



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

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Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

FREE

Protest march set Friday from Meijer to VBT PD

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

On Tuesday, Van Buren Township Police Chief Jason Wright confirmed that his department has talked with organizers of a protest march set for Friday afternoon in VBT.

“It looks like they will meet at Meijer and then march to Van Buren PD,” Chief Wright said. “It is believed all will be peaceful. We have spoken to Chief Robinson in Belleville. We are working on this.”

On Monday night a Facebook posting announced the march planned by “Survivors Speak.” It said there will be speeches and statements at Meijer and then the group will march to the police department on Tyler Road.

The posting was unclear whether the group would walk to the Belleville or VBT PD.

VBT Public Safety Director Greg Laurain said they do not know how many will attend the protest.

On Tuesday, VBT Supervisor Kevin McNamara sent out a memo on the event:

“We are expecting a protest march against police brutality on Friday at 4. The march is scheduled to begin in the Meijer parking lot with the group proceeding down Tyler Road to our police station. At that time, we expect some speeches by the leadership.

We are actively tracking the event and have been in contact with Meijer and one of the event organizers in preparation. Their last event had 1,500 people in Washtenaw and was peaceful. Meijer will allow use of their side lot along Tyler Road. We will close Tyler Road and the intersection at Belleville Road for the marchers’ safety.

“We are putting together a response to their concerns that will include some policy changes to our public safety

(continued on page 16)



Independent photo by Rosemary K. Otzman

Just before Sunday’s monthly Bugles Across America ceremony at the Veterans Memorial in Belleville, Mike Kole, center, interim director of the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce, presented the Leona Van Buhler Chamber Member of the Year award to the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 4434, Honor Guard. The plaque was to have been presented at the chamber’s annual banquet but wasn’t because of COVID-19 that sent the awards’ presentation virtual. From left are Rick Dawson, co-chairman of the Honor Guard; VFW Commander John Blackstone; Kole; Polish League of American Veterans Commander George Kennedy; and Robert Krouse, co-chairman of the Honor Guard. The Honor Guard gives final rites to veterans without charge. A wooden baseball bat award from the City of Belleville was also presented.

McNamara: Can’t give out information on French Landing Dam

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

At the beginning of the June 2 virtual Zoom meeting of the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees, Supervisor Kevin McNamara said people have been asking a lot of questions about the safety of the French Landing Dam in Van Buren Township in the wake of the dam collapses near Midland and the draining of Wixom Lake.

He said because it produces electrical

power, the French Landing Dam is regulated by a federal department, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and is “non-FOIA-ble,” which means people cannot get information through the Freedom of Information Act.

“If I had reports, I can’t give out information – positive or negative,” Supervisor McNamara said. “It is crucial ... critical infrastructure.”

He said, in the spirit of transparency, he is tasking the township’s Environmental Commission to do research and come up with ways to get information on the dam. Eagle Creek, which operates the dam owned by the township, may be asked to come in and give a presentation, he said.

He said information needs to be gathered

(continued on page 17)

County to resurface Sumpter Rd. from Hull to Willis

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Wayne County will be paving Sumpter Road from Hull Road in Van Buren Township to Willis Road in Sumpter Township this summer.

This was announced by Sumpter Township Deputy Supervisor Karen Armatis at the special, in-person meeting of the township board on June 2. She said the township had just been informed.

Resident Mary Ban, who has been working to get the road fixed for several years, was pleased and said, “The squeaky wheel gets the oil.”

She has lobbied for the road upgrade with Wayne County and with Van Buren Township, but she said the township wasn’t very helpful. One township official, she said, offered to have a grader sent out, but she said she told him that Sumpter Road was asphalt.

In the past, Ban’s efforts also were responsible for traffic signals at Willis and Rawsonville roads and Martz and Rawsonville roads, and the changing of the timing of the light at Bemis and Sumpter roads.

Also, at the special, 38-minute meeting June 2, the township board:

- Approved a fiber optic package by Comcast pertaining to the township phone system at a cost of \$1,400 per month for 60 months, as recommended by Finance Director Elle Cole. She said Comcast is willing to invest \$30,000 in the project and the township will be able to drop Verizon phone service of \$24,000 to \$30,000 a year. After the 60 months, the township will own the fiber optic system. Cole said this will strengthen internet reception and introduce fiber to Sumpter Township and encourage putting in more fiber for residents. It will not improve the quality of the board meeting videos on YouTube, the board was told;

- Approved Sumpter Township COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan with Michelle Bellingham designated as the township’s Workplace Coordinator and Karen Armatis as back-up;

(continued on page 12)

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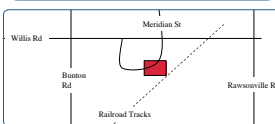
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SECOND FRONT PAGE



Mimic is the sculpture in front of Belle Tire on Belleville Road. It is by D W Martin of Edinboro, PA, and is priced at \$8,750.



Power Outage by D W Martin of Edinboro, PA, is placed at the Van Buren Township DDA Placemaking/Harris Park, just south of Aldi's on Belleville Road. It is valued at \$9,750.



Summerscape by Robert Georgic of Sumpter Township, MI, is valued at \$5,000. It is placed at the Quirk Road Triangle on Belleville Road north of Belleville Bridge.



Cat Tails by Pam Reithmeier of Monclava, OH, is placed near the gazebo in Horizon Park in the City of Belleville. It is valued at \$7,000.



Tide Pool with Anemone by Judith Greavu of Bluffton, OH, is in front of the Fourth Street Square in downtown Belleville. It is valued at \$8,000.



American Eagle by James Havens of Woodville, OH, is placed in front of Chase Bank on Main Street in the City of Belleville. It is valued at \$8,000.



Celestial Navigator by Ray Katz of Pontiac, MI, is valued at \$15,000. It is near the Welcome to Belleville sign south of the Belleville Bridge. It was knocked off its cement slabs in an accident.



Purple Whisper Bench by Jim Gallucci of Greensboro, NC, is valued at \$8,000. It is placed in front of the Van Buren Township Hall.



Sizzilin Sun by Richard Morgan of Wauseon, OH, is valued at \$3,500 and is placed between McDonald's and Taco Belle on Belleville Road.



Big Wheel by Jim Collins of Mountain, TN, is valued at \$5,000. It is placed at the Five Points intersection in Belleville.

10 outdoor sculptures borrowed for a year

Independent photos by James Oztman

The Downtown Development Authorities of Belleville and Van Buren Township installed ten outdoor sculptures pieces in the city and township last week. They are leased from the Midwest Sculpture Initiative that provides outdoor sculpture exhibits in "art-underserved" communities. The sculptures are created by professional artists from around the country. Belleville DDA began the initiative in 2014.

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

OPINIONS

Editorial

Barbara Gates resigns from District Library Board

At Tuesday's meeting of the Belleville Area District Library Board, board treasurer Barbara Gates resigned, effective immediately.

She said she already has moved from Van Buren Township to Henry Ford Village in Dearborn and no longer qualifies for a seat on the library board.

Gates explained that her son, Robert Washington, Jr., is coming home from a rehab facility where he has been since November and he uses a motorized wheelchair. She had to get a place that can accommodate his disability, she said.

"It's with much sadness that I had to resign. I'll be having my hands full with him," Gates said at the virtual, Ring Central library board meeting.

Board president Sharon Peters said they have discussed how to fill the sudden vacancy and will seek counsel from the board's attorney John Day.

Gates, a retired Registered Nurse, had lived in VBT for only two years when she was elected to the library board in 2018 and sworn in January 2019. She had worked for the U.S. State Department and traveled and worked around the world.

She said Henry Ford Village has a lot of things to help her son on his road to recovery and she knows she will need help as she cares for him.

"It's a blessing you're in a position to help your son," said secretary Alma Hughes-Grubbs. This is Gates' only child since her daughter was shot and killed in Ypsilanti Township last year.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

A vehicle smashed into the art sculpture next to the Welcome to Belleville sign sometime between when it was erected on June 2 and the weekend. The sign was bent, the sculpture dented and pushed off its cement slabs. DDA Coordinator Carol Thompson said they have a police report on the accident.

She said the crane, that is based in Blissfield, will have to come back to lift it back onto the slab.

She said on June 2, a property damage accident on Belleville Road had officials blocking the site where another sculpture was to be placed. On Friday the crew with the crane came back and was able to install that sculpture.

It was nice to learn that one of the sculptures was made by an artist on Gentz Road in Sumpter Township, the first local artist since the sculpture program began in 2014. Summerscape by Robert Georgic is near the Van Buren Township sign just north of the Belleville Bridge.

Dee Crowe said the story in the *Independent* about the French Landing Dam that was completed in 1924 implied it hadn't been fixed since then, but there was a big remediation done since she's been around and she remembers going door to door to get support for the tax that was imposed to fix the dam. She said Larry Haase was chairman of the committee. She remembers the township lowered the water so the dam could be fixed.

I remember when the township was first talking about lowering the water in Belleville Lake, which was going to take place this fall, Matt Best reported that the operators of the dam said this would be good



for them because they needed to get some work done that needed the water lowered. The lowering of the lake water was canceled early this year.

Mike Kole, interim director of the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce, brought the plaque the chamber wanted to present to the VFW to Sunday's Bugles Across America ceremony at the Veterans Memorial in Belleville. Mike explained he had to wear his baseball cap to the event because he gave himself a haircut that didn't work out very well – he called it a "hole" in his head – and he was waiting for his hair to grow out.

A lot of people have given themselves haircuts and some worked out better than others.

Tuesday morning, just after 6 a.m., on eastbound I-94 just west of Haggerty Road, a vehicle and the boat it was towing were destroyed in a fire. A Michigan State Police Trooper was going by on his way to the range and stopped. He pulled the driver out of the car after breaking a window with a baton and peeling through the window covering. The trooper suffered cuts on his arms and hands.

MSP said the vehicle was pulling a boat trailer on I-94 when the driver pulled over. It later was learned he suffered a low blood sugar incident and passed out with his foot on the gas, causing his tires to spin and cause the fire.

On Monday evening, social media posts reported a shooting, or murder, in Rawsonville Woods, which was false, according to Sumpter Police, which posted the following on its Facebook page:

"A road rage occurred near the intersection of Rawsonville Road and Textile, approximately two miles from our northern border. During the incident, one driver shot several rounds into the other vehicle, striking the driver once before fleeing southbound from the scene. The victim followed the fleeing suspect vehicle to a location in the mobile home park, more than five miles from the shooting.

"Sumpter officers responded to the call, and the suspect was subsequently located at a residence on Rustic Lane West and taken into custody without further incident. The firearm believed used during the shooting was recovered. The victim was treated on scene by Sumpter Township Fire then transported by Huron Valley Ambulance to a local hospital with a gunshot wound to his hand.

"Since the shooting occurred in Ypsilanti Township, deputies from the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office also responded to the mobile home park to investigate. The suspect was turned over into their custody."





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Letters

It's time to apologize to Trump for debacle

To the editor and community:

Now that the final words have been spoken by Rod Rosenstein, the man who started the whole debacle that so engrossed and divided our country for two-and-one-half years and \$30 million, it turns out that "there was no there, there"! The whole impeachment farce was for one reason only, to make the elected President of our country look bad and try to remove him from office.

The total lies and corruption involved from the highest-level holdover government officials from the previous administration is now out in the open and in plain sight for everyone to see.

All that is left now is for everyone who has continuously damned President Trump for everything in the Universe that has gone less than perfectly under his watch, is to fall on your swords and APOLOGIZE!

You were wrong, wrong, wrong. He was not really a Russian agent, after all. Do I really think that this will happen? Sure it will. Does the term "fat chance" come to mind?

So now I've had my say and I do apologize in advance if I have offended any of you Trump-haters. Perhaps Hillary could be the next President and all will be right with your world.

Respectfully,
Ross E. Medos
Willis

Whiteness: What side of history will you be on?

To the editor:

There is so much that needs to be said, but in short, let it be said that your time is up. No longer can you hide behind your whiteness without repercussions. Valuing unity over justice is a privilege, and speaks to your lack of courage. If you're not enraged by the injustice happening on a national level, you aren't paying enough attention, or you're impressively uninformed.

If you're uncomfortable with this newfound reckoning of the privilege your white skin affords you, welcome to the conversation. Do not run from this discomfort, dive into it. Educate yourself. White Fragility by Robin DiAngelo is one of many great resources that help unpack why white people are so unpracticed in critical conversations about race.

My email is open to anyone with questions, because this isn't the work you should pass on to your black friends to do the heavy lifting for you. Now is the time to confront the ugly truths that have gone broadly unrecognized for far too long.

To paraphrase Desmond Tutu, if you're silent in times of injustice, times like these,

you have sided with the oppressor. And if you are siding with the oppressor, there is blood on your hands. Your indifference speaks volumes. Decide to change, immediately.

Olivia Borgdorff
BHS graduate, 2015
Aquinas College
Community Leadership major, 2020
oliviaborgdorff@gmail.com

Food Closet has 49 new clients since March 17

To the editor:

The continued support to feed the hungry from the community has been heartwarming and a blessing. Checks, gift cards and food items continue to be donated to the Emergency Food Closet housed at the Belleville First United Methodist Church, located at 417 Charles St.

Since March 17, we have had 49 new clients. Seventy-three percent of these have been age 60 years or older and are either single or have families living with them.

The Emergency Food Closet is open on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. A driver's license or State ID is needed to prove residency.

Thank you for your continued support!

Minette Brownlee & Marilyn Wood
Coordinators – Emergency Food Closet

Thank you to the young man who helped me

To the editor:

Thank you to the young man who helped me get up when I fell at St. Anthony's Rectory last Friday, June 5, at 3 p.m.

I also want to express my support for all the police officers everywhere including our area. I support the thin blue line.

Janet McArthur
Belleville



June 12 – Brenda Fells
June 13 – Connie Testorelli
June 14 – Michael Hinston
June 17 – Kyle Ackron, LaCrystal Bostic
June 18 – Chuck Helton
June 19 – Bob Mytych, Marian Caldwell, Tiffany Fleenon
June 20 – Charlie Crispell

Do you have a birthday coming up? Does someone you know have a birthday soon? Call the *Independent* and we will publish the birthday as soon as possible.

Obituaries



Daniel George Stapish

DANIEL GEORGE STAPISH

(August 7, 1956 – May 27, 2020)

Daniel George Stapish, age 63, Owner of Action Mechanical Contractors, Belleville, MI, went to a service call in Heaven on Wednesday, May 27, 2020. He was born August 7, 1956 in Ann Arbor, MI, son of Clair Alfred & Jacqueline Mary (Mazzuco) Stapish. He graduated Father Gabriel Richard High School (formerly St. Thomas) and went on to receive his Heating & Cooling certifications. He enjoyed boating on Belleville Lake, traveling, and going to the shooting range. He also loved animals.

Dan is survived by his loving companion of 22 years Skippy of Belleville, his pet kids – Shih Tzu's Buddy and Monty, also numerous friends, co-workers and clients. He was preceded in death by his parents.

According to his wishes, dignified cremation rites have been accorded. Arrangements by David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville, MI. A Memorial Celebration is being planned and will be announced when COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted. Memorials to the American Heart Association or Friends of Michigan Animal Rescue.

RAYMOND WILLIAM KOHR, JR.

(August 10, 1937 – June 5, 2020)

Age 82. Served as an administrator in the Van Buren Public Schools for 25 years before retirement in 1994. Survived by children Jeffery and Susan, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Services were June 8 on the front lawn of the Kohr family cottage in Bay Port.

Correction: School district not getting rid of school drama program

In the May 28 and June 4 issues of the *Independent*, we reported the layoff of 14 teachers and the discontinuing of the drama and choir programs at the Van Buren Public Schools because of budget problems due to COVID-19.

But School Supt. Pete Kudlak sent the *Independent* an email on June 5 that said, "We are not getting rid of our drama program. The confusion probably came that Mr. Koch was laid off and he is one of the teachers that directs the plays. We will continue our drama program next year."

We apologize for the misunderstanding.
Rosemary K. Oztman, editor

More Letters

Time to think about Our Changing World

To the editor:

I penned this letter this morning because I think our young and mature readers need to know and think about -- Our Changing World.

Dear Mama:

I was born into a world that was peaceful, among the tall pines that stood all around, shielding my body, dancing with me as I played among God's Goodness.

Being taught, Mama, by you to be a God-Fearing young man, to love and be loved by all Humanity.

My life was not easy but yet I tried to eke out an education, to be the best, but the thistles often tore at my body, my mind,

torturing me for who I am. But I trotted on hoping, wishing for a freedom of just being me.

Striving to be, Mama, what you wanted me to be -- strong, powerful and hungry for knowledge and opportunity of understanding the world that was/is so strange. Little did I know my destiny would lead me to be a figure of hope for my children, for all the children who wanted to be accepted into a world that was sometime harsh, unyielding to humanity because the color of my/their skin hue. But we/I kept on hoping for a better day of opportunity, equality and the freedom that I/we so rightly deserve.

Mama my job is done. I now rest with you.

Marian Caldwell
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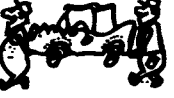
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Christina Reese earns BS in Nursing from Capital Univ. in Ohio

Christina Reese, of Belleville, was among nearly 600 graduates who received their degrees from Capital University in Bexley, Ohio, during the 2019-2020 academic year. Reese received a Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

The 170th commencement ceremony was postponed due to restrictions on large gatherings put in place because of the COVID-19 global pandemic.

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-- Margaret Thatcher
British Prime Minister, 1925-2013

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Ceremonial Rental Casket	\$1,095.00
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Obituaries



Ernest Edward Smith

ERNEST EDWARD SMITH

(May 23, 1937 – June 1, 2020)

Ernest Edward Smith, age 83, of Ypsilanti, MI, passed away Monday, June 1, 2020 at his home. He was born May 23, 1937 in Canada, Kentucky, son of Willie & Verde (Williamson) Smith.

He retired from Ford Motor Company's Ypsilanti plant after nearly 30 years of loyal service and was a member of U.A.W. Local 849. He was also a devoted member of Ypsilanti Missionary Baptist Church. Above all, Ernie loved spending time with friends and family. He had a gift of making others feel special and loved. Ernie had the best smile, hugs, and winks. He was a hard worker and a true servant for God.

Ernie is survived by his loving wife of nearly 61 years, Anna (Williamson) Smith; two daughters Patricia (Ron) Blevins of Saline, MI and E. Sue (David) Tarrow of Belleville, MI; four grandchildren: Timothy (Crystal) Blevins, Christopher Blevins, Bryan (Emily) Tarrow and Matthew Tarrow; three great-grandsons: T.J. Blevins, Zander Ernest Tarrow and Aiden Tarrow and one on his way - Edward Blevins; sister Loretta (Ira) Runyon of Willis, MI; brother Clifford (Theresa) Mullins of Reynoldsburg, Ohio; also numerous extended family and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, a private interment will be in Knollwood Memorial Park, Canton, MI. Memorial contributions may be made to Ypsilanti Missionary Baptist Church and would be appreciated.

COVID-19 death numbers in 48111 remain flat for 9 days

The number of positive tests for COVID-19 in the tri-community remained at 362 for May 30 through June 6, and then went up one person to 363 on June 7.

Deaths attributed to the novel coronavirus in the 48111 zip code have remained at 29 for nine days: May 29 through June 8.

Since last Friday, the separate numbers released by the Wayne County Health Department for the tri-community stayed the same: Van Buren Township, 178 cases, 14 deaths; City of Belleville, 152 cases, 14 deaths, and Sumpter Township 32 cases 1 death, except on Sunday the number of positive cases in the City of Belleville went up one to 153.

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Ellen Carol (Stocks) Irvin

ELLEN CAROL (STOCKS) IRVIN

(November 28, 1934 – May 31, 2020)

Ellen Carol (Stocks) Irvin passed away peacefully at home in Romulus, MI, on May 31, 2020. She was born on November 28, 1934 in Detroit, MI to Golda (Phillips) and Charles Stocks.

She and her husband Charles loved to travel, went to all 50 states and 13 countries, going to casinos and being with friends and family.

Ellen was a graduate of the class of 1953, Belleville High School, in Belleville, MI. She was a longtime resident of Romulus, MI, since 1955.

Among her accomplishments are: Past La President and La Correspondante La Societe Le, Femme for 40 and 8 Voiture 957 and American Legion Auxiliary #282 Ypsilanti, MI, Life member of VFW Auxiliary Ypsi, La Femme Founders Club, National Association of Boxcar Hobos.

Preceded in death by her parents Golda and Charles Stocks and sister Mary Hardy. Ellen is survived by her husband Charles of 49 years; two daughters Myra and Suzanne and her husband Steve; granddaughters Jessica and Brittany; grandsons Kyle, Cory and Jacari; great-grandsons Logan and Landon; sister-in-law Dolores; brother-in-law Ron Nedead; and nephews Bill, Ron, Steve, Mike Dan and Joe Schroeck; and niece Terri.

She loved her friends and family and will be greatly missed. A private family viewing took place on June 3, 2020, followed by cremation.

Online guests may visit www.cranefuneralhome.net.



Mary Louise Owens

MARY LOUISE OWENS

(April 18, 1945 – June 2, 2020)

Mary Louise Owens, age 75, of Sumpter Township, June 2, 2020.

Beloved wife of Randolph Long. Loving mother of Benjamin (Mary) Owens, Howard (Nancy) Owens, Barbara Guerro, Matthew Owens, Timothy (Kelly) Owens and Michael (Kym) Owens. Dearest grandmother of Benjamin, Randy (Christina), Christopher (Kim), Krystal (Kevin), Jessica, Robert (Crissy), Kenneth (Joyceann), Richard, Nathan, Alan, Lois, Autumn, Aiden, Preston, Ethan, Isabel, Jake, Angela, Lily, Teresa, Kyle and Joann and great-grandmother of many. She is also survived by her siblings Agnes, Arthur, Sarah, Samuel, Dolores, Buddy, Leonard, Dave, John, David, Sharon, Robert, Dorothy, Joseph, Harry, Eileen, James, Thomas, Richard, Joan, Roy, Susan, Joyce and Bobby.

Service was at 10 a.m., Saturday, June 6, at Michigan Memorial Funeral Home (next to Michigan Memorial Park), 30895 Huron River Dr., Huron Township, (734) 783-2646. Visitation was Friday, 2-8 p.m. Interment in Michigan Memorial Park.

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Letters

Music needed more than ever at Belleville HS

To Superintendent Kudlak and the Van Buren Public School Board:

As a former Belleville High School student (Class of 1995) and a parent to a graduating senior (Class of 2020), I must address this.

I chose to raise my children in the same community because of my hometown pride and the diversity, amazing staff and curriculum that Van Buren Public Schools offer.

The cancellation of the choir program is absolutely devastating and a tragedy for our district. A state-of-the-art building with an empty choir room? Unbelievable. Unacceptable.

While I understand budget cuts, I ask that you please reconsider budget priorities.

Music education enriches the quality of children's lives, promotes cultural awareness, creates social bonds, promotes pride of accomplishment and raises student achievement. This is a historical program that not only teaches the students about music but also builds confidence, character and gives students that may not fit in elsewhere a safe space to learn and grow.

Some of the most respected artists in history are musicians that found their voice in their elementary, middle and high school choir class. For many kids, music is therapy. During this pandemic, people have turned to music and the arts more than anything.

Choir isn't a blow-off class. It is a significant part of the curriculum, a place for students to discover and develop their individual talents and also learn the importance of being a part of an ensemble.

I've witnessed the sad decline in financial investment for the Belleville High School choir program over the last 25 years. In the 1990s, directed by Louise Williamson, the music department was greatly respected. The students were provided with themed costumes, gowns and tuxedos. Choir students were given the opportunity to compete in festivals in Toronto,

Washington D.C. and New York. The Ambassador Chorale traveled to schools, zoos, shopping malls and community events to perform.

In my daughter's four years at Belleville High School, there were no big trips, no competitions, no costumes. The obvious budget cuts to this program over the last two decades is disappointing but while the program looks completely different on the outside (other than a shiny new choir room), what still remained was the heart, the dedication and the talent. It still had the familiar harmony (literally and figuratively) ... a bonded second family where lifelong friendships are made. Clearly you don't need a big budget for that.

The choir director Joseph Marino has contributed greatly to this program over the last three years. He has worked tirelessly to recruit middle school students, significantly increasing enrollment and interest.

If you have ever attended one of the many annual concerts, you would see the dedication and the respect he has for his students (and vice versa). You would also witness the overwhelmingly supportive applause and cheers from the students for their fellow classmates ... encouraging each other to step into the spotlight. I've seen students transform on that auditorium stage. My daughter has gained visible confidence and kindness as a direct result from this program.

The cost of the choir program is low in comparison to others. There is not a need for an annual investment in attire, instruments, books or classroom supplies (other than music printed from the internet).

Mr. Marino has the heart and skills to bring this program back to what it once was (he was on his way until his time was cut short). He has also been a pivotal role as vocal director for the high school musicals (which also concerns me for the fate of BHS Productions).

Please do not disappoint our school, our district, our community, current students, future students and alumni. During these unprecedented times, music is needed now more than ever.

Robin Lieb
BHS parent and alumni

VB School Board accepts retirements, eliminates position, hires

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

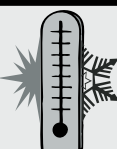
At Monday's virtual Zoom meeting of the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, the board:

- Accepted the retirement of teacher Elizabeth Stamper from Haggerty ECDC after 31 years of service, as of June 30;
- Accepted the retirement of non-instruction staff member, Pamela Melton of Belleville High School after 28 years of service as of Oct. 1 for retirement;
- Learned the position of Deborah Evans at the Administration Building had been eliminated as of July 31, after 14 years of service;
- Approved hiring Dr. Jaime Nelson as full-time CTE / Early College / Career Coordinator at the Administration Building as of Aug. 11. Dr. Nelson had been a half-time employee, shared with Romulus and employed by Romulus. Now she will be full-time at Van Buren Public Schools. "She's a

rock star," Kudlak said;

- Heard presentations from principals and staff on how the School Improvement Plan worked this year and what is planned for next year from Belleville High School, Savage Elementary, and Tyler Elementary; and
- Heard Finance Director Sarah Cortese announce that Thursday, June 11, is the last day of the free food distribution at the high school.

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Faith Assembly Church Sunday School - 10:00am • Worship Service - 11:00am Wednesday Bible Study - 7:00pm Kid's Classes • Youth Group • Boy Scouts 894 E. Huron River Drive, Belleville, MI 48111 Find us on Facebook! or www.faithassemblybelleville.com	ST. ANTHONY CATHOLIC CHURCH 409 W. Columbia Ave., Belleville, MI 48111 (734) 697-1211 • Saturday Mass: 6:00pm • Sunday Masses: 8:30am & 10:30am Face Mask & Distancing Guidelines in Place. www.stanthonybelleville.com

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Belleville DDA supports Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

If all goes well in Lansing, Belleville will lay out a Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area to help bar/restaurants recover from the shutdown over COVID-19.

The DORA, called “cocktails to go,” would allow people to purchase alcoholic beverages in special cups at bars within the district and then walk to the next bar in the district while enjoying the alcoholic beverage in hand.

At a special Zoom meeting June 3, the DDA discussed the DORA being considered

in the Michigan House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee and then approved purchases to support the DORA if approved by the state.

DDA chairperson Alicia McGovern had proposed \$13,750 in purchases to help bar/restaurants get back in business and to support DORA.

DDA members separated the purchases, keeping DORA apart from the other purchases, since DORA was not yet approved by the state.

McGovern said she met with a group of people from the city council, chamber, and DDA who were looking at what they can do to help the downtown reopen. She presented to the DDA what she thought the DDA could do.

The board approved buying ten convertible benches at \$250 each, five hand sanitizer stations at \$75 each, and two bundles of 20 eight-foot barricades per bundle with rack at \$2,500 per bundle. An unknown amount for shipping was included in the motion.

Five DORA signs at a cost of \$175 each would be required if a district is designated in the city and those also were approved in a separate vote, along with a minimum order of \$5,000 in DORA Cups, which are \$.65 each. The vote was unanimous.

The DORA Cups would be provided for the local businesses at purchase price and the businesses could charge \$1 each for them or whatever they wanted, McGovern said.

McGovern said the purchases would provide extra seating outside for restaurants and barricades if they need them. The barricades could be used for parades, as well.

Treasurer Sabrina Richardson-Williams asked where this equipment would be stored and McGovern wasn't sure.

DDA member Kelly McWilliams asked if the plastic fold-out tables are the look they want for the Fourth Street Square.

Steve Jones, chairman of the planning commission and new president of the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce, said the seats could be secured with chains and they possibly could be stored at the city's DPW lot.

Williams was concerned about the items being stolen.

The DDA would own the items and work out a way to aid some of the restaurants, such as Johnny's, the Bayou, and Egan's Pub.

Jennifer Winter of Egan's, a new member of the DDA, said it would be great if her customers could eat in the square. “We would be willing to buy our own furniture, but not now because we're not open,” she said.

DDA member Jason Mida said he wanted to make sure the allocation of the equipment is fair. They are not buying things for every business, he said.

When discussing the DORA, Jones described House Bill 5781 and HB 5811 that affect bars.

McGovern said the DORA, if approved by the state, could also affect Music in the Park and the Taste of Belleville.

After the meeting, the Central Business Community agreed to loan umbrella tables and other furniture to put on the Fourth Street Square for the businesses there. And, the CBC said they have other tables to loan as needed until the new furniture is delivered.

In other business at the one-hour-and-44-minute meeting, the DDA:

- Approved joining the Michigan Downtown Association as recommended by chairperson McGovern. The association offers ideas, lobbying, access to conference and other resources. The DDA decided to move forward on the membership and to have DDA Coordinator Carol Thompson clarify how much it would cost. The original estimate of \$475 may not be what is needed; and

- Discussed McGovern's proposal of an independent contractor agreement to offer legal advice or a grant writer to businesses who are having problems with their re-openings. McGovern said the Farmington DDA sent the proposal they have to her and she thought it would be a nice little thing for the DDA to provide to businesses at \$285 an hour, “putting a limit on what we spend.” Mayor Kerreen Conley said this is just following the governor's or CDC rules and there is nothing new. “I hire a lot of attorneys and I don't pay any of them \$285,” Conley said, referring to her job at Canton Township. “Do we really know what the businesses need?” Conley said. She said the DDA would have liability if they were involved with an attorney giving advice and then the business doesn't follow the advice. She suggested having a Zoom meeting with the city attorney and businesses who are seeking education. “I'd rather provide education than legal advice,” Conley said, adding, “I don't know if providing legal advice is in our [DDA] authority.”

VBT Board approves pickleball courts at Beckley/Denton roads

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

By the end of August a new set of outdoor pickleball courts and a newly re-surfaced parking lot will be ready for use in Van Buren Township.

At its regular meeting on June 2, held virtually by Zoom, the VBT Board of Trustees voted unanimously for a 10-year ground lease agreement with The Habitat Company LLC (Harbour Club Apartments) for the northeast corner of Beckley and Denton roads for a total lease cost of \$10 over the ten years of the lease.

The township will renovate the present tennis courts there to create four pickleball courts and a parking lot at an estimated cost of \$185,000 and use this as part of its park system. The courts will be maintained by VBT and the grass and parking lot maintained by Harbour Club.

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Independent photo by James Otzman

The work on the front entrance to the Van Buren Township Hall continues, with fresh-poured cement. This view was on Sunday morning. The pillars are being resurfaced and this work has yet to be completed.

VBT Hall reopens June 15, residents asked to do business remotely

Van Buren Township will reopen to residents on Monday, June 15, but officials still are encouraging residents to do business remotely and by appointment.

"If at all possible, we're encouraging residents to limit coming into the building," said Treasurer Sharry Budd. "However, we will be glad to see and serve those who have to come in."

New procedures have been put in place when entering Township Hall to ensure the safety of staff and residents, Treasurer Budd said. Upon arrival, all visitors must wear a mask inside the building, have their temperature recorded (a contactless process with an Infrared Thermometer) and will be asked to take a quick standard confidential screening questionnaire.

For a list of department contact information and frequently asked questions, such as how to get a building permit or pay a bill, visit <https://vanburen-mi.org/>.

All Van Buren Township parks – including Quirk Park and Senior Garden, Van Buren Park, Riggs Heritage, French Landing and Haggerty Neighborhood Parks -- will

reopen on June 22 with proper sanitizing and signs posted to follow social distance guidelines.

However, all playground equipment, the Van Buren Park Beach, Quirk Park Splash Pad, and park pavilions will remain closed until further notice.

The Van Buren Township Senior Center, Parks and Recreation Department and the Belleville Area Museum will remain closed until further notice. All Township activities, programs and events have been canceled until July 5.

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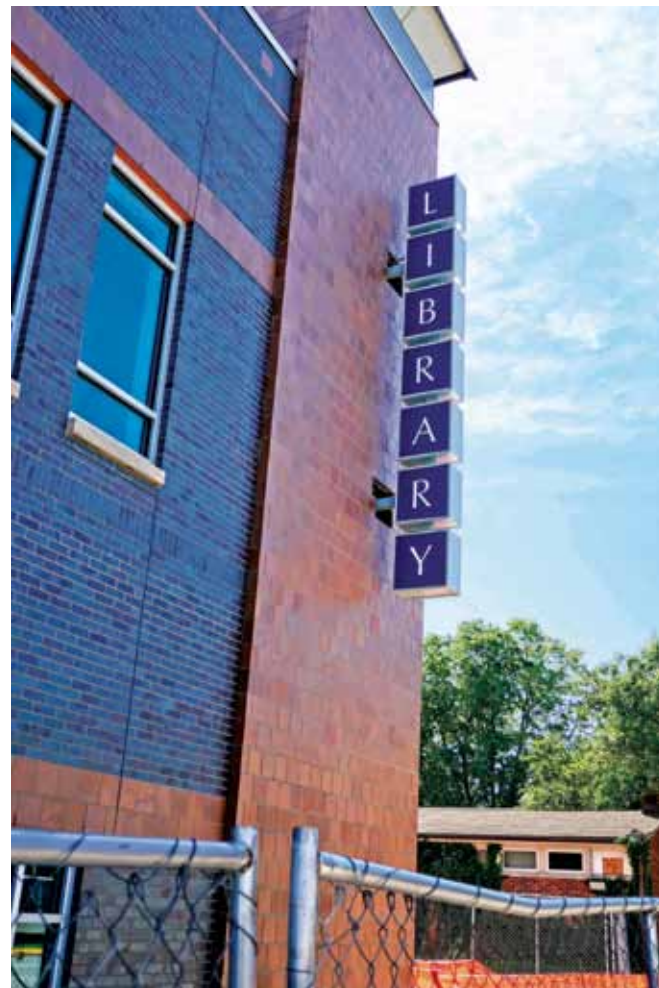
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Independent photo by James Otzman

This new, vertical LIBRARY sign was recently installed on the Charles Street side of the new Belleville Area District Library in downtown Belleville. After the governor allowed construction crews to work again after the COVID-19 shutdown, the library construction crew was busy around the new building, finishing up details that still needed to be completed. Since the library was still closed by the governor's order, it made the construction details easy to accomplish.

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Sumpter Twp.

(continued from page 1)

- Approved the low bid on cement replacement beside the library and behind water building at a cost of \$8,500 paid to C&S Construction Management of Wyandotte out of library funds;
 - Approved the low bid for \$20,400 on chain link fencing surrounding the DPW pole barn and storage yard, beside the library, from Outdoor Amenities of Sumpter Township, paid out of library funds;
 - Approved paying warrants through June 30 and approved processed payments through May 13 totaling \$395,764.37 and processed payments through May 27 of \$202,493.96;
 - Canceled the June 9 and June 23 regular board meetings and any township commission's June meetings due to the extended Stay at Home Order, as requested by Clerk Esther Hurst;
 - Approved purchase of two royal-blue Ford Police Interceptor Utilities AWD (aka Explorer) at a total cost of \$81,282 from Atchinson Ford, as requested by Public Safety Director Eric Luke;
 - Hired Jon Tackett as temporary building official in order to sign plan reviews until a permanent official can be hired at a cost of \$50 per plan;
 - Confirmed all water mail/payments will be opened/processed and stay in the treasurer's office due to bonding issues and keeping all money in the treasurer's office.
- When asked by resident Sharon Pokerwinski what that was all about, Supervisor John Morgan explained there was a disagreement in the treasurer's office and, "We confirmed what we knew" and thought the board should vote on it. Trustee Matt Oddy said each board member got a copy of a letter from the township's auditor and, "It has to be done that way for internal controls" and a separation of duties;
- Heard Trustee Don LaPorte report the fire department had picked up the new fire truck and it is out getting lettered now;
 - Heard Ban complain about the Secretary of State sending out letters to the 6.5 million registered voters in the state at \$.55 each, which totals \$3.5 million. She called this squandering of money since the local communities are doing a good job of getting information on absentee voting to their

residents. She also said she hadn't heard from Kroger yet concerning her suggestion to take over the vacant Kmart store on Rawsonville Road in Van Buren Township;

- Heard Pokerwinski ask why Treasurer Ken Bednark hasn't been to a meeting in four months. Supervisor Morgan and Clerk Esther Hurst said he didn't give a reason when he called in to say he wasn't coming. Pokerwinski also said Sherwood Park needs to be mowed. A woman is putting in a butterfly habitat at the park and needs a part mowed. Pokerwinski said there already are many butterflies at the park. She said signs have to be put up concerning swimming because people are swimming by the dock and that disturbs the fish in that area where the fishermen fish. She also said she has paperwork on the final contract from Wayne County for parks, which must be used by September 2022, and has asked for an extension of another grant that needs to be used by September 2020; and

- Heard Pokerwinski also say she was apologizing for the *Independent* which she said only prints stories about Nelson Po and his group and nobody else. She said she doesn't know why she is apologizing for the paper since everything the editor publishes

is lies. She said she is sorry the board needs to go through this.

Absent from the meeting were Treasurer Kenneth Bednark and Trustee Don Swinson, who were both excused.

At the meeting, which later was aired on

YouTube, all the people visible wore masks, including the board. The special meeting notice advised that only 10 people would be allowed in the audience and all others turned away. Also, everyone was to wear masks and practice social distancing.

VBT Board approves fireworks display from Belleville Lake July 3

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

At the virtual Zoom meeting of the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees on June 2, the board unanimously approved a Fireworks Display Permit for the Michigan Fireworks Club.

The club will set off fireworks on July 3 from a barge on Belleville Lake near the Belleville Yacht Club, 831 E. Huron River Dr. The rain date is July 4.

The permit was requested by Joshua Edwards of the BYC, who is Fireworks Club president. The club put on a large fireworks display last year in this same format that brought praise from those in the community who watched the show from

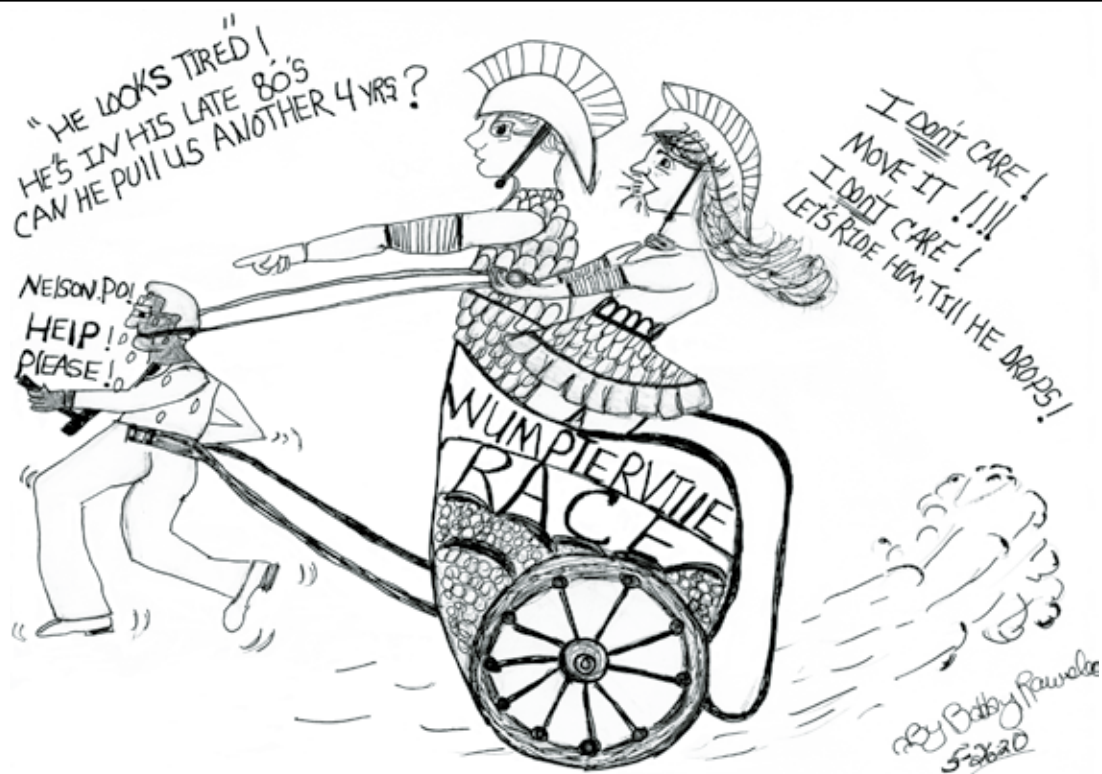
afar. The BYC is a private men's club.

Edwards said the BYC is supporting the club and, "We just like to do this for the community."

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Van Buren School Board discusses racism in wake of death of George Floyd

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

At the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education virtual Zoom meeting Monday,

Director of Instruction Jeff Moore gave an emotional statement on racism, brought on by the death of George Floyd while in police custody in Minneapolis.

Director Moore said he's been quiet for a long time and now must speak out on institutions that have been one-sided for a long time.

"People have been afraid of speaking out," Moore said, adding he has been encouraged by what he's seen happening over the past few weeks.

He said people should take a moment and listen to things happening in this community and educate themselves further about the African-American experience.

"We have to figure out how to do better," he said. "I challenge you and I challenge myself to speak out."

"Now it is more important than ever to talk about this in public," agreed former board president, now trustee, Keith Johnston. "We have had conversations on this ... for a long time." He said he and Moore did not take the final step to talk about it publicly.

"It's very scary to talk about this, but I'll try to do better," Moore said.

"Many of us are having conversations with our children," said board president Amy Pearce. "I appreciate you guys. Thank you."

Human Resources Director Abdul Madyun said he gives kudos to Moore.

"It was nice to hear him say these things," Madyun said. "I have not been shy ... We shouldn't ignore things... I found they are not bad people. They just don't know... I give Jeff kudos for saying that."

Karen Johnston, Director of Special Services, said she appreciates Moore and Madyun for counseling her on how to better serve her students.

"The murder of George Floyd is another example of the inherent racism," said School Supt. Pete Kudlak.

He said they started doing work on this at the beginning of this school year.

"Changing institutional structures are hard, but it's something we're committed to," Supt. Kudlak said.

"I'm a professional event producer," said board president Pearce, adding that a speaker at one of her events spoke on "Inherent Bias" and was incredibly powerful. She said the woman pointed out all kinds of bias and she would like someone like her to speak at one of the district's personal development days.

"It would be really beneficial," Pearce said.

Board trustee Calvin Hawkins praised the comments on the crisis by Madyun, Moore, and

Kudlak. He said this is emotional for him and as an African-American he had to have a tough conversation with his son about how to behave when you get pulled over by police. Now, he'll have to talk to his daughter, too, he said.

"We have to have these conversations," Hawkins said.

Board treasurer Simone Pinter said it is terrible that in 2020 there is still racism.

"Hopefully, through education is the only way we're going to get changed," she said. "Thanks for bringing this up."

In other business at the 90-minute meeting, the board:

- Approved a Federal COVID-19 Funding Resolution to send to the federal government and the state government asking for more funds to help education "in this time of great need for the 2020-21 school year." Supt. Kudlak said a lot of states have schools funded by sales tax, like Michigan, and with things shut down that is not enough and there are huge shortages in tax money. He said the projections for this year and next year are "pretty scary." Board president Pearce said schools should be at the top of the list for help, instead of businesses, and it baffles her why they aren't. Simone Pinter said, "They can't just print it. They have to have it somewhere... We're hoping to have it work out with or without help..." Kudlak said it would be better with it and, "We need more this time" because of the need to provide more emotional support to students who have been out of school so long and more interventions. Vice president Susan Featheringill said the money comes from the federal government to the state and the state needs to put it where needed; and

- Approved the layoff of Belleville High School teacher George Devore to add to the 14 other teachers laid off as of June 30 because of budget constraints due to the expected cuts in foundation allowance from the state due to the coronavirus. The board paperwork stated this layoff occurs through application of Board Policy 3131 and "is further based upon the need of this School District to retain effective teachers who possess the necessary certification and qualifications to support the anticipated academic programming for the 2020-21 school year."

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Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

These are the 186 dispatch calls reported by Van Buren Township police for last week.

Sunday, May 31:

0009 – assist other dept., S. Bellridge Dr.
0014 – suspicious person/vehicle, Hayes St.
0105 – traffic stop, S. I-94 Service Dr./Haggerty
0202 – 911 welfare check, S. Bellridge Dr.
0213 – suspicious person/vehicle, Denton Rd.
0317 – noise complaint, Holly Ln./S. Ponderosa Trl.
0324 – suspicious person/vehicle, Stonebridge Dr.
0431 – intrusion alarm, Wildbrook Dr.
0620 – assist fire dept., Lake Villa Dr.
0952 – suspicious person/vehicle, Pond Bluff Dr.
1058 – animal complaint, Jeremy Rd.
1115 – assist fire dept., S. I-94 Service Dr.
1358 – animal complaint, Elwell Rd.
1534 – intrusion alarm, Rawsonville Rd.
1602 – welfare check, S. Ponderosa Trl.
1617 – neighbor trouble, Dalton Dr.
1748 – unattended death, Peninsular Dr.
1807 – domestic, S. Ponderosa Trl.
1809 – animal complaint, Belleville Rd.
2054 – juvenile complaint, S. I-94 Service Dr. / Ryznar Dr.
2146 – fireworks, Park Estates
2156 – disorderly, Belleville Rd.
2201 – animal complaint, S. I-94 Service Dr.
2246 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville/Quirk

Monday, June 1:

0010 – noise complaint, N. Bellridge Dr.
0051 – disorderly, Birch Dr.
0252 – domestic, Denton Rd.
0502 – disorderly, Kirkridge Park Dr.
0652 – domestic, S. Timberview Dr.
0849 – assist other dept., Bayshore Dr.
0950 – civil matter, Denton Rd.
1015 – animal complaint, McBride Ave.
1034 – traffic offense, Fret Rd.
1043 – juvenile complaint, Hamilton St.
1104 – animal complaint, Birch Dr.
1115 – 911 welfare check, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1131 – narcotics crime, E. Schooner Dr.
1140 – larceny from auto, Oak Ln.
1212 – suspicious person/vehicle, N. I-94 Service
1306 – fraud, Denton Rd.
1341 – animal complaint, Pebblebrook Dr.
1410 – private property/property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1427 – welfare check, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1514 – civil matter, Chatsworth Dr.
1528 – domestic, McKinley St.
1547 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1622 – suspicious person/vehicle, Quirk
1634 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belle Square entrance west of McDonald's
1735 – parking complaint, Vista Dr./Laguna Dr.
1825 – animal complaint, Jeremy Rd.
1914 – threat, Sylvia Dr.
2127 – civil matter, N. I-94 Service Dr.

Tuesday, June 2:

0427 – suspicious person/vehicle, Martz Rd.
1208 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Belleville Rd.
1217 – fight, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1334 – welfare check, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1340 – animal complaint, Belleville Rd.
1447 – private property/property damage accident, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1520 – animal complaint, Belleville Rd.
1524 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1547 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / E. I-94
1602 – neighbor trouble, Truman
1608 – property damage accident, Denton Rd.
1614 – disorderly, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1629 – fraud, W. Huron River Dr.
1647 – suspicious person/vehicle, Chatsworth Dr. / Clayton Dr.
1748 – domestic, America
1843 – domestic, Belleville Rd.
1852 – civil matter, Parkwood Dr.
2005 – animal complaint, Arborview Ln.
2047 – suspicious person/vehicle, Tyler Rd.
2105 – welfare check, Stonebridge Ct.
2114 – civil matter, Sylvia Dr.
2147 – intrusion alarm, Rawsonville Rd.
2235 – domestic, Rose Blvd.
2259 – traffic stop, Belleville Rd./S. I-94 Service

2349 – suspicious person/vehicle, Rawsonville Rd.

Wednesday, June 3:

0032 – noise complaint, N. I-94 Service Dr.
0456 – malicious destruction of property, Meadows Cir.
0527 – suspicious person/vehicle, Meadows Cir.
1002 – fraud, Redwood
1233 – indecent exposure, Lighthouse Dr.
1236 – private property/property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd.
1254 – assist citizen, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1302 – welfare check, Denton Rd.
1421 – fraud, W. Sadie Ln.
1504 – malicious destruction of property, Meadows Ln.
1534 – road hazard, Lake Villa Dr.
1621 – assist fire dept., Oak Ln.
1811 – property damage accident, Parkwood Dr.
1959 – neighbor trouble, Truman
2011 – animal complaint, Pebblebrook Dr.
2114 – animal complaint, E. Huron River Dr.
2142 – suspicious person/vehicle, Arthur St.
2226 – noise complaint, Arthur St.
2248 – fireworks, Savage Rd./Haggerty Rd.
2315 – mental subject, Westlake Cir.

Thursday, June 4:

0200 – property damage accident, Savage Rd. / Haggerty Rd.
0206 – intrusion alarm, Wildbrook Dr.
0245 – intrusion alarm, Haggerty Rd.
0727 – larceny, Westlake Cir.
0838 – animal complaint, E. Huron River Dr.
0955 – motorist assist, Belleville Rd./Quirk Rd.
1124 – animal complaint, Belleville Rd.
1148 – fraud, Ayres Ave.
1200 – assault & battery, Quirk Rd.
1231 – assault & battery, Revere Dr.
1244 – neighbor trouble, Park Estates Dr.
1312 – harassment call, Michigan Ave.
1319 – suspicious person, Belleville Rd.
1432 – assist other dept., NB I-275/I-94
1445 – neighbor trouble, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1452 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.
1532 – animal complaint, Hawthorne Ct.
1602 – alarm intrusion, Pebblebrook Dr.
1636 – animal complaint, Briarwood Dr.
1650 – fraud, W. Sadie Ln.
1654 – missing person, Brandi Dr.
1746 – harassment call, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1842 – mental subject, W. I-94 / Haggerty
1854 – parking complaint, S. Cumberland Dr.
1915 – juvenile complaint, Quirk Rd.
2156 – suspicious person/vehicle, Maple Dr./Ash
2205 – assist fire dept., Richard Run Dr.
2207 – family trouble, N. I-94 Service Dr.
2308 – suspicious person/vehicle, Sumpter/Hull
2328 – suicidal person, Rose Blvd.

Friday, June 5:

0009 – neighbor trouble, Michigan Ave.
0750 – traffic stop, Bemis Rd./Lohr Rd.
1054 – threat, E. Huron River Dr.
1132 – civil matter, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1139 – assist other dept., Astor
1139 – trespassing, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1406 – suspicious person, Kirkridge Park Dr.
1445 – intrusion alarm, Laguna Dr.
1556 – juvenile complaint, Jackson St./Jackson Ln.
1559 – welfare check, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1644 – property damage accident, Hannan Rd.
1700 – threat, N. Ponderosa Trl.
1720 – intrusion alarm, Vista Dr.
1729 – property damage accident, Ecorse Rd. / Belleville Rd.

1734 – suspicious person/vehicle, Harmony Ln.
1748 – assist fire dept., McBride Ave.
1832 – assist other dept., Wildflower Ct.
1845 – welfare check, Westlake Cir.
1936 – intrusion alarm, Juniper Dr.
1941 – intrusion alarm, Rawsonville Rd.
2033 – domestic, Parkwood Dr.
2121 – traffic offense, Bemis Rd./Lohr Rd.
2334 – 911 welfare check, Sadie Ln.
2350 – property check, Westlake Cir.

Saturday, June 6:

0002 – domestic, Westlake Cir.
0228 – assist other dept., N. I-94 Service Dr.
0423 – intrusion alarm, N. I-94 Service Dr.
0426 – road hazard, Belleville Rd./Ecorse Rd.
0510 – intrusion alarm, Rawsonville Rd.
0521 – traffic stop, Rawsonville DNR
0656 – intrusion alarm, Ecorse Rd.
0716 – animal complaint, Robson Rd.
0919 – assist other dept., Westlake Cir.

1050 – intrusion alarm, Haggerty Rd.
1151 – suspicious person/vehicle, Harbour Pointe Ct.
1156 – malicious destruction of property, Birch Dr.
1326 – welfare check, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1412 – welfare check, Belleville Rd.
1459 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / N. I-94 Service Dr.
1504 – intrusion alarm, Stonybrook Ct.
1511 – property damage accident, Savage Rd. / Haggerty Rd.
1544 – parking complaint, Jeremy Rd.
1712 – intrusion alarm, S. Sadie Ln.
1851 – suspicious person/vehicle, W. Huron River
1901 – assault & battery, Rawsonville Rd.
2010 – domestic, Daisy Blvd.
2031 – intrusion alarm, Van Born
2031 – personal injury accident, Ecorse/I-275
2048 – neighbor trouble, Martinsville Rd.
2201 – domestic, Lake Point Blvd.
2350 – suspicious person/vehicle, Denton/Stamley
There were four traffic stops on this week's log, none on the I-94 or I-275 freeways.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, May 31:

0317 – traffic stop, Main St./Fifth St.
1132 – vehicle lockout, Sumpter Rd.
1634 – suspicious person/vehicle, Main St./Fifth
1946 – malicious destruction of property, Belle Villa Blvd.

2134 – traffic offense, W. Columbia Ave.

2319 – noise complaint, Loza Ln.

Monday, June 1:

0413 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
1235 – welfare check, Loza Ln.
1407 – assault & battery, Potter Dr.
1737 – civil matter, S. Industrial Park Dr.
1819 – civil matter, N. Liberty St.
2017 – disorderly, Loza Ln.
2102 – suspicious person, Sumpter Rd.

Tuesday, June 2:

1010 – malicious destruction of property, Menlo Park Dr.
1318 – civil matter, S. Industrial Park Dr.
1411 – neighbor trouble, Church St.

Wednesday, June 3:

1432 – welfare check, W. Columbia Ave.

Thursday, June 4:

0931 – larceny, Roys St.
1934 – assist fire dept., E. Columbia Ave.
2119 – assist fire dept., Menlo Park Dr.

Friday, June 5:

1106 – mental subject, Astor
2135 – suspicious person/vehicle, W. Columbia
2144 – suspicious vehicle, W. Columbia Ave.

Saturday, June 6:

0233 – assist fire dept., Sumpter Rd.
0537 – assist fire dept., Sumpter Rd.
1651 – road hazard, Main St.
1721 – intrusion alarm, High St.
There was one traffic stop on this week's log.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, May 31:

0208 – family trouble, 40000 bl. Harris Rd.
0331 – fire dept. assist, 28000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1304 – welfare check, 44000 bl. Judd Rd.
1513 – family trouble, 25000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1809 – follow-up investigation, 44000 bl. Clay Rd.
2154 – suspicious circumstances, Carriage Ln.

Monday, June 1:

0816 – civil matter, 41000 bl. Harris Rd.
0906 – animal complaint, Greenmeadow Dr.
0917 – alarm, 19000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
1204 – civil matter, 49000 bl. Willis Rd.
1457 – civil matter, 42000 bl. Judd Rd.
1714 – fire dept. assist, 27000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1735 – juvenile complaint, 25000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1908 – welfare check, 20000 bl. Haggerty Rd.

Tuesday, June 2:

0910 – identify theft complaint, 44000 bl. Willis
1251 – down wires, 49000 bl. Collyer Ct.
1400 – 911 hang up, Rustic Ln.
1447 – alarm, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

1449 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd. / Bemis Rd.
1451 – follow-up investigation, Country Club Blvd.
1748 – suspicious circumstances, 22000 bl. Bohn
1814 – hospice death, 22000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
1851 – suspicious circumstances, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1912 – animal complaint, 45000 bl. Dunn Rd.
1926 – suspicious circumstances, 23000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1928 – juvenile complaint, Rustic Ln.
2038 – follow-up investigation, 22000 bl. Bohn
2119 – prisoner check, Huron Twp. PD
2134 – follow-up investigation, Sumpter/Willis
Wednesday, June 3:
0134 – suspicious circumstances, 50000 bl. Judd
0225 – welfare check, 20000 bl. Elwell Rd.
0551 – fire dept. assist, 28000 bl. Clark Rd.
0559 – traffic complaint/road hazard, 49000 bl. Willis Rd.
1509 – be on the lookout for missing horses, 46000 bl. Wear

1526 – 911 hang up, 19000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
1608 – suspicious circumstances, 47000 bl. Willis
1725 – 911 hang up, 28000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
2104 – fire dept. assist, 24000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
2355 – runaway juvenile, 17000 bl. Savage Rd.

Thursday, June 3:

0005 – suspicious circumstances, 40000 bl. Willis
0141 – civil matter, Edgewood Dr.
0929 – fire dept. assist, 45000 bl. Bemis Rd.
1021 – property damage accident, 50000 bl. Judd
1027 – fire dept. assist, 44000 bl. Wear Rd.
1231 – welfare check, Rustic Ln.
1242 – follow-up investigation, 23000 bl. Sumpter
1307 – fire dept. assist, Rustic Ln.
1359 – civil matter, Rustic Ln.
1524 – alarm, 21000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
1711 – fire dept. assist, 13000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
1757 – suspicious circumstances, 46000 bl. Claxton Dr.

2013 – civil matter, 46000 bl. Traskos Ave.
2021 – mental health call, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2215 – noise complaint, 46000 bl. Executive Dr.
2320 – suspicious circumstances, Edgewood Dr.

Friday, June 5:

0121 – suspicious circumstances, Sully Dr.
0552 – suspicious person, Rawsonville/Willis
0827 – fire dept. assist, 22000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1151 – civil matter, 45000 bl. Paris Dr.
1447 – property damage accident, 8300 bl. Rawsonville Rd.

1634 – follow-up investigation, 23000 bl. Sumpter
1821 – civil matter, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2001 – fire dept. assist, Edgewood Dr.
2243 – family trouble, Edgewood Dr.

Saturday, June 6:

0152 – follow-up investigation, 23000 bl. Sumpter
1120 – citizen assist, 40000 bl. Willis Rd.
1335 – property damage accident, Willis/Haggerty
1339 – follow-up investigation, Huron Twp. PD
1401 – suspicious circumstances, 46000 bl. Kozma
1735 – welfare check, 44000 bl. Willis Rd.
1740 – mental health call, Nevada St.
1847 – fire dept. assist, Wayside Dr.
2016 – noise complaint, 47000 bl. Willow Rd.
2018 – noise complaint, Willow Rd./Elwell Rd.
2105 – fire dept. assist, 17000 bl. Martha's Ln.
2220 – suspicious vehicle, 21000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
Also, on this week's log were 28 patrol checks, four traffic stops, and four misc. details.



Protest march

(continued from page 1)

department, most notably a policy requiring police to engage other officers that are not exercising de-escalation of force. We yearly train in this area and we are scheduled (since January) for that training later this month.

"I have also signed the Obama Mayors' Pledge to review all policies and enact and enforce de-escalation policies within

our department. Over the last three years we have added all of the other policies suggested in the Obama 21st Century Policing Guidelines," Supervisor McNamara concluded.

Last Saturday, a peaceful march started around noon in Romulus, where protestors walked from Romulus High School to the 34th District Court.

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

Van Buren Public Schools Public Notice

VAN BUREN PUBLIC SCHOOLS NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED 2020-2021 BUDGET

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on June 22, 2020, at 7:00 p.m., at 555 W. Columbia, Belleville, Michigan, the Board of Education of Van Buren Public Schools will hold a public hearing electronically pursuant to Michigan Executive Order 2020-75 through Zoom, with identification number <https://vanburenschools.zoom.us/j/669119075?pwd=SGNmRTBqanZzeE5ISnBXbCtHd3B5Zz09> to consider the District's proposed 2020-2021 budget.

The Board may not adopt its proposed 2020-2021 budget until after a public hearing. A copy of the proposed 2020-2021 budget, including the proposed property tax millage rate, will be available for public inspection on or after June 22, 2020 during normal business hours at 555 W. Columbia Ave., Belleville, Michigan or available online at <https://www.vanburenschools.net/>.

The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.

This notice is given by order of the Board of Education.

Darlene Loyer Gerick
Secretary

Publish: June 11, 2020



City of Belleville Public Notice



**CITY OF BELLEVILLE
Special City Council Meeting Minutes
Monday May 11, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.
VIA ZOOM TELECONFERENCE**

A special called meeting of the Council for the City of Belleville was called to order by Mayor Conley at 6:01 p.m. via Zoom teleconference.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE
2. ROLL CALL
Mayor Conley Present
Council Member Bates Present
Council Member Fielder Present
Mayor Pro Marcotte Present
Council Member Voigt Present
3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
MOTION BY VOIGT, SECOND BY BATES to approve the agenda as presented.
AYES: FIELDER, BATES, MARCOTTE, VOIGT, CONLEY
NAYS: NONE
MOTION PASSED
4. GENERAL BUSINESS
FY 2020-21 budget: 2nd Review Session
City Manager Tracey Kobylarz and Kelly Howey, Plante Moran Finance Specialist, presented City Council with an updated draft FY 2020-21 budget and

continued discussing the Capital Improvement Plan. City Council reached consensus that a special meeting would not be necessary on May 13th as originally planned. The next budget discussion will occur during the May 18th regular City Council meeting. Manager Kobylarz stated it would be necessary to revise the budget timeline to reflect this decision.

MOTION BY FIELDER, SECOND BY BATES to approve **Resolution No. 20-041**, revising the FY 2020-21 budget timeline by deleting May 13th meeting.

AYES: FIELDER, BATES, MARCOTTE, VOIGT, CONLEY
NAYS: NONE
MOTION PASSED

5. ADJOURNMENT
MOTION BY BATES, SECOND BY VOIGT to adjourn meeting at 7:26 p.m.
AYES: BATES, FIELDER, MARCOTTE, VOIGT, CONLEY
NAYS: NONE
MOTION PASSED

Respectfully submitted,
Sherri Scharf
City Clerk

Approved: May 18, 2020
Published: June 11, 2020



City of Belleville Public Notice



PUBLIC NOTICE Request for Proposals



**The City of Belleville
is accepting proposals for legal services –
municipal, labor and employment law until**

3:00 P.M. on June 18, 2020

For a complete copy of the proposal specifications, please visit:
www.belleville.mi.us

Any submittal received in the Clerk's Office after June 18 will not be considered. Facsimile and email submissions are not acceptable. Proposal must include all costs and contain a manual signature provided by an authorized company representative. All proposers must include the original and 7 copies addressed to:

Clerk's Office
6 Main Street
Belleville MI 48111

Opening shall be public in the clerk's office immediately following the advertised deadline and time for receipt of submittals.

Bid results will be posted on the City's website:
www.belleville.mi.us

Sherri Scharf
City Clerk

Publish: June 4 and 11, 2020

City of Belleville Public Notice

CITY OF BELLEVILLE ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR YOUTH SUMMER EMPLOYMENT



The City of Belleville is now accepting applications for youth summer employment. Applicants between 14 and 24 years may apply. Hourly pay rate is \$10.50 to \$11.25.

Applications are available online: www.belleville.mi.us and may be returned either via email (preferred): citymanager@belleville.mi.us or by mailing to Belleville City Hall, 6 Main Street, Belleville, MI 48111. Questions? Please contact Rick Rutherford via email: dps@belleville.mi.us.

The City of Belleville is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Sherri Scharf
City Clerk

Publish: June 4 and June 11, 2020

French Landing

(continued from page 1)

without breaking the rules in the book.
“There’s nothing more important than the

safety of the dam and the existence of that lake,” McNamara said of Belleville Lake.

Trustee Sherry Frazier said it is detrimental to not have transparency on the dam, “to allay our residents’ concerns.”

She said not only those who live near the lake, but the whole township needs to know.

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On The Web!**

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Independent Website
is Online! Visit us @
bellevilleareaindependent.com**



City of Belleville Public Notice

**CITY OF BELLEVILLE
Regular City Council Meeting Minutes
Monday May 4, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.
VIA ZOOM TELECONFERENCE**

A regular called meeting of the Council for the City of Belleville was called to order by Mayor Conley at 7:31 p.m. via Zoom teleconference.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE

2. ROLL CALL

Mayor Conley	Present
Council Member Bates	Present
Council Member Fielder	Present
Mayor Pro Marcotte	Present
Council Member Voigt	Present

3. PRESENTATIONS & CITIZENS COMMENTS

A. Presentations None
B. Council follow-up list

Council Member Fielder indicated that he is pleased with the frequent updates provided by the City Manager. Mayor Conley indicated that the follow-up list is comprehensive and updated regularly. Discussion ensued regarding Doane's Landing restoration and it is determined that Mr. Rutherford should immediately send out notice for sealed bids for work remaining.

C. Citizens comments

Mr. Steve Cinnamon asked the Council to consider approving the annual Car Show that typically takes place during the Strawberry Festival.

Mayor Conley added Cinnamon Car Show to agenda as item 8D.

4. APPROVAL OF AMENDED AGENDA

MOTION BY VOIGT, SECOND BY BATES to approve the amended agenda.

AYES: FIELDER, BATES, MARCOTTE, VOIGT, CONLEY

NAYS: NONE

MOTION PASSED

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION BY FIELDER, SECOND BY MARCOTTE to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting of April 20, 2020 and the Special Meeting of April 27, 2020 as presented.

AYES: BATES, MARCOTTE, VOIGT, FIELDER, CONLEY

NAYS: NONE

MOTION PASSED

6. PUBLIC HEARING None

7. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES None

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

A. Approve Memorial Day Event at Horizon Park – VFW/PLAV

MOTION BY VOIGT, SECOND BY MARCOTTE to approve **Resolution No. 20-037**, the request to hold a Memorial Day Program at Veteran's Memorial on High Street on May 25, 2020 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. with the following conditions:

1. VFW/PLAV to develop a plan with City Administration that meets regulations for social distancing to ensure the public safety according to state and federal guidelines.

2. VFW/PLAV to develop a plan with City Administration that meets regulations for utilizing public spaces including restrooms or alternate facilities.

AYES: MARCOTTE, VOIGT, FIELDER, BATES, CONLEY

NAYS: NONE

MOTION PASSED

B. Approve "Buddy poppies" fundraiser – VFW/PLAV

MOTION BY FIELDER, SECOND BY VOIGT to POSTPONE approval of this fundraiser at the request of Mr. Anton.

AYES: VOIGT, FIELDER, BATES, MARCOTTE, CONLEY

NAYS: NONE

MOTION PASSED

C. Approve Main Street Car Show – Egan's Pub / John Winters

MOTION BY VOIGT, SECOND BY BATES to

approve **Resolution No. 20-038**, the request to hold The Main Street Car Shows on Main Street from 5th Street to 3rd Street, each Monday (weather permitting) beginning June 1, 2020 through September 28, 2020 with road closures to begin at 5:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. with the following conditions:

1. Egan's Pub / John Winters to develop a plan with City Administration that meets regulations for social distancing to ensure the public safety according to state and federal guidelines.

2. Egan's Pub / John Winters to develop a plan with City Administration that meets regulations for utilizing public spaces including restrooms or alternate facilities.

3. Egan's Pub / John Winters along with City Administration may extend the car show further on Main Street if necessary, to meet social distancing guidelines.

AYES: FIELDER, BATES, MARCOTTE, VOIGT, CONLEY

NAYS: NONE

MOTION PASSED

D. Approve Cinnamon Car Show – Steve Cinnamon

MOTION BY VOIGT, SECOND BY FIELDER to approve **Resolution No. 20-039**, the request to hold the "ANNUAL CINNAMON CAR SHOW" AT VICTORY PARK, FATHER'S DAY WEEKEND 2020 (June 20-21) with the following conditions:

1. Steve Cinnamon to develop a plan with City Administration that meets regulations for social distancing to ensure the public safety according to state and federal guidelines.

2. Steve Cinnamon to develop a plan with City Administration that meets regulations for utilizing public spaces including restrooms or alternate facilities.

3. Steve Cinnamon along with City Administration may extend the car show further if necessary, to meet social distancing guidelines.

4. Steve Cinnamon to secure required liability insurance according to the City's established rules and regulations.

AYES: BATES, MARCOTTE, VOIGT, FIELDER, CONLEY

NAYS: NONE

MOTION PASSED

9. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND DEPARTMENTAL EXPENDITURES

MOTION BY MARCOTTE, SECOND BY FIELDER approve **Resolution No. 20-040** Accounts Payable and Departmental Expenditures for \$141,547.172 and the following purchases in excess of \$500.00

Belleville Independent	\$1,188.75
Belle Tire	\$ 735.49
Fire Catt	\$3,334.10
Praetorian Digital	\$1,530.00

AYES: MARCOTTE, VOIGT, FIELDER, BATES, CONLEY

NAYS: NONE

MOTION PASSED

10. CITIZENS COMMENTS

John Winter from Egan's Pub thanked Mike Kolle of the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce for his work with the Chamber. He also asked if the DDA and/or City might be able to support small business loans. The Winters family recently donated supplies including 17 gallons of bleach to the Van Buren Township Fire Department and encourages other to do the same for the City of Belleville.

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY BATES, SECOND BY VOIGT to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 p.m.

AYES: VOIGT, FIELDER, BATES, MARCOTTE, CONLEY

NAYS: NONE

MOTION PASSED

Respectfully submitted,

Tracey Schultz Kobylarz

Interim City Manager

Approved: May 18, 2020

Published: June 11, 2020

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP

OF VAN BUREN

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

MINUTES

JUNE 2, 2020 ELECTRONICALLY VIA

ZOOM

Supervisor McNamara called the meeting to order electronically via Zoom meeting ID 94365847893 at 6:00 p.m. Present: Supervisor McNamara, Treasurer Budd, Clerk Wright, Trustee Frazier, Trustee Martin, and Trustee Miller. Late arrival (6:13 p.m.) Trustee White. Others participating, facilitating and monitoring the meeting: Secretary Montgomery, Public Services Director Best, Communication Specialists Albrecht and Nichols a maximum audience of thirty-four (34).

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

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA: Frazier moved; Miller seconded to approve the revised agenda adding new business item #1 Discussion of the Governor's recent Executive order with all remaining items following in order and combining both public comment periods into one following REPORTS on the agenda. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: McNamara, Budd, Wright, Frazier, Martin and Miller. Absent: Trustee White. Motion Carried.

ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA: Martin moved, Budd seconded to approve the Consent Agenda [Board Meeting Minutes of May 5, 2020, Prepaid List of May 7, 2020, Prepaid List of May 14, 2020, Prepaid List of May 21, 2020, Prepaid List of May 28, 2020, Voucher List of May 19, 2020, Voucher List of June 2, 2020.] Roll Call Vote. Yeas: McNamara, Budd, Wright, Frazier, Martin and Miller. Absent: Trustee White. Motion Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING: None.

C O R R E S P O N D E N C E / ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS: Presentation of Belleville Rotary Club Student Scholarship Certificates to Joseph Budd, Haley Bellingham and Collin Attard. Supervisor McNamara indicated the French Landing Dam is regulated by FERC and information is not able to be FOIA'd as it falls under critical infrastructure. The Supervisor has requested a review of the dam by the Environmental Commission to determine the condition and may call upon Eagle Creek to provide a presentation regarding the dam. Safety of the French Landing Dam is the Township's number one priority. Trustee Miller has secured another grant in the amount of five (5) thousand dollars from Enbridge to provide food assistance to the community. The Township Communication Department, in conjunction with Belleville High School, have put together a video on the 2019 high school football team and how it brought the tri-community together. Airing of the video will occur at a future date yet to be determined. The DDA spotlight this month is

Beirut Lapita offering Mediterranean cuisine. Absentee applications have been sent to voters on the Township's permanent absentee application list and the State of Michigan has begun to send applications to those not on the permanent absentee application voter list. **PUBLIC COMMENT (Unfinished and New Business):** Combined with Public Comment following REPORTS.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion on the Governor's recent Executive Orders. The plan put in place is to open the Township on June 8, 2020 to employees and to residents by appointment only with a full opening, within the CDC guidelines, on June 15, 2020. Residents will be required to wear a mask when entering the building.

White moved, Miller seconded to approve the first reading of Ordinance 6-2-20 (1) to rezone parcel V-83-105-99-0035-000 (1043 Savage Rd) from M-1 (Light Industrial) to R-1B (Single Family Residential). Roll Call Vote. Yeas: McNamara, Budd, Wright, Frazier, Martin, Miller and White. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

Miller moved, Martin seconded to approve the Fireworks Display Permit Application by Michigan Fireworks Club. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: McNamara, Budd, Wright, Frazier, Martin, Miller and White. Nays: None. Motion Carried. Budd moved, Frazier seconded to approve the 10-year Ground Lease Agreement with The Habitat Company LLC, to lease parcel 83-077-99-0002-007, the northeast corner of Beckley and Denton Road for pickleball courts. The contract provides an option for up to four (4) additional years. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: McNamara, Budd, Wright, Frazier, Martin, Miller and White. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

McNamara moved, Frazier seconded to approve the German Volunteer Service Program. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: McNamara, Frazier and White. Nays: Budd, Wright, Martin, and Miller. Motion Failed.

REPORTS: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT NON-AGENDA ITEMS: Public commented on the following: Asked about how much each scholarship was for; thanked the board for letting the community know about available community resources; and clarified that the scholarship recipients were chosen by the Rotary Club Board. Clerk Wright reminded everyone to remain vigilant and follow the CDC guidelines in the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic and to keep an open dialogue in regards to race relations.

BOARD COMMENT NON-AGENDA ITEMS: Board members

ADJOURNMENT: Miller moved; Frazier seconded to adjourn at 7:23 p.m. Motion Carried.

Leon Wright, Township Clerk

Kevin McNamara, Supervisor

Published: June 11, 2020

VBT receives \$5,000 from Enbridge, donates it to 3 local food banks

On May 27 Van Buren Township received a \$5,000 grant from Enbridge as part of its Emergency Response Fund.

The township turned the grant over to three local food banks: Belleville First United Methodist Church's Emergency Food Closet, Trinity Episcopal Church's Friday Fill-Up! and Van Buren Public Schools' Owen Community Closet and Food Pantry.

"I'm grateful we received another grant to feed our community," said VBT Trustee Reggie Miller. "This time, I choose to divide the funds up to help the largest amount of people as soon as possible. It's about partnering with our community organizations to help meet their demands while helping as many people as we can. I want to thank Candice Braddock from Enbridge for offering us this opportunity."

These are the food banks chosen:

- Belleville First United Methodist Church-Emergency Food Closet, (734) 697-9288, 417 Charles St., Belleville. Open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

<https://www.bellevillefirstumc.org/>

- Owen's Community Closet and Food Pantry, (734) 697-8711, 45201 Owen St., Belleville. Open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays.

<https://www.facebook.com/OwensCommunityClosetandFoodPantry/>

- Trinity Episcopal Church, Friday Fill-Up! (734) 699-3361, 11575 Belleville Rd., Van Buren Township. Open from 6 to 7:30 p.m. on Wednesdays.

www.trinitybell.org

"I want to thank Trustee Reggie Miller for all her hard work in securing another grant and the board for continuing to take care of our community," said VBT Supervisor Kevin McNamara.

Supervisor McNamara said the township decided to donate to these three local food banks to reach everyone in need. Through research, they found within the last 10 weeks the Belleville Emergency Food Closet has served 60-70% senior citizens, Owen's focus has remained on students who are still in school or of school age, and the Trinity Friday Fill-Up is serving students and single families. All of these food pantries have seen large increases of those in need during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We want to thank the food pantry directors for their continued dedication and making sure our community is fed," said Trustee Miller. "Thank you, Gabby Burton from Trinity, Marilyn Wood at the Emergency Food Closet, and Pete Kudlak superintendent for Van Buren Public Schools."

"A thriving community provides opportunities to support and enrich the lives of its people," said Mike Moeller, director of Great Lakes Region Enbridge. "By collaborating with community leaders like Van Buren Township, we're proud

to support this initiative and energy to champion community solutions in our key focus areas of safety, environment, and community."

Those with needs or questions may call (734) 699-8910 or email communications@vanburen-mi.org.

Follow Enbridge on social media at @Enbridge. *News release*



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My name is **Antoine Jordan** and I am seeking the office of **Sumpter Township Supervisor**. Born and raised in this thirty six square mile township makes me an ideal candidate for Sumpter Township Supervisor. My number one goal is to ensure all residents that I am capable and trustworthy in managing all township resources, most importantly being property and finances in a way that will help the community prosper and grow. I will make sure that all proper legal channels are observed along with allowing transparency to the community. The goal is to have a highly reputable, well respected community that residents have pride in and be the envy of other communities similar to ours.

I am a 2002 graduate of Belleville High School. I have a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (Central Michigan University) as well as a M.B.A. in Human Resources (University of Phoenix). Through real life application of this knowledge I worked tirelessly to master proficiency in developing a formula for more streamlined business strategies. The strategies focused on developing professional employees and increasing team member productivity. These processes have advanced various companies to increased efficiency and exponential growth. I will apply this knowledge and experience to strengthen the position of Township Supervisor. Areas of focus will include economic growth and development as well as framework for short term and long term goals for the Township.

"Locals" may know me as **Coach "Buck"**. I have spent the past seven years coaching Varsity Boys Basketball at Belleville High School. I am currently the head of fundraising (7th - Varsity level). This involves setting up youth leagues, tournaments, camps, and many other activities to advance the program. Participation in these activities has presented the rewarding experience of helping to enrich the life experiences of our community youth at many ages.

I am also a member of the Spiritual Israel Church and its Army. This church membership has also been rooted in Sumpter Township for many years. It provides a great service to the community for those that chose to take advantage of its benefits.

When elected, my chief priorities will be to keep **"Country Living At Its Finest"**, while looking to diversify Income, develop and/ or enhance current senior programs (progressive league, civic league, etc.), and last but not least, develop beneficial programs for our youth.

These initiatives will make Sumpter Township a place where the elderly feel a sense of fine country living and people want to raise families. Developing positive, productive programs for our youth here in Sumpter is vital.

It is paramount that we develop processes to enhance standard business as well as focus on new business. I will work hard to make sure Sumpter Township keeps moving forward and continues to be a welcoming community strongly rooted in **"Country Living at Its Finest"**, and a place the youth loves to live.

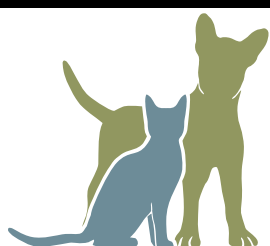
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Bladez Hair Studios on East Huron River Drive in Belleville welcomes Bonnie Krzeminski to its staff of salon professionals on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, starting next week. Right now, get a mani-pedi special with Bonnie only for \$65 with her ad coupon in today's paper. To schedule an appointment call (734) 718-7815 or (734) 697-5600.

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Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family of Daniel Stapish, owner of Action Mechanical Heating & Cooling of Belleville, who passed away on May 27.

I got to spend a few moments with my nephew and Wayne County Sheriff Brent Mytych (BHS Class of 2000) last Saturday afternoon at Hayward's Docks as he's part of the Wayne County Sheriff's Office Marine Division this summer and was keeping our boaters safe patrolling our lake last weekend. His assignments rotate between here, the Detroit River, and Elizabeth Park in Trenton. His nametag even has the same initial and last name as mine. I quizzed him about boating lights, wake zoning laws, and other things and he knew it all. You see I aced the US Coast Guard's Boater's Safety Course many years ago and some things just stick with you. I should've asked him about knots and knotting. Next time. So proud of him.

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.

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Remodeled Kitchen, Hardwood Floors, Family Room, Covered Deck, Michigan Riverstone Fireplace, 90+ Three Zone Furnace and Central Air, Hot Tub and Newer Roof. \$239,900

BOOMING WITH ROOM



48024 BEMIS, VAN BUREN TWP
ORIGINAL OWNER 2,500 Square Foot
Brick Colonial Offering 4 Bedrooms, 2 Baths, Hardwood Floors Everywhere, Large Family Room with Fireplace, Basement, Huge Fenced Yard, 2 1/2 Car Garage. \$242,900

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42101 S 1-94 SERVICE DR VAN BUREN
YOUR OWN PRIVATE WORLD A Total of 5,263 Square Feet! 4 Bedroom 3 Full and 2 Half Baths, INTERIOR POOL, High End Premium Built Brick 3 Level Home. 100+ Feet of Lake Frontage, Double Dock & SAND BEACH. \$898,900

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13285 EDGE DALE, VAN BUREN
SENSATIONALLY SPACIOUS! Large 5 Bedroom 2 Bath Brick Home. Family Room, Fireplace, Premium Kitchen, New Roof in 2018, New Furnace in 2015. One of the Finest Neighborhoods in Van Buren Township. \$229,900

5 ACRES-3,000+ S F-BASEMENT



47037 HULL, VAN BUREN
CUSTOM BUILT 3,000+ Square Foot 4 Bedroom
3 1/2 Bath Home w First Floor Master, Family Room, Fireplace, Sunroom. Finished Basement, Second Garage. This Property provides Unlimited Fun plus Deck on Five Landscaped Acres. \$385,000

TWO LARGE GARAGES



5510 GRAYFIELD, YPSILANTI TWP
LOTS OF ROOM. Larger 4 Bedroom, 2 1/2 Bath Home with Family Room, Dining Room, 2 1/2 Car Attached and an ADDITIONAL 2 1/2 Car Detached Garage. Basement, Covered Deck and Extra Large Fenced Yard. \$179,900

4,224 SQUARE FEET



23560 SUMPTER, SUMPTER TWP
RESIDENTIAL OR INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY. Possible Residential, Day Care, Group Home, Apartments or Your Ideas Large front covered porch. Fire System. 10 Bedrooms, 2 Apartment Kitchens, 5 Bathrooms. \$225,000

PRIME LOCATION



41405 TYLER, VAN BUREN
PRIME LOCATION. Corner of Haggerty and Tyler. Opportunity Awaits - 3 Bedroom, 1 Bath Home. Large Lot with Larger 2 1/2 Car Detached Garage. This Property could be the key to a larger development parcel. \$135,000

LARGE BRICK RANCH



41577 MCBRIDE, VAN BUREN
KING SIZED BRICK and Vinyl Ranch 1,484 Sq Ft Ranch featuring 3 Large Bedrooms, 1 1/2 Baths 15X12 Living Room, 15X20 Family Room, Wallside Windows, Central Air, Deck, 2 1/2 Car Block Garage. \$150,000 Imm Occupancy

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SAVAGE 1 ACRE SUMPTER TWP \$45,000
25817 SUMPTER 80X529 .97 AC \$20,000
24053 BOHN 3.3 ACRES SUMPTER \$67,000

SHERWOOD 37.55 AC BY WEAR \$225,000
28710 SUMPTER ROAD \$10,000
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HURON TWP VAC OTTER 2.94 ACRES \$60,000
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HURON TWP VAC ASH .87 ACRES \$55,000
VACANT BALL ROMULUS .34 AC \$19,000



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