



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 26.20 Thursday, May 14, 2020

Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

FREE

VFW will hold special Memorial Day service

By Rosemary K. Oztzman
Independent Editor

Although it was announced at the May 4 Belleville City Council meeting that the annual Memorial Day service put on by the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Polish League of American Veterans was canceled for this year, that is incorrect.

Cornell Anton of the VFW said they will not be holding the usual ceremony, but they will present a simple, half-hour public service with no chairs at noon on Memorial Day, Monday, May 25.

Pastor Robert White from Grace Baptist Church, across High Street from the Veterans Memorial in Belleville, will say a prayer during the ceremony, which will be conducted by the VFW and PLAV.

Also, the poppy sales, one of the big fund raisers for the VFW has been postponed nationwide because the traffic is not out there to make the sale a success, Anton said.

He explained that the insurance for those out on the streets accepting donations is provided nationwide and so the new date for poppy sales will be set nationwide.

Anton said they have purchased 5,000 poppies to sell and so there will be a sale when it is possible.

BHS graduation

At Monday's meeting of the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, School Supt. Pete Kudlak said Belleville High School has announced dates for this year's seniors. June 4 is the day to pick up caps and gowns and yearbooks, July 30 is the senior prom, and Aug. 4 is graduation and the senior party.

Belleville Farmers' Market

Janet Millard of the Belleville Central Business Community announced the Farmers' market will open on Monday, June 1, at the Fourth Street Square in
(continued on page 6)



Independent photo by Bob Mytych

A sky show Tuesday morning over this area by the U.S. Navy Blue Angels saluted health professionals, emergency responders and other essential workers. The demonstration squad's visit started just after 11:30 a.m. from the southwest, passing over Belleville, Van Buren Township, Wayne, downtown Detroit, parts of southern Oakland and then a Macomb County loop before flying back over downtown around 11:50 a.m. Another squadron was over Chicago about the same time and then one of the teams passed above Indianapolis as part of nationwide "America Strong" salutes to frontline COVID responders.

Belleville City Council moves toward budget decisions

By Rosemary K. Oztzman
Independent Editor

On Monday in a special Zoom meeting to discuss the proposed budget for the 2020-21 fiscal year, the Belleville City Council canceled its next scheduled budget meeting for May 13.

There is little left to discuss and that will be placed on the regular meeting agenda on May 18.

The \$2.2 million general fund budget proposed by interim city manager Tracey Schultz Kobylarz and Plante Moran financial consultant Kelly Howey was reduced 30% because of expected revenue cuts. It ended up with revenues of \$29,271 that they recommended putting in the fund balance.

She said this is with the understanding that the city will likely incur additional costs in insurance, supplies, and repair line

items. She said she suspects there also may be additional seawall expenditures.

Kobylarz said this "surplus" was accomplished while keeping all current employees at 100% wages and benefits.

"Please KNOW this is subject to change after the State holds its revenue conference next Friday," she said.

The council met on April 27 to discuss the budget and the following changes were made to follow council requests.

- Police staffing levels were reduced;
- Employees were reallocated to funds / departments based on time spent in those areas;
- Worker's comp insurance was reduced;
- The grave buyback program was eliminated; and
- Road revenues were increased based on Michigan Transportation Fund estimates.

The budget also included the following capital purchases: one-year payment on one police car plus related equipment, one-year payment on fire truck, full purchase of two DPW trucks and trailer, codification of ordinances, and building utilization study.

After about an hour and a half of discussion on Monday, the council agreed

on seven full-time police officers, instead of the six suggested in the budget or the nine requested by the police chief.

There were no replacements for half-time and full-time administrative employees that retired in April.

While Police Chief Dave Robinson had proposed promoting two officers to sergeants with 4% raises, the council liked having supervisory personnel, who would also be patrolling, but it worried about where the extra \$5,000 a year would come from.

"Those two officers already have been here a long time," said Fire Chief Brian Loranger, referring to Cpls. Todd Schrecengost and Kris Faull.

Mayor Kerreen Conley said she assumes there would be some competitive process in selecting the sergeants and Chief Robinson said that was so.

"We don't hire or promote anyone because someone had 'paid their dues'," said Kobylarz. "It gets my feathers in a ruffle when I hear something like that."

Chief Robinson said anyone with more than five years is eligible to participate in
(continued on page 15)

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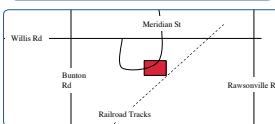
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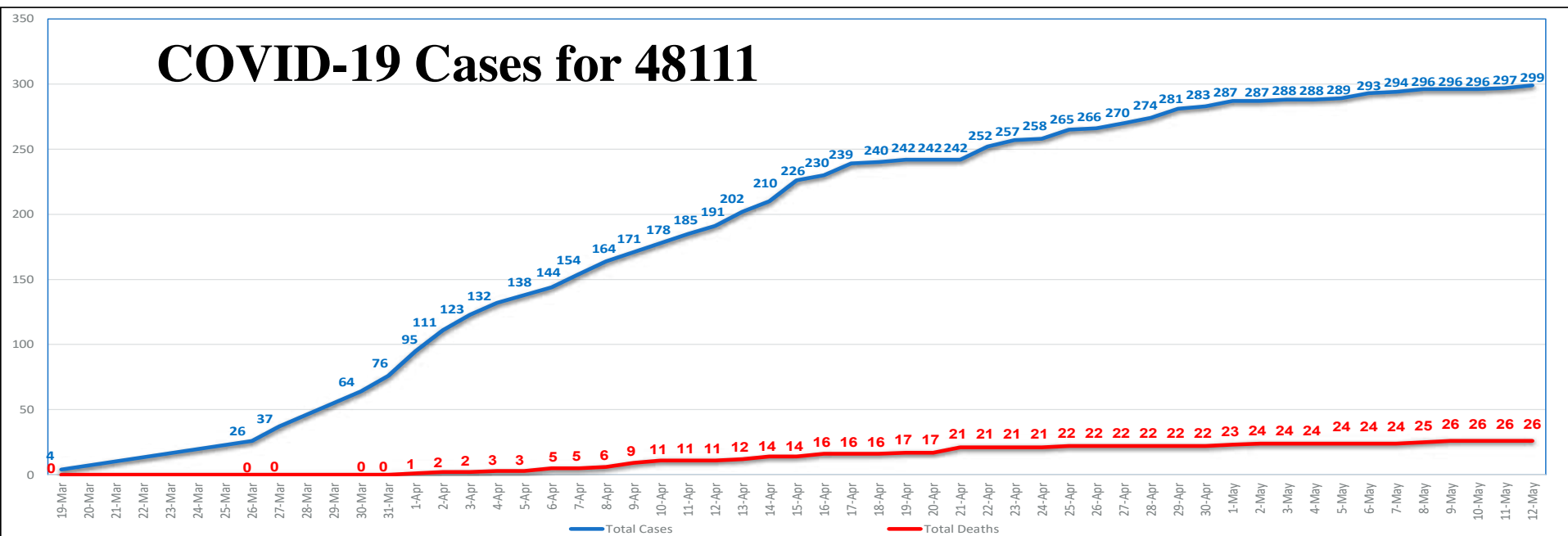
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SECOND FRONT PAGE



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

Van Buren Township backs off announced steps to reopen twp. hall

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

In its first meeting since March 16, the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees was informed at a Zoom virtual meeting on May 5 of a plan to reopen township hall in phases.

A few days later the township had to back off the plans and postpone reopening.

Township hall has been locked to the public since early March due to Governor Gretchen Whitmer’s Stay Home, Stay Safe order. Two days after the May 5 township meeting -- on May 7 -- Gov. Whitmer unexpectedly extended her Stay Home order to May 28.

Director of Public Services Matthew Best said he put together a plan for his department for how the building would open and they would mitigate the risk as much as possible.

He said data shows that one infected employee can infect 90% of the employees over 20 days if no mitigation is done, so they have paid close attention to mitigation. He said OSHA wrote a document and it justified what he had put in the VBT plan.

Best said landscape workers were allowed to return to their jobs two weeks ago and on May 7 construction can start along with related government activities to support that, such as providing permits and plan review. He said they will start advertising this on their website.

Supervisor Kevin McNamara said on Friday that since the governor extended the Stay at Home order that was to lapse on May 18 the township had to postpone its reopening schedule.

Director Best said the township can take permit applications by email, website or phone and checks can be put in the township drop box or sent by mail. There is a new address than can be used: building@vanburen-mi.org.

“Based upon OSHA, the governor, and the CDC, plans rarely stay unchanged,” said Supervisor McNamara.

Trustee Reggie Miller asked if they will be taking the temperatures of employees when they do open and Best said both visitors and employees will have their temperatures taken.

Best said they have two thermometers -- one for the front door and one for the police department -- with more on the way.

Trustee Miller asked if they are testing employees other than police and fire, who have all been tested. Best replied that was not recommended by OSHA.

Trustee Kevin Martin asked, that once they get to that point, who would do the testing, who would take the temperatures and ask the screening questions?

Supervisor McNamara said Fire Chief Amy Brow has the credentials to train whoever is needed for that.

“If they have a fever, we kick them out,” McNamara said.

“It’s still being decided who will do visitor temperature taking,” Best said.

“We’re not going to hire anybody,” said McNamara, noting the township has a hiring freeze in place. He said Parks and Recreation Department personnel possibly will work the entrance, when the time comes, and then switch off.

Trustee Miller said she got tested at Van

Buren Urgent Care that day and it was billed to her insurance. She encouraged others to get tested since it is available right in the community.

Best said a test is fine, but then you could get infected on your way home when you stop at the grocery store.

“My staff signed up to get tested,” said Clerk Leon Wright. He said he and his deputy Joanne Montgomery were tested, along with the treasurer. “It’s to protect the employees and everyone who comes in ... A safety net. It doesn’t mean you can’t acquire it going forward.”

Best said VBT is designated as a “medium-exposure facility” because it’s in Wayne County.

McNamara said the schedule announced is contingent on what the governor says. [On Friday he indicated the opening is postponed.]

In other business at the one-hour-and-45-minute meeting, the board:

- Discussed a recommendation to update the township website. McNamara said, “We’ve got a mess” referring to the website. McNamara’s assistant Dan Selman said the site is six years old and needs updating, especially to be made compliant with the 2016 ADA law. McNamara said they had an app a few years ago but it didn’t work right with the site. “If we’re going to be in an app world, we can’t have an old website,” McNamara said. He said they will put out a request for proposals and bring something back to the board. “The millennials will be using it,” he said;
- Approved the board meeting minutes of March 16 and six weeks’ worth of prepaid

bills and the voucher lists for April 7, April 21, and May 5; and

- Held a moment of silence in memory of two men, who McNamara called “two, high-profile statesmen” for VBT: former Supervisor David Jacokes and former Fire Chief and Director of Developmental Services David Cameron McNally.

Updates

Supervisor McNamara said on Friday that the offices at township hall will be closed until May 28 to comply with the governor’s new executive order.

But, since the governor reopened construction and real estate the township has the assessing office running remotely to help real estate.

Building permits are available by contacting the township and the front page of the township website shows how to get the permits.

He said they need to have some things approved by the planning commission and so a virtual planning commission is being planned for May 27.

Also, he said, bulk pickup of trash will begin May 11.

McNamara said although the township doors are locked, there are workers in the treasurer’s office two to five times a week, the clerk’s office is manned three days a week, and the assessor’s office three days a week. If a person needs help, all they need to do is call, he said.

“Every service you could get from us before is online now, except public meetings,” he said.

OPINIONS

Editorial

Library closed, but public using wireless from parking lots

Although the new Belleville Area District Library in downtown Belleville and the branch media center in Sumpter Township are locked up tight due to executive orders from Governor Whitmer, the public is using their services anyway.

Besides the many services and virtual story times over the internet, people can sit in their vehicles near the libraries and use the WiFi available.

At Tuesday's virtual library board meeting, Assistant Library Director Hilary Savage reported that in the last month about 80 people had used the WiFi at the main library and 30 had used it at the branch library in Sumpter.

"It breaks my heart we can't be there when people need us the most," said Library Director Mary Jo Suchy.

Board president Sharon Peters said their goal is to get to curbside pickup where people can call in or email the books they would like and the staff would give them an appointment time so they could come pick the books up from a bench without contact.

"That has to be allowed by the governor," said board member John Juriga, who said she feels bad for the governor since she is getting so much pushback.

"She should!" said board vice president Mary Jane Dawson. "I call her Grinchen."

Others joined in, both for and against the governor's executive orders that are now in the 80s. The future of library operations are in her hands.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

A senior citizen in the City of Belleville called last week to tell me how concerning it was to him to have the car show up and running when, "We're not going to be virus-free for a while."

He said, "I'm upset that we would be bringing people into the community from out of town and that the city would even consider it." Any activities the city has should be curtailed, he said.

"Consider the risk of just one additional case of COVID-19 and its potential of community spread," he said. "Are these activities worth that risk?" he asked.

"We just need to hunker down until there is a vaccine," he said.

We haven't heard any dates yet for the Main Street car show, which would have liked to begin June 1. As far as we know, Steve Cinnamon's annual Father's Day car show is still scheduled for Victory Park on June 21. It usually is part of Strawberry Festival, but there is no Strawberry Festival this year.

Canton Township has canceled Liberty Fest, originally set for June 18-20, because of the coronavirus.

The Eagle newspaper announced on its front page last week that it was ceasing print publication and would continue online. The story said this was temporary and possibly they would resume printing in the future.

The Eagle announced "... all legal notifications will appear in the electronic versions each week and will, as usual, be permanently archived."

The state law is very specific about legal notices and they have to be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the community. Although the legislature continually considers letting all legal notices

...By Rosemary K. Otzman



be published online, no laws have been passed to that effect and the law still calls for print publication.

The Eagle lately has existed mainly on legal notices from Canton, Romulus, and recently Sumpter Township and with the meetings cut back from the pandemic this has been lethal for their revenue.

If you want to check on the law, see Michigan Public Acts, Act 247 of 1963, 691.1051 Newspaper; definition; publication of notices.

The publisher of *The Eagle* said he had two legal opinions that said he could cease publication at this time and still be a legal newspaper. He would call it an "Act of God," which the law allows.

He said that those municipalities who publish their legal notices online with *The Eagle* will be doing so legally, according to his lawyers. With the upcoming elections, I certainly hope that is true, especially for Sumpter Township. What a mess that would be if they ran their elections and then found that a court had called their online election notices inadequate.

Sumpter police have reported in the past that there are parts of Sumpter that are "dead zones" and radio contact is difficult. Cell phones also have poor reception in some parts. It's a rural area that is lovely and remote. A lot of our readers live there.

Heard on the street in Belleville: "Do you know where Owosso is?" Obviously, somebody needs a haircut and heard the story

of the 77-year-old barber in Owosso who is defying the governor's executive order and is cutting hair. Some are coming from as far away as Ann Arbor for a haircut, according to some news reports.

At Monday's special meeting of the Belleville City Council, interim city manager Tracey Schultz Kobylarz was explaining why they needed to buy two trucks for the DPW. She said you could see the street

through the floorboards of one truck and she was afraid someone would fall out through the floor. She knew they had to buy trucks.

She did muse that it would save gas money for the city if they could propel the truck with their feet, like they did in the Flintstones' time.

The news release on the Blue Angels flying over our area on Tuesday morning said people could watch the airplanes fly by from within their houses because of the Stay Safe order from the governor. That would have been difficult.

Photographer Bob Mytych was out sitting on a park bench near the Denton Road bridge waiting for them on Tuesday when they burst into the air over the cemetery and flashed on by. He had his camera in his lap and was able to get a few good shots. He also got a picture of one of the eagles startled by the planes.





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BELLEVILLE-AREA INDEPENDENT

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Letters

Support of Emergency Food Closet is amazing

To the editor:

The support from Sumpter and Van Buren townships and the City of Belleville to the Emergency Food Closet housed at the Belleville First United Methodist Church, located at 417 Charles St., has been overwhelming.

We have received numerous drop-offs of food and monetary donations. We would like to thank the community members for their continued care and concern for those who are struggling during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Emergency Food Closet is open as a drive-thru on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. New clients need to bring a current Michigan driver's license or state ID to prove residency.

Minette Brownlee and Marilyn Wood
Emergency Food Closet Coordinators

Politics should not be reason for pulling ad

To the editor:

This letter is to express my thanks to the Belleville Independent for supplying the Tri-City Community with up to date information and news.

I am a person that believes in patronizing businesses in the community, as much as possible. By doing this, it enables the community in which I live to flourish and survive.

I for one, am very disappointed that the majority of the Sumpter Township Board voted to release the Belleville Independent as the paper of record. The Belleville Independent has kept my family and I up to date on events of the community since 1997. The editor and staff have always been congenial, knowledgeable and report things of interest.

The concern that I have -- it appears that there exist a handful of people (some are not citizens of Sumpter Township) that are interested in the demise of this paper. I as well as many other citizens, will not allow that to happen, for we support the Belleville Independent's editor and staff. It is our right to do so, for most of us are "free thinkers" and are not clickish.

I also noticed, that for the past five weeks, that there were no ads for Atchinson Ford. I am hoping that this is not due to any political tactics and maybe due to the current Emergency Order on the COVID-19 Virus. For if it should be of a political nature, the citizens should be aware and have major problems with this. The revenue the citizens pay in taxes is used to purchase vehicles for the municipality (Fire, Inspection, Police) through Atchinson Ford.

If I should discover that this is a political tactic, I will take my business elsewhere,

for I am a FMC Retiree, even though I love my salesman, Mr. B. Politics should not be a factor in Atchinson Ford pulling its ads from this paper. I am hopeful that it is not, but the timing is awfully strange.

Again, I thank you, editor and staff, for your honesty, integrity, knowledge and truthfulness. You even publish retractions for corrections.

Sincerely,

Ms. Adrian Slaughter

Sumpter Township

Editor's Note: We furnished Atchinson Ford with a copy of this letter and offered it a chance to reply. Atchinson Ford sent the following statement: "During these unprecedented times due to COVID-19, Atchinson Ford had to make hard decisions on how to keep our staff and community safe. When the governor declared a state of emergency, and forced all dealerships to close until we could develop the necessary protocols and secure enough personal protection equipment to ensure the safety of our employees as well as our customers. As a result, we also had to find creative ways to reduce costs in order to weather this difficult storm. On May 4th we re-opened and we can now safely serve our customers. Atchinson Ford is currently providing our customers with a remote sales experience for those interested in purchasing or leasing a vehicle. Please be safe and know that Atchinson Ford is ready to serve you and your vehicle needs."

A reminder:

Memorial Day is May 25

To: Belleville Residents and All My South Biggs Neighbors

A REMINDER!

Memorial Day, an American holiday observed on the last Monday of May (May 25), honors men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military.

COVID-19 is not over. Let's honor our veterans who died to give those individuals the "right" to protest the recent Stay Home/ Stay Safe orders; although I didn't support the demonstrators, they DID have the right to do so.

Here's your chance to demonstrate pride in our country and remember our fallen veterans. Once again I am encouraging all residents of Belleville to have a flag at EVERY home.

Business owners, firemen, police officers, city officials: Set the example, display your U.S. flag early. Show the rest of Belleville, Van Buren Township, Wayne County, Michigan, and the entire country how proud we are to be a U.S. citizen, creating a *sense of pride in our neighborhood and our country.*

Thanks to a very generous donation of supplies from Manager John Vredevelde of Manns Lumber and a big labor help from Manager Tom Tinsley of Contract Welding, I have many free, refurbished flags, 11"x16", available. Stop by and pick one up. Call 699-8563 or stop at 48

(continued on page 6)

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Obituaries



John Thomas Russ, III

JOHN THOMAS RUSS, III

(July 5, 1944 – May 9, 2020)

John Thomas Russ, III, was born on July 5, 1944 and died on May 9, 2020 from complications of COVID-19 at Michigan Medicine Hospital.

He was born in Ypsilanti, MI to parents John T. Russ Jr. and Laura Mabel Russ. He was almost a firecracker baby! Well, he was a firecracker, just not born on the 4th of July. He could make a joke out of anything. Especially, in his older years when things didn't always turn out right. If we weren't laughing, we would be crying, so we chose laughter.

John liked to spend his birthdays on vacation and the only time he did not was when he was working overtime during shut down at Ford Motor Company, Rawsonville Plant, where he worked for 38 years. He liked to spend his time at Jellystone Park, in Traverse City, MI and Piedmont, AL visiting his mother-in-law and other family. In his later years he liked to go to the UP (God's Country, as he called it) with his wife Darlene and his best friend Melvin Mills.

John is pre-deceased by both his parents and his 2 sons, Gregory Scott Russ and David Harold Ecker-Russ. John is survived by his wife Darlene Russ of 55 years (high school sweethearts), his daughter Lorie Schofield (Eric) of Belleville, MI, daughter Lisa Russ (Javid) of Ypsilanti, MI and daughter Lisbeth Krause (Rob) of Rapid City, MI; and 5 grandchildren: Brianna Schofield, Abigayle, Hayden, and David Krause and Little Liam Moraveji (his look alike). He is survived by many cousins and sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law. John was an only child, but his best friend Melvin Mills who also survives was closer than a brother whom he shared his life with since the first grade; they were buddies to the end. A memorial will be planned at a later date. In lieu of flowers, please donate to Michigan's Foster Care Children at michiganfostercarecloset.org for John and Darlene were Foster Care Parents for more than 30 years.

VFW

(continued from page 1)

Belleville and run every Monday through September from 4 to 7:30 p.m.

The CBC will provide a portable restroom and social distancing, with six-foot locations marked on the brick.

Wayne County Fair canceled

Over the week end the Wayne County Fair announced it has canceled its annual fair, that had been scheduled in July.

"Due to the continuing battle with the COVID-19 pandemic in Michigan and especially in our county – the Wayne County Fairboard voted to cancel our 2020 fair week," said Ann Richendollar, Fairboard Director.

St. Anthony

St. Anthony will resume mass at 8 a.m., Tuesday, May 19.

More Letters

(continued from page 5)

S. Biggs. Also, I can have your old flags properly disposed; drop them off when you pick up a new one.

My refurbished flags had previously been flown over a veteran's grave; now you can "Honor and Remember" that fallen veteran by once again displaying his/her flag at your home.

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Brooms, politicians

To the editor:

I see that we have some new folks running for trustee in Van Buren Township. Well, they say a new broom sweeps cleaner and as that great philosopher and my hero Mark Twain once said, "Diapers and politicians should be changed often -- and for the same reason."

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Obituaries



Richard J Hook

RICHARD J HOOK

(September 28, 1926 – May 4, 2020)

Richard J Hook, 93, of 8170 Vineyard Parkway, Kalamazoo, MI and former resident of Belleville, MI for most of his life, passed away on May 4, 2020 at Bronson Methodist Hospital in Kalamazoo due to respiratory failure.

Visitation was held at Brown Funeral Home in Belleville on Monday, May 11, 2020. Due to pandemic restrictions, visitation was limited to immediate family members from 10 to 11:30 a.m. and extended family members and invited guests from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. A memorial service followed at 1 p.m. limited to immediate family in person. A burial service followed at Hillside Cemetery in Belleville, Michigan for immediate family members.

Richard J "Dick" Hook was born on September 28, 1926 in Belleville, MI to Harry Lanning Hook and Vivian Estelle Hook. A 1944 graduate of Belleville High School where he competed in football, basketball, and baseball, Dick immediately joined the Navy and was enrolled in Navy training school at Western Michigan College in Kalamazoo where he also suited up for the Western Michigan Bronco football team at the age of 17. After an honorable discharge from the Navy, and following graduation from Alma College with a teaching degree, he later enlisted in the Air Force serving during the Korean Conflict as an Air Force Lieutenant stationed in St. Louis, Missouri.

After marriage to Texas native Marie (Moses), his beloved wife of 61 years, Dick worked as a high school math teacher, and coached football and basketball in both Texas and Michigan. He then began a new business venture with his late brother William L "Bill" Hook establishing Hook's Cleaners on Michigan Ave. in Wayne, Michigan. Dick later started a new carpet cleaning distribution business, Great Lakes Steamway in Wayne until his retirement.

As a hobby and part-time employment, Dick gained his private pilot's license and later became a flight training instructor, owning four different planes that were used for both work and his favorite recreational past time of flying. As a man of great faith and devotion to God, Dick served as a Deacon and Treasurer of Bethany Bible Church in Belleville for many years. He later transferred his membership to First Baptist Church of Canton, MI where he served as a Deacon, Deacon Emeritus, and was a proud member of the "Golden Agers."

Richard is preceded in death by his wife Lois Marie (Moses) Hook, brother William Louis Hook, father Harry Lanning Hook, mother Vivian Estelle (Harris) Hook, infant son Gary Lynn Hook and infant granddaughter Sarah McClurg.

Richard is survived by daughter Cynthia (Hook) McClurg and husband Robert McClurg of Florissant, Missouri; son Robin Hook and wife Ruth (Moore) Hook of Kalamazoo, MI, daughter Jennifer (Hook) Dudley and husband Scott Dudley of Hockley, TX, grandchildren (spouses) Chelsea, (Justin) Horn, Jared (Sarah) Hook, Rachel (Joe) Dorsey, Melissa (Matt)

Brink, Amanda (Bradley) Auth (late James McDaniel), Jeremy (Michelle) Dudley, Zachary (Michele) Dudley, and Hannah Dudley. Dick is also survived by 12 great-grandchildren Tytus Dorsey, Aida Dorsey, Jaxon Dorsey, Madeline Brink, Lily McDaniel, Clayton McDaniel, Allison McDaniel, Carsyn Horn, Emrie Horn, Henley Hook, Foster Hook (arriving in June), Maddison Dudley and Richard Dudley.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to First Baptist Church, 44500 Cherry Hill Rd., Canton, MI 48187 in support of the church youth camp ministry, missionary work, and overall ministry.

www.davidcbrownfh.com



Darlene (Tackett) Collins

DARLENE (TACKETT) COLLINS

(June 27, 1948 – May 4, 2020)

Darlene (Tackett) Collins, 71, long-time Belleville, Michigan resident, passed away Monday, May 4, 2020 at her home, under hospice care, after a long battle with cancer, surrounded by family. She was born June 27, 1948 in Jonancy, Kentucky, to Boge and Mary (Baldwin) Tackett. She was a 1966 graduate oforton High School.

She is survived by her daughter Christyle (Walter) Broadworth of Parma, MI and step-daughter Melisa (Dwayne) Salisbury of Ypsilanti, MI. She was a devoted Mamaw to three grandchildren, Brian Culver of Ypsilanti, MI and the twins Emily and Denton Broadworth. She is also survived by three brothers Dannie (Mae) Tackett of Florissant, MO, Michael (Margarete) Tackett of Auburn, KY, Gary (Rose) Tackett of Virgie, KY, and one sister Christyle Renee Tackett-Elswick of Virgie, KY.

She was preceded in death by her loving husband Charles Collins, her parents, and one brother Robert Tackett.

Darlene retired from Consumers Energy in 2007 after more than 35 years of loyal service. She was a member of Christ the King Episcopal Church in Taylor, MI. She was an active member of the Belleville Area Women's Club (BAWC), the Belleville Women of the Moose, and was a member of the American Business Women's Association in Jackson, MI, where she was named Woman of the Year.

She loved shopping and crafting, playing Solitaire, and enjoyed spending time at her "Barn" in Northern Michigan. Her biggest joy was her grandchildren. She will be remembered for her gift of gab, her love of all things Angel & Snowmen, and her famous desserts.

Due to the current COVID-19 Pandemic restrictions of ten (10) people or less in the building at one time, a private visitation was held Thursday, May 7, 2020 with a 1:00 PM Funeral, which was live-streamed on the funeral home's Facebook page. Interment followed in Otisville Cemetery, Van Buren Township, MI, with plans for a Public Memorial Service at a later date. Arrangements were by David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville, MI (734) 697-4500.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Women of the Moose (Lodge #934) or to BAWC to support their educational fund.

Obituaries



Wiley Sizemore, Jr.



WILEY SIZEMORE, JR.

(February 26, 1932 – May 11, 2020)

Wiley Sizemore, Jr., age 88, long-time resident of Belleville, MI, passed away peacefully, under hospice care, early Monday, May 11, 2020 at his daughter's home. He was born February 26, 1932 in Kentucky, son of Burley & Rosa (Napier) Sizemore.

Mr. Sizemore was a caring and loving dad. He proudly served his country in the U.S. Army for two years. Wiley retired from Ford Motor Company, Livonia plant, after thirty years of service. He loved Bluegrass music and festivals. He whittled knives from wood to share with many people and said they could be found all around the United States. Friends were made with whomever he met. He loved visiting his friends, sports: hunting and fishing. Most of all, he cherished time spent with his family and watching his grandchildren's events. He loved to tell stories about Kentucky and his life. He was a very wise and respected man!

Survived by three children: Deborah (Ron) Duncan of Romulus, MI, Wiley Jr. Sizemore and Teresa Sizemore, both of Belleville, MI; 8 grandchildren: Kim Garrett, Tracy Duncan, Darren Duncan, Eric (Kristen) Sizemore, David (Racheal) Sizemore, Paul Roeser, Dustin Roeser and Crystal (Mike) Challenger; 10 great-grandchildren, also numerous extended family and Bluegrass friends.

Preceded in death by his parents; wife Jean Deloris (Potter) Sizemore on January 8, 2014; daughter Sherry Sizemore in 1955; son Darrell Wayne Sizemore on January 8, 2017; grandson Shawn Sizemore on October 25, 1998; also two sisters: Virginia Colett and Amelia Young; and three brothers: Camie, Virgil and Grant Sizemore.

Visitation will be Noon until 2 PM Thursday, May 14, 2020 at David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI 48111 (734) 697-4500. Interment will follow in Hillside Cemetery, Belleville.

Memorial contributions may be made to VFW Post #4434 and would be greatly appreciated by the family.



Joan Precilla Glazer

JOAN PRECILLA GLAZER

(May 19, 1940 – May 5, 2020)

Joan Precilla Glazer, age 79, long-time resident of Willis, MI, passed away Tuesday, May 5, 2020 at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Superior Township, MI. She was born May 19, 1940 in Hubbardston, MI, daughter of Francis Bernard and Louella (Brocieus) Datema.

Mrs. Glazer is survived by her loving husband of nearly 58 years, Edward J. Glazer; five children: Deborah (Jim) Sylvester of Romulus, MI, Pamela (Dave) Varga of Britton, MI, Edward Glazer, Karen (Eric) Evans and Susan Glazer, all of Willis; ten grandchildren: Justin, Holly, Jessica, Jennifer, Elias, Sophia, Raychel, Chloe, Bailey and Liam; two sisters Marie (Terri) Peiffer of Dewitt, MI and Mary Satterlee of Hubbardston, MI; one brother Bernard (Sharon) Datema of Hubbardston, MI; also numerous nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her twin brother John Datema, two sisters: in childhood Dorothy Datema, and Bernard's twin Bertha Thelen; also, brother Thomas Datema.

Joan and Ed owned and operated Ace Aircraft Finishers, Ypsilanti, MI. They enjoyed working and traveling together all over the United States, stripping and painting airplanes together. She was a hard worker that could do anything that a man could do. She was secretary for the Tri County 2 Cylinder Club for many years. She was also a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church, Whittaker, MI. She enjoyed gardening and watching Wheel of Fortune and Jeopardy. She loved crocheting. Everyone in her family had at least one of her blankets and Christmas tree skirts. Most of all, she enjoyed spending time with and doing things for her family.

Visitation was Friday 2-7 PM at David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville, MI and Saturday 10-11 AM at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Whittaker, MI, with a Funeral Mass at 11 AM Saturday, May 9, 2020, with Father Peter VanRooyen as Celebrant. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

www.davidcbrownfh.com



Kathryn Mary Peters

KATHRYN MARY PETERS

(July 29, 1964 – May 7, 2020)

Kathryn Mary Peters, age 55, of Belleville, MI, passed away Thursday, May 7, 2020 at Select Specialty Hospital, Wyandotte, MI. She was born July 29, 1964 in Wayne, MI, daughter of John Carol & Margaret Joan (Yuhasz) Peters.

Kathryn was a 1983 graduate of Huron High School. She was a member of St. Stephen Catholic Church, New Boston, MI. She enjoyed living on a forty-acre farm for over fifty years. She loved painting, gardening and animals -- especially birds and cats. She was a huge Nascar fan and supported Jeff Gordon, Jimmie Johnson and Chase Elliott. Kathryn also loved University of Michigan and Rod Stewart.

She is survived by three siblings: John (Karen) Peters of Higgins Lake, MI, Nancy (Tom) McGuire and Tom Peters, both of Belleville, MI; niece Barbara Peters of Iowa; two nephews: Scott (Mandy) McGuire and Shawn McGuire, both of Belleville, MI; great-niece Savannah McGuire; also, numerous cousins, extended family and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents, also a sister Peggy.

According to her wishes, dignified cremation rites have been accorded. Arrangements by David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville, MI. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Friends of Michigan Animal Rescue, Belleville, MI or Nichols Veterinary Clinic, Romulus, MI.

www.davidcbrownfh.com



Barbara Ellen Jones

BARBARA ELLEN JONES

Barbara Ellen Jones, 74, of Willis, passed away peacefully in her sleep on May 7, 2020.

She was born April 29, 1946 in Campton, Kentucky, to Richard and Francis Carroll.

She retired from the Oakwood Healthcare System (formerly Beyer Memorial Hospital) after 35 years of service.

She is survived by her husband of 51 years, Paul Jones; her daughter Madonna (Carl) Edwards; grandson Logan Edwards; granddaughters Kaylyn and Makayla Edwards; sister, Brenda (O.P.) Thornsberry; brothers, Luther Carroll, Dwight (Kim) Carroll.

She was preceded in death by her parents and brother George (Flora) Carroll.

Celebration of her life will be held at a later date.

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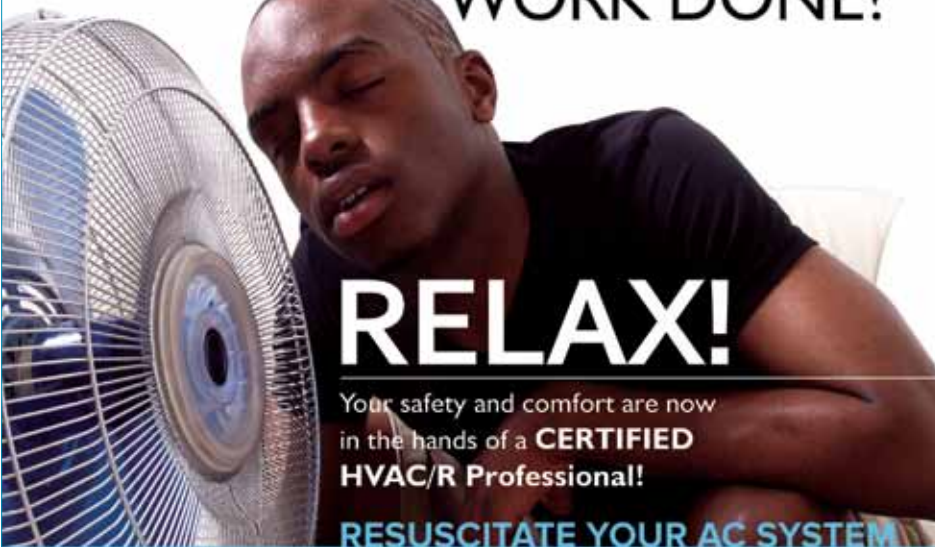
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VBT to hire youth for the R.E.A.L. Summer Youth Program

Van Buren Township is hiring 12 youth positions, ages 16-24 years old, for the R.E.A.L. (Revealing Exceptionally Amazing Leaders) Summer Youth Program.

Positions include field supervisor, leaders, and community ambassadors / counselors in training. All positions are paid and range from \$11.50 to \$21.50 per hour.

"We're excited to offer the R.E.A.L. program to youth in our area, even during the pandemic," said VBT Supervisor Kevin McNamara. "We're working on ways to engage the youth and follow the State recommendations.

"We've been running this program for two years and it's always a lot of fun for the students and staff. The students walk away from the program learning real-life skills and build lifelong relationships," he said.

The six-week program is designed to provide youth participants with the opportunity to develop marketable skills in a "REAL" work environment. Students will work in dual roles as community ambassadors and camp counselors in training during the three-day work week.

Students are guaranteed 20 hours a week.

Deadlines and dates:

- Interested youth candidates must request an application packet via email to hrodriguez@vanburen-mi.org or by phone at (734) 699-8910 by June 1.

- Application packets will be mailed from the township by June 3 and candidates must complete and submit the application back to the township by June 14.

- The township will contact the chosen candidates by June 17 and schedule an interview on June 24 or 25.

- The program begins Tuesday, July 7, and ends Thursday, Aug. 13, with actual time to be determined.

Candidates must display acceptable work habits, have reliable transportation, have the ability to acquire and apply basic work skills, follow all rules set by VBT management, and demonstrate regular attendance during the six weeks.

"Students who participate in the R.E.A.L. have been so thankful for the opportunities they experience during the summer," said Human Resource Director Nicole Sumpter. "We have fun, but we work hard to help our community."

The full job descriptions are available at <https://vanburen-mi.org/about-the-community/help-wanted/>

The program will be altered to comply with the governor's executive orders: required drug screenings, physicals, and COVID-19 testing; daily screening procedures and temperature checks; and travel restrictions in place through the six-week program.

Press release

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More Letters

Something to think about as we stay home

To the Editor and Readers:

This has been a difficult time in our lives so I thought I would bring something to think about along with a little laughter. Here goes: MONDAY was wash day, TUESDAY is ironing day ... now finish the rest of the little ditty because I can't remember the rest of the DAYS!

I found this saying in a day/spring calendar: "Memories are treasures we can enjoy again and again." So if you are having cabin fever, relax and jot down the memories that you had in the past years.

I heard some people complain about cabin fever and I thought about the people who have no cabins! Something to think about and to remember to count your blessings.

I have never been in a plague before and it is trying, however, if you stop and think how great we have had it in our lifetime, a smile will come across your lips and in your heart.

Stay home and if you must go out wear your mask. Remember this too shall pass. Now go and reflect on the rest of your day and answer the rest of the days of the week ditty.

P.S. There are no prizes for this quiz!

Marian Caldwell
Ypsilanti/Belleville

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

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



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HELP WANTED



More Letters

Democrats to host Judge McCormack via Zoom

To the editor:

The Southwestern Wayne [County] Democratic Club cordially invites you to join us for a conversation with Michigan's Supreme Court Chief Justice Bridget McCormack at our virtual May 28 membership meeting via "Zoom". Chief Justice McCormack is our special guest speaker for our May membership meeting.

Chief Justice McCormack was elected to the Michigan Supreme Court in November 2012. She was unanimously selected by her colleagues to serve as chief justice in January 2019, and this year is seeking reelection to a second term on the court. During her tenure, she has devoted herself to improving the way Michiganders experience the Courts.

Chief Justice McCormack has worked to improve their service by ensuring they are independent, accessible, efficient, and engaged with their communities. She launched the Court's Justice for All Taskforce and co-chaired the Governor's Taskforce on Jail and Pretrial Reform.

Prior to being elected to the Supreme Court, Chief Justice McCormack was a professor and associate dean at the University of Michigan law school, where she taught criminal law, legal ethics and various clinical courses. As associate dean, she founded many clinical programs in which students represent underserved Michiganders, including the Michigan Innocence Clinic which has exonerated 22 individuals to date.

Please mark your calendar and make your plans to join us for an informative visit with Chief Justice McCormack at our virtual meeting, Thursday, May 28 @ 7 p.m.

To RSVP for our May 28 "Zoom" membership meeting please email your contact information with "RSVP" in the subject line to: shoesuawbrat@aol.com and I will email you a meeting reminder with the necessary information to join our meeting.

For more information on this or other club activities, please contact president Terree Darling, (313) 971-5027 or corresponding secretary Debbie Chamberlain, (734) 634-3569.

Debbie Chamberlain
Corresponding Secretary
Southwestern Wayne [County] Democratic Club

Banners should carry photos of 1st responders

To the editor:

I read the story on the front page of the April 23 issue of the *Belleville-Area Independent* (City Council approves banners on Main Street to honor BHS graduates) and I think the city council was misguided by the BYC and a certain city council member. I think, instead of honoring high school graduates who got their feelings hurt by not having a graduation ceremony (which, according to

VBPS Superintendent Kudlak, is still going to happen) they should honor people who really deserve it.

If they do have their graduation ceremony, what makes these graduates more special than all previous BHS graduates? Makes you wonder who at the BYC has a 2020 graduate (or is the relative of one) and wants this graduate's face on Main Street, and decided to pay for all of the graduates' banners.

In my opinion, if you want to honor some real heroes out there, you should have banners with photos and names of each of the local first responders. Firefighters, police, EMTs, doctors and nurses (and their support staffs), military personnel (and more heroes I haven't even thought of) are the ones out there every day, risking their own lives during this COVID-19 crisis.

It just seems silly to honor some BHS graduates that just had to stay home and shelter in place. Why the city council went along with this without thinking, defies logic. That's politics.

There could be a solution to this problem. If Van Buren Township, where I reside, wants to one-up the City of Belleville, it could make larger banners of our local heroes and hang them up and down Belleville Road. So, Supervisor McNamara, please ask the VBT DDA to purchase these hero banners and put the city to shame. I'm sure no one will be against this purchase.

James Otzman
Van Buren Township

Mental Health issues can be helped by calling (888) PEER-753

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) recently launched a statewide mental health hotline for Michigan residents in response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The hotline will connect Michiganders with certified peer support specialists on behavioral health issues, trauma or personal crises, who are trained to support and empower those calling.

This service will operate seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 2 a.m. at (888) PEER-753 (888-733-7753).

"The world is a dangerous place to live; not because of the people who are evil, but because of the people who don't do anything about it."
— Albert Einstein



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Sumpter Township Board holds special meeting wearing masks

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Five members of the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees, wearing face masks, met in a special, 32-minute meeting May 5 to take care of business and cancel the rest of the regular meetings in May to comply with the governor's Stay Home order.

The meetings canceled had been set for May 12 and May 26.

Absent from the May 5 meeting were Trustee Don LaPorte, who was called out "excused" by Clerk Esther Hurst, and Treasurer Ken Bednark, who was not called out "excused."

The board unanimously approved the fire renewal language to be placed on the Aug. 4 primary ballot and a resolution to support that ballot proposal, which will be for one mill for four years.

A resolution presented to pay essential workers duty pay of \$5 an hour was amended by Deputy Supervisor Karen Armatis who said it should have said the extra pay was for union employees only. Armatis was also wearing a mask.

The masked township attorney Rob Young said the section that says salaried workers would be paid this duty pay was to be eliminated.

Trustee Matthew Oddy said he supported paying \$5 more per hour as duty pay for police and fire employees, but for those working inside the office (with the doors locked), he supported \$2 per hour duty pay.

Trustee Oddy said police and fire employees interact with the residents at a higher rate.

Young said the new wording eliminated non-union employees and reduced those receiving the extra pay to AFSCME workers.

"We'll make changes to the resolution," Young said, implying after the board approves new wording, he will change it to make it comply with their wishes.

"We're not changing the terms of the contract," Young said.

Public Safety Director/Police Chief Eric Luke, also wearing a mask, requested Fire Chief Joe Januszyk also receive this duty pay because he goes out on the runs. He is not a union employee.

Oddy stated the resolution says "all department employees" in the police and fire departments and that would cover both Chief Januszyk and Chief Luke.

Oddy said the resolution says the pay would be from April 6 to May 3, but the governor has extended the Stay at Home order until May 15, and so they extended the pay until May 15. [Two days later the governor extended the Stay Home order to May 28.]

According to the resolution, the township board could extend the duty pay.

In other business at the May 5 meeting, the board:

- Approved posting signage that, when facilities are reopened to the public, upon entering the township hall and senior center a mask or face covering is required;
- Approved purchasing a UniMac commercial turnout gear washer for the fire department from Universal Laundry Machinery at a cost of \$7,596. Public Safety Director Luke said this washer has been considered for a year and it is

to make sure after the turnout gear is covered with toxins produced by a fire it will be clean when it is put back on. He said it will take three to four weeks to get the washer;

- Approved giving a \$5,200 raise to Finance Director Michelle Cole, who was hired last August for a four-day work week at an annual salary of \$60,000. Trustee Oddy said this was to compensate her for extra duties: taking over water department payments and supervising Roxanne Bardell;

- Approved advertising for a building department clerk due to the resignation of Brad Wheelock;

- Approved giving Supervisor John Morgan authority to call back furloughed workers;

- Approved payments through March 31, 2020, totaling \$90,014.23;
- Approved check run of April 15, 2020, totaling \$90,362.78;
- Approved check run of April 29, 2020, totaling \$153,570.03; and
- Extended authorization approved at the March 24, 2020 regular board meeting for payment of essential bills and warrants with finance director review and approval (as directed by post audit policy) through May 29, 2020.

(On Monday, the township finally put the video of the April 2 special meeting on YouTube so it can be viewed by the public, along with the May 5 special meeting.)

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES MAY 5, 2020 ELECTRONICALLY VIA ZOOM

Supervisor McNamara called the meeting to order electronically via Zoom meeting ID 95420732345 at 6:00 p.m. Present: Supervisor McNamara, Treasurer Budd, Clerk Wright, Trustee Frazier, Trustee Martin, Trustee Miller, and Trustee White. Others participating, facilitating and monitoring the meeting: Secretary Montgomery, Public Services Director Best, Executive Assistant Selman, Communication Specialists Albrecht and Nichols a maximum audience of thirty (30). Supervisor McNamara requested a moment of silence in recognition of former Township Supervisor David Jacokes and former Fire Chief David Cameron McNally.

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

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA: Frazier moved; Budd seconded to approve the agenda combining both public comment periods into one following REPORTS on the agenda. Motion Carried.

ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA: Frazier moved, Miller seconded to approve the Consent Agenda [Board Meeting Minutes of March 16, 2020, Prepaid List of March 19, 2020, Prepaid List of March 26, 2020, Prepaid List of April 9, 2020, Prepaid List of April 16, 2020, Prepaid List of April 23, 2020, Prepaid List of April 30, 2020, Voucher List of April 7, 2020, Voucher List of April 21, 2020, Voucher List of May 5, 2020.] Motion Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING: None.

C O R R E S P O N D E N C E / ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS: Curb side yard waste pick up began the week of April 20th; bulk pick continues to be suspended; 2020 landfill punch cards are available call 734-699-8926; parks are scheduled to reopen Memorial weekend; pavilion rentals have been cancelled for the 2020 season-refunds will be issued; play structures, the Van Buren Park Beach and Splash Pad will remain closed until further notice; all classes and events are cancelled through July 4, 2020 including the fireworks; the Summer Concert Series has been postponed until later this year; Summer Camp (first and second session) have been cancelled-refunds for those pre-registered for camp will be issued, dog licenses expiring May 31st have been extended until such time the Township opens, to date there have been 138 cases and 10 deaths related to Covid-19 in our Township, there has been one Township employee positive case of Covid-19, the Township did not have a May election, the next scheduled election is August 4, 2020 and Board Members expressed

condolences to those who lost loved ones to Covid-19.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Unfinished and New Business): Combined with Public Comment following REPORTS.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion on the status of Township Operations as it pertains to events, programming and municipal services during the Governor's Executive Order shutdown period. Officials and staff have been working remotely and in-office to meet the needs of the residents. Beginning May 7, 2020 Building trades will resume. Township staff will be available for building related services by appointment call 734-699-8913 for more information. A tentative re-open date for all Township Departments is set for May 18, 2020. Re-opening will focus on the safety of both staff and residents and in accordance with CDC recommendations, OSHA requirements and the State of Michigan Executive Orders. The Township website and social media will provide information on how to obtain services, park openings, events and programming cancellations

Discussion on update to the Township website.

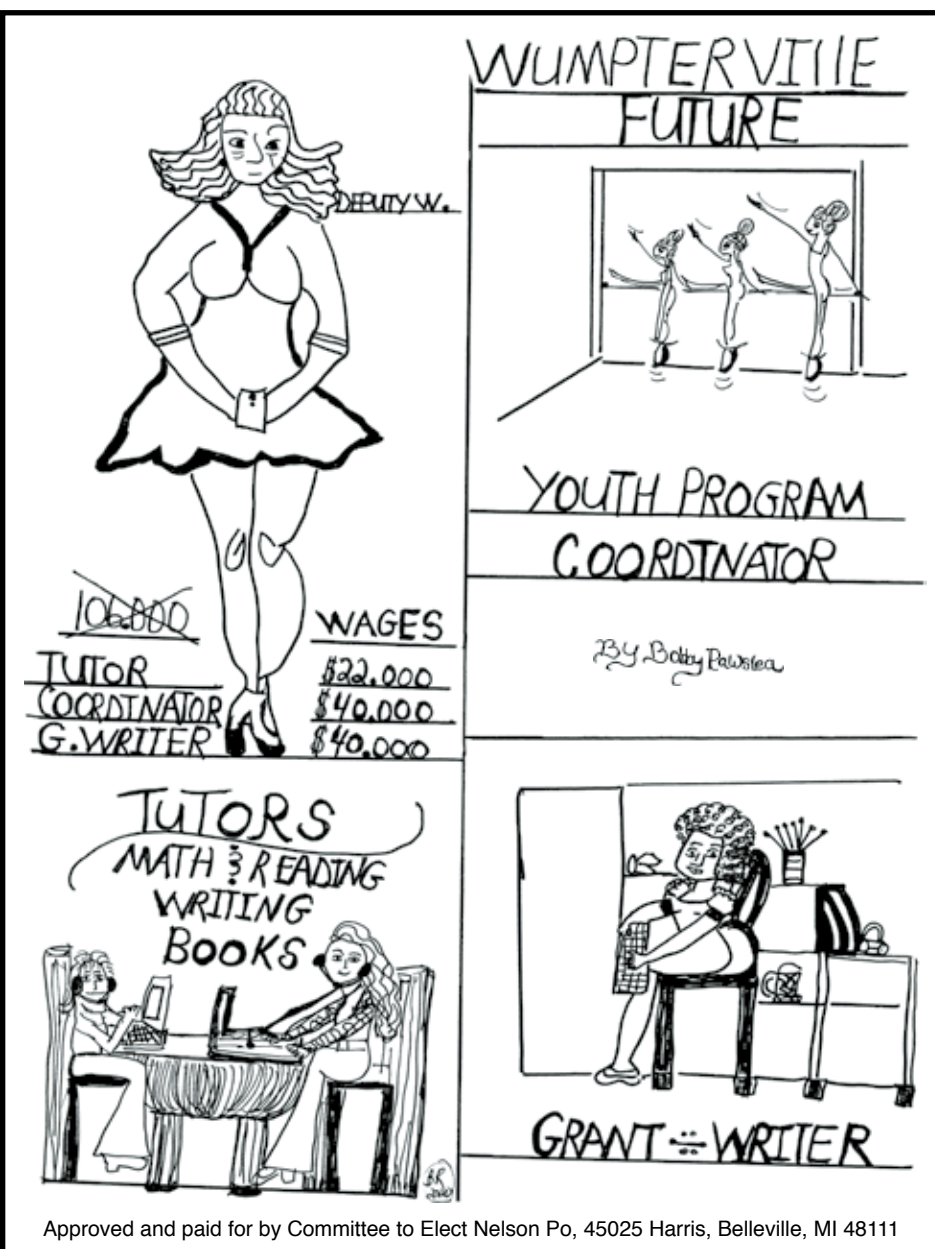
REPORTS: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT NON-AGENDA ITEMS: Residents commented on the following: concern for the solvency of small businesses during the stay at home order, questioned if the Board had received directives from anyone regarding the re-opening of small businesses, questioned if the Board was provided any authority in determining a re-opening date for small businesses, indicated ADA accessibility a host of items including video with subtitles, font size etc.; and questioned if a request for proposal for web redesign included electronic data interchange (EDI) consultants.

BOARD COMMENT NON-AGENDA ITEMS: Board members indicated that had not received any directives or authority in the re-opening of small businesses but would reach out to other community leaders to see what they are doing; expressed gratitude to Trustee Miller for securing a grant through the United Way of South Eastern Michigan that allowed the Township to serve over 1600 people this month; thanked Director Jordan and staff for assisting in the effort; thanked public safety and essential workers for keeping our community safe and keeping our country moving forward; and thanked Communications Specialist Albrecht and Nichols for their work keeping the community informed.

ADJOURNMENT: Miller moved; Frazier seconded to adjourn at 7:45 p.m. p.m. Motion Carried.

Leon Wright, Township Clerk
Kevin McNamara, Supervisor
Publish: May 14, 2020



City of Belleville Public Notice

City of Belleville NOTICE FOR BIDS



The City of Belleville will be accepting sealed bids to supply and install approximately 240 lineal feet of Ameristar aluminum fencing at Doane's Landing on Belleville Lake. All bids must be sealed and marked FENCE BIDS and delivered to the City Clerk by Friday, June 5, 2020. The bids will be opened and read publicly at the regular scheduled council meeting on June 8, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. For specification or questions, please contact DPS Director Rick Rutherford at 734/697-9323 extension 7026 or via email: dps@belleville.mi.us.

Sherri Scharf
City Clerk

Publish: May 14 and May 21, 2020

Minding Your Business with Bob Mytych



All you Benito Pizza lovers on the south side of Belleville/Sumpter can rejoice as Five Star Market/Benito's Pizza at 51255 Willis Rd., just east of Rawsonville Road, has re-opened for pickup and delivery only at this time. Be sure to remember your mask and self-distancing is required. Call (734) 461-3100.

The Air Doctors HVAC Service in Belleville is offering an AC system tune up for just \$59. Owner Brynn Cooksey and his crew are all certified HVAC/R professionals and have great ratings with the BBB. Offer valid through July, 2020. See their ad in today's paper and call (734) 740-2961.

Visit www.airdoctorshvacservice.com.

Garden Fantasy Greenhouse on Tyler Road is celebrating its 46th anniversary this week. Joyce Rochowiak and husband Walt started the family business on Mother's Day in 1973. Congratulations! It's Flower Day weekend in Southeast Michigan and, although the event isn't happening this year in Eastern Market, it's a perfect time to skip the big box stores and shop local. There are plenty of options, too, including Zywicki Greenhouse, Robson's Greenhouse, Pinter's Flowerland, Banotai's, and Vena's Nursery, to start. Support local business.

Beltone Hearing Center on Sumpter Road has re-opened under the essential and self-distancing guidelines and is celebrating its 80th anniversary with free, one-on-one, in-office consultations and free trials of their latest digital technology systems with their ad coupon in today's paper. Ask about their zero percent financing All-Approved Program. See their ad in today's paper and

call (734) 256-4113.

Visit www.beltonehearingaid.com.

This week marks National Police Week, May 10-16. In 1962, President John F. Kennedy signed a proclamation which designated May 15 as Peace Officers Memorial Day and the week in which that date falls as Police Week. Thousands of law enforcement officers from around the world converge on Washington, D.C. this week to participate in events which honor those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice. National Police Week has drawn in an average of 40,000 attendees from departments throughout the United States as well as from agencies around the world.

Animal Medical Center of Van Buren at 491 Sumpter Rd. in Belleville is open under the essential guidelines offering services, surgeries and general health care for your pet. Doctors Scott Driscoll and Keri Dasher and a supporting staff of professionals offer no contact animal drop off/pick up options, too. Simply arrange a time and call (734) 699-6510 when you arrive. To learn more about their services visit www.amcvanburen.com. They're open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m. to noon.

Thank you goes out to Bethany Bible Church on East Huron River Drive and Belleville Church of God on Hull Road this week for renewing their display ads in our church directory. Both churches provide live streaming of their Sunday services. See their ads in today's paper for their websites to get the links. The cost to display in our church directory is \$75 for 13 weeks. To learn more call me at (734) 699-9020.

Birthdays

May 15 – Phyllis Wolters, Virginia Truran

May 16 – Maryann Watson

May 17 – Alexis Bobbitt

May 19 – James Otzman, Marlene Mills,

Josh Fleeson

May 21 – Selina Stillwagon, Richard Jones

"I'd kill for a Nobel Peace Prize."

– Steven Wright

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Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

These are the 142 dispatch calls reported by Van Buren Township police for last week.

Sunday, May 3:

0106 – traffic offense, Village Center Dr.
0420 – assist other dept., W. Columbia Ave.
0527 – welfare check, S. Ponderosa Trl.
1114 – welfare check, Alva Dr.
1134 – suspicious person/vehicle, Winding Pond
1211 – assist fire dept., Parkwood Dr.
1312 – threat, Belleville Rd.
1349 – noise complaint, Wildbrook Dr.
1500 – traffic offense, Savage/Haggerty
1510 – 911 welfare check, Belleville Rd.
1529 – domestic, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1618 – larceny, S. Belleridge Dr.
2015 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, N. I-94 Service Dr./Independence Ln.
2047 – threat, Rose Blvd.
2323 – disorderly, N. I-94 Service Dr.
2337 – civil matter, Peninsular Dr.

Monday, May 4:

0102 – shooting, Springwood Blvd.
0415 – threat, Maple Dr.
0449 – noise complaint, Parkwood
0648 – 911 welfare check, Van Born
0735 – intrusion alarm, Laguna Dr.
1011 – intrusion alarm, Marlowe Ave.
1020 – animal complaint, Lake Villa Dr.
1023 – property damage accident, Huron River Dr.
1032 – welfare check, S. Ponderosa Trl.
1048 – civil matter, Haggerty Rd.
1153 – larceny from auto, Ecorse Rd.
1309 – malicious destruction of property, Westlake Cir.
1513 – animal complaint, Rayna Ct.
1620 – animal complaint, McBride Ave.
1713 – welfare check, Outer Dr.
1739 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1939 – motorist assist, Belleville Rd./N. I-94 Service Dr.

1947 – fraud, Vernon St.
2109 – suspicious person/vehicle, Haggerty Rd. / Coca-Cola Dr.

2130 – suspicious person/vehicle, N. Bellridge Dr.
2302 – civil matter, E. Archwood Dr.

Tuesday, May 5:

0251 – 911 welfare check, Oak Ln.
0837 – property damage accident, Haggerty/Ecorse
1041 – animal complaint, Winchester/Michigan
1346 – suicidal person, Rawsonville Rd.
1601 – property damage accident, Michigan Ave. / Denton Rd.
1609 – domestic, Parkwood
1729 – suspicious person/vehicle, Stonebridge Dr.
1732 – private property/property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1811 – malicious destruction of property, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1814 – noise complaint, Fret Rd.
2130 – suspicious person/vehicle, Oak Ln.
2314 – property damage accident, Tyler/Haggerty

Wednesday, May 6:

0211 – property damage accident, Michigan Ave. / Denton Rd.
0314 – suspicious person/vehicle, S. I-94 Service
0815 – suspicious person/vehicle, McBride
0832 – road hazard, Belleville Rd./S. I-94 Service
0843 – intrusion alarm, Marlowe Ave.
1105 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
1113 – traffic offense, Fret Rd.
1117 – intrusion alarm, Cambridge Ct.
1308 – suspicious person/vehicle, Bemis Rd.
1311 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.
1320 – misc. complaint, Rawsonville Rd.
1653 – suspicious person/vehicle, Country Walk Ct.
1717 – mental subject, Barnwell Dr.
1733 – vehicle lock out, Belleville Rd.
1751 – vehicle lock out, Belleville Rd.
1756 – trespassing, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1757 – suspicious person/vehicle, Hamilton St.
1801 – fraud, Hull Rd.
1849 – suspicious person/vehicle, Hamilton St.
1923 – traffic offense, Lohr Rd./Bemis Rd.
1935 – trespassing, Riggs Rd.
2000 – intrusion alarm, Pebblebrook Dr.
2159 – traffic offense, Ecorse Rd.
2238 – disorderly, Parkwood Dr.
2330 – noise complaint, Denton Rd.

2341 – suspicious person/vehicle, Red Oak Dr.
2351 – breaking & entering, N. Woodbury Dr.
Thursday, May 7:
0023 – disorderly, Christina Ln.
0055 – noise complaint, Locust Dr.
0437 – suspicious person/vehicle, Birch Dr.
0549 – misc. complaint, Belleville Rd.
0712 – malicious destruction of property, Haggerty
1039 – intrusion alarm, Jackson St.
1103 – family trouble, Oak Ln.
1124 – misc. complaint, Ecorse Rd.
1328 – animal complaint, Montague Ave.
1340 – suicidal person, Belleville Rd.
1357 – private property impound, Van Born Rd.
1426 – intrusion alarm, Denton Rd.
1524 – suspicious person/vehicle, Country Ln.
1535 – private property impound, Industrial
1545 – larceny from auto, Haggerty Rd.
1602 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Industrial
1750 – malicious destruction of property, E. Huron River Dr.

1757 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belle Pointe Dr. / Lindsey Dr.
1823 – intrusion alarm, Belle Pointe Dr.
1851 – welfare check, Evelyn Ct.
1916 – domestic, Denton Rd.
2019 – suspicious person/vehicle, N. I-94 Service
2114 – intrusion alarm, Haggerty Rd.
2225 – suspicious person/vehicle, Kirkridge
2253 – suspicious person/vehicle, Locust Dr.
2321 – suspicious person/vehicle, Meadows Cir.
2337 – traffic offense, Fret/power lines
2341 – suspicious person/vehicle, S. Bellridge Dr.

Friday, May 8:

0018 – suspicious person/vehicle, S. I-94 Service
0157 – disorderly, McKinley St.
0336 – assist other dept., Pebblebrook Dr.
1058 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1213 – intrusion alarm, Huron River Dr.
1248 – property damage accident, Michigan Ave. / Denton Rd.
1354 – suspicious person/vehicle, Wheeler/Millard
1524 – suspicious person/vehicle, Tyler/Belleville
1747 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1911 – civil matter, Vernon St.
2028 – assist fire dept., Oak Ln.
2235 – property check, Bemis Rd.
2327 – intrusion alarm, Holly Ln.

Saturday, May 9:

0033 – K-9 call out, Ann Arbor Plymouth Rd.
0053 – disorderly, Belleville Rd.
0102 – domestic, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0118 – fraud, N. I-94 Service Dr.
0208 – intrusion alarm, Haggerty Rd.
0717 – noise complaint, Sumpter Rd.
0736 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
0944 – family trouble, Cambridge Ct.
1121 – suspicious person/vehicle, W. Adams
1236 – welfare check, Harmony Ln.
1249 – property damage accident, Michigan Ave. / Denton Rd.

1316 – assault & battery, Belleville Rd.
1438 – assist other dept., Savage Rd./Louisa Dr.
1631 – civil matter, Zachary St.
1651 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.
1738 – civil matter, Parkwood Dr.
1756 – domestic, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1827 – traffic offense, Beck/N. I-94 Service Dr.
1924 – disorderly, Parkwood Dr./Tyler Rd.
2048 – parking complaint, Belleville Rd.
2110 – suicidal person, Rawsonville
2234 – suspicious person/vehicle, Haggerty Rd.
2248 – animal complaint, Crowley Ave./Marlowe
2355 – noise complaint, Village Green Ln.

There were no traffic stops on this week's log.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, May 3:

0045 – fireworks, Belle Villa Blvd.
0400 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
0414 – civil matter, Loza Ln.
0631 – civil matter, Loza Ln.
1642 – mental subject, Main St.

Monday, May 4:

0841 – larceny, W. Columbia Ave.
1423 – assist fire dept., Santa Clara St.
1536 – assist fire dept., E. Huron River Dr.
2035 – civil matter, Loza Ln.

Tuesday, May 5:

0649 – motorist assist, E. Columbia/Madelon St.
0904 – trespassing, Sumpter Rd.
1354 – assist fire dept., Harbour Pointe Ct.
1651 – ordinance violation, Main St./Third St.
1727 – suspicious activity report, W. Columbia

Wednesday, May 6:

1222 – vehicle lock out, Biggs Ave.
1255 – 911 welfare check, Loza Ln.
1849 – animal complaint, Main St.

Thursday, May 7:

0650 – suspicious person/vehicle, Astor Pl.
0719 – intrusion alarm, Henry St.
0910 – intrusion alarm, E. Huron River Dr.
1405 – juvenile complaint, Doane's Landing
1455 – fraud, Second St.

Friday, May 8:

1243 – disorderly, S. Industrial Park Dr.
1310 – mental subject, Main St.
1650 – threat, Church St.

Saturday, May 9:

1150 – domestic, E. Columbia Ave.
1902 – disorderly, Belle Villa Blvd.

There were no traffic stops on this week's log.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, May 3:

0019 – traffic hazard, Willis Rd./Sumpter Rd.
0750 – fire dept. assist, 19000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
0934 – alarm, 8200 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
1027 – citizen assist, 43000 bl. Willis Rd.
1536 – 911 hang up, 21000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1709 – fire dept. assist, Willis Rd./First St.
1830 – 911 hang up, 50000 bl. Wear Rd.
1855 – mental health call, 22000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2047 – welfare check, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2254 – 911 hang up, 22000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
2324 – noise complaint, Greenmeadow Dr.
2358 – fire dept. assist, 42000 bl. Willow Rd.

Monday, May 4:

0015 – follow-up investigation, Brookview Dr.
0814 – fire dept. assist, 48000 bl. Bemis Rd.
0833 – citizen assist, 10000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
0909 – lost property, Brookview Dr.
0929 – welfare check, 48000 bl. Bemis Rd.
0948 – fire dept. assist, 22000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1339 – mental health call, Country Club Blvd.
1339 – suspicious person, Willis/Rawsonville
1540 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1613 – ORV complaint, 48000 bl. Harris Rd.
1637 – suspicious person, Timberlane Dr.
1710 – fire dept. assist, 46000 bl. Claxton Dr.
1752 – follow-up investigation, 21000 bl. Elwell
2001 – citizen assist, 22000 bl. Bohn Rd.

Tuesday, May 5:

0130 – fire dept. assist, 41000 bl. Bemis Rd.
0945 – animal complaint, 24000 bl. Karr Rd.
0954 – prisoner check, Huron PD
1100 – suspicious circumstance, 13000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.

1321 – animal complaint, 25000 bl. Martinsville
1351 – property damage accident, Oakville Waltz Rd. / Sumpter Rd.

1559 – civil matter, 26000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
1654 – traffic hazard, 44000 bl. Dunn Rd.
1659 – ORV complaint, 10000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
1750 – 911 hang up, 46000 bl. Harris Rd.

1833 – property damage accident, 18000 bl. Martinsville Rd.

2012 – reckless driver, Rawsonville Rd./Judd Rd.
2107 – disorderly person, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2124 – civil matter, Second St.

2310 – follow-up investigation, 21000 bl. Elwell

Wednesday, May 6:

1237 – 911 hang up, 40000 bl. Judd Rd.
1401 – animal complaint, 43000 bl. Harris Rd.
1706 – alarm, 46000 bl. Wear Rd.

Thursday, May 7:

0000 – fire dept. assist, Rustic Ln.
0124 – suspicious vehicle, Carleton West Rd. / Willow Rd.
0252 – suspicious circumstance, 45000 bl. Judd
1114 – fire dept. assist, 23000 bl. Clark Rd.
1207 – civil matter, 18000 bl. Savage Rd.
1319 – fire dept. assist, 18000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
1335 – suspicious circumstance, 47000 bl. Wear
1407 – suspicious person, Oakville Waltz Rd./Karr
1523 – animal complaint, 49000 bl. Wear Rd.
1931 – citizen assist, Brookview Dr.

2106 – family trouble, 23000 bl. Carleton West
2229 – fire dept. assist, 48000 bl. Ray Ln.

Friday, May 8:

0101 – fire dept. assist, Rustic Ln.
0106 – fire dept. assist, 42000 bl. Willow Rd.
0155 – fire dept. assist, 18000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
0642 – assist other agency, 12000 bl. Rawsonville
0656 – fire dept. assist, 42000 bl. Willow Rd.
0841 – death investigation, Edgewood Dr.
0921 – family trouble, Edgewood Dr.
1303 – fire dept. assist, 24000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1404 – suspicious circumstance, Fenster/Judd
1415 – fire dept. assist, 18000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
1519 – suspicious circumstance, Dakota Ct.
1609 – alarm, 19000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
1611 – fire dept. assist, 8400 bl. Oakville Waltz
1904 – warrant arrest, Willis Rd./Martinsville Rd.
2023 – citizen assist, Willow Rd./Sumpter Rd.
2059 – welfare check, 44000 bl. Dunn Rd.

Saturday, May 9:

0328 – civil matter, Wayside Dr.
0349 – malicious destruction of property, Wayside
0853 – L3596 – opened in error – SU, 22000 bl. Clark Rd.

1018 – malicious destruction of property, 50000 bl. Willow Rd.

1223 – follow-up investigation, 11000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.

1233 – civil matter, Second St.
1326 – suspicious circumstance, Country Club Blvd.
1404 – suspicious circumstance, Hampshire Dr.
1510 – suspicious circumstance, 43000 bl. Arkona
1833 – civil matter, 46000 bl. Reed Ave.
1916 – family trouble, 22000 bl. Prince Rd.
1949 – follow-up investigation, 22000 bl. Prince
2122 – follow-up investigation, 22254 Prince Rd.

This week's log also included 77 patrol checks, five traffic stops, and four miscellaneous details.

Person of interest sought in shooting of VBT man in Ypsilanti Township

The Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office is seeking the public's help in identifying a person of interest related to a shooting that took place on Sunday, April 26, in front of Maria's Liquor and Wine, 3344 S. Grove Road in Ypsilanti Township.

Just after 2:30 p.m., Washtenaw County Metro Dispatch received a call of shots fired in the 3000 block of Grove Road at Rawsonville Road.

Those involved in the incident fled the scene prior to deputies arriving. However, a gunshot victim related to the incident was transported by friends to a local hospital. The 26-year-old male victim from Van Buren Township had been shot multiple times but is expected to make a full recovery.

Upon further investigation, deputies discovered that several individuals were engaged in an altercation in the strip mall parking lot on Grove Road. The incident escalated when a suspect pulled a gun and shot the victim. Police are seeking information related to this incident and would like to speak with those who were on-scene when it occurred.

Those with any information regarding this incident, are asked to contact the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office at (734) 994-2911 or through the confidential tip line at (734) 973-7711. Crime Stoppers also can be reached anonymously at 1-800-SpeakUP (1-800-773-2587).

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Belleville

(continued from page 1)

the selection process.

Chief Loranger apologized for his comment suggesting the corporals would be promoted to sergeants.

Councilman Tom Fielder said the police chief said he would be able to take out \$10,000 of his overtime allocation, so that would work to get the sergeants.

Mayor Conley asked if the sergeants would be out of the union and Chief Robinson

said they would become civil service employees and their pension would follow them. Mayor Conley recalled problems with the last sergeant's retirement. That would need to be addressed.

Chief Loranger spoke at length at this meeting and meetings in the past to inform the council of his department's need for a new fire truck to replace the 31-year-old engine now in place. It's not in this year's budget or coming anytime soon.

After much discussion, it was decided to put \$25,000 or more aside from this budget

towards a fire engine. Loranger said at that rate it would take ten years to get a down payment for an engine that could run up to \$500,000.

He explained the present engine has a stick shift and many of his fire fighters can't drive it. He said he doesn't want to ruin the transmission to teach them.

"I don't have to have a Cadillac," he said.

Kobylarz said what he's saying is the engine is operable, but they don't have people to drive it.

"It's 31 years old and parts are falling off," he said, noting his other truck is 25 years old.

"I've been asking for a fire engine for a very long time," he said, noting, "Now, I'm seeing progress."

When asked about the possibility of leasing fire equipment, Loranger said he had done research on the options more than a year ago and the former city manager had the information.

The new city manager said she didn't have it and so Loranger was asked to find his copy so it could be updated with the goal of working toward a fire engine discussion in the next budget cycle.

"It'd be a shame if city hall caught on fire and the fire truck couldn't put it out," said Councilman Ken Voigt.

Vocational Center

Moving from the budget issue, Mayor Pro Tem Jesse Marcotte asked about the school district's vocational center on Sumpter Road that is an eyesore. He suggested working with the school district to make it look better.

"Once it is returned to the tax roll it will be another source of income," he said of the vacant buildings on eight acres.

"It's the only undeveloped large parcel we have," said Councilman Voigt.

DPW Director Rick Rutherford said the biggest issue with that property is that the school has quite a high price on it and there is a power line over the main building that should be put underground, which would be at a large cost.

"I wish the school would take that into consideration on the price," Rutherford said, noting a lot of different developers have been interested.

Mayor Conley suggested reaching out to the school superintendent and DTE to get a price on burying the electric line.

Rutherford said Scott Jones already rerouted the power lines on his project on the north end of Belleville, but each project is different and you get different prices.

'A Nightmare on Haunted Hill' streaming on line without charge

The movie "A Nightmare on Haunted Hill" is streaming on line for families who have to Stay Home, Stay Safe.

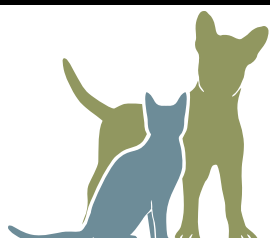
Families are invited to watch it without charge. The movie is a funny, scary ghost story filmed on location in Sumpter Township on an old Indian reservation. It is based on a true story.

It will continue streaming free as long as families are asked to stay home because of COVID-19.

See www.anightmareonhauntedhill.com

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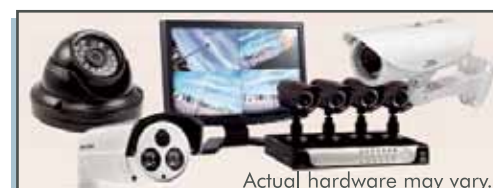
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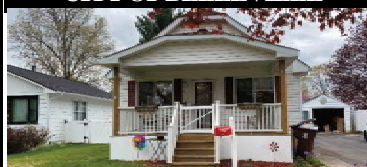
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