, Marlowe Ave.

1626 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Martz Rd./Lohr Rd.

1630 – noise complaint, Oak Ln.

1849 – intrusion alarm, Basswood Cir.

2023 – holdup alarm, Camden Rd.

2035 – welfare check, Lenmoore Ave.

2150 – civil matter, Patty Ln.

2221 – motorist assist, Belleville Rd./Ecorse Rd.

2231 – disorderly, Belleville Rd.

2248 – 911 welfare check, Ash Dr.

2307 – traffic offense, S. Ponderosa Trl.

Saturday, April 19:

0035 – domestic, Florence Ln.

0213 – 911 welfare check, Oak Ln.

0232 – civil matter, S. Bellridge Dr.

0240 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Quirk Rd.

0905 – assist other dept., E. I-94/Haggerty Rd.

1103 – civil matter, Pond Ridge Dr.

1112 – juvenile complaint, Belleville Rd.

1141 – larceny from auto, Denton Rd.

1244 – animal complaint, Haggerty Rd./Bemis Rd.

1252 – larceny from auto, S. I-94 Service Dr.

1410 – larceny from auto, Denton Rd.

1428 – domestic, N. I-94 Service Dr.

1431 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.

1629 – disorderly, Park Estates

1723 – disorderly, W. Huron River Dr.

1841 – trespassing, Haggerty

1829 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.

2127 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.

2213 – fight, Victoria St.

2315 – assist fire dept., Redwood

Also, on this log are 130 traffic stops, 32 of which are on the I-94 and I-275 freeways.

Belleve Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, April 13:

1043 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, N. Liberty St.

1410 – follow up by officer, Belle Villa Blvd.

1714 – assist other dept., Rose

1751 – civil matter, Main St.

1751 – PPO violation, N. Aberdeen Ct.

2110 – property check, Fourth St.

Monday, April 14:

0305 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Sumpter Rd.

0820 – 911 welfare check, Sumpter Rd.

1049 – welfare check, Bedell St.

1217 – larceny, W. Davis St.

1556 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Sumpter Rd.

2049 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Bay Pointe Dr.

2107 – parking complaint, W. Columbia Ave.

2300 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Carmell St.

Tuesday, April 15:

0753 – intrusion alarm, Sumpter Rd.

1044 – harassment call, Harbour Pointe Dr.

1316 – juvenile complaint, W. Columbia Ave.

2120 – intrusion alarm, Main St.

Wednesday, April 16:

0024 – intrusion alarm, Owen St.

1602 – juvenile complaint, Carmell St.

1620 – assault & battery, W. Wabash Ave.

1733 – road hazard, Clarence St.

1847 – property damage accident, Main St./N. Liberty St.

Thursday, April 17:

0025 – intrusion alarm, Owen St.

1137 – motorist assist, W. Columbia Ave.

1407 – private property impound, South St.

1432 – parking complaint, E. Columbia Ave.

1752 – private property impound, South St.

1825 – civil matter, Belle Villa Blvd.

1820 – intrusion alarm, Savage Rd.

2253 – property check, Victoria Commons

Friday, April 18:

0100 – property check, W. Columbia Ave.

1334 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Owen St.

1922 – misc. complaint, N. Edgemont

Saturday, April 19:

0253 – 911 welfare check, Loza Ln.

1237 – larceny, E. Thornhill Ct.

1738 – disorderly, W. Columbia Ave.

2045 – property damage accident, Main St.

There are 96 reports on this week's log and 59 of these are traffic stops.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, April 13:

0030 – traffic complaint/hazard, Arizona St.
0135 – noise complaint, 44000 bl. Bemis Rd.

0524 – noise complaint, First St.

0939 – civil matter, Redwood Dr.

1036 – family trouble, Virginia

1300 – fire dept. assist, 29000 bl. Elwell Rd.

1459 – suspicious circumstance, 24000 bl. Haggerty Rd.

1513 – shots fired, 23000 bl. Carleton West.

1747 – operating while intoxicated, Clay/Sumpter

2042 – assault, Harris Rd./Sumpter Rd.

2220 – animal complaint, Rawsonville/Rustic Ln.

Monday, April 14:

0139 – suspicious circumstance, Colorado St.

0453 – welfare check, Colorado/Colorado

0600 – traffic complaint/hazard, Haggerty/Judd

0952 – animal bite, 22000 bl. Fenster Rd.

1350 – assist other agency, 13000 bl. Rawsonville

1435 – fire dept. assist, 20000 bl. Karr Rd.

1447 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

1603 – 911 hangup, Delaware

1803 – assault, Redwood Dr.

1900 – welfare check, 21000 bl. Martinsville Rd.

1943 – 911 hangup, 46000 bl. Willis Rd.

1943 – fire dept. assist, 20000 bl. Martinsville Rd.

1947 – suspicious vehicle, Rustic Ln.

2143 – 911 hangup, New Mexico/California

2342 – suspicious circumstance, 45000 bl. Willow

Tuesday, April 15:

0844 – fire dept. assist, Country Club Blvd.

0909 – civil matter, 44000 bl. Clay Rd.

1050 – fire dept. assist, 17000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

1102 – alarm, 22000 bl. Karr Rd.

1207 – traffic complaint/hazard, 22000 bl. Martinsville Rd.

1305 – civil matter, Delaware

1329 – animal complaint, Virginia

1507 – follow-up investigation, Redwood Dr.

1609 – alarm, 8300 bl. Rawsonville Rd.

1728 – follow-up investigation, out of township

2014 – animal complaint, 20000 bl. Wilmot Rd.

2027 – animal complaint, 17000 bl. Savage Rd.

2106 – 911 hangup, 43000 bl. Willis Ct.

2226 – 911 hangup, New Mexico St.

Wednesday, April 16:

1343 – family trouble, Redwood Dr.

1611 – fire dept. assist, Rustic Ln.

1651 – property damage accident, 27000 bl. Sherwood Rd.

1827 – suspicious circumstance, Alaska

2204 – alarm, 8100 bl. Rawsonville Rd.

Thursday, April 17:

0104 – mental health call, 45000 bl. Willow Rd.

0839 – civil matter, Iowa

0850 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

0912 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

1051 – fire dept. assist, 51000 bl. Arkona Rd.

1057 – suspicious circumstance, 45000 bl. Bemis

1240 – family trouble, 23000 bl. Bohn Rd.

1307 – welfare check, Washington

1354 – suspicious circumstance, 46000 bl. Bemis

1406 – assist other agency, 17000 bl. Savage Rd.

1629 – fire dept. assist, 19000 bl. Haggerty Rd.

1705 – property damage accident, Birch

1954 – mental health call, 45000 bl. Paris Dr.

2043 – juvenile matter, Washington

2340 – civil matter, Texas St.

Friday, April 18:

0004 – suspicious circumstance, 44000 bl. Harris

0310 – family trouble, Rustic Ln.

0414 – family trouble

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

(continued from page 21)

0536 – civil matter, Redwood Dr.
0540 – follow-up investigation, Redwood Dr.
0552 – 911 hangup, Rustic Ln.
0601 – family trouble, Arizona St.
0702 – follow-up investigation, Sumpter/Judd
1324 – civil matter, Birch
1400 – welfare check, 24000 bl. Karr Rd.
1436 – 911 hangup, Willow Rd./Martinsville Rd.
1507 – suspicious circumstance, 49000 bl. Willis
1614 – shots fired, 48000 bl. Judd Rd.
1909 – welfare check, Second St.
1940 – fire dept. assist, 10000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
2034 – fire dept. assist, Texas St.
2048 – animal complaint, 25000 bl. Martinsville
2110 – family trouble, Arizona St.
2246 – shots fired, 49000 bl. Willis Rd.
2350 – suspicious circumstance, 46000 bl. Executive Dr.

Also on this week's log are 207 patrol checks, 77 traffic stops, and 12 misc. details.

Sumpter Township hires Julie Campbell as new finance director

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Julie Campbell was hired as Sumpter Township's new finance director at the April 8 regular meeting of the township board. She took over her position on April 14.

She will have a base salary of \$92,000 per year, with standard staff benefits and pension upon successful completion of the background and drug screen. Compensation and performance reviews will come after 60 days.

Campbell takes over the vacant position left by Scott Holtz when he resigned almost six months ago. Holtz had been township's finance director previously until a April 30, 2019 resignation. He returned as finance director on Jan. 11, 2022, and then resigned on Oct. 29, 2024. When he left his salary was \$94,500.

In other business at the April 8 meeting, the board:

- Discussed improvements to Judd Road in cooperation with Wayne County's funding options. The estimated cost to hard-surface the gravel part of Judd is \$5.3 million. Also, the board discussed funding options for the Willow Road water main project between Sumpter and Martinsville roads. The board is expected to have estimated costs for this, a proposed time line, and preliminary details on a proposed revenue bond issue;

- Heard township manager Tony Burdick say EGLE (the Michigan Department of Energy, Great Lakes, and the Environment) will meet in Sumpter on April 16 to give

information to officials on the wetland process under way in Sumpter Township;

- Approved the planning commission meeting minutes from Nov. 14, 2024;

- Approved selling two 2017 Ford Interceptors formerly used by the ordinance officers through Insurance Auto Auction. One car had an odometer reading of 145,869 and the other was 152,867;

- Approved the Michigan Association of Fire Fighters/Sumpter Fire Fighters pancake breakfast from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, May 3, at the fire hall at 20550 Sumpter Rd. Breakfasts are \$5 each at the fund raiser;

(Continued on page 23)



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Sumpter Twp.

(continued from page 22)

- Approved trading in five ICP 1 tabulators and purchasing five ICP 2 tabulators for elections with a trade-in credit of \$5,000 for a total cost of \$28,165. The county's contracted vendor is Dominion Voting Systems. Clerk Don LaPorte reminded the board that during the last general election the township had power issues at the polls that damaged the tabulators. He said they bought two new ones prior to this;
- Approved having volunteers Karen Armatis and Scott Holtz install the VA headstones at Martinsville Cemetery,

weather permitting, before Memorial Day at no cost to the township other than gravel and Quikrete supplies. Armatis and Holtz were the cemetery committee before they both left township employment;

- Approved having MotorCity Land Development perform a second-phase park cleanup of small trees and shrubs at Banotai Park in specified areas at a cost not to exceed \$2,500;
- Approved DPW worker Rachel Scott's personal request for unpaid leaving from May 19 to June 2;
- Heard Trustee Tim Rush report the Skywarn meeting on April 5 had a good turnout; and

- Went into a 42-minute closed-door session to hear an attorney's opinion pertaining to Carleton Farms Landfill/Republic Services pending audit.

Absent from the April meeting were Treasurer Bart Patterson and Trustee Matt Oddy.

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BHS at-home games

- **Thursday, April 24** – JV Girls Tennis vs. Livonia Churchill, 4 p.m.
- **Friday, April 25** – JV Softball vs. Plymouth, 4 p.m.
- **Saturday, April 26** -- Varsity Girls Soccer vs. Livonia Stevenson, 2:45 p.m.; JV Girls Soccer vs. Livonia Stevenson, 4:30 p.m.
- **Monday, April 28** – Varsity Baseball vs. Dearborn 4:30 p.m.; Varsity Softball vs. Redford Union, 4:30 p.m.
- **Tuesday, April 29** – Varsity Boys Golf vs. Jefferson, 2:40 p.m. at Willow Metropark Golf Course; JV Girls Soccer vs. Crestwood, 4 p.m.; Varsity Softball vs. Livonia Franklin, 4 p.m.; Varsity Girls Tennis vs. Dearborn, 4 p.m.; Varsity Girls Soccer vs. Livonia Franklin, 5:30 p.m.
- **Wednesday, April 30** – Varsity Boys Golf vs. Livonia Churchill, 2:45 p.m. at Willow Metropark Golf Course; JV Softball vs. Dearborn, 4 p.m.; Varsity Girls Tennis vs. New Boston Huron, 4 p.m.; Varsity Boys Lacrosse vs. Hartland, 6 p.m.

Jamie Cichowski
Belleville High School Athletic Secretary

Van Buren Redevelopment Open House Workshop

**April 30, 2025
6:00 - 8:00 PM**

TOWNSHIP BOARDROOM
46425 TYLER RD, VAN BUREN TWP, MI 48111



The public is invited to the Community Open House Workshop on Wednesday, April 30 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. The Community Open House aims to promote diverse housing types, commercial reinvestment, diversify uses and building types, and enhance connectivity within public spaces. In October 2024, the Township kicked off the planning process with an initial meeting and has held ongoing meetings with the Stakeholder Committee. The Community Open House Workshop will include an overview of existing zoning requirements and some preliminary development concept options for the various township redevelopment sites identified through the recent Redevelopment Ready Community (RRC) certification process. Those who attend will be given an opportunity to provide feedback prior to final concepts being drafted. The conceptual design and planning process is expected to continue over the next several months and will have additional opportunities for public input.

The goal of the is to promote revitalized, more walkable, mixed-use areas with a focal point being the section of Belleville Road, commonly referred to in the plan as the "181-acre or Ford Land Parcel." The proposed redevelopment for the Belleville Road commercial corridor aims to create a gateway into the Township's core downtown area. With resident and community input, the goals of the townships planning efforts can be realized by updating the zoning code. The open house will include an overview of general zoning strategies and an opportunity for feedback from those who attend.

Court Watching

Arceini Jonel Gray

Arceini Jonel Gray, 35, of Inkster is charged with having a blood alcohol content of .17 or more and carrying a concealed weapon while intoxicated on April 30, 2023 in Van Buren Township. He was scheduled for a remote arraignment/pretrial on Jan. 8, 2025 and then show-cause/arraignment on Jan. 29. Final pretrial was set for Feb. 19. He pled guilty to reduced charges of operating while visibly impaired and was sent to probation for a sentence recommendation. He pled guilty to carrying a concealed weapon under the influence.

On Feb. 25 there was a notice of non-compliance on his OWVI charge. A probation module action was taken on Feb. 27 on all counts and was scheduled for review on March 10 and a pre-sentence interview on March 31.

Jacob Michael Sheppard

Jacob Michael Sheppard of Milford was charged with assault with intent to do bodily harm less than murder (strangulation) and domestic violence on Feb. 17 in Van Buren Township. He was video-arraigned in custody on Feb. 20 and he was called a habitual offender-4th offense notice-felony. Bond was \$10,000/10% and the probable cause conference set for March 5.

The live preliminary exam was held April 16 and the charges were dismissed on a motion of the defendant and the case closed.

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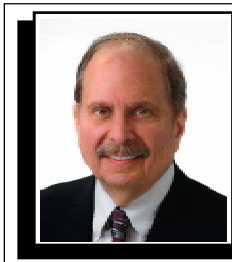
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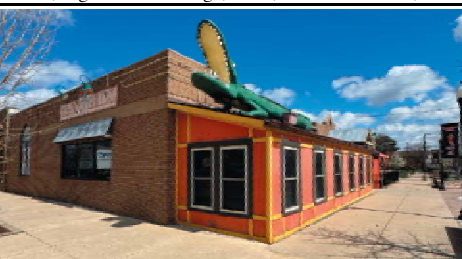
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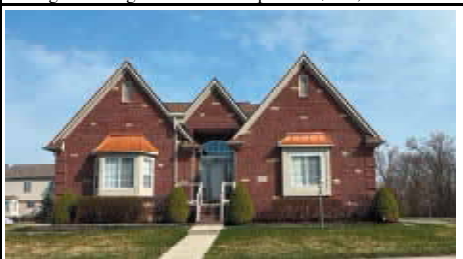
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