



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 28.20 Thursday, May 19, 2022

Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

FREE



“Tree Branches” by Kirk Seese is located next to the Belleville Area District Library front door in downtown Belleville. \$7,500



“Mermaid” by Mike Sohikian is located near the Welcome to Belleville sign on Main Street near Denton Road. \$8,500



“Faces Totem Pole” by Michael Magnotta is located near the Secretary of State office on E. Columbia Avenue in the City of Belleville. \$15,000



“Diversity Conversation” by Kenneth M. Thompson is located at the Van Buren Township Hall on Tyler Road. \$18,000



“White Dove of Peace” by James Havens is placed in front of Chase Bank on Main Street in downtown Belleville. \$4,999



“Rise” by James Oleson is placed in front of Belle Tire on Belleville Road in Van Buren Township. \$32,000



“Kaleidoscope” by Pamela Reithmeier is located on Belleville Road near McDonald's in Van Buren Township. \$4,000



“Through” by Todd Kime is at Harris Park on Belleville Road in Van Buren Township. \$11,000



“Zebra Herders II” by Mike Sohikian is located at Five Points in Belleville. \$8,500



“Bounce” by Todd Kime is located at the corner of Quirk and Belleville roads at the entry to Van Buren Township. \$8,000

10 outdoor sculptures borrowed for a year

Independent photos by James Otzman

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SECOND FRONT PAGE



At Monday's regular meeting, Belleville Mayor Kerreen Conley, right, presented a proclamation recognizing the service of the city's police personnel in honor of Police Week, which was set as May 15-21 in Belleville. The council also passed a resolution on Police Week. From left are City Manager / Police Chief Dave Robinson, Officer Sarah Dzagulones, and Sgt. Todd Schrecengost.

Independent photos by Rosemary K. Otzman

Mayor Kerreen Conley presented a city council proclamation to Department of Public Works Director Rick Rutherford in honor of Public Service Recognition Week, which was proclaimed as May 1-7 in Belleville. The council also passed a resolution honoring the public service crew's service to the community.

Grace Baptist pastor asks city council to not promote alcohol

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Grace Baptist Church Pastor Robert White again asked the Belleville City Council not to promote alcohol use in the city park next to his church.

He spoke at the council's regular meeting on Monday and began his remarks after former Mayor Tom Fielder announced that alcohol was the single greatest abused substance out there, above the addictive drugs. Fielder said that was announced at the Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority meeting he attended earlier that day.

The subject was not on the original agenda, but Mayor Pro-Tem Ken Voigt requested adding a discussion of the Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (DORA) now in place. This was so Pastor White could give his views.

"Pastor White has expressed concerns about his church," Voigt said. "It is a bit cumbersome to change the borders of DORA. It's quite a lot of work. And there are three new licenses on Liberty Street that are requesting DORA."

Pastor White stood and said that the Methodist Church supports his comments that were reported in the *Independent* from a previous meeting.

He said he wants to go back to what Fielder reported about the dangers of alcohol. He said it is a mystery to him why the city would support the use of alcohol.

Under state law, those businesses with liquor licenses can request certification to sell liquor in specially marked cups that people can drink in districts laid out by the municipality, drinking while walking

around outside. The recent enactment of an expanded DORA district includes all of Horizon Park, which borders Pastor White's home and church.

Pastor White said the previous Tuesday, it was 90 degrees and the park was full of people enjoying the park, boats on the lake, people on the island, small kids, babies in the park, thoroughly enjoying the safety and what the city has provided. He said there is Music on the Lake where 200-250 people come ("We counted.") to enjoy the music.

"I just don't understand why we need alcohol in the park," he said. "The park was off limits for alcohol and now we're putting it in." He said the district goes up High Street and down Roys Street back to Main and it is across his yard.

He questioned what would keep people from taking their special cups and refilling them from other sources until they get drunk.

"Why are we enhancing that?" he asked, noting that the library is completed and kids are using the library and then going from the library to the park through his yard. He's asked them to use the alley instead. He said the alcohol at the park is a danger to them.

He said he can see the district going to Johnny's and the restrooms, but not the park.

Voigt explained that DORA was generated during the pandemic to help the restaurants with bars. Mayor Kerreen Conley said Belleville was the first place in the state to get a DORA. It has a sunset and the DORA law will go away if the legislature does not

extend it.

City Manager/Police Chief Dave Robinson said the legislature is considering making it permanent because it has brought no problems. He said since DORA was enacted his department has not issued one citation for anyone, no disorderly people. He said his reserve officers are out there and there have been no problems.

"I very much respect your comments, Pastor," said Chief Robinson. "If someone wants to come to Music Lakeside with a drink, they won't be able to do that without DORA. I appreciate churches. We don't let people litter, but we're not always there."

He said the issue for him is what do the constituents want. Robinson said that he's not implying the pastor's words shouldn't be taken into consideration, but the city is not having problems with DORA.

Councilwoman Amy Henry said eliminating DORA from the park would hurt Lake Fest.

"A man does not become a drunk if he doesn't take the first drink," Pastor White said. "We started the DORA district to help the restaurants with bars. Why do we need to support them now? They are packed with people."

He said they have had DORA for two years and 13 years of Music Lakeside at the park that drew crowds.

"We don't need liquor to draw them ... We're taking baby steps right now ... we're opening up to alcohol ... a situation where we're providing alcohol for people to do this..."

Councilwoman Henry asked if Pastor White was upset with St. Anthony for

having alcohol at the Strawberry Festival and he said he was.

"I'm against alcohol," he said, noting he has seen families ruined. "I'm upset with St. Anthony as far as providing it at Strawberry Festival."

After more discussion, it was noted the city wouldn't seek to change the DORA district until after the three bars in the new shopping center near the bridge have their approvals from the state and that is expected in June. Then they will go through the complex process of changing the borders to include them and other changes could be considered.

In other business at Monday's one-hour-and-21-minute meeting, the council:

- Presented separate proclamations honoring the police and public service departments and passed resolutions naming May 15-21 as Police Week in Belleville and May 1-7 as Public Service Recognition Week;

- Heard the Mayor announce that the city missed the deadline for the August election of a charter commission and this will go on the November ballot. She said they still need residents to agree to work on the charter and be put on that ballot for election. The last charter was dated 1985;

- Heard City Manager/Police Chief Robinson report that all the remediation is done on the building next door and there is no roof on it. DPW director Rick Rutherford said the demolition permit was issued earlier that day and they had filled three dumpsters a day as the workers cleared it out readying for demolition;

(continued on page 15)

OPINIONS

Editorial

Pastor laments city encouraging people to drink in park

Pastor Robert White of Grace Baptist Church says part of his work is to counsel people who are in trouble with narcotics and alcohol, which tears families apart. He says he is against alcohol and he has seen what it does.

He said he is a lifesaver. He encourages people. He helps people not to get involved with narcotics and alcohol. When he was challenged at Monday's meeting of the Belleville City Council if he was against St. Anthony providing alcohol at the former Strawberry Fest, he said yes, he is upset at St. Anthony as far as providing alcohol at Strawberry Fest.

At Monday's meeting, Pastor White reminded them that alcohol is not allowed at city parks, but now it is allowed at Horizon Park with the DORA district, that lays out areas of a municipality where people can walk around drinking alcohol out of special cups at set days and times.

He said he lives next to Horizon Park and people enjoy sitting next to the lake and watching the sunset while they picnic and play. He said it's the only place in Belleville folks can sit as a family and enjoy the water, enjoy the sunset.

When it was explained the state allows the DORA district, he asked if the state is making the rules in Belleville. He said Music Lakeside has drawn large crowds for the 13 years without alcohol. Alcohol isn't needed to encourage people to come.

He isn't through preaching to the city to save its soul.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

At the May 12 Keystone charter academy board meeting, board president Vesta Losen announced that her 25th great-grandchild was born at 4:26 a.m., April 26. She said he was due on her birthday, April 22, but arrived a few days later. His name is John Frank Losen, IV.

At the May 10 meeting of the Belleville Area District Library board, board president Sharon Peters said she climbed the stairs to the second-floor meeting room and looked out the window as she climbed.

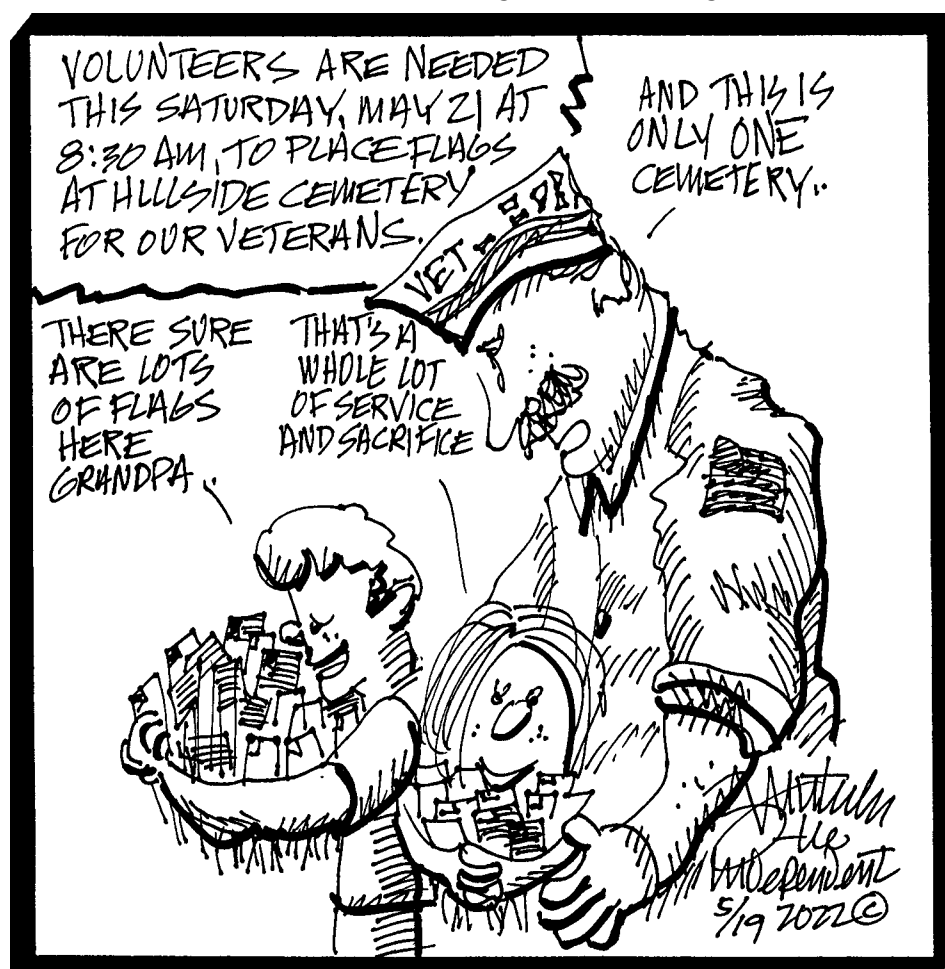
"The vegetative roof looks beautiful in green," she said of the plants that have sprung to life with the warm weather.

On Friday, a reader in his 80s, who lives in Haggerty Sub in Van Buren Township, called to report about what happened to him last Thursday. He was getting ready to mow his lawn. He always edges and trims before mowing the lawn, he said.

A tall man, who at first he thought was from MichCon, came up behind him. The man talked about the new sidewalks the township is doing and said he was the man who did our reader's driveway. Our reader was sure he did not.

The man talked to him about doing some concrete work. Our reader then thought he was with the township and he told him he had some cracks in the garage floor. The property owner said the man was a fast-talker and he felt intimidated because he was so large and in his face. Our reader showed him the garage and the man said he would give him a deal and fix the cracks for \$5,500, instead of over \$7,000. As they were talking, the other men in the truck came in and started filling the cracks. Our

...By Rosemary K. Otzman



reader went to his credit union in Westland with the man following him and withdrew the money.

He said he had a moment of clarity and told "Bob" he would meet him at the police station and give him the money there. When they pulled out of the credit union, the truck turned the other way. Our reader said he did go to the VBT police and reported this.

He shared this incident with us so we could warn people about this guy.

Someone I know went to Meijer on Sunday to get a few things and then decided to take Tyler Road home to his Haggerty residence. Bad idea. When he got to Haggerty, he couldn't turn south, so he had a nice drive to Hannan Road first. He said he saw the new intersection at Hannan Road and the South I-94 Service Drive. He was impressed on how nice that crossing is now.

On Friday, federal prosecutors charged former Romulus Mayor LeRoy Burcroff with wire fraud for spending more than \$15,000 in campaign funds on personal expenses. The charge was that he used the "scheme to defraud" to convince individuals to contribute money to him to support his efforts for reelection, when he used more than \$15,000 of the money contributed to his campaign account for his own personal benefit instead of to benefit the campaign.

As part of the scheme, it is alleged, Burcroff wired \$2,428 to the Belleville Yacht Club on Nov. 11, 2017 from the "Committee to

Elect LeRoy D. Burcroff" checking account at Comerica Bank to pay for his daughter's wedding.

Belleville City Manager/Police Chief Dave Robinson said he looked into the city credit card billing and found that the information given at a previous meeting was incorrect. He said the city charges 3% with Point and Pay vendor, same as Van Buren Township, Sumpter Township, Huron Township, and Westland.

There had been a comment that the city's credit card vendor was charging 8%.

Former Belleville Mayor Tom Fielder said at Monday's meeting of the Belleville City Council that he has filled out the online survey put out by Van Buren Township on the museum. He said they gave multiple-choice questions on what hours on what days you would like the museum to be open. He said all of the choices were less hours than it used to be open before COVID, which shut it down.

Mayor Kerreen Conley said the township wasn't getting many responses to the survey, so Belleville City Manager/Police Chief Dave Robinson put the link to the survey out on Nixel to the city residents last week end. She said VBT Supervisor Kevin McNamara happily reported the township got 100 responses on Saturday and Sunday.



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BELLEVILLE-AREA INDEPENDENT

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Editor: Rosemary K. Otzman
Home phone (NO ADS, PLEASE!): 697-1294

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Office Manager: Janet Millard

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Letters

Memorial Day honors those who died serving

To the editor:

Belleville Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4434 wants to send a reminder to all Belleville residents. Memorial Day, an American holiday observed on the last Monday of May (May 30), honors men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military.

Here's YOUR chance to demonstrate pride in OUR COUNTRY and remember fallen veterans. Once again, we encourage all residents of Belleville to display a flag at EVERY HOME.

Let's set the example. Display your U.S. flag early and show the rest of Belleville, Van Buren Township, Wayne County, Michigan, and the entire country how proud we are to once again honor our fallen heroes.

Let's never forget those who gave "their" lives protecting "ours."

Thanks to a very generous donation of supplies from Manager John Vredevel of Manns Lumber and a big labor help from Manager Tom Tinsley of Contract Welding, VFW Post 4434 has many FREE, refurbished flags (12"x18") available. Stop by at 48 S. Biggs, Belleville, MI, and pick up one.

Also, we can have your old flags properly disposed. Drop them off when you pick up a new one.

Our refurbished flags had previously been flown over a veteran's grave; whether a General, Sergeant, or a private, now you can honor that fallen veteran by once again displaying his/her flag at your home.

Don't let Memorial Day go by without acknowledging our fallen veterans.

Pete Pitzen

Jr. Vice Commander

VFW Flag Committee Chairman

Want to become a member of the VFW? Call (734) 697-0505 for details. No one does more for veterans.

We want to rent a bench in Van Buren Twp. too

To the editor:

Once again, I come to you with hat in hand. Being old and not very tech-savvy, I was hoping one of your fine readers could help a kind senior citizen – me -- help some friends.

You see, they are coming to visit, and were looking for a cheap place to stay. What with inflation -- gas at \$4.50 a gallon, eggs went from \$.79 a dozen to \$3.50, and that's no yolk -- all caused by that evil man Putin, or so they tell me.

Thinking I might help them find a place, I was riding my bike around our fair township. Lo and behold, I find the township must be renting out the benches on Belleville Road. A gentleperson --

notice the PC -- is living on the bench in front of CVS.

Now, he might be a greeter for the township -- on I-94 exits. I looked into a part-time job doing just that but couldn't find one cause there were too many help-wanted ads. Or, he just might be visiting our fair township.

Anyway, I looked up on Vrbo [vacation rental by owners] and other rental places and couldn't find out how to rent-a-bench. A 2-bench, 1-bath would be nice.

So, if a fine reader happens to find out how to rent a bench, let me know.

Ya'll be safe out there.

Vic Franzoi

Van Buren Township

Things to do in the Belleville area...

• **Thursday, May 19** – Salad Luncheon starts at noon at St. John's Lutheran church, 28320 Waltz Rd., Waltz. Donation: \$7. Tickets available. To reserve tickets call Kari at (734) 654-6366. Sponsored by St. John's Ladies' Aid.

• **Friday, May 20** – Van Buren Township Public Safety invites the public to a Belleville Lake/Boater Safety meeting at 6 p.m. at the Quirk Park Pavilion.

• **Saturday, May 21** – Help place American flags on veterans' graves at Hillside Cemetery beginning at 8:30 a.m. The city appreciates all the help it can get for the project to get the flags ready for Memorial Day.

• **Saturday, May 21** – Sumpter Township Senior Vendor Market, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Community Center Pavilion, 23501 Sumpter Rd., (734) 461-9373. Rain or shine. Quilts, jewelry, crocheted items and more. Call (734) 461-9373 or email to reserve a table for \$10, maryannwatson@sumptertwp.org.

• **Thursday, May 26** – "Starting a Small Business" at 7 p.m. at the Belleville Area District Library. Business Strategy Coach Camiel Davenport presents a series of workshops on information essential to starting and running a successful small business. This is the first in the series. Join in for a presentation and Q&A session. Please register online at www.belleville.lib.mi.us or by calling (734) 699-3291.

• **Saturday, May 28** – Free "Pops in the Park" Memorial Day week-end concert at 2 p.m. at Ypsilanti's Riverside Park Pavilion, with a rain date of May 29. Bring a chair or blanket to sit on. Ypsilanti Symphony Orchestra performs.

• **Monday, May 30** – Memorial Day service at 11 a.m. at the Veterans Memorial on High Street in the City of Belleville, put on by the VFW and PLAV with the help of the Navy JROTC from Belleville High School.

• **Wednesday, June 1** – Museum Visioning Workshop is from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Belleville Area District Library. Residents of the tri-communities of Belleville, Van Buren, and Sumpter are asked to share their ideas about use of the Belleville Area Museum.

Obituaries



PRESTON THACKER

(July 6, 1937 – May 15, 2022)
Preston Thacker, age 84, of Van Buren Twp., MI, died Sunday, May 15, 2022, at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Superior Twp., Michigan. He was born July 6, 1937, in Pikeville, Kentucky, the son of Robert and Anna (Adkins) Thacker. On January 10, 1959, he married Glema Sue Goff and she preceded him in death on September 22, 2014. On January 23, 2015, he married Sharon Kay Colebank and she survives. He was honorably discharged from the U.S. Army where he enlisted for two terms of military service. Preston retired from Ford Motor Co. after 27 years of employment working in Production. He loved the Lord and regularly attended the Ypsilanti Old Regular Baptist Church. His family and friends will always remember his loving and giving nature, and that Family was everything to him.

Survivors besides his loving wife, Sharon include two children: Melinda (John) Kozma and Jack (Mary) Thacker; four grandchildren: Amanda (Brad) Rider, Jared (Kerriann) Thacker, Zachary (Amanda) Thacker and Jonas Thacker; three great-grandchildren: Bryce Rider, Alec Rider and Jude Thacker; several nieces, nephews and many, many friends. He was preceded in death by two children and eight brothers and sisters.

Funeral Service will be held on Thursday, May 19, 2022, at 11:00 a.m. at Ypsilanti Old Regular Baptist Church 5668 Denton Rd., Canton, Michigan, with Pastor Danny Adams officiating. Burial will follow in Alban Cemetery, Ypsilanti Twp., MI. Contributions in his memory may be made to the Ypsilanti Old Regular Baptist Church. Envelopes will be available at the funeral home where the family will receive friends on Wednesday, May 18, 2022, from 2:00 – 4:00 and 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. and at the Church on Thursday, May 19, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. until time of service.
www.Janowiakfuneralhome.com

COVID-19 deaths inched up to 131 in 48111, positive tests total 9,405

The total number of people who have died from COVID-19 in the 48111 zip code inched up to 131 as of Monday, May 16, according to figures from the Wayne County Health Department. The total had been at 130 since April 11.

The positive tests for COVID-19 in 48111 totaled 9,405 on Monday, May 16, up from 9,240 on Monday, May 9.

On Monday, May 16, the separate totals released by the Wayne County Health Department for the tri-community were: Van Buren Township, 6,447 positive cases, 87 deaths; City of Belleville, 1,072 positive cases, 13 deaths; and Sumpter Township 1,886 positive cases, 31 deaths.

The Van Buren Public Schools had 34 positive tests recorded last week. As of May 13, there has been a total of 655 positive cases since the beginning of the school year last August. Deaths, if any, are not reported.

Upcoming Meetings

- Monday, May 23 – Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m., BHS Commons.
- Tuesday, May 24 – Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority, 5:30 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township board meeting, 6 p.m.

- Wednesday, May 25 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 5:30 p.m.
- Thursday, June 2 – Keystone Academy School Board, 5 p.m. Belleville Planning Commission, 7 p.m.
- Monday, June 6 – Special 6 p.m. budget workshop before the regular 7:30 p.m. Belleville City Council meeting
- Tuesday, June 7 – Van Buren Township Board of Trustees, 5 p.m. workshop, 6 p.m. regular meeting

- Wednesday, June 8 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 5:30 p.m.
- Thursday, June 9 – Belleville Planning Commission, 7 p.m.
- Monday, June 13 – Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m., BHS Commons.
- Tuesday, June 14 – Sumpter Township board meeting, 6 p.m. Also, Belleville Area District Library, 7:30 p.m.

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Obituaries



Delores (Dee) Nell Murley Bailey

DELORES NELL MURLEY BAILEY
(August 16, 1933 – November 9, 2021)
Delores (Dee) Nell Murley Bailey, 88, of Belleville, was born in Inkster, MI on August 16, 1933, to Elmer Jefferson and Doris Jackson Murley. Delores passed on November 9, 2021, while visiting Delta County, Colorado.

A 1951 Graduate of Roosevelt High School in Inkster, MI, Delores worked for Ford Motor Co. as a secretary at the Rouge Office Bldg. in Dearborn for 18 years. She later worked for Rosenbalm Aviation at Willow Run Airport in Ypsilanti.

Delores spent 68 years married to the late Philip Lee Bailey. Married on March 1, 1951, they enjoyed many wonderful summers at the family cottage on Devils Lake, salmon fishing and deer hunting with Delores' brother & sister-in-law (the late Jerry & Skookie Murley), and treasure hunting at yard sales. She enjoyed many adventurous trips with kids and grandkids, and a handful, of those, across the ocean, and she especially loved sneaking away to the casino. Delores had been president of the Union Chapel Cemetery and instrumental in the upkeep and preservation of this historical cemetery in Inkster, MI for nearly 40 years.

Delores is survived by 4 children, daughters Denise Foster, Roxanne Bailey Kempf (Randy), and twins Brenda Hall Sherrill and son Philip J Bailey. She was blessed with 8 grandchildren Annie (Ward), Benjamin, & Michael Foster, Paul & Madison Murley Kempf, Kelsey Murley, Konal, and Cassidy Hall as well as 10 great-grandchildren Adeline Dolores, twins Clara & Dennis Ward, Michael, Aaron, Ava, Roxi, & Ronnie Foster, River Rose Kempf, and Chloe Hall.

Delores, aka Aunt Doe, is also survived by her dear niece Casey Murley Buckner, nephews Tim Saenz, Mark & Brian Bailey, cousins Judy Rowe & Betty Slater, & sister-in-law Irene Bailey. She had many happy memories with her dear childhood sister friend, Joanie, dear friends, Bunny, Evelyn, and her late dear friend and partner in crime Beverly Brake. So many wonderful friends and neighbors brought joy to our sweet Momma's life. Her wonderful memories with Sue, Kathy & Lynne always made her laugh. The unconditional help she received from dear friend John. And the purring in her ear from her fur babies Katie & Tiger. Thank you all.

No services at this time. Donations can be made in memory of Delores to the **Union Chapel Cemetery**, for the upkeep of this historical Cemetery in Inkster, MI and sent to Union Chapel Cemetery, 3508 Stearman Ln., Crawford, CO 81415.

BILLY EUGENE BLANKENSHIP

(May 15, 1937 – May 15, 2022)

Died on his 85th birthday. Survived by wife Joyce; children Rachelle, Jeffrey, David, Rebecca; grandchildren. Service is 4 p.m., May 19 at Belleville Church of God, Hull Rd., Van Buren Township. Private burial.

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George Roberts

GEORGE ROBERTS

(October 18, 1927 – May 4, 2022)

George Roberts, age 98, a longtime resident of Belleville, passed away on May 13, 2022, at Cedar Woods Assisted Living. He was born on February 22, 1924, in Brookhaven, Mississippi to George Anous Roberts and Maggie (Thornhill) Roberts. George worked as a painter and interior decorator. George coached little league baseball, was very involved with archery, and was the President of the Belleville Archery Club for 16 years. He also served in the U.S. Navy. He was married to the love of his life, Irene Roberts for 73 years, and they were able to be together in assisted living. George's date of passing actually would have been their 77th wedding anniversary! Most of all George loved spending time with his family.

George is survived by his children, Gary Lee Roberts, of Arizona, Linda Faye Price (Steve), of Willis, Jerry Dean Roberts (Linda), of Milan, and Douglas Edward Roberts of Mt. Pleasant.

He is also survived by grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, sister Bertha Mae Thames, brother Murphie D. Roberts, and his loving wife Irene Roberts in 2018.

A visitation was held at the David C. Brown Funeral home on Monday, May 16, 2022, at 11 a.m. with a 1 p.m. service and burial at Hillside Cemetery followed.

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Belleville Area District Library
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Court Watching:

Casas bound over on charges of kidnapping 2 from Tyler Elementary

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Joe Alex Casas, 30, of Van Buren Township was bound over to circuit court for trial following a live preliminary exam on May 11 before 34th District Court Judge Brian A. Oakley.

Casas is scheduled for a May 25 arraignment on the information at the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice in Detroit. He remains in the Wayne County Jail on cash bond of \$250,000.

The Wayne County Prosecutor's Office had charged Casas with:

- Two felony counts of kidnapping – child enticement, with a penalty of life or any term of years;
- Three felony counts of unlawful imprisonment, with a penalty of 15 years and/or \$20,000;
- One felony count of assault with a dangerous weapon (felonious assault), with a penalty of 4 years and/or \$2,000;
- One count of domestic violence: 93- day misdemeanor and/or \$500; and
- Habitual offender – fourth offense notice.

The maximum penalty cannot be less than the maximum term for the first conviction.

A live preliminary exam was held May 11 before Judge Oakley. Casas' live-in girlfriend, who is carrying his child, testified at length about how she had put together a plan to get away from him. But her plan failed when he took her two children – her nine-year-old daughter and her seven-year-old son -- from Tyler Elementary School to keep her from leaving.

The mother testified that she and her two children had been with Casas for three years. She said they lived in a house in the 6000 block of Haggerty Road in a house owned by his boss.

She said she did not have a job or a driver's license and did not drive. She said Tyler Elementary School gave backpacks to her children and gave a gift card from Meijer to spend on food when Casas was without work.

She testified that she and Casas would take the children to school together and he rarely was alone with them. She said the emergency form for the children listed him as Joe Hernandez, an alias.

She said it all started the evening of Feb. 14 when she told her son to take a shower and Casas bullied the boy. She said she told Casas not to bully the boy and an argument began that lasted into the next day when he wouldn't let the kids go to school. She said he was yelling and put a hole in the wall with his fist.

She testified he told them nobody is leaving the house and he stood in front of the home's only door. She said he grabbed her by the arm and put her on the couch.

She testified he told her children he was going to cut her head off and bury her in the back yard so no one would ever find her. She said he had a sharp machete that he kept on the TV set and moved to the couch.

The mother testified her phone didn't have any service, but her mother bought her son a phone and she hid it from Casas. She said on Feb. 15 everybody stayed home all day and she came up with a plan.

On Feb. 16, she said she had been spotting blood and she already had lost a baby by Casas, so she said she didn't feel well and asked him to take the children to school by himself. She said she watched out the window to make sure he left and then put on her shoes and started walking. She said she went to the little factory across the road.

She testified that Casas left about 8:45 a.m. and she started walking at 8:50 a.m. She said she called the school to make sure the children were there and told them not to let her children leave with anyone else, especially him.

She said she had received a card with money on it for child support and she planned to call an Uber and go pick up the children herself and then go to a shelter in Pontiac where a room had been reserved for them.

She said she saw him return to the empty house and then leave again.

Then, she got a text message from Casas telling her that she was stupid and he has the kids.

"I called the school and they said he just picked up the kids," she said, adding he had told them the girl had a doctor's appointment, which she didn't.

"I started freaking out and calling him and text messaging telling him to bring back the kids," she testified. She said he told her she was going to have to come back.

She said she had the school on the line and she was on the phone with the cops. They wanted a description of the car, what the kids were wearing, and who he was.

"I'm looking at the house from a distance and he's not pulling in," she said. The cops came and picked her up at the little factory place and took her to the station.

"I was in the patrol car and he called me and passed the phone to my son. He said, 'Mommy, I'm OK.' I was scared he would take them away, to another state, we're so close to Ohio, or out of the country," she testified. She said he told her he was taking them to Ann Arbor to get the bunk beds through Craig's List.

He had a cell phone that only worked with wifi and it sounded in the background like he was at Meijer or Walmart, she said. He said they were getting toys, but she knew he didn't have any money.

"He had threatened taking them away many times," she said.

When asked if she went to the hospital, she said there was no need. She said she was crampy and bled, but there was only a bruise on her arm.

"If I stay in this relationship, I would lose another baby because he would throw me around," she

said. "We already lost one and he didn't care. He didn't care."

She said the school principal expressed regret on what happened and she was worried about the children. "She apologized, making sure the kids were OK," she testified.

Defense attorney Earl Washington pointed out that in a letter to Casas she told him she still loved him and asked him to forgive her for leaving.

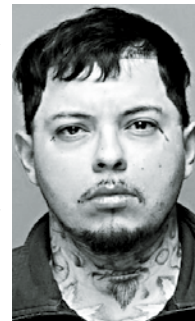
She said she loved him because he was the father of the child she was carrying, but, "I gotta be a mom, rather than a woman or wife. If I stayed, there would be another baby. I'm more of a mom than a woman."

The second witness was Tyler Elementary School Principal Aleisa Pitt, who testified she had been with the Van Buren Public School district for 43 years, 15 as principal of Tyler. She explained the pick-up policy and the list compiled of those allowed to pick up children. She said adults were not allowed in the building and a person would use the buzzer to call someone to the door. She said the secretary answers and if the person is not recognized, refuses entry.

Pitt testified that school starts at 9:15 a.m. and between 9:30 and 9:45 a.m., Hernandez pushed the buzzer. She said she was in the hallway, so she answered the door and he spoke to her and said the kids had an appointment. She couldn't remember what kind. She said she recognized him. She got the kids and he took them. Then, she said, she went around to all the rooms, stopping to say good morning in each room before heading back to the office.

She testified that when she got back to the office, her secretary said, "We have a problem." The mother had said no one should pick them up. The mother called the police and Pitt said she called the police. The police came for a printout and the second time police came back they said he had a different name than Hernandez.

"I was worried about the children. Something's not right. I recognized him and he addressed me by



Casas

my name," she testified and then identified Casas in the courtroom.

Under cross-examination, Washington asked Pitt about the camera at the door. She replied that the secretary or herself have to go to open the door and there is no camera at the door. She said they do have an office hallway camera, but you can't see the front door.

A VBT Police Officer testified that he answered a report from the principal that two children were removed from the school by the mother's boyfriend, who called after they were gone. He said they broadcast the description of the car as a red Subaru with a Florida tag and a Canton officer initiated a traffic stop. The officer said he took Casas into custody. He did not take custody of the children but testified they did not look distressed.

He said he took Casas to the police station and read him his Miranda Rights. The officer said Casas said he picked up the kids because he was concerned about how the kids would get home since their mother was not at home.

Judge Oakley bound Casas over on all the charges to the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice and continued the bond. Judge Oakley referred him to pretrial services for a bond review, as requested by his attorney.

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A Saturday at the library

The Friends of the Belleville Area District Library held their first used-book sale in the new library building on May 6 & 7. There were tables of books of every description priced at a dollar apiece and less, along with audio books, DVDs and CDs.



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After being interrupted by the coronavirus for two years, the annual perennial plant swap resumed at the Belleville Area District Library on May 7. The event was sponsored by The Belleville Area Garden Club. Members were available to answer questions and give gardening tips.

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Independent photo by James Otzman

The big tree in front of the Belleville Area Museum on Main Street in downtown Belleville was cut down on Friday as part of Van Buren Township's landscaping upgrades to the property. By Monday afternoon, the tree that used to be lighted by Santa Claus after the Christmas parade over the years was gone, as well. That tree still had its Christmas lights on it as of Friday. A meeting to discuss the museum's future use is set from 5 to 7 p.m., Wednesday, June 1, at the Belleville Area District Library. The public is invited.

Matyson Vlademar of VBT earns University of Nebraska-Lincoln bachelor degree

Matyson Claire Vlademar of Van Buren Township was among 3,523 graduates who received degrees from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln during commencement exercises May 13 and 14.

Vlademar earned a Bachelor of Science in Education and Human Sciences from the College of Education and Human Sciences.

The graduates are from 58 countries, 45 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, and more than 250 Nebraska communities.

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Since I can get very excited, a home with older children would be best for me. I'm not sure if cats are for me, sometimes they can scare me. With proper training, socialization, and exercise, I promise to be your best friend ever!

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Sumpter Township to sell township-owned properties by auction

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

After a lengthy discussion at the workshop session of the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees on May 10, the board voted in regular session to approve selling township properties by auction, but to go over the list first and have the board approve it before start of the auction process.

Trustee Peggy Morgan cast the only no vote. Treasurer Vincent Warren and Trustee Don LaPorte were absent.

During the workshop session, Trustee Morgan suggested using a real estate agent to sell the properties and said she had talked to Glenn Silvenis of Remax, but Supervisor Tim Bowman was set on using Braun & Helmer

Auction Service.

A group of township officials planned to meet at 5:30 p.m. before the May 19 planning commission meeting to make sure the properties were good to go.

The original list of properties given to the board by the supervisor's office had included the land just south of the township hall and also the adjoining land north of the township hall to be sold. When that was pointed out, everyone agreed those properties adjoining township hall should be retained.

Trustee Matthew Oddy said he asked the supervisor's assistant Karen Woodington to provide maps of the properties on the list to be sold and some are only 80' wide and small

lots next to each other should be combined first because people can't build on 80' lots.

"They can combine them," Supervisor Bowman said of the property purchasers.

"Some can't be combined," Trustee Oddy said, adding that two, too-short lots could be combined and then split in two to sell as buildable lots. He said they should sell in as full compliance with the township ordinance as possible.

Trustee Morgan said Remax said some of the lots are in wetlands and they have to keep that in mind. A purchaser would pay the realtor's fees, she noted.

"Same with the auctioneer," Bowman said.

"I think the net would be very close to the same," Oddy said.

"I'm concerned about having a clear title," said Clerk Esther Hurst.

Township attorney Rob Young said the land was quick-claimed because of taxes and came from the DNR or county.

"We don't get into that," Young said, noting the last two properties the township sold didn't have that. "We're not guaranteeing anything. But, if there's a problem we know of, we have to tell them ... What we have is what they get ... In the past we tried title work and it wasn't cost-effective ... You certainly don't want to lose money ... It matters not to me if we do auction or real estate ... Whichever way you go, would be OK."

Details were discussed and then it was taken off the table for action at that regular meeting so the list could be scrutinized before auctioning began.

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

- Approved outfitting the new Ford Police Interceptor Utility vehicle through Herkimer Radio at a total cost of \$9,517.60. Public Safety Director/Police Chief Eric Luke explained that this vehicle was ordered a year ago and just came in. While in the past they have been able to move some of the equipment from the old vehicle to the new one without a problem, now things have changed and sizes are different. He said they have funds from the auctions and forfeitures to cover the cost; and

- Heard resident Mary Ban comment on the beautiful blacktop in the Willis/Harris roads.

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More Letters

BHS sports teams support Harper Mathis

To the editor:

I am hopeful we can make an announcement in this week's paper about last week's support for Harper Mathis.

All Belleville High School Spring sports teams recognized and supported Harper before their games. They all wore teal and grey socks, grey representing brain cancer and teal being Harper's favorite color. The Soccer team got a little creative and wore their teal pre-wrap as well. What a way to support this amazing fighter!

Shirts were sold to those teams that could wear them in their games to support Harper, as well. A community brought together!

Girls Varsity Softball participated, along with Men's Varsity Baseball and Men's Varsity Lacrosse. The seven seniors on the Soccer team presented Harper with a #9 Varsity Jersey of her very own.

The Girls Varsity Tennis and Varsity Track and Field also participated. Tennis team members wore the socks while the track and field were given headbands to wear.

We would like to thank all the teams, coaches, and community for the support and for anyone that contributed to making last week a success!

What a fund week to support Harper. Keep fighting!

Angie McCluskey

Editor's Note: The Belleville Yacht Club is holding a benefit from 6 to 11 p.m. on Friday, June 10, at the BYC at 831 E. Huron River Dr. for the Mathis family to help raise money for their fight against Harper's brain cancer.



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VBT DDA considers options for left-turn signal at Tyler/Belleville

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

After Van Buren Township Trustee Kevin Martin asked the board to look into a left-turn signal at the corner of Belleville and Tyler roads, at its Feb. 1 meeting, the board approved a \$6,500 engineering study of the corner and asked the county for a study, as well.

At the township board meeting earlier this year, Trustee Martin recounted all the close calls he has witnessed at that corner and the debris from accidents he had seen there in the roadway. He suggested left-turn signals could avert serious injuries at that corner.

At its regular meeting on April 26, the VBT Downtown Development Authority discussed the six-page "Left-Turn Phasing at Belleville Road and Tyler Road" memo prepared by Kyle Reidsma of Fishbeck, the engineering consultant for the township.

Wayne County had reported its study showed the intersection hadn't met criteria for the county to put in a left-turn signal because it didn't meet the crash numbers. However, there is a visibility issue because Belleville Road is slightly out of line north of Tyler Road.

DDA Executive Director Susan Ireland reported in a memo to the DDA that Fishbeck found that crash history and left-turn delay criteria were not met.

"They do concur that there are sight distance deficiencies on the northbound lane turning left to Tyler Road," she said.

"This will generally dictate that a 'protected-only' left turn phasing should be used. Meaning, left turning traffic would only be able to turn on a green arrow, however, the analysis resulted in a substantial increase in delay for north and southbound traffic," she said.

She said there is some value in speaking with the Traffic Division at Wayne County to try to find a resolution. She said the person involved had been on vacation and she had been unable

to contact him.

"Staff would anticipate if we can find a solution the expense to the DDA would not be cost-prohibitive," Ireland concluded.

"I was going to ask you to buy it," said Township Supervisor Kevin McNamara, who sits on the DDA board.

DDA secretary Chris Brown said the impact of a delay for a "protected-only" turn could be more destructive and there is a potential for more accidents.

"What if it makes it worse?" asked DDA member Vincent DeLibera.

"It would have to be a hard stop to make a left," Supervisor McNamara said of the current suggestion.

DeLibera said there would be a lot of backup, and cars waiting are wasting fuel.

McNamara said when Ireland gets the direct number for the "signal guy" at the county, he will call him and talk to him.

The Fishbeck report examined a three-year crash history at that intersection, from 2018 to 2020. Twenty-three crashes occurred during this time. There were no fatal crashes, one serious/incapacitating injury, two minor injuries, one possible injury, and 19 property-damage-only crashes. The one serious crash involved a vehicle on westbound Tyler Road failing to stop for a red light and striking the trailer of a semi-truck heading northbound on Belleville Road. This crash was not caused by the lack of left-turn phasing at the intersection, the report stated. The predominant crash type was rear-end collisions.

In other business at the 36-minute meeting, the DDA:

- Discussed different grant fundings that may be available for adding a center left turn lane on Belleville Road from Tyler to Ecorse. McNamara asked about making it four lanes, instead of three. He said he asked Congresswoman Debbie Dingell for \$11 million in federal funds for this. He suggested setting up a workshop to discuss all of their options, including eminent domain, which the township can do. One homeowner will not give up property for the right of way needed and so they may be able to buy the house. Secretary Brown, a builder, said construction prices have gone up 30-40% this year because of materials, fuel, and people, who need to be paid more than union wages these days. Ireland said they've been talking about this road widening for a long time and chairman Craig Atchinson said it was at least 20 years ago when he first heard about it;

- Reelected the current officers for 2022: Chairman Atchinson, vice-chairperson Carol Bird, and secretary Brown;

- Informally directed Ireland to arrange for Aerotropolis Director Christopher Girdwood to present his yearly update to the board at a future meeting;

- Heard Ireland report that the DDA has had to replace three streetlights this year on Belleville Road, near Sunrise, Venetian, and Atchinson Ford. She said she is ordering more poles to be on hand and an inventory check is being done on how many small horizontal arms that hold the banner arms in place to order, since they are failing; and

- Was informed the DDA is down to two Tax Tribunal cases for parcels within the DDA District -- two hotels on the Service Drive. Ireland said there could be more since petitioners have until June 30 to file an appeal for the current year's valuations.

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Publish: May 19, 2022, May 26, 2022

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5-22, 9am-6pm. 7111 Sadie Lane, VBT.
(734) 377-5330. Everything must go. 05/19

LARGE YARD SALE. 23000 Sumpter
Rd. May 27 thru 30, 9am each day.
Furniture, tool boxes, yard stuff &
lots of misc. 05/26

5 FAMILY YARD SALE. Wed. thru
Friday, May 18, 19 & 20, 9am-5pm.
22350 Sherwood. South of Judd.
Lots of everything. 05/19

2 FAMILY REMODELING YARD SALE
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-corner of Sumpter & Judd. 05/26

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Ecorse & Belleville Rd. 06/02

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



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City Council

(continued from page 3)

• Was told the Belleville Yacht Club is building a flail mower to clean the steep shoreline between the gazebo and W. Huron River Drive on a volunteer basis. The special mower is on back order;

• Approved a resolution to request \$250,000 in funding from the MDOT Transportation Economic Development Fund Category B Program to remove and replace concrete roadway on a portion of Harbour Pointe Dr., from Huron River Drive to Breakwater Drive, as well as a portion of Light Tower Drive from Harbour Pointe Drive to Bay Pointe Drive.

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The matching grant -- \$250,000 plus the \$250,000 from the city -- would not cover the engineering costs of \$70,000, so the project would cost the city \$320,000 from local street funds. The city should know if the grant application was successful by fall, Rutherford said;

• Discussed categories in the DPW daily logs as presented by Deputy City Manager Tim McLeary. The DPW has been preparing the logs since April 24 to see where the work is in the Downtown Development Authority district, since the DDA is paying for maintenance in its district;

• Discussed the proposed sanitation fund rate hike and when no residents had any problems with the users paying the higher cost from Republic Services, unanimously voted to raise the per household rate from \$15.30 to \$20.70 per month. The monthly user rate hasn't increased since Nov. 1, 2022, although the rates from Republic had gone up steadily. City Manager/Chief Robinson said he had sent out a letter to all residents apprising them of the rate increase and inviting them to that night's meeting to comment on the subject;

• Voted to move the proposed June 1 budget meeting to 6 p.m., June 6 before the regular 7:30 p.m. meeting so it wouldn't be on the same night as the Museum Visioning meeting. The museum meeting is being held by Van Buren Township from 5-7 p.m. on June 1 at the Belleville Area District Library;

• Heard Robinson announce that the city has learned it will receive a \$40,000 Summer Youth Grant from the Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority and will be able to hire about ten workers between the ages of 14 and 26. Those interested

are asked to apply so the list will be ready when the money arrives, he said;

• Heard Mayor Conley announce that she has been working on a Council of Western Wayne committee on the Great Lakes Water Authority issue with Highland Park. She said the state has made progress and has let Highland Park know they have to pay. Belleville voted to put the funds for Highland Park costs in escrow and 16 other communities have done the same, she said; and

• Heard Mayor Conley say that the council had said it would talk about water billing and if anyone wanted to go back to monthly billings. The bills now are bi-monthly. Peggy Voigt said she would like an auto-pay option. She said Van Buren Township does that. Most of those in the audience agreed that bi-monthly was better than monthly. Mayor Pro-Tem Voigt said he would like to see a survey on the issue.

Parrott ends Manistee County court case with no-contest plea

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

Former 34th District Court Judge David M. Parrott ended his 2018 misdemeanor case in Manistee County with a no-contest plea on May 3.

The original charge was operating while intoxicated, a 93-day misdemeanor. He pled no-contest to the 93-day misdemeanor of operating while being visibly impaired, which carries less severe consequences with the Secretary of State's office.

Parrott, 62, was sentenced to two days jail time with credit for two days served, as well as fines and costs totaling \$926.

Jordan Miller, Manistee County chief assistant prosecutor, said that given Parrott was subjected to pretrial release conditions for two-plus years while his case worked its way through the appellate system, the judge declined to impose a term of probation.

Among the conditions of Parrott's pretrial was the wearing of a Soberlink Remote Alcohol Monitoring device. A Soberlink device is a portable breathalyzer that requires the user to blow into the device up to four times a day and the results are transmitted and monitored by the probation department, Miller said.

Parrott was also subjected to standard conditions of pretrial release, including restrictions on his ability to travel out of state. He also attended outpatient alcohol treatment during the case.

Parrott's case had been put on hold in Manistee's 85th District Court until the appeals court decision was announced.

It was on hold again until the Michigan Supreme Court considered and on Dec. 22, 2021 denied his application for leave to appeal the Court of Appeals ruling.

When all his appeals were exhausted, a pretrial was set for March 23 at the district court, putting the case back in movement.

A domestic violence charge filed against him by his girlfriend on Feb. 8, 2020 in Van Buren Township was dismissed by 35th District Court Judge James Plakas in Plymouth on a motion of the prosecution on Sept. 23, 2021.

Parrott lost his bid for reelection in 2020, weeks after he was suspended by the Michigan Supreme Court.

He recently said he had retired from the practice of law.

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Charter Township of Van Buren Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on **June 8, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.** The meeting will be held in person at Van Buren Township Hall, located at **46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, MI 48111**, in the Board Room. Members of the public may additionally participate in the meeting electronically per guidance provided by the Wayne County Local Public Health Department for meetings of governmental bodies held under public act 228 of 2020, effective January 1, 2022. Instructions for attending the meeting electronically are provided in this notice. The Planning Commission will consider the following request:

Case 21-044: A request by applicant Infinity Acquisitions, LLC on behalf of owner C.A. Kime, Inc. for preliminary approval to amend a phase of the 117.06-acre Cobblestone Creek Planned Residential Development (PRD) titled Cobblestone Creek Villas. The site is zoned R-1A (Single Family Residential District) and is located on the south side of Huron River Drive, east of Hoeft Road. Cobblestone Creek Villas is currently approved to include 104 attached housing units in 26 buildings. The proposed PRD as amended will include 96 units (including 44 units already constructed and 52 units proposed) in 25 buildings (including 12 two-story buildings already constructed and 13 single-story buildings proposed). The area subject to this request includes 6.88 acres located on Chinkapin Drive and Pinewood Lane between 13687 Pinewood Lane (parcel ID number V-125-83 114 02 0067 000) and 13957 Chinkapin Drive (parcel ID number V-125-83 114 02 0028 000).

This project will be a general revision to a previously approved Planned Residential Development (PRD). Per Section 6.221(A) of the Van Buren Township Zoning Ordinance, a PRD may be revised in accordance with the approval procedures for a PRD, which includes proceeding in the same manner as other special use applications. Special land use applications require a public hearing per the procedures outlined in Article 12, Chapter 6 of the Van Buren Township Zoning Ordinance.

Members of the public may access the agenda materials via the Township website – www.vanburen-mi.org beginning **June 3, 2022**. On the meeting website, members of the public will also gain access to **means of participating in the electronic meeting**. On the agenda for the meeting, a unique Zoom weblink and dial-in phone number with a meeting ID for meeting videoconference or teleconference access will be provided. The meeting will be available to view live on the Van Buren Township YouTube Channel which can be reached from the live meeting link located on the Van Buren Township website home page (www.vanburen-mi.org). Closed captioning will be available after YouTube fully renders meeting video.

A complete **procedure for public comment by electronic means** is provided on a guide which is accessible on the Van Buren Township website (www.vanburen-mi.org). Participants may also choose to submit written comments that will be read into record during public comment by the Chairperson. Submit any written comments or questions about the meeting via e-mail to dpower@vanburen-mi.org.

To comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), any citizen requesting accommodation to attend a meeting, and/or to obtain this notice in alternate formats, please contact the Clerk's Office at 734.699.8900 extension 9205.

Posted: May 17, 2022
Published: May 19, 2022

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Independent Website
is Online! Visit us @
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City of Belleville Public Notice



CITY OF BELLEVILLE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

**Monday, May 2, 2022 - 7:30 pm
VIA ZOOM TELECONFERENCE**

The regular meeting of the City Council was held via a hybrid of in-person and virtual access through ZOOM.

The regular meeting of the Belleville City Council was called to order by Mayor Conley at 7:30 p.m.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE

2. ROLL CALL

Council Member Henry	Absent
Council Member Jones	Present
Council Member Bates	Present
Mayor Pro-Tem Voigt	Present
Mayor Conley	Present

3. APPOINTMENTS, PRESENTATIONS & CITIZENS COMMENTS

A. Presentations

1) None

B. Council Follow Up List

1) Council Member Jones inquired on the status for the demolition of the building attached to City Hall.

2) Mayor Pro-Tem Voigt inquired about temporary repairs made to the road at Main Street and Liberty.

3) Mayor Conley inquired about the status of recodification of ordinances.

4) Council Member Bates inquired about Bora Dora signs.

C. Citizen Comments on Non-Agenda Items

1) Mike Renaud

a) Requested that copies of the meeting packet be available to the public in advance of the meeting.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Motion by Bates, supported by Jones to approve the agenda as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Council Member Bates	Aye
Council Member Jones	Aye
Mayor Pro-Tem Voigt	Aye
Mayor Conley	Aye

Motion Carried.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. April 18, 2022, Regular Meeting of the City Council

MOTION: Motion by Bates, supported by Jones to approve the Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting held on Monday, April 18, 2022.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Council Member Bates	Aye
Council Member Jones	Aye
Mayor Pro-Tem Voigt	Aye
Mayor Conley	Aye

Motion Carried.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. None

7. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

A. None

8. GENERAL BUSINESS DISCUSSION

A) Special Event Application – Boy Scout Fundraiser

MOTION: Motion by Voigt, supported by Bates to approve the Special Event Application from the Boy Scouts for a youth group fundraiser on May 8, 2022.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Council Member Bates	Aye
Council Member Jones	Aye
Mayor Pro-Tem Voigt	Aye
Mayor Conley	Aye

Motion Carried.

A) Plante Moran-Accounting Services Fees

BHS at-home games

• **Thursday, May 19:** Boys Varsity Golf vs. Cass Technical, 2:45 p.m., at Willow Metropark GC

• **Saturday, May 21:** Varsity Softball vs. Melvindale, 10 a.m. & Grosse Ile, 2 p.m.

• **Monday, May 23:** Varsity Softball vs. Summerfield, DH, 4 p.m.; Girls JV Soccer vs. KLAACrossover, 5:30 p.m.; Girls Varsity Soccer vs. KLAACrossover, 7 p.m.

• **Wednesday, May 25:** Girls Varsity Soccer vs. MHSAA Pre-District, 4 p.m.

MOTION: Motion by Voigt, supported by Bates to approve the proposed fees for accounting services by Plante Moran.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Council Member Bates	Aye
Council Member Jones	Aye
Mayor Pro-Tem Voigt	Aye
Mayor Conley	Aye

Motion Carried.

C) Sanitation Fund-Rates

Following a discussion of the analysis on estimated rate adjustments to the Sanitation Fund, City Council directed the City Manager to add "public comment" on this subject to the agenda for May 16, 2022.

9. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND DEPARTMENTAL EXPENDITURES

MOTION: Motion by Voigt, supported by Bates to approve **Resolution #22-037** authorizing Accounts Payable and Departmental Expenditures as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Council Member Bates	Aye
Council Member Jones	Aye
Mayor Pro-Tem Voigt	Aye
Mayor Conley	Aye

Motion Carried.

10. CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

• City Manager Robinson commented that a gently used podium has been procured for public comments/presentations in Council Chambers. He also stated he is hopeful that the building demolition will be completed soon.

11. CITY COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

• Council Member Bates

-- Inquired about composting at the curb.

-- Commented that the newly restriped Main Street looks nice.

• Mayor Pro-Tem Voigt

-- Thanked the BYC for completing its annual cleanup.

-- Stated that Senior Banners were going to be placed this Saturday.

-- Passed on citizen compliments on the restriping of Main Street.

12. MAYOR'S COMMENTS

• Mayor Conley commented on the upcoming National Police Week and Public Service Week.

13. CITIZENS COMMENTS

• Mike Renaud

-- Inquired about the status of refinancing the DDA Streetscape Bonds.

-- Requested that left turns be limited at the new development.

• Tom Fielder

-- Thanked DPW for its work at the Flop E Bunny event.

-- Inquired about topics of discussion for the upcoming museum meeting at Van Buren Township.

14. ACTION ITEMS FOR NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING

-- Public Comment on Sanitation Fees

-- Resolution for National Police Week

-- Resolution for Public Service Week

-- Bora Dora District

15. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Motion by Bates, supported by Voigt to adjourn at 8:44 p.m.

No objections were noted.

Motion Carried.

Timothy McLean/Deputy City Manager

Approved: May 16, 2022

Posted: May 17, 2022

Published: May 19, 2022

Van Buren Township
Police Dispatch Log

There were 238 dispatch calls reported by Van Buren Township police last week including the following.

- Sunday, May 8:**
0007 – suspicious person/vehicle, Pine Dr./Maple
0357 – assist other dept., Oak Ln.
0507 – breaking & entering, Denton Rd.
0911 – breaking & entering, Rawsonville Rd.
0915 – family trouble, Pond Bluff Dr.
1105 – dumping complaint, Venetian Ave.
1228 – domestic, Meadows Ln.
1343 – suspicious person/vehicle, Tyler Rd.
1457 – welfare check, Haggerty Rd.
1503 – intrusion alarm, Jeremy Rd.
1521 – noise complaint, Anna Dr.
1626 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1645 – warrant arrest, Rawsonville Rd.
2002 – assist other dept., Belle Villa
2110 – intrusion alarm, Michigan Ave.
2113 – suspicious person/vehicle, Purple Sage Ct.
2324 – civil matter, N. Belldridge Dr.

- Monday, May 9:**
0001 – assist other dept., Brookside Dr.
0014 – suspicious person/vehicle, N. I-94 Service Dr. / Jackson St.
0033 – welfare check, Beckley Rd.
0245 – suspicious person/vehicle, Denton Rd.
0326 – mental subject, Parkwood Dr.
0352 – disorderly, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0720 – private property/property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
0758 – assist other dept., Kirkridge Park Dr.
0834 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Ecorse /bypass
0837 – larceny from auto, Denton Rd.
1024 – larceny, Tyler Rd.
1054 – private property/property damage accident, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1241 – domestic, Sonrisa St.
1351 – intrusion alarm, Parkwood Dr.
1400 – intrusion alarm, E. Huron River Dr.
1437 – property damage accident, Lincoln/Jackson
1451 – welfare check, Westlake Cir.
1455 – welfare check, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1512 – breaking & entering, Ecorse Rd.
1844 – property check, Belleville Rd.
1932 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1946 – suicidal person, Lake Point Blvd.
1950 – larceny, S. Ponderosa Trl.
2310 – motorist assist, Rawsonville Rd. / S. I-94 Service Dr.
2316 – 911 welfare check, Parkwood Dr.

- Tuesday, May 10:**
0028 – property check, Belleville Rd.
0025 – assist citizen, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0043 – threat, Belleville Rd.
0122 – welfare check, Belleville Rd.
0250 – property damage accident, Ecorse Rd.
0354 – suspicious person/vehicle, Morton Taylor Rd. / Robson Rd.
0715 – private property/property damage accident, Coca-Cola Dr.
0812 – suspicious person/vehicle, S. I-94 Service
0938 – larceny, Sylvia Dr.
1019 – civil matter, S. Sunset Ln.
1028 – misc. complaint, Old Denton Rd.
1058 – suspicious person/vehicle, E. Huron River
1137 – assist fire dept., E. Huron River Dr.
1218 – fraud, Hannan Rd.
1237 – suspicious person/vehicle, Senate St.
1320 – assist citizen, Haggerty Rd./Ecorse Rd.
1520 – private property/property damage accident, Belleville Manor
1558 – welfare check, Belleville Rd.
1615 – missing person, Belleville Rd.
1634 – larceny from auto, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1713 – property damage accident, Tyler/Hannan
1717 – neighbor trouble, Parkwood Dr.
1812 – domestic, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1953 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
2048 – neighbor trouble, Parkwood Dr.
2303 – domestic, Haggerty Rd.
2315 – noise complaint, S. I-94 Service Dr.
- Wednesday, May 11:**
0105 – suspicious person/vehicle, America
0359 – intrusion alarm, Haggerty Rd.
0448 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
0655 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Arthur

- 0656 – larceny from auto, Winchester St.
0710 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Winchester St.
0758 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
0800 – juvenile complaint, McBride
0832 – suspicious person/vehicle, Westlake Cir.
0928 – intrusion alarm, Harmony Ln.
0952 – larceny from auto, Denton Rd.
1014 – suspicious person/vehicle, Quirk Rd.
1059 – domestic, Denton Rd.
1111 – domestic, Louisa Dr.
1201 – larceny, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1240 – larceny, Belleville Rd.
1328 – animal complaint, Savage Rd./Haggerty
1517 – private property/property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1545 – found property/child, Tyler Rd.
1556 – intrusion alarm, Elwell Rd.
1603 – threat, Haggerty Rd.
1606 – property damage accident, Barnwell Dr.
1609 – found property/child, Tyler Rd.
1737 – property damage accident, W. Huron River
1758 – vehicle lockout, Kirkridge Park Dr.
1801 – disorderly, Denton Rd.
1806 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / Van Born Rd.
1852 – warrant arrest, Tyler Rd.
1959 – threat, Outer Dr.
2031 – motorist assist, Belleville Rd./Tyler Rd.
- Thursday, May 12:**
0051 – suspicious person/vehicle, Hannan Rd.
0346 – suspicious person/vehicle, Parkwood Dr.
0603 – private property/property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
0758 – animal complaint, Riggs Rd.
0919 – welfare check, Ecorse Rd./Haggerty Rd.
0926 – fraud, S. Ponderosa Trl.
1004 – suspicious person/vehicle, E. Main St.
1044 – welfare check, N. Woodbury Dr.
1107 – traffic offense, S. I-94 Service Dr./Belleville Rd.
1135 – missing person, Parkwood Dr.
1412 – larceny, Country Ln.
1442 – lost property/child, Sonrisa St.
1445 – civil matter, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1511 – 911 welfare check, Belmont Dr.
1648 – civil matter, Jackson St.
1734 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, E. Adams
1751 – juvenile complaint, Sylvia Dr./Rawsonville
1758 – larceny, Landmark
1823 – parking complaint, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1828 – property damage accident, Ecorse
1901 – welfare check, Belmont Dr.
2002 – juvenile complaint, S. Ponderosa Trl.
2029 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / Ecorse Rd.
2120 – disorderly, E. Huron River Dr.
2150 – trespassing, Parkwood Dr.
2219 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.
2243 – disorderly, E. Adams
2255 – suicidal person, Castell Blvd.
2318 – disorderly, Bayshore Dr.
- Friday, May 13:**
0022 – larceny, Michigan Ave.
0042 – suspicious person/vehicle, Rawsonville
0150 – suspicious person/vehicle, Ecorse Rd.
0641 – vehicle lockout, Ecorse Rd.
0648 – suspicious person/vehicle, Hickory Woods
0749 – property damage accident, Belleville/Quirk
0802 – domestic, Parkwood Dr.
1040 – suspicious person/vehicle, S. I-94 Service
1042 – private property impound, Jeremy/Ecorse
1051 – mental subject, Harmony Ln.
1226 – sexual assault, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1421 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1437 – mental subject, Harmony Ln.
1525 – disorderly, Lake Villa Dr.
1543 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.
1753 – civil matter, W. Adams
1835 – Walmart property check, Belleville Rd.
1839 – welfare check, Haggerty/E. Huron River
1850 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / N. I-94 Service Dr.
1925 – welfare check, Belleville Rd.
2038 – domestic, Parkwood Dr.
2040 – welfare check, Victoria St.
2048 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
2106 – threat, Michigan Ave.
2138 – threat, DNR board launch/Rawsonville
2337 – juvenile complaint, Liberty Ln.

- Saturday, May 14:**
0053 – welfare check, Belleville Rd./S. I-94 Service Dr.
0111 – Atchinson Ford property check, Belleville
0207 – suspicious person/vehicle, N. I-94 Service
0210 – motorist assist, W. I-94/N. Belleville I-94 ramp W.
0224 – 911 welfare check, Capitol Dr.
0438 – welfare check, Rawsonville Rd.
0644 – intrusion alarm, Jeremy Rd.
0842 – intrusion alarm, Van Buren St.
1011 – property damage accident, Van Buren St.
1121 – hospice death, Cross St.
1251 – personal injury accident, Michigan/Denton
1329 – indecent exposure, Milton Dr.
1407 – intrusion alarm, Greenwood Dr.
1459 – noise complaint, Outer Dr.
1529 – threat, boat launch
1534 – assault & battery, Denton Rd.
1538 – disorderly, Belleville Rd.
1609 – 911 welfare check, Capitol Dr.
1632 – follow up by officer, Michigan/Denton
1644 – suspicious person/vehicle, Ash Dr.
1815 – suspicious person/vehicle, DNR boat launch, Rawsonville
1822 – property damage accident, N. I-94 Service
1836 – welfare check, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1839 – traffic offense, Haggerty Rd. / N. I-94 Service Dr.
1917 – animal complaint, Bog Rd.
2002 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
2021 – welfare check, Washington
2032 – disorderly, Belleville Rd.
2054 – disorderly, DNR boat launch, Rawsonville
2156 – 911 welfare check, DNR boat launch, Rawsonville
2157 – civil matter, Belleville Rd.
2206 – animal complaint, Brandi
2241 – noise complaint, S. I-94 Service Dr.
2341 – civil matter, Parkwood Dr.
- Also on this week’s log are 37 traffic stops, four of which were on the I-94 freeway.

Belleville Police
Dispatch Log

- Sunday, May 8:**
0045 – disorderly, Belle Villa Blvd.
0158 – suspicious person/vehicle, Main St.
0607 – intrusion alarm, South St.
1730 – assist citizen, W. Columbia Ave./High St.
1954 – disorderly, Belle Villa Blvd.
- Monday, May 9:**
0800 – suspicious person/vehicle, W. Columbia
0917 – welfare check, S. Liberty St.
1816 – welfare check
2125 – traffic stop, Belleville Rd./Lake Villa
- Tuesday, May 10:**
1337 – juvenile complaint, Owen St.
1703 – threat, E. Columbia Ave.
1921 – suspicious person/vehicle, Loza Ln.
2118 – larceny from auto, Savage Rd.
- Wednesday, May 11:**
1331 – suspicious person/vehicle, Fourth St.
1424 – disorderly, South St.
1436 – juvenile complaint, South St.
1536 – animal complaint, Victorian Ln.
1607 – assist fire dept., N. Aberdeen Ct.
2307 – traffic stop, Liberty/Fourth St.
- Thursday, May 12:**
0102 – noise complaint, Carmell St.
0120 – suspicious person/vehicle, Sumpter Rd.
0708 – property damage accident, W. Columbia
0937 – juvenile complaint, Owen St.
1005 – suspicious person/vehicle, N. Liberty St.
1104 – parking complaint, Main St.
1407 – trespassing, Sumpter Rd.
1538 – trespassing Main St.
2023 – misc. complaint, Chicago
2221 – motorist assist, South St./E. Columbia
- Friday, May 13:**
0835 – suspicious person/vehicle, Main St.
1420 – suspicious person/vehicle, Carmell St.
2024 – traffic stop, N. Liberty St./Third St.
2048 – traffic stop, Main St./High St.
2109 – traffic stop, Belleville Rd./Harmony Ln.
2225 – intrusion alarm, Victorian Ln.
2327 – traffic stop, Sumpter Rd.
- Saturday, May 14:**
0014 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
0109 – traffic stop, Sumpter Rd./Belle Villa Blvd.

- 1124 – trespassing, Sumpter Rd.
1755 – trespassing, Sumpter Rd.
1953 – traffic stop, First St./N. Liberty St.
2040 – traffic stop, Village Park
2054 – traffic stop, E. Columbia Ave./South St.
2110 – traffic stop, Main St./Third St.
2243 – suspicious person/vehicle, W. Columbia
- There are 11 traffic stops on this week’s log.

Sumpter Township
Police Dispatch Log

- Sunday, May 8:**
0016 – welfare check, Carriage Ln.
0142 – harassment complaint, New Mexico St.
0821 – 911 hang up, 21000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
0823 – fire dept. assist, 20000 bl. Martinsville
1017 – civil matter, 22000 bl. Bohn Rd.
1108 – fire dept. assist, 41000 bl. Harris Rd.
1110 – alarm, 18000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
1158 – death investigation, Oregon St.
1341 – fraud complaint, Second St.
1715 – welfare check, 46000 bl. Wear Rd.
1949 – fire dept. assist, 45000 bl. Harris Rd.
2006 – fire dept. assist, Edgewood Dr.
2046 – family trouble, 43000 bl. Judd Rd.
2236 – fire dept. assist, 46000 bl. Bemis Rd.
- Monday, May 9:**
0030 – alarm, Knollwood Dr.
0115 – family trouble, Mulberry Dr.
0452 – fire dept. assist, 22000 bl. Martinsville
0753 – suspicious circumstance, Rustic Ln.
0801 – fire dept. assist, 21000 bl. Martinsville
0941 – citizen assist, Greenmeadow Dr.
1103 – mental health call, Texas St.
1212 – 911 hang up, Greenmeadow Dr.
1248 – fire dept. assist, 25000 bl. Karr Rd.
1459 – death investigation, 45000 bl. Harris Rd.
1503 – suspicious person, 48000 bl. Willow Rd.
1616 – neighbor dispute, Georgia St.
1746 – subpoena service, 42000 bl. Bemis Rd.
1814 – subpoena service, 10000 bl. Judd Rd.
1950 – juvenile complaint, 22000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2050 – 911 hang up, 41000 bl. Willis Rd.
2113 – civil matter, Florida St.
2145 – subpoena service, 10000 bl. Judd Rd.
2200 – fire dept. assist, Mulberry Dr.
- Tuesday, May 10:**
0113 – citizen assist, Rawsonville Rd./Bemis Rd.
0153 – animal complaint, 45000 bl. Judd Rd.
0841 – neighbor dispute, Country Club Blvd.
0920 – family trouble, Alaska St.
1003 – citizen assist, 19000 bl. Crandell Ct.
1138 – trespassing complaint, 19000 bl. Crandell Ct.
1305 – fire dept. assist, 42000 bl. Willis Rd.
1324 – suspicious person, Clay Rd./Sumpter Rd.
1417 – fire dept. assist, 51000 bl. Willis Rd.
1555 – suspicious person, 8200 Rawsonville Rd.
1806 – traffic complaint/hazard, Sumpter/Willis
2106 – noise complaint, 19000 bl. Crandell Ct.
2208 – suspicious person, 28000 bl. Elwell Rd.
2226 – suspicious vehicle, 17000 bl. Savage Rd.
- Wednesday, May 11:**
0117 – noise complaint, 45000 bl. Paris Dr.
0136 – follow-up investigation, 45000 bl. Paris
0641 – suspicious person, 45000 bl. Harris Rd.
1142 – civil matter, Florida St.
1257 – suspicious circumstance, Florida St.
1352 – civil matter, 20000 bl. Karr Rd.
1409 – follow-up investigation, Florida St.
1423 – fire dept. assist, 18000 bl. Lohr Rd.
1451 – noise complaint, 19000 bl. Crandell Ct.
1453 – larceny, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1547 – alarm, 46000 bl. Claxton Dr.
1626 – welfare check, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1919 – fire dept. assist, 22000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2006 – civil matter, 24000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
2105 – fire dept. assist, 22000 bl. Karr Rd.
2247 – fire dept. assist, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2327 – alarm, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
- Thursday, May 12:**
0022 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
0325 – citizen assist, 25000 bl. Elwell Rd.
0654 – civil matter, Florida St.
0751 – 911 hang up, 48000 bl. Willis Rd.
0822 – animal complaint, 43000 bl. Clay Rd.
0826 – welfare check, Redwood St.
1003 – follow-up investigation, Country Club Blvd
1011 – civil matter, Florida St.

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Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

(continued from page 18)

1021 – operating while intoxicated arrest,
Rawsonville Rd./Judd Rd.

1132 – mental health call, Florida St.

1311 – juvenile complaint, Delaware St.

1455 – fire dept. assist, 19000 bl. Sherwood Rd.

1502 – fire dept. assist, 24000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

1518 – civil matter, Mulberry Dr.

1846 – follow-up investigation, Florida St.

1850 – traffic complaint/hazard, 26000 bl. Sherwood Rd.

1911 – neighbor dispute, 24000 bl. Elwell Rd.

1913 – family trouble, 46000 bl. Willis Rd.

2038 – fire dept. assist, 11000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.

2246 – noise complaint, 48000 bl. Sully Dr.

Friday, May 13:

0301 – fire dept. assist, 46000 bl. Willis Rd.

0851 – fire dept. assist, 22000 bl. Karr Rd.

1034 – warrant arrest, Wayside Dr.

1057 – death investigation, 47000 bl. Wear Rd.

1217 – welfare check, 39000 bl. Willow Rd.

1305 – fire dept. assist, Hampshire Dr.

1313 – suspicious vehicle, 49000 bl. Arkona Rd.

1337 – animal complaint, 20000 bl. Sherwood Rd.

1356 – alarm, 4900 bl. Oakville Waltz Rd.

1421 – animal complaint, Stonecrest Dr.

1538 – suspicious circumstance, 19000 bl. Haggerty Rd.

1843 – fire dept. assist, 51000 bl. Willis Rd.

1849 – civil matter, 8200 bl. Rawsonville Rd.

1859 – assist other agency, 49000 bl. Sherwood

1906 – follow-up investigation, 45000 bl. Judd Rd.

2048 – assist other agency, Rawsonville/Willis

2205 – disorderly person, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

Saturday, May 14:

0051 – warrant arrest, Bemis Rd./Elwell Rd.

0219 – suspicious vehicle, 23000 bl. Karr Rd.

0404 – family trouble, Edgewood Dr.

0734 – fire dept. assist, Rustic Ln.

0900 – family trouble, Florida St.

1042 – suspicious circumstance, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

1052 – property damage accident, Knollwood Dr.

1352 – civil matter, 40000 bl. Willis Rd.

1448 – ORV complaint, Willis Rd./Haggerty Rd.

1537 – civil matter, 40000 bl. Willis Rd.

1747 – shots fired, Hampshire Dr.

1822 – civil matter, Hampshire Dr.

2057 – animal complaint, Harris/Martinsville

2128 – neighbor dispute, 46000 bl. Willis Rd.

2147 – patrol check, 46000 bl. Willis Rd.

2209 – operating while intoxicated arrest, Willis Rd./Rawsonville Rd.

2226 – ORV complaint, 20000 bl. Karr Rd.

Also on this week's log are 108 patrol checks, 62 traffic stops, and four misc. details.



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1163 ROULO WATER AND SEWER \$45,000
WAYNE RD COM ZONE 1.48 AC \$149,000

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WILLIS RD 1 AC SEWER & WATER 60,000

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HURON TWP VAC CLARK .74 AC \$40,000
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