



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

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Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

FREE

Court Watching:

Judge Oakley binds Brad Fields over for murder

By Rosemary K. Oztman
 Independent Editor

After a lengthy preliminary exam on Friday, 34th District Court Judge Brian A. Oakley bound Brad Edwards Fields over to circuit court to face trial on murder charges.

Fields, 28, is scheduled for an arraignment on the information, possibly May 16 at the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice.

Fields was charged with felony murder, second-degree murder, child abuse, and torture. During Friday's exam two other charges were added: conspiracy to commit first degree child abuse and conspiracy to commit second degree child abuse.

On April 11 it was announced that after a psychiatric exam, Fields had been found competent to face murder charges in the death of his girlfriend's four-year-old child, Gabrielle Barrett, in a Sumpter Township mobile home on New Year's Day.

He has been lodged in the Wayne County Jail without bond since he and the child's mother were returned to Michigan after they were arrested in Georgia as they were attempting to flee to Florida.

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

On Friday, a Channel 4 News camera was present in the jury box to record testimony from seven witnesses, including the child's grandmother Cynthia Diaz; Sumpter Township Police Officer George Salajan; Miranda Irwin and Heather Vitta, forensic scientists with the Michigan State Police; the child's school principal Kerry Shelton; Sumpter Police Sgt. Elizabeth Egerer; and Sumpter Det./Sgt. John Toth.

(continued on page 10)



Volunteers at the First United Methodist Church sorted through 8,000 pounds of donations picked up by Belleville Post Office carriers from patrons on Saturday. It was added to the Community Food Pantry shelves at the church. See page 5.

Van Buren Public Schools to have computers for all

By Rosemary K. Oztman
 Independent Editor

At Monday's meeting, the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education unanimously approved a \$650,817.42 proposal to put computers into the hands of all its students, Kindergarten through 12th grade.

Every Belleville High School student will have a device to use and take home.

The purchase will be made with Technology budgets from the 2017-18 and 2018-19 school years, as well as \$284,730.72 in the Enhancement Millage received in the 2017-18 school year.

Director of Instruction Jeff Moore said as part of the district's strategic plan, they

are continuing to purchase additional hardware (laptops, tablets) to support student learning.

"As a result of this purchase, all of our schools will have increased access to technology devices, including Belleville High School having one device for every student effective for the 2018-19 school year," Moore said.

BHS will get 1,650 Chromebooks in cases with pouches that they can take home. McBride Middle School will have team-base shared carts with Chromebooks: six carts with 36 Chromebooks in each -- one cart for every two teachers.

Owen Intermediate School will get six shared carts with 33 Chromebooks in each cart.

The elementary schools will each get four to six Tech Tubs with 24-36 eSpark Ipad and one cart with 33 Chromebooks in it.

Sean Garland, IT Network Administrator, said they could start the purchasing process

as early as the next day. He said they are all in the warehouse ready to sell.

When asked about breakage, Garland said there is a non-refundable breakage fee and he fixes those he can and there is a vendor who fixes the rest within a short time. The student who is without his regular Chromebook, will get to use a loaner.

When asked if they could put a tracker on the computer, Garland said it's not a cost-effective way to track them. He said if a computer goes astray, he would send a message to bring it back and then make it unusable.

"We can track it in school, but it's hard if it gets outside," Garland said.

In other action at the May 14 meeting, the board:

- Approved a Discovery Education Digital Leader Corps proposal for \$501,200 to provide professional development for 20 teachers on how to integrate technology

(continued on page 8)

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SECOND FRONT PAGE

Library hopes to open media center in Sumpter on Oct. 1

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Belleville Area District Library Director Mary Jo Suchy told the library board she is working on the upcoming budget and is planning for the new media center in Sumpter Township to open Oct. 1.

At the library board's regular meeting May 8, Building Committee chairwoman Joy Cichewicz said library representatives had a meeting with Sumpter Township representatives and they are working on the details of the new media center.

Cichewicz said Sumpter will be doing the outside work on upgrading the hexagon building across from township hall using the \$200,000 of library funds in escrow from a past millage levy.

Sumpter is working with its engineer John Hennessey, who also is the City of Belleville engineer who is approving plans for the library's construction in downtown Belleville.

Board member John Juriga said any of Sumpter's money left over after this outside work has to be spent on the library and it could be used inside.

"It's good of them to share the effort," Juriga said.

Originally, the library planned to do all the work and its architect had drawn plans and been paid for it.

"We think it would be budget neutral," said board chairwoman Sharon Peters. "We set aside \$250,000 to do inside work." She said the board had a budget, but because Sumpter want to do it their way that would be adjusted. She said they want to get started this year.

Cichewicz said after his review of library plans in the city Hennessey has asked for a deeper base on the main drive in the parking area, a 10" base with 4" of asphalt. This will cost \$45,000 more.

She said the sanitary sewer plan has to be reviewed by the county.

Cichewicz said the fencing around the construction site in downtown Belleville was expected to go up May 10 and digging to begin May 14.

She said they were just waiting for the deed agreements with the city of Belleville to get approved, which they were on May 7. The library board then approved them at its May 8 meeting.

The approvals were for the city deeding the library the part of Fourth Street needed for construction and the municipal parking lot. The city also deeded the library parcel to the library, the first time the library has owned that land. Then, the library deeded the H&B property to the city and library

(continued on page 9)



Jim Pollard, center front, spent part of his 90th birthday on May 14 playing Pickleball with friends at Van Buren Township Recreation Center. He is a regular, playing three times each week because his doctor told him he should exercise. Helping him celebrate his special day are, in front from left, Jim Tucker, Pollard, Dennis Horton, and Les Neinas. In the middle row, from left, are Ron Gabys, Sally Michalski, Sue Johnsen, Stan Johnsen, Sandy Fry, and Linda Luke. In back, from left, are Penny Young, Mark Young, Earl Young, Roger Fry, and Joe Monte.

VBT LDFA backs off suggestion to rename Visteon Way

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

A suggestion to rename Visteon Way in what was once called Visteon Village in Van Buren Township was brought forward by John Delaney at the May 8 meeting of the VBT Local Development Finance Authority.

Delaney, who serves as LDFA corresponding secretary, explained that Visteon Way is a county road and no longer belongs to Visteon. He said he looked into the procedure necessary to change the name of the street and found as far as the zip codes and street addresses, "the same little old lady in Washington does that."

As far as changing the name to "Grace Lake Way," Sovereign, which now owns the Grace Lake Corporate Center, doesn't have a problem with that, Delaney said.

VBT Supervisor Kevin McNamara, a former county commissioner, told Delaney that he got it right on how to do it. He asked if there was a letter from Sovereign.

"I would ask him if he's willing to change this," Supervisor McNamara said, referring to a Sovereign official.

Delaney said the township is suing Visteon and they don't want Visteon's name on that street.

LDFA member Doug Peters said:

"Stop here! Visteon is Sovereign's most prestigious tenant. Let Visteon have what it has."

Peters, a nationally renowned attorney who is now retired, pointed out the law suit is yet to be filed and this is not a good idea.

"I'm against anything for Visteon," Delaney said.

LDFA Chairman Michael Dotson said there seems to be board consensus that this is a question of timing.

Delaney made a motion, supported by Peters to table the discussion of changing the name of Visteon Way and the motion passed unanimously.

In other business at the one hour and five minute meeting, the LDFA:

- Discussed the erection of the large new electronic sign on Grace Lake property along I-275 to promote parcel sales that has a place for digital LED messages from VBT at the bottom. Now it reads, "Welcome to Van Buren Township," but it could be changed to say other things. Any messages would go through the supervisor's office. Akers noted that Wayne County has given approval for the new building at Grace Lake, but ground breaking has not yet been set;
- Learned there are three vacancies on the LDFA now that Danylo Dobriansky

had to resign because he has been elevated to silent partner at Sovereign. Another Sovereign representative will be appointed. A representative has been needed from the county for a long time and, reportedly, now Commissioner Al Hadious is working on that. Also, another member is needed from the community and those interested should apply;

- Discussed listing with a Realtor the property the LDFA owns on Ecorse Road and decided against it. Delaney said the three properties around their property are all up for sale. Peters said the LDFA should take its property off the market until the adjacent properties are sold. Dotson directed Ron Akers, VBT director of planning and economic development, to make no further move to list the property and bring it back at a future time. Akers said if someone broaches the township he'll bring the offer to the LDFA. The small piece of property is west of Hannan Road near the entryway to Grace Lake Corporate Center;

- Accepted a packet of information prepared by Akers on changes to state law regarding tax increment financing (TIF) bodies across the state, including the VBT LDFA and the VBT DDA.

OPINIONS

Editorial

Is there hope for VBT meetings?

Tuesday's meeting of the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees was pathetic. VBT Supervisor Kevin McNamara pushed through a new meetings policy -- draft #8 -- that he hopes will make his meetings professional, starting the first meeting in June.

We can hardly wait. Tuesday's meeting included a censure of Trustee Frazier, mainly for a charge that is yet to be adjudicated; announcement by Clerk Wright that he had reported Trustee White to the police for a threat and the township attorney had been brought to the meeting just in case; announcement by White that misuse of a township credit card is a felony and he is gathering evidence against Clerk Wright -- and that's just some of it.

Supervisor McNamara has never run meetings before he was elected VBT supervisor and he's having a hard time with this board. Trustee Frazier is well-informed and speaks out. McNamara said Tuesday that half of what she says is not true. We haven't found that to be the case.

His new meetings' policy is aimed at shutting up Frazier and White, who speak freely on things they find questionable. Well, Supervisor McNamara, you're not going to get a board that supports you 100%. Get over it.

This rumpus makes us long for the skills of Sumpter Township supervisors Marvin Banotai and Johnny Vawters who would let people speak until they were done and then smile and be friends. Rules that shut people up are chilling.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

Last week's *Crain's Detroit Business* magazine featured a front-page story on the sale of a local business, L&W, to former Metaldyne Performance Group, Inc. CEO George Thanaopoulos and his New York private equity partner KPS Capital Partners.

The article said metal stamper L&W operates 23 facilities with 3,200 employees with plants in Michigan, Ohio, Tennessee, and Texas. L&W was family owned and current president Scott Jones and management will remain in place. Thanopoulos will serve as executive chairman.

Before the May 8 meeting of the VBT Local Development Financial Authority (LDFA) Ron Akers said that the upgrading of McBride Road is scheduled to begin on June 18.

Van Buren Township has obviously lost interest in the environment. The March, April, and May monthly meetings of the Environmental Commission have been cancelled.

I think it was in January that Matt Best told the commission it had to make a decision soon on its recommendation on the proposed drawdown of Belleville Lake next year. It was vital that they make a recommendation soon, so plans could get started.

From Matt's long report at Monday's work/study session of the VBT Board of Trustees, he's been kept busy with Supervisor McNamara's recent discovery that there is \$1.9 million more revenues than expenditures for the 2017 fiscal year. Matt laid out 21 projects to spend \$850,000 of that amount.

When board members expressed surprise

...By Rosemary K. Otzman



that there was money left over in the budget, McNamara said he told them at the Chamber of Commerce meeting at Wayne County Community College. They don't remember that announcement.

My son Jim took me for a Mother's Day drive through Lower Huron Metropark to see the flowering trees, which were beautiful.

The Huron River had flooded its banks in many places and those areas were blocked off so bicyclists and others didn't end up swamped.

Jim saw a big something making swirls in the flooded area and we went closer to see what it was. It was a big fish that had swum out of the river into the flooded area. I looked up and a big bald eagle was swooping overhead. Hope that story ends well.

Toni Clark, who is running for trustee in Sumpter Township's primary election in August, has contacted the Wayne County Election Commission with a complaint of what she believes is an election violation. On May 7 she was in township hall when she saw that Clerk Esther Hurst had two magnetized signs with her name on it stuck to the office cabinets in full view of the public.

Since Clerk Hurst was appointed to her position and is running to be elected as clerk, Clark felt this was highly inappropriate and took pictures of the signs and the deputy clerk who was standing next to them.

Toni said she was told the signs were paid for by township funds to be used in a parade. Toni has been around the township for a long time (she once served as supervisor) and said this paying for signs is new in the township, especially this close to the election. In the past, she said township officials were made to pay for their own signs. She questions whose budget those signs came out of.

We are unable to provide the dispatch logs from Sumpter Township this week because the person who prepares them for us is on sudden medical leave. She fell off a Segue on a visit to Washington, D.C. and needed surgery. Get well soon!

We received an email from a man who belongs to the Boat and Paddle Club. He wanted to know who to contact to get a key to the restroom at Horizon Park because his group will be coming into town soon for a breakfast outing. He said last year when they came the restrooms were locked. I called Carol Thompson at the Belleville DDA and she said the police lock it up at dusk and the DPW cleans and opens it sometime after they start work at 8 a.m. We asked Carol to pass on the information to him.



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Letters

Food Drive a success with 8,000 lbs. of food

To the editor:

The Post Office Food Drive was held on May 12, a cool rainy Saturday. It was a huge success! Over 8,000 pounds of food were collected and delivered to the Belleville Emergency Food Closet housed at the First United Methodist Church.

We would like to thank the members of our community for their generous donations of food and personal care items.

We would like to give special thanks to the Post Office carriers for making this happen: to Donna Collins who supervised the shipments of food items to the First United Methodist Church; to John Juriga for his recycling efforts of cardboard; and over 60 volunteers who worked for four days setting up, delivering the food to the church, sorting, checking "freshness" dates, boxing and shelving, recycling, and ending with clean-up of the fellowship hall.

The success of this effort would not be possible without the help of so many hands! Everyone's involvement was greatly appreciated to fill the shelves of the Food Closet that serves so many families in need. Thank you!

Jan Renton and Marilyn Wood
 Belleville Emergency Food Closet

That poor, tortured Sumpter baby: Why?

To the editor:

Saturday morning I read an article in *The Detroit News* with a very graphic account of the torture death of the four-year-old here in Sumpter Township.

I have heard different descriptions of the people that could do this to a baby. They have mental issues. They are monsters, animals, not human. My opinion: They are the face of pure evil.

Babies are to be held, cherished, nurtured, protected, loved and best of all -- enjoyed. I watched a lady in church Sunday sitting next to a granddaughter soon to go away to college. She sat as close as possible. You want them close as possible. You want them close as you can as long as possible.

I love my family, children, grandchildren, and soon to be great-grandchild.

That poor Sumpter baby. Why?

Mickey Widener
 Van Buren Township

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I burn a blue light on my porch for Public Safety

To the editor:

I would like to take a moment to thank Van Buren Public Safety for the work that they do. As I sit here thinking about how easy it is to beat up on public safety, then they have a day like Monday, I am thankful that there are men and women willing to serve and protect.

I think we really don't appreciate what they have to go through until we have tragedies like those on Monday. I burn a blue light on my front porch 7/24 as a very small thank you to those very brave men and women.

Again, thank you very much and know you will always be in our prayers.

Vic Franzoi
 Van Buren Township

I've witnessed a very important day in history

To the editor:

I'd like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank God for the opportunity HE has provided me, enabling me to witness this very important day in history, the majesty of history and Truth.

Peoples of all religions, throughout the entire world will remember this day, Monday, May 14, 2018 as the day when the United States of America moved and opened its embassy to the City on a Hill: the UNdivided capitol of JERUSALEM. The United States and Israel remain strong allies in our joint efforts in the pursuit of PEACE, a peace that has been promised by several of our former presidents since 1995.

While intently listening to Prime Minister Netanyahu of Israel proclaim "THIS IS HISTORY," I am reminded of the Truth as I quote from Zecharia 8:3 -- "Thus says the Lord: 'I will return to Zion, and dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. Jerusalem shall be called the City of Truth, The Mountain of the Lord of hosts, The Holy Mountain.'"

God Bless America! God Bless Israel!

(Mrs.) Ruth E. Bleeker
 Belleville

Correction:

It should say 'Van Buren Area Little League'

We put "Belleville Area Little League" under the name of president Marc Littleson on page five in the May 10 edition of the *Independent*.

Littleton asks us not to use that name any more since that group is disbanded.

The league is now "Van Buren Area Little League."

Our apologies.

Rosemary Otzman, editor

"You can observe a lot just by watching."
 — Yogi Berra

More Letters

99.9% of teenagers and youngsters are GREAT!

To the editor,

Not too much has changed over the years. Babies are born the same way they have been from the beginning of time. Only the techniques and methods of delivery may have changed (depending on the country or culture). I know of no pills nor serums nor libation that can be ingested to make young people smarter today than they were 100 years ago. We are all birthed the same way. We are all birthed equal -- until we take that first breath. Then DNA, IQ, short, tall, looks, hair, etc., etc. differentiate each one of us. We cease being equal. We become individuals with our own personalities, IQs, moods, speech modulation, and all the factors that make us human beings. We also label stages of growth by the years we spend on earth from baby to senior citizen.

In today's society, probably the worst label occurs after the 12th year and doesn't end until the end of the 19th year on earth. That label is "teenager!" And, there's nothing that each human being can do to change it. Whether it be concept or precept, the attributes of "teenager" is a rite of passage to adulthood.

At the National Honor Society induction of "Distinguished Graduates" and new members those present witnessed an outstanding presentation of outstanding "teenagers!" Let's face the facts. Ninety-nine-point-nine percent of teenagers and youngsters are GREAT! Where was the coverage of the State/National DECA conference in Detroit for the hundreds of state competitors in Marketing and Entrepreneurship and thousands of national competitors in Atlanta, GA? Was there one TV or radio reporter there? What is the percentage of local/national coverage of the Robotics Competition vs. teenage shootings? It's the 1/10th of 1% who get 100% of the publicity news.

But, not much can be done to ameliorate the status quo. The media (and I refer to all types from TV, radio, magazines, and newspapers) report the news as something that is unusual, sensational, sense-appealing, exotic, non-typical or just plain appalling. They stimulate the primal senses of gory accidents, seamy alliances, violent actions/behavior and are the "meat and potatoes" of high-profile journalism that feeds the carnal basic instinct of human nature. As just a couple of examples: 1. See how traffic slows because of a car accident or just pulled over to the side -- hoping to see what? The blood, guts, and maimed body lying there in the front seat? What should happen is traffic should be flowing rapidly by -- not rubbernecking. 2. What is the audience at a speedway paying top dollar to see? Car after car monotonously passing the startling line around and around at breakneck speeds, weaving in and out, determined to be first to finish -- or -- is it the anticipation of crushing steel as it plows into the concrete

wall and wheels fly in four directions while the driver remains chained to the car seat careening down the speedway? Does the audience turn its head in revulsion or stare with anticipation and sensuality that looms on the horizon as brutality at its finest?

Yes, the definition of news is that "... it is unusual, different, sensual, a rarity." On the positive side, I reckon that it's understandable that what those 99.9% are doing is wonderful and we should really be worried if the headlines read "Teenagers do well!" because that would be news and unusual and I would be moving to Australia! Cornell Anton, Jr.
Belleville

Reminder: Fly your flag on Memorial Day

To the Belleville Residents and all My South Biggs Neighbors:

A reminder!

Memorial Day, an American holiday observed on the last Monday of May (May 28) honors men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military.

Originally known as Decoration Day, it originated in the years following the Civil War and became an official federal holiday in 1971. Many Americans observe Memorial Day by visiting cemeteries or memorials, holding family gatherings, and participating in parades. Unofficially it marks the beginning of summer.

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 Manns Lumber, I have many free, refurbished flags (11"x16") available, stop by and pick up one. Call 699-8563 or stop at 48 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.

Don't let Memorial Day go by without acknowledging our Great Country.

Pete Pitzen

U.S. Citizen, Belleville Resident, U.S. Army Vet, U.S. Air Force Vet, VFW Life Member

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Funeral Service with Cremation to Follow	
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Obituaries



Karen Kay Edwards

KAREN KAY EDWARDS
(January 17, 1941 – May 6, 2018)
Karen Kay Edwards, age 77 years, died peacefully at home in Belleville, Michigan on May 6, 2018. Born on January 17, 1941 in Richmond, Michigan to Elaine & Harvey Kuester, Sr., she was one of nine siblings. Karen married the love of her life, Richard Lynn Edwards, on February 6, 1960 and together, they had four beautiful children. While raising the kids, she also worked outside of the home and was a very active volunteer with the Belleville Little League for many years. In her spare time, she loved to garden, sew, quilt and in her later years, spoil her grandkids. Karen was also an amazing cook and baker; she loved to make special treats for her family and friends. While her two-year fight with cancer may have taken a toll on her body, it never dimmed her spirit. She refused to let cancer define her and the legacy of love and family she leaves behind is a testament to her life. Her constant smiling, laughter, and joking around, will never be forgotten by her family and friends.

Her surviving family members are numerous, but mainly include:

Husband of 58 years: Richard L Edwards

Mom of 3 Children: Terry (Cindy) Edwards, Eric (Jennifer) Edwards, and daughter, Stephanie Edwards

Grandmother (Nana) to 6: Brandon and Katelyn Carlington, Alexander and Gabrielle Edwards, Steven and Kristofer Edwards

Great-Grandmother to 1: Evelyn Edwards

Immediate Family: Dennis (Carol) Kuester, Sandra (Bill) Grasso, Harvey (Linda) Kuester Jr, Sherry (Jim) Gavin and Randall (Chris) Kuester Sr.

It should also be mentioned that she was dearly loved by her dogs, Lexi and Lobo. Her Grand-dogs, Sophia, Sammi, and Nala also adored their Nana and will miss her dearly. They always knew when Nana came to visit that she had special treats in her pocket for them.

She was preceded in death by her infant daughter, Andrea Lynn; parents, Elaine and Harvey Kuester, Sr.; brother, Dallas Kuester; and sisters, Gayle Kuester and Joyce Pickelhaup.

Karen did not wish for family and friends to mourn her death but rather, celebrate her life. As such, a private memorial will be held in the coming months. Memorial donations can be made to the American Cancer Society.



GLYNN BARROW

(December 8, 1927 – May 10, 2018)

Age 90, of Romulus. Survived by children Kenneth, Cindy, and Don; 4 grandchildren; 4 great-grandchildren. Visiting hours 2-8 p.m. Thursday, May 17, at David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville. www.davidcbrownfh.com

Guiding Harbor sets open house May 19 at Girlstown location

Guiding Harbor will hold an open house from noon to 2 p.m., Saturday, May 19, at the Girlstown location, 11875 Quirk Road, Belleville.

The open house will include information about programs offered at Guiding Harbor, tours of the facility, and refreshments. It is free and open to the public.

"This event offers a perfect opportunity for anyone interested in learning more about the work of Guiding Harbor, to ask questions and meet many of the dedicated staff," CEO Jennifer Trotter said.

"The open house is a great way to learn about our residential program that has served more than 500 girls since its inception, as well as about our foster care and independent living programs."

This event will provide an excellent chance for anyone considering becoming a foster parent or a home provider for youth in independent living to have their questions answered and to connect with someone who can help support them through that process, she said.

Guiding Harbor, then known as Girlstown, was founded by the General Federation of Women's Clubs in 1958 in Belleville, MI. Guiding Harbor now provides child care and child placement services for abused and neglected children. Services include: Foster Care, Supervised Independent Living and a Residential Program. The mission of Guiding Harbor is "Improving the Quality of Life for Children and Families."

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Computers

(continued from page 1)

into the classroom. Board member Alison Bennett said what is happening is, "You get the technology, now how do you use it?" Parent Angela Mears noted there is a shortage of substitutes and it might be a problem to take the 20 teachers out of their classrooms for training;

- Approved making Lacrosse an official varsity sport beginning with the 2018-19 school year at an additional cost of \$16,500 to the Athletic Budget and to approve a cooperative agreement with Huron High School in New Boston for the team. Lacross has been a successful club sport at both the Junior Varsity and Varsity levels at BHS since 2007;

- Heard a Wellness Policy presentation by Karen Waller, Food Service Manager. She said the policy has to be updated every three years and she worked with the Health Advisory Committee using a Michigan Department of Education prototype on nutrition education, food service, and physical education;

- Approved the contract with Marco's Pizza to be extended for one year to provide pizzas to the district for the 2018-19 school year. Waller said cost is \$7.50 per pizza and 6,000 were provided this year at a cost of \$42,000. "He follows all the rules and it's the best ever" pizza, Waller said;

- Approved a settlement agreement between the Van Buren Education Support Team (VBEST) and the Van Buren Schools not to exceed \$50,000. Director of Human Resources Abdul Madyun explained that during the 2015-16 school year, the Transportation Department filed grievances and VBEST has four separate grievances that were going to arbitration. The union and the district agreed to put those grievances on hold because of what was going on in the district. This is a settlement between the two groups to settle the outstanding issues. Madyun said the grievances had to do with employee hours and pay, per the contract. He said research showed what was on the time cards and what was being paid wasn't correct. "We did make mistakes," agreed Supt. Pete Kudlak. Madyun said this agreement will clean up the grievances and possible arbitration, "And now we have none at all." He said they found 61 bus drivers that would get \$820 each. They would make sure everything is correct before finalizing the agreement;

- Heard Susan Featheringill present the first reading of policy changes that included reducing the board pay from \$30 per meeting, with a cap of one meeting per day, to \$30 per meeting, not more than 52 times. Board President Keith Johnston said at a recent training session they were told that board members can't serve as school volunteers because it is a conflict. Supt. Kudlak said he would check that out and bring information back to the board;

- Approved the annual Wayne RESA budget;

- Approved the termination of Kelli Kubrak, a McBride Middle School teacher

who is relocating after three years of service, as of June 30; and the hiring of Dana Nanni as a special education teacher at Owen, as of May 3;

- Approved the retirements of Nancy Stoddart, after 16 years in the Transportation Department, as of June 21; Janine Alexander, after 19 years in Transportation as of June 14; and Chance Lowell, a paraprofessional with less than one year of service, resigning as of May 16. Also approved was the hiring of Nicole Stephenson for a paraprofessional position at Owen;

- Approved the Saturday, June 9, annual Family Fun Day trip to Cedar Point, Sandusky, Ohio, for 80-100 eighth-grade band members at McBride, at a cost of \$50 to \$55, depending on transportation;

- Witnessed presentation of a framed certificate to Morgan Bennett, design winner of the T-shirt for the McBride 5K Fun Run, to be held Saturday, May 19;

- Witnessed presentation of \$24,937 in grants to teachers by the Van Buren Public Schools Education Foundation;

- Heard Director of Instruction Moore say he and Supt. Kudlak attended a Wayne RESA event on Teacher Leaders and brought three teachers from Van Buren along who were feted: Jen Garland, Tracy Delfuoco, and Jason Strzalkowski.

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School Board approves trips to Washington, Toledo Mud Hens' game

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

At its April 16 meeting, the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education approved an eighth-grade trip to Washington, D.C. in 2019 and trips for Kindergarten to fifth graders to the Toledo Mud Hens game on May 16.

Jason Strzalkowski of the McBride Middle School staff again will lead the trip to Washington to have students get a look at their government in action and visit national sites.

The students and chaperones will travel by five chartered buses leaving May 9, 2019 and returning May 11, 2019. Other teachers going will be Pam O'Neill, Norma Richards, Tim Miller, and Andrew Mills.

Cost to each student is \$649, which is paid by parents/guardians and scholarships.

The board also approved a school bus trip by 90 Owen Intermediate School fifth graders and 110 Kindergarten through fourth-grade students from Tyler Elementary School for a Toledo Mud Hens baseball game on May 16.

The cost to Owen students is \$10 each and Tyler students pay \$5 each, due to a Mud Hens' grant and PTO participation. Owen students are doing school lessons as part of the trip and Tyler students are being rewarded for rating high in the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support program.

Belleville Area Independent/May 17, 2018

In other business in the 25-minute meeting, the board:

- Heard School Supt. Pete Kudlak announce that he just got word that the state had forgiven the two extra days beyond the limit that Van Buren Public Schools were closed for emergencies. He said the district will have its last regular day of school, as planned, on June 14. He said even that day's closure of Edgemont Elementary School for having no power was excused. He said the bus garage also was without power that day, which raised problems to overcome. If there are any further closures this school year, they will not be taken off this school calendar, he said;

- Approved the hiring of Kristen Slaughter as a Belleville High School Guidance Counselor as of April 10. Slaughter, who lives in Southgate, has an Educational Specialist degree from Tennessee State University, a School Counseling Certificate from TSU and Master of Education from TSU. She was a school counselor, testing coordinator, and teacher in the Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools;

- Heard Supt. Kudlak say he and other district representatives visited a New Tech Elementary School south of South Bend, Indiana, and were impressed with the project-based learning for the younger students; and

- Held a special, closed-door session to consider a student reinstatement request and then in open session granted the request with stipulations.

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Library

(continued from page 3)

for the municipal/library parking lot. It will be owned 51% by the library and 49% by the city.

Cichewicz said now the building committee will be able to do the “fun stuff” of selecting tiles, carpeting and other details for the inside of the new building.

Director Suchy reported on the latest meeting of the Art Committee and said there was discussion about finding homes

for some of the library’s existing art. They discussed potential wall space for art and architect Dan Whistler will bring his virtual reality equipment to their next meeting so they can look at the walls.

The Art Committee also weighed in on the proposed bike racks and suggested a little more artistic model, Suchy said. They also discussed fund raising and said that should be under the direction of the library board.

Chairwoman Peters said she could appoint an Ad Hoc Fund Development Committee for art for the library.

“We’re not at ground zero,” Peters said. “We’ve got some things under way. We’re already talking with people about donations.”

Peters said she would be willing to work on fund development and noted Barbara Miller expressed a willingness to help and so did Doug Peters, Donna Lavin, and John Juriga. She asked anyone in the community willing to work on this to let her know.

She said they have come up with a listing of areas in the new library that could be named, with possible prices.

Juriga said he and Mary Jane Dawson commissioned a painting of the present library from Neil Griffith. He presented it as the first piece of art for the library.

Contestants sought for Cutest Baby Contest at Sumpter Fest

The 2018 Sumpter Country Fest will be held from Friday, May 25, through Monday, May 28.

The Cutest Baby Contest is an annual feature at the festival. The contest is open to residents from Belleville and nearby communities. Babies from newborn through age three are eligible.

Winners are selected by votes from visitors at the fair. First, second, and third prizes are awarded for the cutest baby boy and girl entrees, and all contestants are awarded a participation ribbon and stuffed toy.

To enter a child, submit a picture up to 5x7 inches in size, along with an application form. The application forms are available at the Sumpter Township Hall on Sumpter Road, the Belleville-Area Independent office at 152 Main Street in Belleville, and at other area businesses.

The applications may be mailed to Sumpter Township Hall, Attn: Baby Contest, 23480 Sumpter Road, Belleville, MI 48111. Applications are requested as soon as possible, but no later than May 22.

If you have any questions about the contest or if you would like to have an application mailed to you, call Virginia Belinski at (734) 461-6630.

Bellino bill limiting access to nitrous oxide signed into law

When State Rep. Joe Bellino learned that young people were using small canisters of nitrous oxide – more commonly known as laughing gas – as a recreational drug, he knew something had to be done.

On May 10, his bill making “whippets,” as the canisters are called, more difficult for people under the age of 18 to purchase was signed into law. The bipartisan measure prohibits sale of whippets to minors and enables prosecutors to seek fines from those who sell the canisters knowing they will be used illegally.

“We realized the use of nitrous oxide as a recreational inhalant was on the rise, and current law had a loophole not specifically banning sales to minors,” said Rep. Bellino, R-Monroe, who teamed up with state Rep. Stephanie Chang, D-Detroit, in sponsoring the legislation.

“These new laws establish a fine for knowingly selling a whippet to a minor. We have some common-sense exceptions, such as health care professionals who dispense nitrous oxide legally as part of their jobs. We are going after bad actors who knowingly sell whippets so kids can get high.”

House Bills 5463 and 5464 are now PAS 136-137 of 2018.

Rep. Bellino’s district includes Sumpter Township.

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Upcoming Meetings

- Monday, May 21 – Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, May 22 – Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority, 5:30 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township workshop at 6 p.m., regular meeting at 6:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, May 23 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, May 29 – Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education meets at 7 p.m. at the Commons at Belleville High School.

- Monday, June 4 – Van Buren Township work/study session, 4 p.m. Also, Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, June 5 – Van Buren Township regular meeting, 7 p.m.
- Monday, June 11 – Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education meets at 7 p.m. at the Commons at Belleville High School.
- Tuesday, June 12 -- Sumpter Township workshop at 6 p.m., regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. Also, Van Buren Township Board of Zoning Appeals at 7 p.m. Also, Belleville Area District Library Board, 7:30 p.m.



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Murder, torture

(continued from page 1)

Sgt. Egerer and Det. Toth read cellphone messages back and forth between the couple on what they were doing or going to do to the child.

On New Year's Day at about 10:43 a.m., police were called to Greenmeadow Drive in Rawsonville Woods and found a family member administering CPR. The girl was unresponsive with several burns to her extremities. She was transported to the hospital where she was pronounced dead. After the medical examiner ruled the child's death as a homicide, the couple fled the state.

In May 2016 the couple was at the center of a daylong case that brought the Michigan State Police Tactical Response Unit to 84 Greenmeadow to help Sumpter Police because it was believed Fields was armed and barricaded in the home.

Fields was arrested on two felony charges: possession of a weapon by a felon and felony firearm. He also was charged with the misdemeanor of aggravated assault. Fields' felony charges were dismissed by Judge Oakley.

Diaz was arrested then, as well, and she got two years of probation after pleading guilty to alteration of gun markings and possession of prescription forms. A warrant was put out for her arrest on Jan. 8 for violation of probation after the most recent charges.



Fields

Court Watching:

Joel Leys bound over on charges of using credit card of dying woman

On May 2 before 34th District Court Judge Brian Oakley, Joel William Leys, 32, of Belleville waived his preliminary exam on three charges of illegal sale/use of a financial transaction device (credit card) on May 13, 2017.

He is due at the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice on May 16 for his arraignment on the information. Leys is free on \$5,000 personal recognizance bond.

Leys, an employee of a tow company and tow yard, is charged with use of a bank card belonging to a woman ejected in a crash in Romulus last year.

The crash happened May 13, 2017, at northbound I-275 and W. Huron River Drive in Romulus. The driver, a young woman from Erie, PA, was ejected and remained in a coma until dying five days later.

The victim's family members told Michigan State Police troopers about the draining of the deceased's checking account and sent a list of the unauthorized transactions.

The purchases were tracked and authorities said one was from a pizza shop near the tow yard that was called to remove the victim's vehicle from the crash scene. The pizza shop gave authorities an address and a phone number. Both allegedly matched an employee of the tow company.

The same employee allegedly used the bank card to pay for car insurance and tickets to Michigan International Speedway.

Authorities say Leys removed the victim's bank card from her purse, which was inside the vehicle the date of the crash. The tow company where Leys worked is used by

the Michigan State Police.

A warrant request was submitted to the Wayne County Prosecutor on Aug. 20, 2017. The felony warrant was authorized nearly eight months later.

At the May 2 court session, Leys also was due for a review of his charge of falsely calling an ambulance in the city of Belleville on Oct. 22. He had spent two days on the work program and is on a payment plan for costs.

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-- Margaret Thatcher
British Prime Minister, 1925-2013



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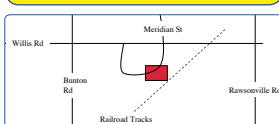
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VBT Police to target parked cars that are blocking sidewalks

By Rosemary K. Otzman

Independent Editor

The Van Buren Township Police Department will be issuing warning stickers to cars in driveways that are blocking sidewalks.

On Friday, Public Safety Director Gregory Laurain said the township has been getting complaints about cars in driveways that are blocking sidewalks. People pushing strollers, in electric wheelchairs, and those walking dogs or just walking to have to go out in the street to get around the cars. This is unsafe, he said.

He said police officers will be putting stickers on such cars that will contain the

date, time, and the officer's name. Director Laurain said blocking sidewalks with a parked car is a violation of Michigan's Motor Vehicle Code.

"We are looking for compliance," Director Laurain said, adding they will be putting the warning stickers on until June and after that they will start ticketing.

A neighbor who notices blocking of a sidewalk by a car in a driveway is invited to call the police department to report the car and, "We will take care of it," Laurain said.

For more information, call police at (734) 699-8930.

Jehovah Witnesses invite all to 'Be Courageous' regional convention

Jehovah's Witnesses extend an invitation to all the community to join them and benefit from the uplifting program that will be present at the 2018 "Be Courageous!" Regional Convention series starting Friday.

The convention will be held every weekend -- Friday through Sunday -- from May 25 through Sept. 2 at the Jehovahs Witness Assembly Hall at 43777 Ecorse

Road, Belleville 48111.

The convention is presented in English, Spanish, Korean and American Sign Language. More than 32,000 attendees are expected to attend from across the Midwest.

The program will feature Bible-based discourses, interviews, and videos, all designed to provide encouragement and practical suggestions about why people need courage in the world in which they live.

The program sessions begin at 9:20 a.m. on all days of the convention.

"There is no doubt we live in challenging times today!" said Ralph Boyce of the convention staff. "It takes courage in dealing with these challenges. The Bible provides the direction we need to do so! We are confident that all who attend will enjoy and benefit from this program."

Admission is free. Conventions of Jehovah's Witnesses are supported entirely by voluntary donations.

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Keystone board holds budget hearing at Kabob Garden

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

It was the last board meeting of a longtime member of the board of directors of Keystone Academy, so they held the meeting at Kabob Garden restaurant in Belleville.

On May 10, Keystone's annual meeting and budget hearing was called to order around a dinner table with a white tablecloth on which plates of rice and chicken and beef and hummus and other goodies, vied with the paperwork for the meeting, which was tucked in between the plates.

National Heritage Academies picked up the bill for dinner.

"We wanted to make it special," said board president Vesta Losen.

It was vice-president Susan Meland's last meeting since she had sold her house and moved to Wisconsin. She waited until the very end of the meeting to submit her resignation so the board would have a quorum.

Treasurer Carol Manley had already submitted her resignation and she had one more meeting before it took effect. Her son had graduated from eighth grade at Keystone and now was attending school in Flat Rock. Manley wanted to be active with her son's activities at his new school.

The board interviewed a candidate for a three-year board term to replace Manley as a parent board member.

Charlene Derrick has an eighth-grade son who is graduating this year and heading on to Belleville High School. She also has a second grader at Keystone. Derrick said she is a manager at Bath & Body Works at Laurel Park mall in Livonia.

The board voted unanimously to recommend Derrick to Bay Mills Community College as Keystone's new board member. Keystone is authorized as a charter school by Bay Mills and there are several steps to follow to approve a board member.

They still have to find someone from the community to fill Meland's vacancy. Those interested in the volunteer position may contact school Principal Keturah Godfrey.

In other business at the May 10 meeting, the board:

- Tabled the election of officers until a future meeting when the board membership is finalized;

- Held a budget hearing on the 2018-19 proposed \$6.9 million budget and then later unanimously approved it. NHA Director of Financial Operations Jeff Ratuszny said the budget was constructed with the following assumptions: 787 students for fall 2018, 28 classrooms utilized, and \$7,856 per pupil funding. Treasurer Manley, a CPA, prepared a detailed financial analysis of the general fund budget. Among the many details, it showed average students per classroom for the coming year as 28.1;

- Reappointed Jeff Henders as FOIA Officer, CS3 law as board legal counsel, AHERA (Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act) contact as Director of Construction Joe Sprys and Title VI, title IX and Section 504 contact as Principal Godfrey;

- Tabled adoption of the School Improvement Plan for study. It is due to be adopted by September;

- Authorized the board president to approve the board response to the Reauthorization Feedback Report;

- Discussed the scholarship offered to high school seniors who are Keystone graduates. The scholarship program started this year at Belleville High School and six seniors applied. The scholarship was for \$1,000 with \$500 from the PTO and \$500 from the school board. A parent had suggested that everyone who applied get a \$100 award, as well. The board was not interested in expanding the payments; and

- Officially accepted Meland's resignation, effective May 31.

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Members of the Belleville High School baseball team that took part in the May 2 Lace Up 4 Pediatric Cancer benefit game are, from left, Brandon Moore, Kyle Dybicki, Cam McKiddie, Coach Caleb Kennedy, Barry Butler, Andrew Leamy, RJ Sherwood, Mason Ampe, Gavin Karolak, Josh Anderson, Nate Boyar, Matt Frescura, Bo Solomon, Blake LaFleur, and Coach Matt Davenport.

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BHS home games

Here are the upcoming Belleville High School home athletic events:

- Thursday, May 17 - Girls Varsity Soccer against Romulus HS, 4 p.m.; Varsity Softball against Crestwood, 4 p.m.
- Friday, May 18 - Boys Varsity Lacrosse against Arbor Preparatory HS, 6 p.m.
- Monday, May 21 - JV Baseball against Lincoln HS, 4 p.m.; Girls JV Soccer against Redford Union HS, 4 p.m.; Girls Varsity Soccer against Redford Union HS, 5:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, May 22 - JV Softball against Summit Academy, 4 p.m.
- Wednesday, May 23 - Boys & Girls WWAC Track League Meet, 10 a.m.; JV Softball against Livonia Franklin HS, 4:30 p.m.

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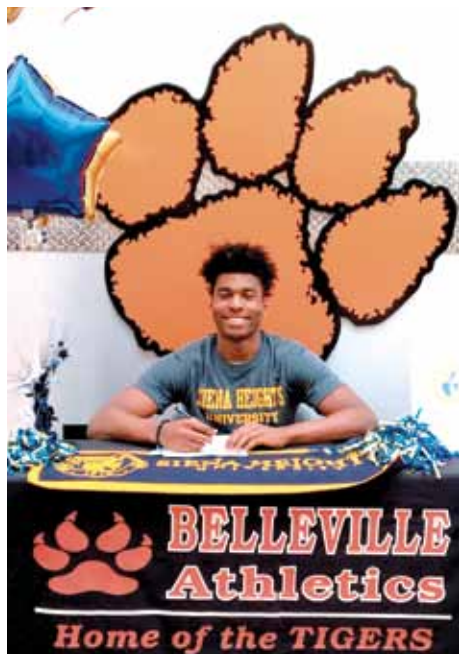
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At its May 7 meeting, the Belleville Area Women's Club installed officers for its new fiscal year that begins June 1. From left are Theresa McCuean, treasurer; Sophia Zoller, secretary; Kathy Mular, vice president; and Mary Kowal, president. Meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. on the first Monday of each month with dinner at the Loyal Order of the Moose Lodge #934, Sumpter Road at Harris, in Sumpter Township. New members are welcome.



Belleville High School senior Allison Dilts signed to be a part of the Alma College Swim and Dive team for 2018.



Belleville High School senior Devin Alverson signed up to play Siena Heights basketball in 2018.

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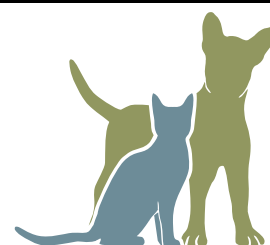
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About 40 students from the Van Buren Public Schools program for students with autism visited the Sumpter Township Fire Hall on May 9 and Fire Chief Joe Januszyk and other fire fighters showed them around. The students put on fire fighting turnout gear, held the fire hose while spraying water, touched other equipment, and climbed up on the fire engine.

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More Letters

Autism students learn at Sumpter FD, Wendy's

To the editor:

The students of Van Buren Public Schools program for students with Autism visited the Sumpter Fire House Wednesday, May 9.

Chief Joe and the crew hosted approximately 40 students for an informative, fun-filled afternoon of hands-on activities. The students had the opportunity to interact with real firefighters and their equipment in the actual environment of the firehouse.

The students watched the firefighters don their turn-out gear and tried it on themselves. They also had the experience of holding the firehose while it sprayed water. They touched and sat in the rescue vehicles and the fire engine.

This community-based instruction activity

teaches the students about community helpers and resources. The students are provided with an experience interacting with service providers so that they know what to expect when a fire truck comes to their house or to school.

After this informative, enriching day at the Sumpter Firehouse, the students had the opportunity to interact with their peers and the community by enjoying lunch at Wendy's on Belleville Road. Wendy's was able to serve the students and staff, a total of more than 60 customers at one time!

The staff and students of the Van Buren Public Schools Program for Students with Autism would like to thank both the Sumpter Township Fire Department and Wendy's Belleville Road for graciously accommodating them. Community Based Instruction is such a valuable approach to inclusion for students with autism.

Staff, Van Buren Public Schools
Program for Students with Autism

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VBT Board works on policy in progress at work/study session

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Van Buren Township Supervisor Kevin McNamara said he was calling the May 10 work/study session to discuss a fair and inclusive Meeting Conduct Policy.

He said his goals were for the meetings to be efficiently run, the tone to be respectful, and to keep comments strictly on subject.

He said he has gone to training classes and spoken with township attorneys on the subject.

Supervisor McNamara said in discussions he serves as a “traffic cop,” but he has no desire to become a “cop cop.”

“This is the board’s meeting, not mine,” McNamara said.

He said the draft policy, which was presented at the meeting as the “fifth draft” was for a cumulative review and if it’s not fair, they’ll change it.

McNamara thanked his assistant Dan Selman, attorney Dave Greco, and Trustee Reggie Miller for working on the policy. He also thanked other board members.

He said almost everything conforms to Robert’s Rules of Order, but that is 1,500 pages long.

He said the public watching the meeting on cable TV doesn’t know the agenda so he wants to add “Executive Summary” to tell them what is going to happen.

He said the public usually watches the first half hour before switching the channel, so he wants to put the correspondence, announcements, and presentations all together at the beginning of the meeting.

He said the part where people had to let everyone know they were tape recording a meeting was removed because it’s illegal. Under the Open Meetings Act such recordings are legal.

Also, people may bring signs to meetings under the Open Meetings Act as long as they don’t interfere with the meeting.

McNamara said they looked at meeting rules from Novi, Canton, and Westland in putting together the revised policy.

Trustee Paul White said he was 100% against limiting the amount of time board members can talk.

“We work for the public. We should be able to explain the historical background,” he said. “Let them speak until they are done.”

“This came from Ann Arbor,” McNamara said.

“We don’t care where it’s from,” said Marcelle Henderson.

Trustee Sherry Frazier said larger communities have more items to address on an agenda.

“Is three minutes too long?” McNamara said of the time he proposed allotting to board members.

“You should not cut off a board member,” Trustee White said.

Trustee Kevin Martin said he was concerned about the limited amount of time for board members. He said if someone brought up something that needs to be addressed again, the board member

would not be allowed to say what needs to be said.

Trustee Miller said some of the problems arise from board members monopolizing discussion. There shouldn’t be debates at meetings and speakers shouldn’t go off on tangents with an “Old Man River story,” she said.

“We need to make meetings run smoothly, but they don’t right now,” Miller said.

“It’s not working the way we’re doing it,” McNamara said.

“I’ll go along with it,” conceded Trustee Martin.

“I don’t think board members should be on the clock,” Miller added.

Treasurer Sharry Budd said three minutes is long enough.

Trustee White said, “Sharry is here all day and we want to find out what’s happening.”

Treasurer Budd said they don’t want to hear statements “ad nauseum.”

Clerk Leon Wright said they could have a four-hour board meeting with each board member speaking three minutes and then another three minutes all around for 42 minutes on one subject.

Trustee White said if he can’t speak out on what he needs to at a meeting, he will have to write for Thursday’s *Independent*.

McNamara said that’s all right with him.

McNamara kept referring to a paper in front of him and when he was asked what it was, he said it was a matrix that he devised with problems, how to fix them, and his personal notes.

John Delaney said it would be available under the Freedom of Information Act and McNamara said he would give it to the *Independent* and he did at the end of the meeting.

After discussing several items, McNamara said because of the First Amendment, you can say whatever you want, “unfortunately, you can do so...”

Trustee White pointed to Clerk Wright and said, “He and I went through ... a recall and Budd supported the recall and now I say good morning to her and she walks right by me...”

“She never speaks to him,” agreed Trustee Frazier.

White said he can’t forget what happened with the recall and he will continue to try to be cordial to Budd, who won’t respond to his courtesies.

In discussing a proposal to ban use of cell phones at a meeting, Trustee Frazier said that at the last meeting Clerk Wright

was texting quite a bit and she looked in the audience and saw someone was texting him.

“No, I wasn’t texting,” Clerk Wright responded.

After more discussion, White said, “We seem to forget we work for the residents. Let them speak out.”

A proposal to let the Sergeant at Arms, who would be a VBT police officer, make the call on policing the audience met with resistance.

Trustee Miller said it shouldn’t be put on a police officer.

McNamara said he is hard of hearing and can’t hear the audience when there is a disruption. He said he is still going to ask a police officer to do that.

“You shouldn’t have a police officer do that,” Miller insisted.

“Don’t attack me when you’re upset with the audience,” McNamara said to Miller. “You yell at me.”

Trustee Martin asked if it was McNamara’s intention to have a police officer at every meeting from now on and McNamara said it was.

When it was time for public comment at the end of the two-hour meeting, Delaney had several remarks including those on heated discussions. He said when someone pushes McNamara’s buttons, “he tilts and wigs out.”

He said “memories don’t dissolve

between elections,” referring to White’s comments about Budd.

Delaney also quoted 34th District Court Judge Brian Oakley as saying that public safety officers cannot stifle a resident in a meeting without the direction of the chairperson.

McNamara said the policy changes were a project in motion, as he adjourned the meeting.

“I fear the day that technology will surpass our human interaction. The world will have a generation of idiots.”
— Albert Einstein



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VBT planners approve final site plan for Constellium buildings

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

In a new procedure that accelerates development in Van Buren Township, Constellium got final site plan approval for a building expansion and an accessory building at its very first appearance before the planning commission on this project.

In the past, it took several steps and at least a month or two to get to this point.

At the May 9 regular meeting of the planning commission, Ron Akers, director of planning and economic development, explained.

"... this process differs from our typical process as the applicant has elected to submit construction drawings prior to preliminary site plan approval," he wrote in a memo, noting this was a risk for the applicant.

"It is due to the earlier submittal and approvals from our township engineer and

Wayne County that we are able to consider this project for final site plan approval prior to obtaining preliminary site plan approval. We have completed our review based upon the standards of the Township's Zoning Ordinance."

The project includes a 50,551-square-foot addition to the south end of an existing industrial building at 6331 Schooner Drive, and construction of a 20,000 square foot detached accessory building for storage to the east side of the property.

Included in the project are related site improvements consisting of parking areas, drives, sidewalks, utilities, landscaping and lighting.

Akers said the accessory building is compliant with the standards in the recent Zoning Ordinance amendment that the commission forwarded to the township board regarding accessory buildings.

He said the first reading of the amendment

was approved by the township board and the second reading was scheduled to be approved May 15.

Approval of the final site plan was given contingent upon the township board's approval of the amendment.

Wayne Perry of Desine, Inc., representing Constellium, reminded the commission that three years ago the business expanded and now they are expanding again.

The commission also approved a tree removal permit for 81 trees, most of which are considered "removable" under township ordinances. They will be replaced with 16 trees.

Commission chairwoman Carol Thompson was interested in the details of

the accessory building construction, since it was labeled a "fabric structure."

Constellium architect Karl Vollmar explained that it was a steel structure bolted to a cement slab and the structure has a cover that is fabric. It is an unheated space that can be disassembled and transported.

Thompson asked if it was lighted and if it might glow at night. Vollmar said the lights were inside at the top and they were motion activated. He said he didn't believe the building would be glowing at night.

Akers said the accessory building was to house plastic totes that had been stored in the open which was in violation of the ordinance. Moving them inside would bring the property into compliance, he said.

VBT Planners OK temporary land use for Atchinson Ford parking

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Atchinson Ford will be able to temporarily park about 200 of its cars on property at 8705 Belleville Road following action of the Van Buren Township Planning Commission at its regular meeting April 25.

Craig Atchinson explained that the car dealer is busting at the seams and needs a place to park vehicles. He said the cars have to be inspected by Ford Credit and will be parked as in a parking lot so inspectors can get in and around them.

Atchinson said the property is fenced and a part of the fence is collapsed and he will repair it. He said they wouldn't use the whole parcel, parking more to the front.

Atchinson said Atchinson Ford is willing to either lease or purchase the property to park their lease turn-in vehicles and new vehicle inventory overage. He said the oldest vehicle would be three years old.

He said he understands this property is not zoned for such use at this time. He said he's willing to vacate the property should an investor come along that wants to develop the property to something that meets the current zoning criteria and a better development of the property.

He said the company would be willing to put an investment into the property to make sure it is maintained better than it is today. But, if they only obtain a lease, they would only put a minimal investment into the property. If Atchinson Ford purchases it, he would be willing to put in more of an investment.

Should Atchinson Ford purchase 8705 Belleville Road, the company would be willing to keep the property on the market should a more suitable tenant come along.

A vegetative buffer already exists between the property and the mobile home park to the north. The setback for parking the vehicles will be 10 feet from Belleville Road and the south property line (adjoining the ice cream shop/putt putt golf) and 20 feet from the north and east property lines.

Temporary uses for more than seven consecutive days requires planning commission approval. The commission unanimously approved a one-year temporary land use permit.

Planning Commissioner Medina Atchinson recused herself, left the board table, and took a seat in the audience next to her husband Craig Atchinson during the discussion and vote on their request.



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– Ronald Reagan

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City Planners, DDA, Council to take walking tour of downtown area

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

The Belleville Planning Commission will take a walking tour of the city's downtown to get an up-close and personal look to see what needs to be done to improve the city.

At the May 10 regular meeting of the planning commission, chairman Steve Jones said it's difficult to get a good look at things from a car window and walking the downtown will give them a closer look.

He and Downtown Development Authority coordinator Carol Thompson had been talking about such a walk and the DDA is expected to join the commission for the walking tour. The city council will be invited to come along, as well.

He said they plan to walk from the Belleville Bridge to the tracks on South Street on either Saturday, June 23 or 30, whichever date works out best for all concerned.

Jones said on the tour they could step into businesses and compliment owners when their property is looking good. The walkers could assess whether a community cleanup is in order and whether they should make a project out of washing windows.

He said maybe a Saturday cleanup could be scheduled so Belleville could have a "nice, fresh downtown."

In other business at the May 10 meeting, the commission:

- Approved a joint meeting with the DDA at 7 p.m., Thursday, June 14, on the

commission's regular meeting night;

- Approved moving forward with setting up a joint meeting with the planning commissions from Van Buren and Sumpter townships to discuss joint concerns, possibly in September. The three commissions recently attended a joint planning commission training hosted by Van Buren Township. Jones said, "We learned a lot!";

- Heard Commissioner Randy Priest voice concerns about areas in the city that have gaps where there are no sidewalks and asked about setting up special assessments for property owners to put sidewalks in to fill the gaps. He said the ordinance needs to be looked at and amended to make parts consistent. City Manager Diana

Kollmeyer said an ordinance change needs to be initiated by the city council, which could direct the commission to review that ordinance. She said she will add a discussion on sidewalks to the city council agenda for the first meeting in June; and

- Heard Kollmeyer say she was very proud of the Belleville Planning Commission since all commissioners but one attended the training session. One member, Mike Renaud, was out of town. She said, of course, it helped that commissioners' attendance was made mandatory. Jones said he was encouraged by the joint movement with the boards and commissions and communities.

Court Watching:

McFall gets felony domestic charge reduced to misdemeanor

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

On April 25, 34th District Court Judge David Parrott dismissed a felony charge of domestic violence against Jeffrey Glen McFall, 30, which allegedly had occurred in Van Buren Township on March 27.

The prosecutor recommended a misdemeanor domestic violence charge replace the felony. The prosecutor also said the 30 days in jail fulfilled his jail penalty but he should also have two years of probation, substance abuse evaluation, an anger-management class and no contact with his grandmother, the victim.

Judge Parrott said he is not willing to follow the prosecutor's recommendation unless McFall takes the judge's domestic violence course every month -- and makes progress.

"That's the only way I'm willing to assume oversight of this," Judge Parrott said.

Court-appointed attorney David Langford conferred with his client and then said McFall had no objection.

"If you don't progress, I'll jail you," Judge Parrott said to McFall, adding he can

reduce the probation time and reporting if he progresses.

He sent McFall to the probation department to learn the entire extent of the 26-week Batters' Court program.

When Judge Parrott asked McFall to say what happened, as part of the plea deal, McFall said that on March 27 he assaulted his grandmother, Cindy McFall. When asked by the judge, McFall said he is 30 years old and his grandmother in her 60s.

"A full-grown man beating up on his elderly grandmother," said Judge Parrott.

"There's more to it than that," Lankford said.

Judge Parrott said records show that in the earlier two cases one victim was his girlfriend/wife and the second was his grandmother.

Judge Parrott found him guilty of domestic violence second and dismissed domestic violence third. Jail time has been served and he must serve 24 months probation.

He said he could have him serve 30 days in jail every two months for lack of progress.

"I'll keep doing that if you don't progress," Judge Parrott said. "There will be no further jail if you comply."

He said there will be substance abuse treatment as determined by the probation department and a total fee of \$1,945.

"We'll be seeing a lot of each other, sir,"

the judge said. "Hope this is helpful."

McFall had been lodged in the Wayne County Jail on bond of \$50,000/10% on this charge.

Wayne County Circuit Court records also show a warrant for McFall's arrest was issued March 20 on a violation of probation charge. On Oct. 24, he had been sentenced to two years of probation after pleading guilty to the felony of copying audio/video recordings for gain. He owes the court \$9,748 on that charge.

Then, a charge was filed against McFall for domestic violence in VBT on April 30. He is in jail and due before Judge Parrott May 16 for his preliminary exam on that charge.

Things to do in the Belleville area...

- **Thursday, May 17** – Salad Luncheon at noon at St. John's Lutheran Church, 28320 Waltz Rd., Waltz. Tickets \$7. Salads, desserts, door prizes. Sponsored by St. John's Ladies Aid/LWML. For tickets call Diana at (734) 654-6366, Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m.-noon.

- **Thursday, May 17** – Last Third Thursday Lecture of the year takes place at 6 p.m. at the Belleville Area Museum. Father and son duo, Al and Dave Eicher, will present "When Hollywood Went to War," a journey through World War II and the celebrities that served and supported the war effort, including Mickey Rooney, Jimmy Stewart, Judy Garland, and the Andrews Sisters. Historical Society members get in free; it's \$5 for non

members.

- **Friday, May 18** – State Senator Hoon-Yung Hopgood, D-Taylor, will hold a coffee hour with constituents from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Sumpter Township Senior Center, 23501 Sumpter Road, Sumpter Township. Among other areas, he represents the tri-community.

- **Saturday, May 19** – Help the Belleville Cemetery Advisory Committee place flags on the graves of veterans who are buried in Hillside Cemetery on Denton Road beginning at 8:30 a.m. No need to sign up; just show up.

- **Saturday, May 19** – High Tea at Cornerstone Christian Church, 44500 Willis Road, Belleville, \$5 per person. High Tea attire encouraged, but not enforced. For information, call (734) 612-8858.

- **Saturday, May 19** – Blood Drive from 9 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 19109 Craig St., New Boston.

- **Saturday, May 19** – Car Show and Free Giveaways from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Atchinson Ford and Quick Lane Tire and Auto Center on Belleville Road. Complimentary refreshments and car show starting at 10 a.m.

- **Saturday, May 19** – Open house at Girlstown, 11875 Quirk Road, Belleville (just north of the Belleville Bridge), noon to 2 p.m. Learn about the work of Guiding Harbor and take a tour.

- **Sunday, May 20** – Annual Spring Concert at 6 p.m. at Trinity Episcopal Church to benefit Adopt-a-Child-Size & Support Services.

- **Sunday, May 20** – Free Sunday Music, 2-5 p.m., at September Days Senior Center, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township. Music today by Jay Frandsen/Sax. Information: Jimmy Baleja, (734) 223-4824 or Lynette Jordan, (734) 699-8918.

- **Monday, May 21** – State Rep. Joe Bellino, R-Monroe, will hold coffee hours with constituents from 8 to 9 a.m. at Biggby, 26614 Telegraph Rd., Flat Rock, and 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at Tim Horton's, 404 South Monroe St. in Monroe. Sumpter Township is in Rep. Bellino's district.

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Belleville Auto Supply
321 Industrial Park Drive
Belleville, MI 48111
Phone: **734-697-3151**

ARE YOU IN NEED OF LAWN CARE?

Neighborhood Clean Up Action

All home sites will be viewed upon notification for a thorough assessment prior to scheduling an appointment. You must be at least 55 years of age living within Van Buren Charter Township area with no viable means to get your yard work completed. Please call us by May 31, 2018 to schedule an assessment of your property.

Disclaimer: We are a one time service community outreach group not a professional landscaping company.

734.699-8900 ext. 9293.



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City of Belleville Public Notice

CITY OF BELLEVILLE

Regular City Council Meeting Minutes Monday, April 16, 2018

A regular meeting of the Council for the City of Belleville was called to order at 7:30 p.m. at the Municipal Building, 6 Main Street by Mayor Conley.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE

2. ROLL CALL

Council Member Fielder	Present
Council Member Marcotte	Present
Council Member Smith	Present
Mayor Pro Tem Loria	Present
Mayor Conley	Present

3. PRESENTATIONS AND CITIZEN COMMENTS

Presentations
Mayor Conley and Council Members gave signature authority to Resolution 18-039 and presented it as individual certificates of appreciation to the Belleville High School First Robotics Team #6615.

Council follow up list	None
Citizen Comments	None

4. AGENDA APPROVAL

Motion by Loria, second by Fielder to approve the agenda as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Marcotte, second by Loria to approve the regular City Council meeting minutes of April 2nd, 2018 with one correction in the City Council comments section.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

7. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

None

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

9. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE & DEPARTMENTAL EXPENDITURES

Motion by Loria, second by Marcotte to approve Resolution No. 18-040 for accounts payable and purchases over \$500.00 for a total of \$136,842.01.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

10. CITIZEN COMMENTS

A citizen in the audience mentioned that he had two pieces of art to donate to the Belleville District Library.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Loria, Second by Smith to adjourn meeting at 7:50 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherri Scharf

City Clerk

Approved: May 7, 2018

Published: May 17, 2018

"Government's view of the economy could be summed up in a few short phrases: If it moves, tax it. If it keeps moving, regulate it. And if it stops moving, subsidize it."

— Ronald Reagan

Minding Your Business with Bob Mytych

The Wayne County Community College's School of Continuing Education & Workforce Development will be holding a Home Garden Community Day this Saturday, May 19, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Ted Scott Campus on Haggerty Road. The free event will feature workshops focused on new gardeners, along with landscape vendors, lawn art vendors, plants, shrubs, and flowers. The event is sponsored in partnership with the Master Gardeners of Western Wayne County and Randy Brown Landscaping. For info, call (734) 699-7008 and visit www.wcccd.edu.

The Goodwill store in Ypsilanti at 3782 Carpenter Road is now hiring. Bring their ad in from today's paper and get 25% off your purchase.



City of Belleville Public Notice

CITY OF BELLEVILLE Special Meeting Minutes Monday, April 30, 2018

A special meeting of the Council for the City of Belleville was called to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Municipal Building, 6 Main Street, by Mayor Conley.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE

2. ROLL CALL:

Council Member Fielder	Present
Council Member Smith	Present
Council Member Marcotte	Present
Mayor Pro Tem Loria	Present
Mayor Conley	Present

3. GENERAL DISCUSSION

The FY 2018/19 draft budget was discussed in detail with the City Council, except for the Fire Department and the DDA portions. Kelly Howey, Plante Moran Financial Specialist, detailed the draft budget and supplemental financial information.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Fielder, Second by Smith to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherri Scharf

City Clerk

Approved: May 7, 2018

Published: May 17, 2018

Atchinson Ford's second-annual Car Show 2018 is this Saturday, May 19, along with Quicklane Customer Appreciation Day next door from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Activities include prize giveaways, refreshments, and automotive related vendors. Call (734) 697-9161.

Pins for Pets, a bowling fundraiser to benefit the Greater Hillsdale Humane Society, is this Saturday, May 19, from 6 to 9 p.m. at Lodge Lanes in Belleville. The cost is \$20 per person, which covers two games of bowling, shoes, pizza and drinks. A raffle and 50/50 drawing will take place. Tickets will be available at the door or by calling (734) 271-5734.

The Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce and Van Buren Public Schools Education Foundation's Bowling Fundraiser is June 1, starting with registration at 7 p.m. also at Lodge Lanes. Tickets are \$20, which includes three games of bowling, shoes, pizza, and a cash bar. Tickets are available at the chamber office at 248 Main Street. Items are also needed for the auction part of the event. To learn more on how you can donate, call (734) 697-7151.

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

Woodland Meadows Landfill Expansion Notice of Public Meeting

A meeting of the Wayne County Facility Inclusion Committee will be held at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, June 20, at Van Buren Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Rd. The meeting will be held to consider Waste Management Inc.'s application for a proposed expansion of their municipal solid waste landfill to be included into Wayne County's Solid Waste Management Plan

Woodland Meadows Landfill Expansion Notice of Public Comment Period

Waste Management, Inc. has submitted an application for a proposed expansion of their municipal solid waste landfill located at 5900 Hannan Rd. in Van Buren Township to be included in Wayne County's Solid Waste Management Plan. Written comments on the proposal will be accepted until June 15, 2018. Comments may be submitted to: Wayne County Facility Inclusion Committee, 3600 Commerce Ct., Wayne, MI 48184 or by e-mail to pcullen@waynecounty.com

Published as a public service

Canton Dog Park to host annual 'Bark in the Park' event May 20

The Canton Dog Park will once again host its annual, free "Bark in the Park" event Sunday, May 20, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Attendees and their dogs can enjoy live entertainment, shopping and prize pack give-a-ways while learning about and trying Canton's off-leash Dog Park, located on Denton Road, north of Cherry Hill Road.

"This annual event is the perfect opportunity for dog owners to come and try out the Canton Dog Park for free," said Recreation Specialist Laura Mortier. "Plus, it's a great chance to meet other local dog owners, get some great information and coupons, and give your canine companion a great tail-wagging experience!"

No Dog Park membership is required to take part in this free event. In order to attend this event, those who are currently not a member of the Canton Dog Park must present a valid Canton dog license, which can be obtained at the Canton clerk's office for \$10, as well as valid proof of your dog's up-to-date distemper and rabies vaccinations, signed by an accredited veterinarian. No pre-registration is required for this event.

The Canton Dog Park has six acres of fenced-in, outdoor space for dogs to run and play off-leash, with specific rules to help ensure a safe and positive experience for everyone. The park is divided into a large dog section for animals over 20 pounds, and small dog section for animals under 20 pounds. Annual memberships for the Dog Park are \$25 for Canton residents and \$50 for non-residents.

Dog owners from the tri-community also are welcome and do not need a Canton dog tag to attend the free event.

For more information on the Canton Dog Park, visit www.cantonfun.org or contact the Canton Park Office at (734) 394-5310.

More Letters

We also need to thank Team Design and DJ

To the editor,

I would like to correct my letter to the *Independent*, for the Seminarian desert meal that our council and St. Anthony Men's Club put on. I left off one donor, Team Design Beauty Shop, and Anthony Richendollar for donating his time to DJ our event. If I left any other donor off, I am truly sorry.

St. Maximilian Kolbe Council 6549, Knights of Columbia Michigan, and St. Anthony Men's Club of Belleville would like to thank donors who made our desert meal a great success. Money raised will go to support seminarians on their way to priesthood. We had 150 people come for dinner and a Chinese raffle, which raised \$2,000 for the Seminarinas.

St. Maximilian Kolbe Council and St. Anthony Men's Club
William D. Short, financial secretary, Council #6549, New Boston



POLICE VEHICLE AUCTION

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN BY THE UNDERSIGNED THAT ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 23, 2018, at 11:00 a.m. at J&T Towing, 287 Industrial Park Drive, County of Wayne, Michigan, a public sale of the following vehicle will be held:

2001 VOLVO, FOUR DOOR, VIN: YV1TS94D211172125

DATE:	MAY 14, 2018	BELLEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT
		6 MAIN STREET
PUBLISH:	MAY 17, 2018	BELLEVILLE, MICHIGAN 48111
		BY SHERRI SCHARF, CITY CLERK

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Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

Out of the 514 dispatch calls for service reported by Van Buren Township police for the past week, the following are selected for this column.

Sunday, May 6:
0018 -- noise complaint, Rock Creek Dr. / Pebblebrook Dr.

0047 -- noise complaint, Beckley Rd.
0113 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Parkwood Dr.
0338 -- suspicious person/vehicle, N. I-94 Service
0420 -- juvenile complaint, N. I-94 Service Dr.
0823 -- suspicious person/vehicle, E. Walden Dr.
0837 -- domestic, Lighthouse Dr.
0915 -- private property impound, Van Born Rd.
0946 -- animal complaint, Elwell Rd./Bemis Rd.
1058 -- noise complaint, Laguna Dr.
1146 -- fraud, Belleville Rd.
1244 -- disorderly, Belleville Rd.
1300 -- mental subject, Jackson St.
1345 -- PPO violation, Greenwood Dr.
1427 -- disorderly, Country Walk Blvd./Savage
1517 -- domestic, S. Ponderosa Trl.
1533 -- personal injury accident, WB I-94 / Belleville Rd.

1555 -- narcotics crime, Lighthouse Dr.
1645 -- assault & battery, Wildbrook Dr.
1655 -- domestic, S. Ponderosa Trl.
1959 -- noise complaint, Meadows Cir.
2257 -- suicidal person, Bentley Dr.
2314 -- larceny, Locust Dr.
2331 -- hospice death, McBride Ave.

Monday, May 7:
0007 -- narcotics crime, Hardwood Dr.
0117 -- retail fraud, Belleville
0218 -- domestic, Maurice Dr. / Old Michigan Rd.
0252 -- property check, Riggs Heritage Park
0310 -- noise complaint, Meadows Ln.
0745 -- larceny, Maple Dr.
0844 -- property damage accident, Belleville / Menards
0845 -- animal complaint, Haggerty Rd.
0855 -- follow up by officer, J&T Towing
0901 -- property damage accident, Belleville / Menards
0908 -- larceny, Maple Dr.
0948 -- property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1142 -- assist other dept., Church St.
1203 -- ordinance violation, Hoyt/S. I-94 Service
1228 -- fraud, Bemis Rd.
1349 -- animal complaint, Elwell Rd.
1421 -- prisoner transport, Dickerson
1452 -- trespassing, Filmore St.
1534 -- property damage accident, S. I-94 Service
1545 -- assist other dept., Belle Villa Blvd.
1700 -- breaking & entering, Denton Rd.
1751 -- parking complaint, Country Walk Blvd. / Savage Rd.

1756 -- property damage accident, E. Huron River
1811 -- trespassing, Belleville Rd.
1826 -- breaking & entering, Maple Dr.
1936 -- shooting, Martz Rd./Hoeft Rd.
2011 -- motorist assist, Belleville Rd. / S. I-94 Service Dr.
2037 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Ross Pl.
2039 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Bemis Rd.
2059 -- trespassing, N. I-94 Service Dr.
2303 -- disorderly, S. I-94 Service Dr.

Tuesday, May 8:
0236 -- property check, Riggs Park
0611 -- larceny from auto, N. Bellridge Dr.
0723 -- assist fire dept., Parkwood Dr.
0823 -- ordinance violation, Cobblestone Creek Dr.
0823 -- ordinance violation, S. I-94 / Service Dr.
0911 -- assist other dept., Birch Dr.
1119 -- disorderly, Belleville
1133 -- sexual assault, Haggerty Rd.
1216 -- retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1221 -- assist other dept., Riggs Rd.
1236 -- neighbor trouble, Ormond Dr.
1246 -- missing person, Belleville Rd.
1251 -- trespassing, Belleville Rd.
1258 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Rawsonville Rd.
1515 -- ordinance violation, Berkdale/Andover
1521 -- traffic offense, Bemis Rd./Elwell Rd.
1601 -- domestic, Briarcliff
1711 -- assist other dept., Ironwood Dr.
1724 -- assist other dept., Brookside Dr.
1743 -- assist fire dept., Belleville/Ecorse
1929 -- juvenile complaint, Lancaster Dr.

1933 -- personal injury accident, Ecorse/Beck
1939 -- indecent exposure, Oak Ln.
2001 -- traffic offense, Ecorse/Belleville
2119 -- domestic, Briarcliff
2348 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Village Center Dr.

Wednesday, May 9:
0034 -- breaking & entering, Denton Rd.
0049 -- domestic, Village Green Ln.
0413 -- property check, Riggs Park
0652 -- larceny from auto, McBride Ave.
0706 -- suicidal person, Pine Dr.
1107 -- family trouble, Parkwood Dr.
1228 -- disorderly, Van Buren St.
1329 -- larceny from auto, Greenwood Dr.
1444 -- found property/child, Quirk Park
1557 -- domestic, Ecorse Rd./Denton Rd.
1655 -- trespassing, Belleville Rd.
1749 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Ecorse Rd.
1817 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Ecorse Rd.
1924 -- suicidal person, Belleville Rd.
1950 -- 911 welfare check, Belmont Dr.
2046 -- traffic offense, Country Ln.
2106 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.
2158 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Ecorse Rd. / Haggerty Rd.
2253 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Bradley Dr.
2257 -- domestic, N. I-94 Service Dr.

Thursday, May 10:
0001 -- traffic offense, Rawsonville Rd.
0045 -- property check, Riggs
0639 -- animal complaint, Hamlin/Barkley
0829 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Stamford Rd.
0941 -- larceny, Belleville Rd.
1013 -- trespassing, E. Schooner Dr.
1220 -- ordinance violation, Cobblestone Creek Dr.
1247 -- ordinance violation, Lake Crest Dr.
1305 -- domestic, Village Green Ln.
1400 -- assist other dept., Elwell Rd./Bemis Rd.
1426 -- domestic, Parkwood Dr.
1459 -- family trouble, Bradley Dr.
1549 -- mental subject, Fret Rd.
1631 -- private property/property damage accident, Belmont Dr.

1640 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Chloe Ct.
1649 -- suspicious activity report, Oak Blvd.
1705 -- property damage accident, Haggerty Rd. / E. Huron River Dr.
1748 -- 911 welfare check, Fret Rd.
1813 -- domestic, Oak Ln.
1821 -- assault & battery, Lighthouse Dr.
1845 -- threat, Belleville Rd.
1927 -- fraud, Belleville Rd.
1929 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Liberty Ln.
2020 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Van Born Rd / Belleville Rd.
2218 -- disorderly, Belleville Urgent Care

Friday, May 11:
0050 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.
0129 -- property damage accident, Hannan/Tyler
0342 -- suspicious person/vehicle, S. I-94 Service
0751 -- animal complaint, Oak Ln.
0818 -- animal complaint, Haggerty Rd.
0928 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Beck/Ecorse
1003 -- malicious destruction of property, Van Buren St.
1039 -- property damage accident, Borgman Ave.
1111 -- private property impound, Sumpter Rd.
1135 -- motorist assist, Belleville/Quirk
1157 -- follow up by officer, Hannan Rd.
1314 -- private property impound, Beckley Rd.
1447 -- retail fraud, Rawsonville Rd.
1456 -- fight, Haggerty Rd./Ecorse Rd.
1543 -- retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1649 -- motorist assist, Belleville Rd. / N. I-94 Service Dr.
1934 -- noise complaint, Village Green Ln.
2042 -- unauthorized driving away of auto, S. I-94 Service Dr.
2112 -- property check, Riggs Park
2140 -- disorderly, Belleville Rd.
2305 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Hampton Dr.

Saturday, May 12:
0605 -- assist other dept., Kirkridge Park Dr.
0944 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Beckley
1253 -- private property/property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1400 -- personal injury accident, Belleville/Tyler
1451 -- property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1636 -- disorderly, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1658 -- traffic offense, Maple Dr.
1739 -- juvenile complaint, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1900 -- PPO violation, S. Ponderosa Trl.

1921 -- missing person, Jackson St.
1932 -- animal complaint, Van Buren St.
2024 -- suspicious person/vehicle, W. Huron River
2041 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Rolan Meadows
2109 -- noise complaint, Beckley Rd.
2111 -- 911 welfare check, Rawsonville Rd.
2130 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Ecorse Rd. / Haggerty Rd.
2300 -- domestic, Meadows Ct.
2325 -- disorderly, Meadows Cir.
Also on this week's log are 212 traffic stops, 73 of which were on the I-94 and I-275 freeways.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, May 6:
0305 -- assist fire dept., Menlo Park Dr.
0724 -- assist fire dept., Carmell St.
1051 -- traffic offense, Potter Dr.
1728 -- warrant arrest, Main St.
1901 -- intrusion alarm, S. Industrial Park Dr.
2256 -- assist other dept., Sumpter
2318 -- suicidal person, Carmell St.
Monday, May 7:
0051 -- 911 welfare check, Anaheim
0120 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Estrada
0733 -- assist fire dept., N. Liberty St.
0928 -- court detail, 34th District Court
1139 -- domestic, Church St.
1352 -- civil matter, Fifth St.
1431 -- threat, Sumpter Rd.
1524 -- intrusion alarm, Belle Villa Blvd.
1730 -- fraud, Main St.
1952 -- traffic offense, W. Columbia/Church
2016 -- warrant arrest, Hogback Rd.

Tuesday, May 8:
0349 -- intrusion alarm, S. Aberdeen Ct.
0949 -- disorderly, McBride
1450 -- juvenile complaint, W. Davis/South St.
1605 -- found property/child, S. Liberty St. / E. Huron River Dr.
1940 -- breaking & entering, Menlo Park Dr.
2003 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Sumpter Rd. / Industrial Park Dr.
2009 -- traffic offense, Main St./Denton Rd.
2040 -- traffic offense, Main St./Denton Rd.

Wednesday, May 9:
0335 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Sumpter
0959 -- mental subject, Loza Ln.
1532 -- warrant arrest, Main St.
1639 -- warrant arrest, Wayne PD
1812 -- traffic offense, Main St./Roys St.
1820 -- family trouble, South St.
2133 -- suspicious person/vehicle, S. Liberty St.
2152 -- suspicious person/vehicle, W. Columbia

Thursday, May 10:
0243 -- suspicious person/vehicle, S. Aberdeen Ct.
1023 -- motorist assist, South St./E. Columbia Ave.
1514 -- private property/property damage accident, Carmell St.
2129 -- missing person, Anaheim St.
2232 -- assist other dept., Victorian

Friday, May 11:
0316 -- warrant arrest, Main St.
1046 -- assist fire dept., Carmell St.
1744 -- vehicle lockout, Savage Rd.
2157 -- warrant arrest, Tyler Rd.
2324 -- harassment call, S. Aberdeen Ct.

Saturday, May 12:
0144 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Main St.
0541 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Anaheim
1232 -- assist fire dept., Belle Villa Blvd.
2247 -- civil matter, Main St.
2331 -- warrant arrest, Main St.
Also on this week's log are 68 traffic stops.

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is Online! Visit us @
bellevilleareaaindependent.com**

Three die in 6-vehicle crash at Belleville/ Ecorse stoplight

At 5:45 p.m. Tuesday, May 8, police received word of a six-vehicle collision at the intersection of Belleville and Ecorse roads in Van Buren Township.

Three people died at the scene. VBT Public Safety Director Gregory Laurain said five vehicles were southbound on Belleville Road and had stopped for the traffic light. A sixth driver didn't stop and crashed into the vehicle in front of him, starting a chain reaction. The crash caused that stopped vehicle to explode on impact, killing a mother and her 13-year-old son.

Director Laurain identified the driver of the vehicle that didn't stop as Robert Dulin III, 44, of Canton, who was killed in the crash. His 10-year-old son was in the front seat of the vehicle, but was not injured. The boy was the only person taken to the hospital from the crash.

Director Laurain said the boy was taken to the hospital to be checked out. He was all right physically, but suffering emotionally.

The mother and son who died in the burning car were Naomi Uselman, 39, and Dominick Uselman, 13, both of Canton.

Van Buren Township police and fire crews closed the intersection down for hours for investigation and cleanup.

Director Laurain said the investigation continues as they try to figure out why Dulin didn't stop. He said they are looking at possible medical issues, mechanical issues, texting, and other things. He said there was no indication that alcohol was involved, but he said results of the autopsy and toxicology tests will be examined.

Director Laurain said the scene of the crash with the tangled cars, with one afire, was traumatic and some of the witnesses were crying.

He said this was the third fatal incident that police, fire, and dispatch workers had worked through in the last three weeks and public safety department employees will go through a stress debriefing Wednesday night, with counsellors present.

Laurain said they had planned to have such a session after the first fatal incident, but then it was put off when the second incident happened. Then the accident occurred and he said the stress debriefing was critical and they were having it right away.

Birthdays

May 17 -- Carlene Stoner
May 21 -- Selina Stillwagon
May 23 -- Edd Armatis
May 27 -- Kelly Boelter, Lisa Martin

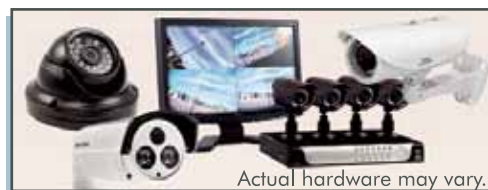
Do you have a birthday in May? Does anyone you know have a birthday soon? Call the *Independent* at 699-9020 and let us know. We'll list it in this column ASAP following your call. There is no charge.

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Continuing Education &
Workforce Development
Wayne County Community College District

in Partnership with Master Gardeners of Western Wayne County and Randy Brown Landscape
Present



Home Garden COMMUNITY DAY

SATURDAY, MAY 19, 2018

10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.

TED SCOTT CAMPUS

9555 HAGGERTY ROAD, BELLEVILLE, MI 48111

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Plants • Shrubs • Flowers

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2018 SUMPTER COUNTRY FEST

Schedule of Events – May 25th - May 28th



"COUNTRY AT ITS BEST"

Friday, May 25

Festival Opens @ 5pm – Close 12 Midnight

Carnival Opens/Beer Tent
Live Music – 18 Strings Band MI
Baby Contest
Baskets & Quilt Raffle
Silent Auction
Live Music – The Vendetta Ride Band

5pm – Close
4pm – 7pm
5pm – 10pm
5pm – 10pm
5pm – 10pm
8pm – Close



Saturday, May 26

Festival Opens @ 12pm – Close 12 Midnight

Carnival Opens/Beer Tent
Parade (From Sumpter Rd. & Judd Rd to Dunn Rd.)
To Be Announced by Randy Brown assisted by Steve Jones
Parade Presentations
Baby Contest
Baskets & Quilt Raffle
Michigan Pedal Puller (Arena-Children ages 3-10)
Silent Auction
Tribute To The Legends (Impersonators)
Michigan Mini Horse Pulling (Arena)

12pm – Close
12pm
1:30pm
12pm – 10pm
12pm – 10pm
2pm
2pm – 10pm
2pm – Close
7pm



Sunday, May 27

Festival Opens @ 12pm – Close 12 Midnight

Car Show (10am Registration)
Carnival Opens/Beer Tent
Live Music – Southern Heat Band
Baby Contest
Baskets & Quilt Raffle
Silent Auction
Live Music – Lock and Load Band
Truck Demolition Derby (Arena)

(Adults \$12/Children 12 and under \$4)

Live Music – TJ Thomas and the Kentucky Strait Band
Fireworks – Music provided by Steve Jones

12pm – 4pm
12pm – Close
12pm – 3pm
12pm – 10pm
12pm – 10pm
12pm – 10pm
3pm – 7pm
5:30pm



Monday, May 28

Festival Opens @ 12pm – Close 10pm

Carnival Opens/Beer Tent
Live Music – The Bill Strickler Band
Baby Contest
Baskets & Quilt Raffle
Baby Contest Awards & Raffle Winners Announced
Silent Auction
Silent Auction Final Bid
Silent Auction Items Picked Up
Auto-Cross/Demolition Derby (Arena)

(Adults \$12/Children 12 and under \$4)

Live Music – Metro Soul Band

12pm – Close
2pm – 5pm
12pm – 1:30pm
12pm – 4:30pm
4:30pm – 5pm
2pm – 5pm
5pm
6pm – 8pm
6pm

6pm – Close

Baby Contest - Friday, May 25th through Monday, May 28th (Ends at 1:30pm. Winners announced 4:30pm)

Silent Auction - Friday, May 25th through Monday, May 28th (Last bid 5pm, pick-up items 6pm-8pm) • Crafters and Vendors - All day Friday, May 25th through Monday, May 28th

FREE CHILDREN'S ENTERTAINMENT/MICHIGAN PEDAL PULLERS/BABY CONTEST/PONY RIDES/INFLATABLES/SILENT AUCTION/ CRAFTS/VENDORS/CAR SHOW/ BINGO/BEER TENT WITH LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL SUMPTER TOWNSHIP (734) 461-6201 OR VISIT WWW.SUMPTERTWP.COM

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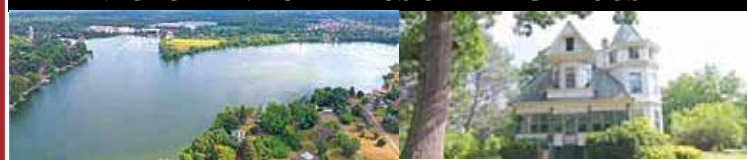
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41901 AND 41903 S I-94 SERVICE DR, VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP

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17 ACRES 50X80 POLE BARN



41860 WILLOW, SUMPTER TOWNSHIP

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CITY OF BELLEVILLE



37 MADELON, BELLEVILLE

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47505 NORTH SHORE, VAN BUREN

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FOR SALE OR LEASE



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