



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 22.23 Thursday, June 9, 2016

Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

FREE



"Gustometer" by Beau Bilenki is at the triangle at Belleville and Quirk roads in Van Buren Township. Cost to purchase the sculpture is \$15,000.



"Icarus" by Mike Sohikian is in Horizon Park on High Street in the City of Belleville. Cost to purchase the sculpture is \$10,000.



"Lupine" by Pamela Reithmeier is at the Walgreen store on Belleville Road in Van Buren Township. Cost to purchase the sculpture is \$4,500.



"Riding High" by Elisabeth Scheffert is in front of Chase Bank. Cost to purchase the sculpture is \$2,500.



"Self Series VIII" by the Nordin Brothers – Israel and Erik Nordin – is between McDonald's and Taco Bell on Belleville Road in Van Buren Township. Cost to purchase the sculpture is \$21,000.



"The Veteran" by Mike Sohikian is at the Fourth Street Square in Belleville. Cost to purchase the sculpture is \$9,500.



"Storm Tree" by Robert Garcia is placed at the Davenport Center on E. Columbia Avenue in Belleville. Cost to purchase the sculpture is \$4,000.



"Venus Redux" by Marie Brown is at the entrance to the City of Belleville on Main Street and Denton Road. Cost to purchase the sculpture is \$6,000.



"Box of Flowers" by Jennifer Meyer is in front of Belle Tire on Belleville Road in Van Buren Township. Cost to purchase the sculpture is \$1,600.



"The Sun with Two Moons" by Dave Vande Vusse is at Five Points in Belleville. Cost to purchase the sculpture is \$7,500.

Ten outdoor sculptures installed in VBT and City of Belleville

On May 26, the six Michigan Sculpture Initiative pieces that have been on display in the City of Belleville for about a year were removed and replaced

with new sculptures.

There are six new sculptures in the city and four sculptures at locations along Belleville Road in Van Buren Township.

This is the first time VBT has displayed outdoor sculptures.

The ten sculptures are being leased for public display for a year at a total cost of about \$16,250, paid in a joint program by the Downtown Development Authorities in the city and the township.

The sculptures are available

for purchase in a year and the artists have posted their asking prices.



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SECOND FRONT PAGE

Sumpter Country Fest Cutest Baby contest winners announced

On Monday, May 30, the winners of the Sumpter Township Country Fest Cutest Baby contest were announced.

In the Cutest Baby Girl contest, Jasmine Larr is the first-place winner. She is the daughter of Heather Napoletano and Spike Larr of Sumpter Township. The second-place winner is Haiden Bailey Hnot, the daughter of Justin Hnot and Joanna Klien of Van Buren Township. Coming in third in the contest is Kara Grandowicz, the daughter of Tommy and Morgan Grandowicz of Wayne.

In the Cutest Baby Boy contest, first-place winner is Thomas Truchan, son of Melinda Harris and Brian Truchan of Westland. Hunter Ray Kull is the second-place winner. He is the son of Felicia and Steven Kull of Van Buren Township. George Salajan IV, son of Katie Barnett and George Salajan III, of Sumpter Township, is the third-place winner.

Other participants in the Cutest Baby Girl contest were Kiersten Bell, Jessabelle

Bradley, Claire Smith, Avery Ella Williams, Addison Serna, Emma Marie Garcia, Alana Salisbury, Lana Barker, Rosalynn Grace Kazq, and Elizabeth Mason.

Other participants in the Cutest Baby Boy contest were Thomas Blair, Grant James Beauregard, Adam Al Said, Kaiden Thompson, Jackson Joye, Gunner Grandowicz, Jesse Morgan, Samuel Horen, and Kodi Ryan Plozal.

The staff of the Sumpter Parks and Recreation Commission would like to thank all of the contestants and their families for their participation and generosity. Thanks also goes to John Hennessey of Hennessey Engineering Inc., Southgate, who has sponsored the contest for many years. Proceeds from the contest help fund activities such as the Easter Egg Hunt, Family Fun Day, and the Christmas for Sumpter Families.

Virginia Belinksi
Sumpter Township



Thomas Truchan



Hunter Ray Kull



George Salajan IV



Jasmine Larr



Haiden Bailey Hnot



Kara Grandowicz

Peter Kudlak to start as new superintendent of schools by July 1

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

Peter Kudlak, serving as assistant superintendent in the Milan Area Schools since 2012, will take over as superintendent of the Van Buren Public Schools by July 1 after unanimous action of the board of education on May 31.

Kudlak previously was director of elementary education and elementary principal for the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools for five years, elementary principal in Flat Rock for five years, and a teacher in the Ypsilanti Public Schools for five years.

This is his first job as superintendent.

He was among the 32 candidates who applied for the position to replace former Superintendent Michael Van Tassel and one of the six chosen for interviews. Before those interviews, Dr. William Brown, assistant superintendent at Lenawee ISD, dropped out as a candidate because he was hired elsewhere.

After interviewing the five remaining candidates and calling back three for second interviews, the school board chose Kudlak and he accepted. At its June 13 regular meeting the board is expected to accept the proposed contract and salary – somewhere between \$130,000 and \$132,000.

The salary for the superintendent's position was posted as between \$130,000 and \$145,000 and Kudlak will be offered the number at the low end because this is his first job as superintendent.

Van Tassel, who also had no experience as superintendent, left the district in February with a base salary of \$139,000 after starting the job in February 2013 with a salary of \$135,000.

At his first interview on May 24, Kudlak said he has been in education for 21 years. He said his wife of 25 years is helping him and supporting him. He said his wife has worked events with him and even made crafty things to give to the teachers.

They have two children.

When he was asked how he builds consensus, he replied, "Listen to all the voices to be heard. Make sure all know where you're going. They may have differences of opinion on how to get there, but they know where we're going. It's based on building trust."

When asked about working with administrators, Kudlak replied that it's important to have a good-natured group where you can tell a joke.

He said it's important to have administrative retreats to go out and have fun and get to know each other and each other's families.

"You have to be able to be where you can call someone up and get a different perspective ... It takes a cohesive team to do that ... Let your hair down," he said.

When asked about budget cuts, Kudlak replied that since he's a new superintendent coming in, he would be in favor of zero-based budgeting, where you tear down the whole budget and build it back up with the

most important things put in first.

He said he believed it is important to look outside the box to get services done.

When asked about how he would communicate with the board, he said he would give board members weekly updates and let them know as soon as possible about incidents. He could text, email, or phone, whatever they want. "I'll be making a thousand decisions a day," he said.

When asked what his most significant challenge would be, he said he has a lot to learn in a new school district: the buildings, students, parents, PTOs.

"I need to be in the community and get feedback," he said.

When asked about his management of others, Kudlak said, "I'm very personable, open. I'm going to listen. Sometimes the weight falls on the superintendent. Other times we can decide all together."

When asked to define school culture, he said, "Primarily it should be full of trust. Trust in the administration, teachers, parents. If teachers don't have a voice about what's happening in the classroom, there's no reason for them to continue to improve. The culture is the key to everything."

When asked how he would help the district improve education, Kudlak was enthusiastic. "That's in my wheelhouse. That's the main part of my job. There's no creativity if you all have to be on the same page on the same day. More people should be trying new things.

"A culture of trial and error is good,

where making mistakes is all part of being wonderful," he said.

When asked about the shrinking school population, Kudlak said he has been a part of downsizing schools and studied the reasons for fewer students. He said he looked at falling birthrates and charter schools.

When asked what he thought a well-rounded student was, he replied it was one who knows how to make choices. Curious. Knows how to be a citizen.

"It's important they are critical thinkers. They question. They know how to get along with everybody."

When asked how he would support the staff and improve morale, Kudlak said at staff meetings, he would start with an award.

"People just need to be recognized," he said, noting in the past he had a group, with members having their fingertips on the pulse of the staff, pick the people for awards.

"Make it fun," he said, adding one time he had a piñata with school supplies inside.

"It's a tough job," he said of being a teacher. "They feel beat up from up above."

He was told that during input from the community the board was told the next superintendent needed to be highly visible.

"I do shopping, walk around, am visible," he said. "I get my haircut locally, so people

(continued on page 19)

O P I N I O N S

Editorial

Waving goodbye to bag-less leaf pickup in city of Belleville

With a tightened budget, the city of Belleville has cut un-bagged leaf pickup from its approved budget. For years, the city has invited residents to rake their leaves to the curb and city crews would come by and pick up the leaves and take them to a farmer's field or other dump site.

The city also has a five-year contract with Republic for pick up of trash that includes bags of sticks and weeds and leaves for compost. Now, residents are going to have to put their leaves in bags for them to be picked up. In the newer subdivisions in the city – Harbour Pointe and Victoria Commons – it is no problem. The young trees don't drop a lot of leaves. But in the mature areas there are big trees and lots of leaves.

Mayor Pro Tem Jack Loria said his five old trees drop leaves that are piled five feet high along the curb three times a season for leaf pick up. Now, he's going to have to spend \$400 or so for a mulcher, he said.

Some elderly residents who have lived in the city for a long time and have big, wonderful trees may need some help and the city is considering what to do about it.

One comment at Monday's meeting was that senior citizens may have to hire someone to remove leaves and that could cut into their food budgets.

In such a friendly small town, we're sure there will be help from younger, stronger volunteers.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

One reader commented on last week's story about the Jeep Wrangler mounting a Van Buren Police car's left front tire: "It could mess up the front-end alignment and possibly damage front-end parts. The police Ford Explorer doesn't have the heavy-duty, off-road, front-end parts like the Jeep does."

A mother was before Judge David Parrott on June 1 to accept a plea deal in a charge against her. She pled guilty to disturbing a school. She told the judge that on April 27 she was upset and loud at Romulus Middle School. When Judge Parrott asked her to explain what happened, she said first, her son had a sandwich stolen at school. Then, his jacket was stolen. On April 27, she saw her son coming home without his shirt and shoes and she lost it. She went to the school to loudly complain and was arrested. She now has to pay \$245 in fines and fees and behave herself for six months and the charge will be dismissed.

A City of Belleville resident said the city should keep the leaf pick up and here's how to do it. First, eliminate the street sweeper. He said the sweeper often leaves stuff in front of his house and he has to pick it up. Getting rid of the sweeper would eliminate some cost, he said.

Then, the city could enact an ordinance that everyone is responsible to keep the street in front of their place clean, including businesses. You would get two warnings if you fail to keep it clean, and then get a \$10 fee if you fail for the third time.

Teenagers could get their public service hours for graduation by helping the elderly

...By Rosemary K. Otzman



get their leaves to the curb for pickup. Or, the scouts could help.

Lola Kennedy, 7, who is in the Gifted and Talented program at Savage Elementary School, was watching her grandmother make wreaths for the VFW and PLAV to hang at the upcoming Memorial Day service. Lola decided to make one by herself and that bright gold wreath was standing in front of the memorial during the ceremonies, although nobody mentioned anything about it.

Lola carefully put the words "Memorial Day 2016" on it and was careful to get the spelling absolutely correct.

Sharon Kennedy said years ago the VFW and PLAV, to which her husband George belongs, used to buy the wreaths at a cost of about \$50 each. That would be two wreaths for Memorial Day and two for Veterans Day, making a cost of \$200 a year. She decided to volunteer her efforts and make the wreaths without charge to save the veterans some money which then could be spent to help veterans in need. She's been doing this for about 10 years.

At Monday's work/study session of the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees the news that the annual concert series in the township had been cancelled was discussed. Board members said they heard it from various people in the community and should have known about this.

People wanted to know why the board stopped the concerts and Trustee Jeff Jahr said the board didn't stop the concerts. Supervisor Linda Combs said it was the decision of the directors of the department (Parks & Rec) because of low attendance. The \$3,000-\$5,000 set aside for the concerts will be used instead on other programs.

Trustee Reggie Miller also objected to the way the concerts were cancelled without the board being informed. She said she was really disappointed and, "It's a real shame for the community."

Jahr said the board tried to help promote the concerts and spent a lot of time talking about it. "Just to have the decision made by directors isn't right," he said.

Treasurer Sharry Budd said for the first two years of the concerts they were in Van Buren Park and the attendance was low. The third year it was better and people brought picnic lunches and their kids played on the play equipment. Then they started moving the concerts around to different locations. "It's hard to take kids to a Walmart parking lot to watch a concert," she said.



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BELLEVILLE - AREA

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Letters

Van Buren residents free of racial divides

To the Editor:

This letter is in reference to the June 2, 2016 newspaper article that was authored by CeJay Marshall. Subjectively, Mr. Marshall has a long-standing history of being disruptive, rude, and makes racial statements through his words and writing. During his most recent letter that was written in the June 2, 2016 newspaper he says in part "...Wayne County and politics and cronyism seem to be the prevailing factor, whenever minorities are in power ..."

While I don't expect more from Mr. Marshall, I am certainly glad that we live in a community where his negative racial undertones are socially unacceptable. Currently I hold many leadership positions in life and in this community. My current assignments include being the Van Buren Township Patrol and Dispatchers Union President, Mission Pointe on the Lake homeowners association vice president, co-owner of Revolutionary Designz, LLC, and former president of the Sinking Fund School Millage Ballot Question Committee. In addition, I worked with many successful campaigns to help this community.

I remember being hired April 24, 2006 with the Van Buren Township Police Department as the only African-American police officer. Many people would ask me how your community in Van Buren Township is treating you. I have always had the privilege to tell people that our diverse community that is made up of many cultures treat me like they treat everyone else.

Living here made me see a light that Van Buren Township has a cultural norm that we work together, live together, and accomplish together, no matter what the race. We set the bar for what many communities are struggling with: a community that does not see race.

Mr. Marshall, your racial comments are once again not welcomed in this community. I thought you would have learned your lesson when you told Clerk Leon Wright in writing "one word I hope to never use where you are concerned is the "n" word. NEIGHBOR!" Mr. Marshall, we have a bar of excellence in our community where the dream to live with each other without negative views of race is prevalent. I certainly hope you find it in your heart to change your negative views regarding racial divides and join the rest of us in Van Buren Township where our community enjoys the privilege of living with each other free of racial divides.

Sincerely,
 Adam Byrd
 Van Buren Township Resident /
 Community Advocate

"Do or do not. There is no try."

- Yoda

Good Deed of the Day for VBT Police Officer

To the Editor:

While driving home Thursday morning on east Huron River Drive I came around a corner to find 2-3 cars stopped ahead of me. I could see ahead and saw that the westbound lane also had stopped cars. Thinking, perhaps an accident, I waited, then saw a person in a motorcycle helmet pushing something across the road with his foot. Assuming it was a piece of trash or dead animal, I waited.

Soon a motorcycle pulled toward me and I realized it was a police officer. The cars started forward and as I got to what was being pushed, I realized that it was a snapping turtle. The officer had stopped and "assisted" the turtle across the street.

Now I know it flies in the face of all that is holy, but I must say I was very proud of that officer. In this day and age of finding only fault of our public safety officials, the officer took the time to do what I'm sure will never be put on Facebook or brought up when something that I hope I never have to face goes south. I don't know who it was, but I would like to thank that officer for showing us that, indeed, they are human and take the time to care.

Vic Franzoi
 Van Buren Township

If we all work together we can clean up our area

Dear Neighbors,

Have you noticed the litter around us? Surely, I'm not the only one who sees the trash. Litter is everywhere -- from the Post Office to the big store parking lots, along our streets and sidewalks, in front of small businesses, in our parks, and even in our own yards.

Studies have shown that where there is litter, people are more apt to drop fast-food wrappers, plastic bottles, cigarette butts, bits of paper, etc.

It's time to do something about this mess. Will you join me in making a difference? If each of us picked up just one piece of litter each day, our communities would soon return to their clean and beautiful states.

Thank you for your help.

Joy Dubin
 Belleville

Kona needs volunteers

Groups with six or more volunteers can earn donations for their group from the Kona Strawberry Run for helping with the 7 p.m. Friday, June 17, event during Strawberry Festival. Positions vary in commitment from 2.5 to 4 hours. For information contact Jill Whitehead at marchjill11@gmail.com.

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7:35 - 8:00 -- Clerk and Treasurer
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Obituaries



Raymond James Parent

RAYMOND JAMES PARENT

(December 4, 1923 – May 30, 2016)

World War II Veteran, Raymond James Parent, age 92, of Van Buren Township, MI, passed away Monday, Memorial Day, May 30, 2016. He was born James Raymond Parent, December 4, 1923 in Detroit, MI, son of Patrick Edward & Marie Martha (Lempke) Parent. Mr. Parent proudly served his country in the U.S. Navy in WWII. Serving as a Shipfitter 3rd Class on the USS Shamrock Bay (CVE-84) from 1943 to his honorable discharge in 1946, earning 4 battle stars.

He retired from Michigan Consolidated Gas Company (now DTE) after 30 years as a Welder and Supervisor. He was a member of St. Stephen Catholic Church, New Boston, where he volunteered and was an usher for numerous years. He was a former member of the VFW Post #4434. He enjoyed fishing and boating in Port Austin. He also liked to play Bingo and shuffleboard in Riverview, Florida. Most of all, he treasured time spent with his family, especially playing cards and time with his grandchildren.

Ray is survived by daughter Patricia Mull of Belleville; son Raymond (Cheyrl) Parent of Belleville; 4 grandchildren Mark Mull of Belleville, Marie Mull of Belleville, Melisa Parent of Belleville, and Raymond Parent of Port Austin; a great-granddaughter Keira Parent; sister Vivian Crowley of Harrison Township, MI; also numerous nieces, nephews and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife Johanna Frances "Jean" Parent on July 30, 2014; three brothers Patrick Parent and twins Earl and Ralph Parent; a sister Bernice Schultz; also son-in-law Edward Mull.

Visitation was 5-8 p.m. Friday, June 3, 2016 at David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI 48111 (734) 697-4500. The rosary was prayed at 7 p.m. A funeral Mass was at 11 a.m. Saturday, June 4, 2016 at St. Stephen's Catholic Church, 18858 Huron River Dr., New Boston, MI, 48164, with an hour prior visitation. Father John Hedges was the Celebrant. Military Honors and Interment were in St. Stephen's Cemetery, New Boston.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions to Arbor Hospice & Home Care would be greatly appreciated. Please sign his on-line guest book and share a story for his family to cherish at www.davidcbrownfh.com.



RALPH EDWARD PARDON, JR.

(April 21, 1951 – June 2, 2016)

Age 65 of Romulus, a Vietnam veteran, died at the VA Hospital, Ann Arbor. Survived by wife Constantina, five children, eight grandchildren, one great-grandchild, his mother, brother, sister. David C. Brown Funeral Home.



Gilbert Smith

GILBERT SMITH

(August 27, 1928 – June 3, 2016)

Mr. Gilbert Smith, age 87, long-time Sumpter Township resident, passed away Friday, June 3, 2016 at his home. He was born August 27, 1928, in Stinking Creek, Kentucky, son of Cris & Myrtle (Baker) Smith.

Mr. Smith was an avid quilt-maker. He loved working in his yard, animals, and time spent with his family.

Survived by four children Anita (Kenneth) Thomas, Lois Benedetti, Richmond Smith and Sherry (John) Zentz; 7 grandchildren Leanne Smith, Richard Smith, Crystal Smith, Jennifer Smith, Steven Smith, Andrew (Amanda) Smith, Jonathan (Brittney) Smith; 7 great-grandchildren Landon, Adien, Briana, Kelsey, Brody, Abel and Justin; also many other extended family and friends. He was preceded in death by his wife, Ella Mae (Combs) Smith on December 31, 1993.

Visitation was 2-8 p.m. Monday and 10-11 a.m. Tuesday, June 7, 2016 at David C. Brown Funeral Home 460 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI 48111-2764 (734) 697-4500. Interment was in Alban Cemetery, Ypsilanti Township, MI.

Memorial contributions may be made to the wishes of the family. Please sign his on-line guest book at www.davidcbrownfh.com and share a memory for his family to treasure.



Randall "Randy" C. Morrow

RANDALL 'RANDY' C. MORROW

(December 18, 1958 – June 4, 2016)

Age 57, of Van Buren Township.

Randy is the beloved husband of Theresa for 26 wonderful years; loving father of Ashley Morrow of Belleville and Jessica (Cortez) of Wayne; cherished son of Barbara Anderson of Kansas; dear grandfather of Cameron and Stylez. Mr. Morrow is also survived by his siblings, Pamela (Butch) Jeffery of Flint and Beverly (Paul) Schandavel of Arkansas and many loving extended family and friends.

Born on December 18, 1958 to both David and Barbara Morrow, Mr. Morrow was a longtime Belleville area resident. He enjoyed motorcycling, gardening and spending time with his beloved family and friends.

A memorial service honoring Randy's life will be held at 2:00 PM, Saturday, June 11th at the Ridge Rd. Church of Christ, 1770 Ridge Rd., Ypsilanti. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be directed to the church. Please sign his on-line guest book and share a memory for his family to share at www.davidcbrownfh.com.

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**More Obituaries
on page 8**

Obituaries



Harold M. Arquette

HAROLD M. ARQUETTE

(September 21, 1937 – June 1, 2016)

Harold M. Arquette, age 78, of Winchester, IN, passed away on Wednesday, June 1, 2016 at St. Vincent Randolph Hospital in Winchester.

He was born on September 21, 1937 in Ann Arbor, MI to Benjamin Arquette and Beatrice (Newsham) Arquette. He attended Garden City High School in Garden City, MI. Harold served honorably for 15 years in the U.S. Navy, including time during the Vietnam War. He retired from the Building and Maintenance Department of the Van Buren Public Schools in Belleville, MI. He lived in Winchester for 21 years, where he was a member of the Jericho Friends Meeting. He also enjoyed reading, gardening and being outdoors.

Survivors include his wife of 32 years, M. Sue (Chenoweth) Arquette of Winchester; 8 children, Mike Mlsna (Heather) of Marquette, MI, Debbie Arquette (Rose) of Clarkston, MI, Julie Mlsna of Baltimore, MD, Jill Leslie (Daniel) of Winthrop Harbor, IL, Todd Mlsna (Deb) of Starkville, MS, Mark Arquette (Karen) of Canton, MI, Gretchen Owocki (David) of Fenton, MI, and Sabrina Johnson (Clif) of Philomath, OR; 23 grandchildren; 4 great grandchildren; 2 brothers, Clifford Arquette of Belleville, MI and Richard Arquette of Romulus, MI.

He was preceded in death by his father, mother, step-father William Arquette, a son, Glen Arquette; and 11 siblings.

A memorial service was held on Sunday, June 5, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. in Winchester, Indiana, with Martin Wells officiating. A Michigan memorial service will be held on Saturday, June 11, 2016 at 10:30 a.m. at Belleville First United Methodist Church in Belleville, MI. Interment will be at a later date in Flatrock, MI. Walker Funeral Home in Winchester is entrusted with the arrangements. Online condolences may be expressed at www.walkerswinchester.com.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers donations be made to the Jericho Friends Meeting.



Jesse Thomas Lambert

JESSE THOMAS LAMBERT

(December 1, 1989 – June 2, 2016)

Jesse Thomas Lambert, age 26, of Ypsilanti, MI, passed away Thursday, June 2, 2016. He was born December 1, 1989 in Ann Arbor, MI, son of Lisa Renee Lambert and Joseph Franklin Varney.

Jesse was a member of the class of 2007 at Lincoln Consolidated High School. He enjoyed riding motorcycles. He was a great mechanic. He could fix almost anything: go-karts, jet skis, snowmobiles, automobiles, and excelled at computer repairs. He also loved trips to Disney World.

Jesse is survived by his mother Lisa (Lambert) Hall of Ypsilanti, MI; father Joseph Varney of Missouri; step-father Brian Hall of Tennessee; grandfather Stephen Lambert of Ypsilanti, MI; three siblings Katie Lynn Lambert, Ryan Keith Hall and Dalton Lee Hall, all of Ypsilanti, MI; one nephew Jayson Hall; also numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and friends. He was preceded in death by his grandmother Coleen Ruth (Dwyer) Lambert on July 21, 2012.

Visitation was 3-8 p.m. Tuesday, June 7, 2016 at David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI 48111-2764 (734) 697-4500. Graveside Service was 1 p.m. Wednesday, June 8, 2016 at Highland Cemetery, 943 N. River Street, Ypsilanti, MI. In the case of severe thunderstorms or lightning, services were to be held at the funeral home at 1 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to his family and would be greatly appreciated. Please sign his on-line guest book and share a story for his family to treasure at www.davidcbrownfh.com.

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League of Women Voters to present VB Township candidate forum June 16

The League of Women Voters of NW Wayne County is providing an opportunity for Van Buren Township citizens to learn more about the candidates running for the Van Buren Township Supervisor, Treasurer, and Trustees in the Aug. 2 Primary Election.

All candidates have been invited to attend a Candidates' Forum on Thursday, June 16, at the Western campus of Wayne County Community College at 9555 Haggerty Road in Van Buren Township.

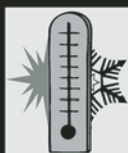
The forum will be in Lecture Hall D-100

from 7 to 9 p.m. Supervisor candidates will be presented from 7 to 7:45. The Treasurer candidates will be on from 7:50 to 8:10, and the Trustee candidates will follow from 8:15 to 9.

Leon Wright, the current township clerk, is running unopposed so will not be participating in the forum.

The public is invited to attend the forum and submit questions for the candidates that will be asked by a League moderator. The public can also submit questions in advance through the League's email address: lwvmail@yahoo.com.

Only Democratic candidates have filed for Van Buren Township offices, which means that those elected in the Primary are most likely to win the seats in November.



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More Letters

Reminder: Fly your American Flag June 14

To the Editor, Belleville residents, and all my South Biggs neighbors:

A reminder!

On June 14, Americans celebrate the adoption of the first national flag. Also known as the "Stars and Stripes" or "Old Glory," the first American flag was approved by the Continental Congress on June 14, 1777. In 1818, after five more states joined the Union, Congress passed legislation fixing the number of stripes at 13 and requiring that the number of stars equal the number of states.

The flag of the United States represents freedom and has been an enduring symbol of the country's ideals since its early days. This is a time when true Americans remember their loyalty to the nation, reaffirming their belief in liberty and justice, and observe the nation's unity.

June 14, 2016, is fast approaching and I am attempting to have a flag displayed at every home on South Biggs Street.

Let's show ISIS and other enemies of our country that we love our country and WILL NOT allow their way of life into our country.

Here's YOUR chance to demonstrate pride in our country and remember our fallen veterans. Once again, I am encouraging all my South Biggs neighbors AND the city to

have a flag at EVERY home. If the results this year are anything like the last four years, you will be impressed by the display my South Biggs Street neighbors put on. This should be a city-wide effort and I am looking forward to having several more streets with 100% participation. I dare you to drive up South Biggs Street and NOT be impressed with the sight of U.S. Flags at every home.

Business owners, Firemen, Police Officers, City Officials, set the example. display your U.S. flag early. Show the rest of Van Buren Township, Wayne County, Michigan, and the entire Country how proud we are to be a U.S. Citizen, creating: A sense of pride in our neighborhood and our country.

Thanks to very generous donations from Manns Lumber, I have very many free, refurbished flags (11"x16") available. All these flags are from Hillside Cemetery where they were flown over a veteran's grave. Let's "Honor and Remember" these veterans once again by re-displaying the U.S. Flag at your home. Stop by and pick up one. Call 699-8563 or stop at 48 S. Biggs. Also, I can have your old flags properly disposed; drop them off when you pick up a new one.

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

Pete Pitzen

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

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More Letters

Come to last school board meeting of year

To the Editor:

We thought we had seen the worst when five Savage teachers were walked out of their classrooms in front of their students before the end of the school day.

- We thought we had seen the worst when a gun with bullets was found on a student at Belleville High School and parents were not notified.

- We thought we had seen the worst when the Board of Education and Superintendent would not talk to parents or concerned citizens, but the Superintendent talked to the Free Press and NPR at great length.

- We thought we had seen the worst when we realized that 156 teachers and 14 principals had left in recent years, and no exit interviews or questioning of this mass exodus had been done.

- We thought we had seen the worst when story after story of abuse surfaced --on a petition to remove the superintendent, at board meetings, on the Savage Strong Facebook page, and in the Belleville Independent.

- We thought we had seen the worst when the Superintendent filed assault charges against a member of the Board of Education.

- We thought we had seen the worst when the Board canceled the February meeting due to "illness."

- We thought we had seen the worst when six members of the Board of Education (everyone except Mrs. Frazier) wrote a letter to the Independent stating of the concerned parents and community members that "their actions are nothing short of an embarrassment to this community and a terrible example to the students that are watching."

- We thought we had seen the worst when select members of the Board and the Superintendent held a "town hall" meeting, at a cost to the district, rather than face the community and address the concerns at a live School Board meeting.

- We thought we had seen the worst when the Superintendent signed the separation agreement and was let go, at the cost of

over \$300,000 to the district.

- We thought we had seen the worst when the Superintendent's secretary called for a boycott of a local business.

- We thought we had seen the worst when simple Google searches determined there had been some questionable hires in the VBPS administration.

- We thought we had seen the worst when month after month passed with no charges against the teachers and no discussion about it at School Board meetings.

- We thought we had seen the worst when School Board members were still defending the former superintendent and stating he did the right thing at meetings.

- We thought we had seen the worst when we were told the Board could not make a decision because the "lawyers were not here" and learned that the legal fees had reached \$264,000 according to a board member.

- We thought we had seen the worst when the teachers filed a lawsuit that their civil rights were violated by the Board of Education.

But now we learn that the Board of Education decided to suspend the teachers without pay AFTER the lawsuit was filed even though one teacher had already returned without discipline. Sounds like retaliation to us.

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:

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

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



WE DESERVE BETTER.

Come to the last school board meeting of the school year on Monday, June 13 at 7 p.m. in the BHS Commons and let the Board of Education know what we think about what has gone on in 2015-16. See you there.

Andrea VanDenBergh
Van Buren Township

"Being powerful is like being a lady. If you have to tell people you ARE, you AREN'T."

-- Margaret Thatcher
British Prime Minister, 1925-2013

Who took flowers from Midge Artley's grave?

To the Editor:

To whomever had the audacity to take the pot of flowers from Midge Artley's grave, bring them back or replace them.

I realize the headstone is gone and is out getting the DAR seal engraved in it, but that doesn't give you the right to help yourself to her flowers! What a disgrace you are to our community. Just remember, what goes around comes around!

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Minding Your Business with Bob Mytych



This week end is Free Fishing Weekend here in Michigan where anglers do not need a fishing license and the folks over at Crosswinds Marsh and Van Buren Parks & Recreation will be holding a Family Fishing Fun Day at Crosswinds on Saturday, June 11, from 9 a.m. to noon. Tackle, fishing line tying, and casting techniques will be demonstrated. A fishing contest will offer prizes to kids 17 and under for the biggest

fish. Children will also be able to make and take fish print t-shirts if they bring any light colored t-shirt. Bait and some fishing poles will be available. No pre-registration is required.

The fish truck is coming next Tuesday, June 14, from 4 to 5 p.m. at the Willis Feed Mill in Willis behind Boneheads BBQ. Fish available for pond stocking include Catfish, Largemouth Bass, Redear, Bluegill, Minnows, Black Crappie and Koi, if available. To reserve some call (870) 578-9773.

Main Street Chiropractic has teamed up with Raindrop Therapy Massage in one

location at 243 Main Street in Belleville. Dr. Lee Sowle offers a full range of chiropractic services and cold laser therapy. Call (734) 699-6600 and visit www.welldoctor.info. Sherry Verduzco, CRT, uses Young Living Essential Oils with her services. Call (734) 646-5582 and visit www.raindroptherapy.net.

Art, music, and poetry is the focus at Stand Up Summer Camp, June 28-July 28, every Tuesday and Thursday, from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Tyler Elementary School on Tyler Road. The cost is \$5 per week or \$25 for the entire camp. The camp is geared for Belleville youths in first grade through sixth. Adult volunteers are needed and older youth can volunteer as junior leaders. Lunch and snacks will be provided. Registration is first-come, first-served. Call Pastor Bill Hales at (734) 740-4230 and visit www.redeemercare.com.

Also, Safety in the Summer, featuring food, fun, and music, will take place on Saturday, June 25, from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., also at Tyler Elementary School. Call the number above for more information.

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

Things to do in the Belleville area...

• **Saturday, June 11** – Western Wayne County Quilting Guild members will be making quilts for Children's Hospital of Michigan from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the September Days Senior Center at the Van Buren Township Hall on Tyler Road. They need help from sewers and non-sewers. Potluck lunch will be served. Information: (734) 262-3323.

• **Saturday, June 11** – Romulus Historical Society's annual flea market runs from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Romulus Historical Park, 11147 Hunt St., Romulus 48174. New this year: set up under the pavilion (sheltered area) \$20 per 10'x10' space, or, set up on the lawn along the sidewalk on the unsheltered patio area, \$15 for unlimited size space. For availability of pavilion

space, call Cathy Morse, (734) 941-6361.

• **Saturday, June 11** – Stock up on your summer reading at the Between the Sales used book sale at the Belleville Area District Library. Great books at a great price. From 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Put on by the Friends of the Library.

• **Saturday, June 11** – Wayne County Parks and Recreation and Van Buren Township parks and Recreation is holding Family Fishing Fun Day, 9 a.m. to noon, at Crosswinds Marsh in Sumpter Township. FREE. No pre-registration required. Fishing licenses not required. Bring a light-colored, cotton t-shirt for each participant to make fish print t-shirts.

• **Sunday, June 12** – Country Music Aayj Frandson band performs from 2 to 5 p.m. at September Days Senior Center, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township. Free. Information: Mike Hoben (734) 260-1170 or Lynette Jordan (734) 699-8918.

• **Monday, June 13** – The Belleville Area District Library invites everyone to a session at 7 p.m. to "upcycle" discarded library books by turning them into custom memory journals. You bring in photos, favorites books, and other memorabilia to photocopy and paste into your journal. The library provides the book covers, pages, stamps, etc. Register in advance at 699-3291 or come into the library to register.

• **Thursday, June 16** – League of Women Voters presents a candidate forum for those running for Van Buren Township offices in the Aug. 2 primary election. It runs from 7 to 9 p.m. at Wayne County Community College, Haggerty Rd., D-100 Lecture Hall. Supervisor candidates at 7:05 p.m., treasurer candidates at 7:25 p.m., and trustee candidates at 8:15 p.m.

• **Friday, June 17, to Sunday, June 19** – Annual Strawberry Festival week end.

• **Sunday, June 19** – Cinnamon's Annual Father's Day Car Show, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Victory Park at Five Points in Belleville. Pre-registration gathering is 6-8 p.m. Friday, June 17, at Belleville Faith Assembly Church, 894 E. Huron River Dr. Free hot dogs, chips and drink to all who pre-register for the Sunday show. \$10 pre-registration; \$20 at the gate. Information: (734) 260-0250 or BigCinnamon@gmail.com.

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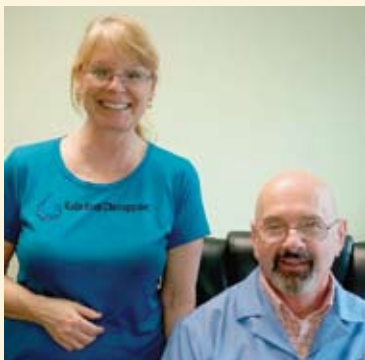
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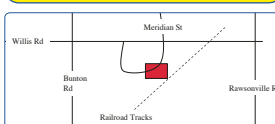


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More Letters

Hard to understand why city is so neglected

To the Editor:

I have just returned from a walk in Village Park and it saddens me to see the lack of care this park gets. Belleville has three city parks: Victory Park, Horizon Park, and Village Park. Village Park in my own view is an overlooked jewel to the city of Belleville. Therefore, I find it hard to understand why it is so neglected in care; it is almost as though they have forgotten it is part of the city's park system.

As I walked through the park this morning, I noticed again this year the six large flower pots are without flowers for the fourth year in a row, to my knowledge. The pond in front, closest to the road, has a layer of green slime perfect for mosquito breeding and badly needs to be cleaned out, but by the foot bridge it is so overgrown that water can hardly pass through from one pond to the next. Trees need to be trimmed from all the dead limbs and vines growing in them. One dead tree just lays on the ground.

The park is mowed but little trimming is ever done. Last year a new playground structure was installed, which is nice, but the play area was shortened and instead of putting the area not being used back into lawn it is just weeds. Come on people, take a walk in the park, appreciate it and maintain it. This could be a very beautiful park with a bit of care. I can envision some benches along the blacktop trail and maybe having

Jasmine Wehr graduates from Univ. of Findlay

Jasmine Wehr, of Belleville has graduated from the University of Findlay in Findlay, Ohio. Wehr received a Bachelor of Science in Animal Science and an Associate of Arts in Equestrian Studies.

the trail marked so people could use it for exercising and they would know how far they walked. Or, there could be shuffleboard courts put in and tournaments held. There are a lot of possibilities for this beautiful park. Let's not forget it but rather let's promote it.

Victory Park has not had the leaves cleaned up in the fall for the past couple of years and as a result between the curb bumpers and the curb there is such a buildup of decomposed leaves a shovel is needed to clean that mess up so that it looks good once again. Thanks to the Lions Club or Rotary, I am not sure which organization did the repairs on the gazebo in Victory Park, it is once again a pretty sight.

The blight in the city is also a major problem. First of all, the property owned by

the city of Belleville on Savage Road, just past the DPW, is about the worst eyesore in the city and has been for several years. It needs to be cleaned up and the grass mowed. If it were anyone else besides the city who owned property that looked that bad they would be ticketed.

The other blighted property that needs to be fixed or torn down is the old building on E. Huron River Drive that was owned by Chesley Odom (called the green monster) and the old car wash on E. Huron River Drive. The structures on both of these properties are dangerous and detract from the neighborhood. It is nearly impossible to walk on the sidewalk in that area because of the overgrown shrubs and the tall grass. Not a very pretty sight for people entering the

city from that area.

There are other areas in the city that also need attention as far as clearing the overgrowth from the sidewalk area for walkers. There are many sidewalks in the city that need to be replaced so that Belleville is a walkable, friendly city.

Where is our city's ordinance officer? Does the city have one?

Betty Fleming
Belleville

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VBT board wants to meet with LDFA to discuss Visteon strategy

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

At Monday's work/study session of the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees, the board learned some information about Sovereign Partners, new owner of Grace Lake, that caused it to remove an item from an upcoming agenda.

The discussion also led the board to seek a special, closed door session with the Local Development Finance Authority and the township's attorney on the Visteon law suit that had recently been dismissed by the court because it had not been filed in a timely manner.

The board was discussing the revisions to the LDFA bylaws that already had been approved by the LDFA and now were before the township board for consideration. It was due to be on the June 21 township meeting agenda for action.

Director of Planning and Economic Development Ron Akers presented the revisions, most of which were housekeeping measures to make it comply with state law.

One big change was to provide for teleconferencing, so members who were away could attend the meetings and help make decisions.

The teleconferencing was included because of the absence of one LDFA member who never had attended a meeting since he was appointed by Supervisor Linda Combs and approved by the board last year.

Danylo Dobriansky of Sovereign Partners has offices in New York City. Supervisor Combs said he flew out twice to attend LDFA meetings that were cancelled for lack of a quorum.

Trustee Brenda McClanahan said according to the LDFA bylaws with three unexcused absences the member is out. She was told they had a problem with what was "unexcused" and what wasn't.

John Delaney, who serves on the LDFA, said 10 months ago the LDFA really had a problem with attendance and Dobriansky never showing up was a problem. He said the teleconferencing was being put in just for him.

Delaney said now they have found that Sovereign's in-house counsel is the same as Visteon's in-house counsel: Dickinson Wright.

He said if Dobriansky finally attends a

meeting he would find out what the LDFA is going to do and he'll tell Visteon.

"We should hold off on teleconferencing until we see how that works out," said Supervisor Combs, who also sits on the LDFA.

Doug Peters, a member of the LDFA, said the issue is does Sovereign has a conflict of interest.

Trustee Jeff Jahr said the LDFA voted for these changes and sent it on to the board.

Delaney said that was before they learned about the in-house counsel. He said now the LDFA can get a quorum without a problem and it's not a good idea to facilitate attendance for the Sovereign representative.

"Why do we need this appointment anyway?" asked Trustee Reggie Miller.

Supervisor Combs said it was made in the best interest of the owner of the property to help with development. She said they were going to develop the out lots at Grace Lake and it was thought it would be good to have them represented on the board.

"There's been no development," Miller stated. "What benefit is he on the board?"

Delaney said it looks like Sovereign is just a holding company and the primary goal is to sell the property. He said the LDFA has seven or eight questions to ask him and can't do so.

Miller asked if there has been talk of selling and Akers said the assessing department got an inquiry on the taxes on the property. He said the township has no confirmation of a proposed sale.

Delaney said he believes Sovereign is a straw company for Visteon, buying the property and eventually giving it back to Visteon, past the 2019 deadline for VBT's bond payment.

Peters said the bylaw changes were sent to the board before the LDFA knew about Dickinson Wright. Now there's a rumor of a new sale and inquiry as to whether they would still pay the same tax rate.

Peters, an attorney, said there have been discrepancies on the value of the property. It was first set at \$300 million and then the township claimed it at \$30 million. Visteon sold the property to Sovereign for \$65 million.

"If it's a friendly purchase, it realizes it's worth much more," Peters said, noting it could charge Visteon a reduced lease price for space in the buildings and, "We have lost millions of dollars."

Kaveh Kashef, tried to get a copy of the lease, Peters said, referring to the attorney handling the law suit against Visteon.

"When we looked into Sovereign, there was not much online," Peters said.

He said the property is now leased at capacity. He said if the new purchaser is innocent, he may be committed to the lower lease rates.

He said \$18 to \$24 per square foot is fair, but there may be a substandard rate which would amount to fraud on the township.

"I tried to get Kaveh to get the lease, but Visteon never produced it in the litigation," Peters said. "Why would Visteon hide those documents?"

Peters said there are "tax avoidance" structures used to cheat the taxing authority and are perfectly legal.

"An innocent buyer could be buying subject to keeping the lease. They could have a 24-year lease," Peters said.

"It should go back to the LDFA in order to change their recommendation," Combs said.

"Everyone involved needs to know what's going on," said Trustee Jahr, asking for a joint meeting.

"I just learned there's an appeal," Peters said. "Nothing in the bylaw changes interferes with operation of the LDFA," he said, suggesting that they can take their time with it.

"The real issue is if this guy has a conflict of interest," he said of Dobriansky.

"You can't keep counting on this litigation being successful," Trustee Jahr said, referring to the idea of kicking the can down the road.

"This board is shirking their responsibility by depending on the law suit," he said. "I think Visteon should pay. They said they would make up the shortfall. What happens if we don't win the litigation?"

Combs said she would call Kaveh to see if the two bodies can meet together in closed session with him and to ask, "Where we are with a conflict of interest?"

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FORMICA KITCHEN TABLE, wood look & 4 chairs. \$75. Variety of end tables, \$20 for 3. OBO (734) 221-5399

6/16

2007 ENCLOSED 19' TRAILER, electric brakes; 1988 Yamaha Touring Bike, loaded, w/leather & helmets; John Deere Lawnmower, 48" deck w/snowblade; 2 Evinrude outboard motors, 5.5 & 7.5 hp; moving from Romulus, lots more items. (607) 425-4997.

6/16

1976 CREST PONTOON, 25', 35 hp. Johnson Great Project Boat. New paint, carpet & floors. \$1,900. ANTIQUE ICE BOAT, 16', sail. \$200. (734) 480-1848

6/16

4-MIRADA CROSSTOUR SLX. 265/70 R-16 radial tires. Excellent condition. \$100. (734) 325-6742

6/23

NEW SMALL TROYBILT Turf Aerator Tiller. 20" from tire to tire. Used twice. \$500 OBO. (734) 699-6508

6/23

4-PARSONS CHAIRS w/removal custom-made covers. Two matching pillows. Excellent condition. Very modern w/chrome legs. Moving sale. \$100. (734) 941-3785.

6/23

Birthdays

June 14 - Michael Hinton

June 17 - Kyle Ackron

June 20 - Charlie Crispell

JOIN A WINNING TEAM!

We Have Immediate Openings for Home Health Care Workers. Starting Pay: \$8.50/hour



From Our Home, To Yours...

We provide the highest quality of services to the elderly in their own home and directly through Golden Services Transportation.

For an interview, call Golden Home Health Care Agency in Belleville at (734) 697-0888

Quest, Inc. is HIRING in BELLEVILLE!

We're looking for fun, energetic & caring Direct Care Workers to assist persons with special needs we serve in their own homes.

Applicants must be:

- **Responsible & committed and work well with others.**
- **Have a clean criminal record.**
- **Be available for training. MORC/WCHO/CLS Training is preferred.**

Send Letter/Resume to: recruiter@questserv.org or Call (734) 699-6543





**City of Belleville
Regular City Council Meeting Minutes
May 16, 2016**

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

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE

2. ROLL CALL

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

3. PRESENTATIONS AND CITIZEN COMMENTS

Council follow up list None.

4. AGENDA APPROVAL

Motion by Tindall, Second by Loria to approve the agenda with additions. To add Items 8B Thunder Rolls, Item 8D Disability Accommodation Policy and Item 8E Equal Employment Opportunity Policy.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Fielder, Second by Loria to approve the Regular City Council meeting minutes of May 2, 2016 with a correction to Item 8B with dates to be determined.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Motion by Smith, Second by Fielder to approve the Special City Council meeting minutes of May 9, 2016 as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

7. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

None.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

A. Lions Club – White Cane Week – Solicitation for Donations

Motion by Fielder, Second by Loria to approve Resolution No. 16-051 to approve a request from Belleville Area Lions Club to solicit for funds from

May 27th to June 3rd on Main Street to the bridge and from Five Points to Third Street from 11:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. and 4-6 P.M.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. Thunder Rolls in Belleville

Motion by Loria, Second by Tindall to approve Resolution No. 16-052 to approve a request to hold the annual Thunder Rolls in Belleville event on May 30, 2016 at the Veteran's Memorial. Street to be closed from the memorial to Church Street from 12-4 P.M.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

C. Belleville Area District Library/City of Belleville Agreement

City Attorney, Steve Hitchcock went over the details of the agreement to exchange real property between the Belleville Area District library and the City of Belleville. The agreement requires the parties to acquire, consolidate, and split existing lots, build a new library building and construct an approximate 85 parking-space parking lot.

Motion by Smith, Second by Fielder to approve Resolution No. 16-053 to approve the agreement between the Belleville Area District Library and the City of Belleville as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

D. Disability Accommodation Policy

Motion by Fielder, Second by Loria to approve Resolution No. 16-054 to approve the City of Belleville Disability Accommodation Policy as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

E. Equal Employment Opportunity Policy

Motion by Loria, Second by Smith to approve Resolution No. 16-055 to approve the City Of Belleville Equal Employment Opportunity Policy as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

F.CWW Alternate Appointment – Tom Fielder

Motion by Fielder, Second by Tindall to approve Resolution No. 16-056 to approve the appointment of Kerreen Conley as the representative and Tom Fielder as the alternate representative to CWW.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

G. PA 152 Hardcap Limits for City Employees Healthcare

Motion by Tindall, Second by Smith to approve Resolution No. 16-057 to implement a hardcap healthcare premium contribution by the City of Belleville for City eligible employees in the amount of \$6,142.11 for single coverage, \$12,845.04 for 2-person coverage and \$16,751.23 for family coverage.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

H. Call Special Budget Meeting – May 23, 2016

Motion by Smith, Second by Tindall to approve Resolution No. 16-058 to call a Special Budget Meeting on May 23, 2016 at 6:30 P.M.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

I. Call Public Hearing FY16/17 Budget

Motion by Tindall, Second by Fielder to approve Resolution No. 16-059 to call a Public Hearing on June 6, 2016 at 7:30 P.M. to discuss the FY16/17 Budget.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

9. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE & DEPARTMENTAL EXPENDITURES

Motion by Tindall, Second by Fielder to approve Resolution No. 16-060, to approve accounts payable and payables over \$500.00 with a correction to Harry's Army Surplus to purchase 17 pairs of boots instead of 18 reducing the amount approved to \$2,550.00.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

10. ACTION ITEMS FOR NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING

FY16/17 Budget Public Hearing.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Pursuant to MCL 15.268(c) to discuss the status and strategy of pending union negotiations.

Motion by Fielder, Second by Tindall to approve Resolution No. 16-061 to recess regular meeting and enter into Executive Session at 8:50 P.M. Pursuant to MCL 15.268(c) to discuss the status and strategy of pending union negotiations.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Motion by Tindall, Second by Smith to close Executive Session at 9:05 P.M.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Motion by Tindall, Second by Smith to approve Resolution No. 16-062 to approve the tentative agreement between City of Belleville and POAM/BPOA 2015-2018.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Loria, Second by Smith to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 P.M.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Long

City Clerk/Treasurer

Approved: June 6, 2016

Published: June 9, 2016

**One Call Does It All . . .
. . . At the Independent
699-9020**



FISH DAY!!!

NOW IS THE TIME FOR STOCKING!

• Channel Catfish • Largemouth Bass • Redear • Bluegill (Regular & Hybrid)
• Minnows • Black Crappie (If Avail) • Koi (If Avail)

WILLIS FEED MILL & COUNTRY STORE IN WILLIS, MI
Tuesday, June 14 from 4-5 P.M.

TO PLACE AN ORDER CALL 1-870-578-9773
ARKANSAS PONDSTOCKERS, INC.

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Congratulations Senior Class of 2016!

To All Our Wonderful Customers...

THANK YOU!

**Belleville High School
Ann Arbor Huron High School
Gabriel Richard High School
Allen Park Cabrini High School
New Boston Huron High School
Ypsilanti Lincoln High School
Romulus High School
Detroit Henry Ford High School**

**Milan High School
Divine Child High School
Westland John Glenn High School
Wayne Memorial High School
Southgate Aquinas High School
Southgate Anderson High School
Carleton Airport High School
Temperance/Bedford High School**

Thank you for your patience during our busy prom season. To the students we had the privilege of working with. Congratulations and good luck to the graduating seniors and thank you for your courtesy, it was a pleasure working with you!



ENRICA GOLDEN NEEDLE

(734) 697-2229

EXPERT ALTERATION & TAILORING



Upcoming Meetings

• Thursday, June 9 – Keystone Academy School Board, 6 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township Planning Commission, 7 p.m. Also, Belleville Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m.
 • Monday, June 13 – Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m., BHS Commons.

• Tuesday, June 14 – Sumpter Township work/study at 6 p.m. and regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. Also, Van Buren Township Board of Zoning Appeals, 7 p.m. Also, Belleville Area District Library Board, 7:30 p.m.
 • Wednesday, June 15 – Belleville Downtown Development Authority, 6 p.m. Also, Van Buren Township Environmental Commission meeting, 7 p.m.
 • Monday, June 20 – Van Buren Township

work/study session, 4 p.m. Also, Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education work/study session, 7 p.m., Administration Building. Also,

Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.

• Tuesday, June 21 – Van Buren Township regular board meeting, 7 p.m.

Notice to Advertisers:

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

Public Notice

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF WAYNE NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Decedent's Estate
FILE NO: 2016-817165-DE
 Estate of Scott David Hayes,
 date of birth April 19, 1968

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Scott David Hayes, died February 20, 2016. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Dennis Hayes, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 1305 Coleman A. Young Municipal Center, 2 Woodward Avenue, Detroit, MI 48226 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of the publication of this notice.

Cunningham Dalman, P.C.
 Nicholas R. Dekker, attorney, P70930
 321 Settlers Road
 Holland, MI 49423
 (616) 392-1821

Dennis Hayes, personal representative
 4648 Macatawa Legends Blvd.
 Holland, MI 49424
 (616) 894-1166

Published: June 9, 2016

City of Belleville Public Notice



City of Belleville Special City Council Meeting Minutes May 23, 2016

A special meeting of the Council for the City of Belleville was called to order at 6:30 P.M., at the Municipal Building, 6 Main Street by Mayor Conley.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. ROLL CALL

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

3. GENERAL BUSINESS

FY 2016/17 City Budget Review

Detailed discussion was held regarding all funds.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Loria, Second by Tindall to adjourn meeting at 8:55 P.M.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Long

City Clerk/Treasurer

Approved: June 6, 2016

Published: June 9, 2016

Public Notice

TowerCo, L.L.C., is proposing to build a 175-foot monopole telecommunications tower (overall height 185-feet above ground surface) located west of Haggerty Road and north of Willis Road within Sumpter Twp., Michigan 48111. Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30-days from the date of this publication to: Andrew Temerowski, G2 Consulting Group, LLC, 1866 Woodslee Street, Troy, Michigan 48083, Phone: 248-680-0400, E-Mail: atemerowski@g2consultinggroup.com.

Publish: June 9, 2016

Van Buren Public Schools Public Notice

SCHOOL DISTRICT NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED 2016-2017 BUDGET PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on June 13, 2016 at 6:30 PM at Belleville High School Commons, 555 W. Columbia Ave., Belleville, MI, the Board of Education of Van Buren Public Schools will hold a public hearing to consider the District's proposed 2016-2017 budget. The Board may not adopt its proposed 2016-2017 budget until after a public hearing. A copy of the proposed 2016-2017 budget, including the proposed property tax millage rate, is available for public inspection during normal business hours at 555 W. Columbia Ave., Belleville, MI during normal business hours between 8:00 am and 3:30 pm. **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. Keven English, Secretary.

Publish: June 9, 2016

EXHIBIT A

NOTICE OF INTENT TO EXECUTE TAX-SUPPORTED CONTRACT AND RIGHT TO PETITION FOR REFERENDUM THEREON

TO THE TAXPAYERS AND ELECTORS OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Cities of Flat Rock, Gibraltar and Woodhaven in the County of Wayne, the Charter Townships of Brownstown, Huron and Van Buren in the County of Wayne, and the Village of South Rockwood in the County of Monroe (collectively, the "Local Units" and each a "Local Unit") have each approved the execution of a contract (the "Contract") with the South Huron Valley Utility Authority (the "Authority") pursuant to Act No. 233, Public Acts of Michigan, 1955, as amended, which Contract will provide among other things that the Authority will acquire, construct, furnish and equip improvements to the Authority's sewage disposal system, consisting generally of reequipping existing biological treatment tanks with new diffused aeration equipment, including mixers, diffusers, blowers, valves, gates, control system improvements, and safety improvements, together with all necessary appurtenances and attachments thereto and will issue its bonds in the approximate amount of not to exceed \$3,700,000 to finance all or part of the cost of said improvements. Each Local Unit, including the Charter Township of Van Buren, will pay to the Authority annually all sums necessary to retire its share of the principal of and interest of said bonds pursuant to a proposed Financing Contract among the Authority and the Local Units. Each Local Unit's share of such payments shall be based generally on the weighted average of the last three calendar years' flow percentages for each Local Unit served by the sewage disposal system, approximately as follows:

Local Unit	Percentage of Share
Brownstown Twp.	24.62%
Flat Rock City	15.96%
Gibraltar City	10.02%
Huron Twp.	15.97%
South Rockwood Village	2.29%
Van Buren Twp.	16.96%
Woodhaven City	14.18%

CONTRACT OBLIGATIONS OF THE LOCAL UNITS

It is presently contemplated that said bonds will be issued by the Authority in the principal amount of not to exceed \$3,700,000 and will be payable in not to exceed twenty (20) years, and will bear interest at a rate not exceeding 6% per annum on the outstanding principal balance, subject to revision pursuant to Michigan law and the Contract. The Contract includes the pledge by each Local Unit of its limited tax full faith and credit as security for its obligations under the Contract including payment of its share of debt service on the bonds. PURSUANT TO SUCH PLEDGE, EACH LOCAL UNIT, INCLUDING THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN, WILL BE REQUIRED TO LEVY AD VALOREM TAXES ON ALL TAXABLE PROPERTY WITHIN ITS BOUNDARIES, SUBJECT TO APPLICABLE CONSTITUTIONAL, STATUTORY AND CHARTER TAX RATE LIMITATIONS, TO THE EXTENT NECESSARY TO MAKE THE LOCAL UNIT'S REQUIRED PAYMENTS UNDER THE CONTRACT IF OTHER FUNDS ARE NOT AVAILABLE. It is the present intention of each Local Unit to use the revenues derived from the operation of its sanitary sewer collection system to make substantially all of the payments required to pay its obligations under the Contract.

RIGHT OF REFERENDUM

FOR EACH LOCAL UNIT, THE CONTRACT WILL BECOME EFFECTIVE without a vote of the electors of the Local Unit, as permitted by law, UNLESS A VALID PETITION REQUESTING AN ELECTION on the question of entering into the Contract, SIGNED BY NOT LESS THAN 10% OF THE REGISTERED ELECTORS OF SUCH LOCAL UNIT, is filed with the Clerk of the Local Unit WITHIN FORTY-FIVE (45) DAYS after publication of this notice. If such petition is so filed, the Contract will not become effective with respect to such Local Unit without an approving vote by the majority of electors of the Local Unit voting on the question.

THIS NOTICE is given pursuant to the requirements of Section 8 of Act No. 233, Public Acts of Michigan, 1955, as amended. Further information concerning the details of said contract and the matters set out in this notice may be secured from the Charter Township of Van Buren Clerk's office.

Leon Wright
 Leon Wright, Clerk
 Charter Township of Van Buren

Van Buren Township
Police Dispatch Log

Out of the 559 dispatch calls reported by Van Buren Township police this week, the following are selected for this column.

Sunday, May 29:
0041 – noise complaint, Packard Ct.
0102 – property damage accident, Ecorse, cancel
0149 – noise complaint, Lancaster Dr.
0516 – noise complaint, Oak Ln.
0905 – water leak found, N. Timberview Dr.
0933 – property damage accident, Rawsonville / Grove
0941 – malicious destruction of property, Kirkridge Park Dr.
0957 – fight, Belleville
1050 – malicious destruction of property, Hoeft
1052 – intimidation threat, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1120 – shots fired, Savage Rd.
1252 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1427 – private property incident, Belleville
1606 – assault & battery, Parkwood Dr.
1805 – assault & battery, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1817 – lake complaint, Haggerty/Bridge
1842 – assist fire dept., Van Buren Park
2131 – fireworks, Van Buren St.
2212 – assault & battery, Quirk Rd.
2347 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / Ponderosa Trl.

Monday, May 30:
0015 – retail fraud, Belleville
0025 – disturbance, E. Archwood Dr.
0328 – noise complaint, Parkwood Dr.
0347 – trespassing, Parkwood Dr.
0539 – hospice, Sylvia Dr.
0548 – malicious destruction of property, Parkwood Dr.
1154 – assault & battery, Anna Dr.
1551 – malicious destruction of property, Gilmore
1559 – abandoned auto, Belleville, cancel
1604 – property damage accident, Michigan Ave. / Denton Rd.
1617 – property damage accident, Michigan Ave. / Denton Rd.
1636 – lake complaint, Belleville Lake
1650 – narcotics crime, Westlake Blg. 13
1707 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1718 – disturbance, W. Archwood Dr.
1828 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1911 – agency assist, Locust Dr.
2057 – noise complaint, Vine St.
2126 – disturbance, America
2208 – fireworks, Ash Dr.

Tuesday, May 31:
0136 – assault & battery, Fay Dr.
0217 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
0828 – larceny, Village Green Ln.
0916 – private property incident, W. Adams
0953 – private property incident, Van Born
1150 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd., cancel
1308 – suspicious situation, train tracks/N. of Willow Run
1710 – fraud, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1724 – larceny from auto, Westlake
1932 – malicious destruction of property, Village Green Ln.
2043 – property damage accident, Beck Diamonds
2132 – property damage accident, S. I-94 Service Dr.
2315 – overdose, Quirk Rd.
2335 – operating while intoxicated, Stonebridge

Wednesday, June 1:
0620 – vehicle repossession, Lighthouse Dr.
0802 – private property incident, Belleville Rd.
0857 – ordinance violation, Bog Rd.
0858 – harassment call, Chloe Ct.
1236 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / S. I-94 Service Dr.
1609 – private property incident, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1701 – harassment call, Rawsonville Rd.
1922 – agency assist, Sumpter/Judd
2355 – assault & battery, Denton Rd.
Thursday, June 2:
0041 – noise complaint, Kirkridge Park Dr.
0113 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
0139 – suspicious situation, Liberty/Main
1033 – trespassing, Dunkin’ Doughnuts

1040 – code enforcement, Filmore St.
1108 – assault & battery, Brandi
1349 – larceny, Liberty Ln.
1624 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / McDonald’s
1810 – PPO violation, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1817 – property damage accident, Tyler Rd. / Andover Dr.
1905 – missing person, N. Ponderosa Trl.
1936 – narcotics crime, Jackson
1957 – minor in possession, S. Ponderosa Trl.
2035 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / I-94 Service Dr.
2141 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / S. I-94 Service Dr.
2252 – property damage accident, WB I-94 / Belleville Rd.
2351 – noise complaint, Wildflower Ct. / Wheatgrass Ln.

Friday, June 3:
1001 – disorderly conduct, Revere Dr.
1034 – fraud, N. Ponderosa Trl.
1259 – code enforcement, Hamlin St.
1332 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Village Center Dr.
1456 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / S. I-94 Service Dr.
1503 – private property accident, Rawsonville Rd.
1616 – trespassing, S. Ponderosa Trl.
1612 – property damage accident, EB I-94 / Belleville
1620 – disorderly conduct, Maple Dr.
1726 – private property accident, Belleville Rd.
2133 – assault & battery, E. Huron River Dr.
2341 – overdose, W. Huron River Dr.

Saturday, June 4:
0052 – juvenile complaint, Belleville Rd.
0121 – breaking & entering, Parkwood Dr.
0211 – assault & battery, Denton Rd.
0555 – malicious destruction of property, Edgedale Dr.
0901 – assault & battery, N. I-94 Service Dr.
0909 – assault & battery, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0932 – malicious destruction of property, Willow Way
1000 – narcotics crime, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1019 – harassment call, Hampton Dr.
1131 – private property accident, Belleville Rd.
1207 – suicide or attempt, Burtrig St.
1555 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd.
1810 – assault & battery, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1855 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
2035 – larceny, N. Ponderosa Trl.
2115 – found property, Belleville Rd.
2137 – mental, Ecorse Rd.

Also on this week’s log are 211 traffic stops, with 65 of those on the I-94 and I-275 freeways.

Belleville Police
Dispatch Log

Sunday, May 29:
0221 – suspicious person, Harbour Pointe Dr.
0812 – lost property, Main St.
0908 – E-911 cellular, N. Liberty St.
0938 – family trouble, Carmell St.
1148 – miscellaneous complaint, Victory Park
1258 – agency assist, Walmart
1629 – suspicious situation, Anaheim
1902 – assist fire dept., Clarence St., cancel
1908 – vehicle lockout, Biggs Ave.
1943 – intrusion alarm, W. Columbia Ave, cancel
2009 – vehicle lock out, Church St.
Monday, May 30:
0237 – intrusion alarm, High St.
0927 – intrusion alarm, S. Edgemont St.
1131 – sexual assault, University of Michigan
1525 – assist fire dept., Carmell
Tuesday, May 31:
1214 – property check, N. Liberty St.
1229 – vehicle lockout, E. Columbia Ave.
1506 – assist fire dept., South St.
1523 – missing person, W. Columbia Ave.
1632 – fraud, Sumpter Rd.
1957 – family trouble, Carmell St.
2022 – intrusion alarm, N. Liberty St.
Wednesday, June 1:
0320 – suspicious vehicle, Carmell St.
0348 – intrusion alarm, Main St.
0741 – traffic complaint, South St.

0813 – all other traffic, Main St.
0823 – malicious destruction of property, Sumpter
0916 – neighbor trouble, Charles Ct.
0931 – E-911 hang up/investigation, W. Columbia Ave., cancel
1129 – animal complaint, E. Columbia Ave.
1218 – harassment call, Main St.
1504 – traffic complaint, Main St.
1948 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
1954 – animal complaint, Church St./Henry St.
2234 – warrant arrest, Main St.
2248 – information, Biggs Ave.

Thursday, June 2:
0038 – domestic assault, Church St.
0344 – warrant arrest, CVS
0754 – malicious destruction of property, Wexford
1348 – welfare check, Loza Ln.
1457 – assist fire dept., Church St.
2219 – suicide or attempt, Main St.
Friday, June 3:
0030 – agency assist, Church St.
0310 – suspicious person, Church St.
0851 – lake complaint, Belleville Bridge
0859 – intrusion alarm, Robbe St.
1055 – parking complaint, Main/Denton
1501 – fight, W. Columbia Ave.
1800 – suspicious situation, Johnny’s on the Lake
1835 – disturbance, Main St.
1850 – PPO violation, Biggs Ave.
1919 – assist fire dept., Belleville
1926 – assist fire dept., Carmell St.
2048 – serve warrant, Greylock St.
2204 – noise complaint, Sumpter Rd.
2213 – suspicious vehicle, Robbe St.

Saturday, June 4:
0233 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
0814 – ordinance violation, Belleville Bridge
1040 – follow up, Main St.
1224 – agency assist, Burtrig
1515 – follow up, Loza Ln.
1526 – welfare check, E. Huron River Dr./S. Edgemont Ave.
1633 – sexual assault, Main St.
Also on this week’s log are 38 traffic stops.

Sumpter Township
Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, May 29:
0124 – harassment complaint, 24000 bl. Karr Rd.
0439 – warrant arrest pick up, Willow/Martinsville
0947 – assist other agency, 28000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
1150 – alarm, 43000 bl. Clay Rd.
1554 – personal injury accident, Sumpter/Bemis
1753 – harassment complaint, 45000 bl. Judd Rd.
1927 – ORV complaint, Karr/Willis
2030 – fire dept. assist, 44000 bl. Bemis Rd.
2054 – traffic hazard, Judd/Haggerty
2137 – disorderly person, Sumpter/Judd
2246 – fire dept. assist, 22000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
Monday, May 30:
0001 – fire dept. assist, Oregon
0005 – fire dept. assist, Sumpter Fairgrounds
0153 – suicide, 26000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
0921 – fire dept. assist, 36000 bl. S. Huron Rd.
0922 – neighbor dispute, 19000 bl. Karr Rd.
0945 – fire dept. assist, 23000 bl. Bohn Rd.
0950 – found property, 24000 bl. Bohn Rd.
1035 – threats complaint, Wayside Dr.
1123 – neighbor dispute, 23000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1252 – citizen assist, 41000 bl. Judd Rd.
1337 – death investigation, 22000 bl. Fenster Dr.
1441 – suspicious incident, Wayside Dr.
1546 – mental health commitment, 26000 bl. Elwell Rd.

1548 – trespassing complaint, 40000 bl. Wear Rd.
1619 – civil dispute, 24000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
1824 – noise complaint, 18000 bl. Savage Rd.
1827 – family trouble, 48000 bl. Judd Rd.
1904 – death investigation, 17000 bl. Odyssey Dr.
2220 – juvenile complaint, 19000 bl. Clark Rd.
2233 – civil dispute, 46000 bl. Willis Rd.
2305 – assault, 24000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
Tuesday, May 31:
0816 – found property, Sumpter Fairgrounds
1058 – civil dispute, 45000 bl. Paris Dr.
1325 – civil dispute, Carriage Ln.
1351 – malicious destruction of property, Wayside
1404 – abandoned vehicle, 50000 bl. Judd Rd.
1440 – larceny, 39000 bl. Judd Rd.

1602 – well-being check, Edgewood
2024 – larceny, 40000 bl. Harris Rd.
Wednesday, June 1:
0524 – fire dept. assist, 43000 bl. Harris Rd.
1031 – trespassing complaint, Creekside Dr.
1053 – fire dept. assist, 48000 bl. Sully Dr.
1201 – suspicious incident, E. Arizona
1218 – suspicious incident, 46000 bl. Wear Rd.
1419 – warrant arrest pick up, 10000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
1617 – civil dispute, Montana
1806 – civil dispute, 46000 bl. Willis Rd.
1825 – fire dept. assist, 40000 bl. Willis Rd.
1918 – warrant arrest pick up, Sumpter/Judd
2347 – leaving the scene of the property damage accident, Martinsville/Willis

Thursday, June 2:
0456 – fire dept. assist, 20000 bl. Wilmot Rd.
0859 – fraud complaint, 8100 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
1152 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1347 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1403 – trespassing complaint, Willow/Karr
1429 – suspicious incident, 39000 bl. Judd Rd.
1455 – down wires, 48000 bl. Willis Rd.
1740 – well-being check, Walnut/Elwell
1837 – mental health commitment, 23000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
1914 – harassment complaint, 18000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
2149 – civil dispute, 5100 bl. Oakville Waltz Rd.
2153 – neighbor dispute, 18000 bl. Martinsville rd.
Friday, June 3:
0319 – well-being check, Bemis/Rawsonville
0814 – property damage accident, 24000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
0840 – harassment complaint, Wayside Dr.
1300 – breaking & entering report, Wayside Dr.
1636 – alarm, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2143 – alarm, 47000 bl. Bemis Rd.

Saturday, June 4:
0105 – fire dept. assist, 19000 bl. Karr Rd.
0248 – suspicious vehicle, 28000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1602 – subpoena service, out of township
1816 – civil dispute, 22000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
1916 – fire dept. assist, 22000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
2030 – suspicious person, 50000 bl. Willow Rd.
2135 – warrant arrest pick up, Sumpter/Bemis
2228 – breaking & entering report, W. Arizona
2334 – fire dept. assist, 45000 bl. Bemis Rd.
Also on this week’s log are 20 follow-up investigations, 31 miscellaneous details, 99 patrol checks, and 54 traffic stops.

Belleville taxpayers
invited to meeting June
15 to discuss road costs

More than 900 letters recently were sent out to taxpayers in the city of Belleville inviting them to a meeting at 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, June 15, in the cafeteria of Belleville High School to discuss fixing their streets.

A large meeting room was sought out because it is believed a large crowd of taxpayers will be interested in what it is going to cost them to get their streets fixed.

The estimated cost to fix all the streets in the city is about \$10 million, so this means the taxpayers are going to have to help. The informational meeting with lots of maps and charts will tell the condition of the streets and residents will be invited to check out their own streets.

Based on a pavement evaluation recently completed, “the city is looking into multiple avenues of financing to address all streets in the city within a three-year improvement program,” the letter stated.

The city council wanted a meeting of taxpayers so members can judge whether they will support an additional tax.

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Peter Kudlak

(continued from page 3)

are getting to know me.”

He said he is past president of a Rotary Club and he hopes to be in the local Rotary. He said he would be involved in different things in the community.

When asked how he keeps up on county and state issues, he said he just met with his state legislator and reads legislative notes every morning, the first thing when he gets into work. He said legislators call him from the floor for his opinions.

In his closing remarks in his initial interview, Kudlak said he is an excellent team member and he likes building teams. He also is an instructional leader, he said and he is for “responsibility, rather than accountability.”

During his second interview, Kudlak was asked to come up with a 90-day plan for what he would do if he was selected to be superintendent.

He said he would address the situation at Savage school first thing, where the teachers are on administrative leave.

He said he has read the papers, but, “I would like to know what we know. I need to know everything. Talk to the administrative team, legal counsel. Learn about the law suits. We need the teachers back on the job.”

“Morale has kind of been down for a while,” he said. “Savage was the final straw. This has to be dealt with.”

Also during the 90 days he would meet one-on-one with each board member and find out if each is a “graph person or a paragraph person.” He said he believes the consultant from Michigan Association of School Boards should do a workshop with the board, because the MASB works with a lot of boards and knows the territory.

He also plans to open communications with staff, parents, the community, political people, and Wayne County Community College.

He said he wants to learn the history and traditions of this area because he doesn’t

want to step on anything important. He said marketing needs to be done since the district is losing students. He suggested getting a professional marketer in here because those on staff are professional educators, not marketers. He said social media will be part of the marketing.

He said key positions are open and need to get filled and he needs to meet one on one with administrators. He mentioned other things he would be doing and a board member suggested that maybe he could “walk on water”

“There’s only seven of them,” he said with a laugh of the categories of action he outlined. “I’ve got 90 days.”

When asked what he thought was non-negotiable, Kudlak said, “It’s important to treat each other with respect. Teachers or administrators using power or coercion is not right.”

After interviewing two more finalists, and reading the comments on forms filled out by audience members, the board gave comments on the candidates, with most praising Kudlak.

Dr. Rodney Green of the Michigan Association of School Boards, who was consultant on the search, said he called others beyond the initial reference list of the candidates and Kudlak had the best reference calls of all three.

Dr. Green said Kudlak absolutely is ready to be superintendent and will be a superintendent at some point. Dr. Green noted Kudlak is very good with data and has a special skill in dealing with staff.

Trustee Sherry Frazier said she talked to the superintendent, business director, and two board members in Milan and every bit of information on Kudlak was positive. “He’s a great guy. He’ll do what he says,” she said.

“He is very talented,” said Trustee Kathy Kovach. “He’s the best fit for us, what’s best for Van Buren.”



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26405 KARR 5 ACRES 162X1308	\$35,000

25817 SUMPTER RD .97 ACRES	\$20,000
26960 SHERWOOD 2.5 ACRES	\$30,000
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