



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 22.33 Thursday, August 18, 2016

Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

FREE

Stacey Buhro is new principal at BHS

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Stacey Buhro, who has been with the Van Buren Public Schools for 26 years, at a special school board meeting on Monday was given a one-year contract as the new principal of Belleville High School.



She replaces Abdul Madyun who recently was promoted to the district's Human Resources Director.

Madyun announced his recommendation of Buhro, saying it was fun for him since he knew her so well. He said of her 26 years she served for nine years as a teacher, 13 as a counselor, and five as assistant principal of BHS.

She is a graduate of BHS and earned her bachelor's degree from Eastern Michigan University and her two masters' degrees at EMU and Marygrove. Buhro's son is a senior at BHS and her husband, George Buhro, is a teacher of media productions at BHS.

School Supt. Pete Kudlak said a plan is being worked out to make sure there is no conflict of interest for her with her son and husband and they will discuss the situation with the staff.

There were 60 candidates for the position and Buhro "shined above the others," Kudlak said.

Trustee Sherry Frazier said Buhro is a product of the Belleville schools and has lived in the community for years. "It's a great thing to know we had a candidate that stood up against the others," she said.

Buhro's now-vacant position of assistant principal was to be posted on Tuesday.

Supt. Kudlak said they don't want to rush in the selection, but Madyun said it would be his goal to have someone in by the beginning of the school year.



Independent photo by Rosemary K. Otzman

Some of the leaders of cultural groups in Belleville gathered for a picture with new Van Buren Public Schools Superintendent Peter Kudlak during a gathering Aug. 10. From left are Katie Dallos, director of the Belleville Area Museum; Mendie Russell, president of the Belleville Area Council for the Arts; Donna Lavin of the Friends of the Belleville Area District Library; Supt. Kudlak; Barbara Rogalle Miller, who organized the gathering of cultural leaders to welcome the superintendent; Steve Jones, chairman of the Belleville Planning Commission; Claudia Roullier, founder of the Belleville Area Chorus; and Pete Jones, president of the Chorus. The representatives of local cultural groups met with Kudlak at the BYC, a private men's club. They told him of their groups and their groups' relationships to the school district.

Sumpter Planners delay construction of FMAR kennels; grant at risk

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue were planning a ribbon-cutting ceremony in September to celebrate the addition of 22 new kennels so the no-kill rescue group could double its capacity and save more dogs.

Petco had approved a \$56,000 grant that would pay for half of the project.

Pete LaFramboise said that the space would be very welcome, since Sumpter Township wants FMAR to be its holding facility to house strays for the seven days required by law. LaFramboise said FMAR would probably retain the township's dogs that could be adopted rather than giving them back to the police for euthanization.

But at its regular meeting on Aug. 11, the Sumpter Township Planning Commission

refused to consider final site plan approval for the 10'x120' addition to the back of the kennel and tabled discussion.

Commission chairwoman Jane Stalmack told LaFramboise the commission needed a list of things before they could move forward. The list was prepared by planning consultant Matthew Lonnerstater of Carlisle Wortman Associates of Ann Arbor, who is the township's zoning administrator.

Stalmack said they need building setbacks, new lighting information, and a professionally prepared building site plan, among other things, before they can move forward.

"I'll have to have all of this before we can proceed," Stalmack stated to LaFramboise. And, the three parcels in his six acres would have to be combined.

"At the time, they told me the hand-drawn would be fine," LaFramboise said of the information he had submitted.

"Who said that?" challenged Lonnerstater and LaFramboise replied, "Everyone in the building department. I guess they want me to build more kennels."

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Attorney gives statement on clear cutting of 40 acres on Willis Road

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Ronald Ruark, an attorney from Westland, told the Sumpter Township Planning Commission at its regular meeting Aug 11 that he was representing Nelson Po, who owns the 40 acres of property on Willis Road that was recently clear cut of trees.

"Mr. Po is committed to staying within the law," Ruark told the commission. "He has gambled a bit because he can't do anything there until the law is changed."

He referred to spending the money to remove all the trees. Po had received a permit from the township for the clear-cutting, Ruark said.

Ruark said they anticipate a change in provisions of the Michigan Marijuana Act by the end of the year.

"He will abide by all federal, state, and Sumpter Township laws," Ruark said. "I just wanted to reassure the township."

Ruark told the *Independent* that they followed the survey, but if there was any encroachment on neighboring property during the clear-cutting, "I'll make sure the person is compensated."

Earlier in the commission meeting, Robert Vredenburg, who lives in Holiday West near the clear-cut property, spoke about his concerns with having a marijuana growing business in the neighborhood.

"To clear that much land for growing marijuana is as wrong as the day is long," Vredenburg said. "I'm not against the township. I'm against this kind of stuff."

The property in question has Industrial zoning in the rear, with the front 300 feet on Willow Road being Residential. Sumpter Township's medical marijuana ordinance allows indoor growing of marijuana in Industrial zoning by a licensed caregiver, but allows no more for a parcel than the amount prescribed by law for an individual to grow. The Michigan Medical Marijuana Act allows a caregiver to grow 12 plants each for five other people, plus 12 for himself, making a total of 72 plants total.

But there are pending changes to the state law which might allow dispensaries, leasing of space for commercial growing, and other changes.

(continued on page 17)

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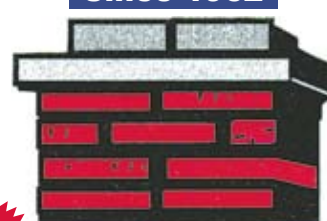
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SECOND FRONT PAGE

Vesta Losen retires after 42 years at Bethany Daycare

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Hundreds of people throughout the community who have been influenced by 42 years of Vesta Losen and Bethany Daycare are invited to tell her goodbye at her retirement party from 4 to 6 p.m. Sunday at Bethany Bible Church, where it all began.

The feisty redhead moved to Belleville with her husband Pastor John Losen and their family in 1970 when Pastor Losen was called to Bethany.

She said there were no child care centers in the area. She had been on the board of a child care in Traverse City when her children were using it. Losen always had a part-time job, she recalls.

"The church building is not used much and child care was something the community needed," she said. She checked out the curriculum in Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor centers and presented a proposal to the church. The board approved it in March 1974 and Bethany Daycare opened in November 1974.

"I never intended to be the administrator since I had five children at home and was an active pastor's wife, involved in music. I was on the board and then the chairman left after a year."

She said the daycare started with four children. Now it has had as many as 240, but about 200 currently.

Losen said they did a car wash to advertise and then never advertised again. It has been all word of mouth. She said that way the people have a good idea about the center and come in with a happy attitude.

She said six months after Bethany started, Belleville Childcare opened on the South I-94 Service Drive.

In 1981 Bethany started a Kindergarten because it had to, she said. Bethany was told by the Van Buren Public Schools that it couldn't take its Kindergarteners to Edgemont, even though it was right next door and they could walk there by a path.

It wasn't because of space limitations at Edgemont, she said. Losen was called to a meeting with School Supt. Jim Richendollar. She said he told her "no buses go by your place, so they can't go to our school."

Losen said they had nine children that were Kindergarteners whose parents thought they were going to Edgemont.

"I called the state to find out what you had to do to start a Kindergarten and they told me you don't have to do anything, since Kindergartens are not required by the state," Losen said. "We were forced into starting a Kindergarten."

She taught Kindergarten for the first 12 years. She said she was still working

part time at a nursing home and then her daughters-in-law took over the Kindergarten with about 25 students split into two classes.

"What I kept hearing from parents whose children went on to first grade in the Van Buren Schools is, 'My child is learning in first grade what you taught in Kindergarten.' Then, when they went on to second grade they said their children were learning in second grade what we taught in Kindergarten."

"I started thinking of running for the school board to work to raise the academics," she recalled.

Tom Bowles was interested in raising the fiscal responsibility of the district, so the two ran and were elected to the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education.

"And, you know what a fun time that was," Losen said, recalling the opposition and harsh treatment by other board members opposed to change.

"That was what led to us starting a charter school," she said referring to Keystone Academy in Sumpter Township.

Losen said a middle school teacher recently told her, "I can tell a Bethany student from the way they do their work."

Losen said her daughters-in-law Susette and Cherie Losen, are pretty patient with the Kindergarten students at Bethany and if they miss a day of school, they work with them to catch up. With her retirement, Susette and Cherie are in charge, with Cherie the new administrator.

She said they've had up to 40 students in the two classrooms, but now it's half of that since Keystone started.

"It was something that needed to be done," Losen said of first, starting the Kindergarten, and then starting Keystone, which now has students in pre-5 to eighth grade. There are about 786 students at Keystone.

Losen started as president of the school board at Keystone and still serves in that position.

She said last year almost half of the National Honor Society students inducted at Belleville High School spent their preschool or Kindergarten days at Bethany. Also, half of the 2015 top-ten BHS graduates were at Bethany at the beginning.

"It sticks with them," she said.

Losen said the curriculum at Bethany is not phenomenal and was borrowed from another school – but then they added on.

Losen said she was reading an article recently about Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette and noted Joy Yearout, a graduate of BHS and Bethany, was Schuette's spokesperson for 3-4 years until she got married last January.

Losen said the first 14 years of their



Vesta Losen poses for a picture with her great-grandson Cohen Campbell during a family gathering over the week end. Cohen is the first of Losen's family to qualify to attend Keystone Academy, where she is president of the school board, and he will start next month.

licensed daycare went just fine with the state, but then a new consultant with the Department of Social Services told them they can't pray before meals, can't use Bible stories, and had to take the religious pictures off the walls.

Losen said they did character building using Biblical values and now were being told they can't reference the Bible.

"We're a church-operated center. If we can't use the Bible, there's no reason for us to exist," she said.

Losen said the state would not budge and Bethany was told if you fight us we will not license your church nursery and that will have to close.

The Bethany board turned in its license to the state and the nursery and daycare continued to operate. That was in 1987.

Losen said she went to Van Buren Township Supervisor Dave Jakokes for help and he didn't help her.

She said Bethany was told that if they continue to operate police will come in and charge parents who leave their children there with child abuse.

Losen said they told the state they would take them to court and the state said, "Don't bother, we're taking you to court."

The next morning, Losen got a call from a man in Clarkston who told her 12 churches were having the same trouble with the state as Bethany and he invited her to join with them. She said they had no money and he said she could join in anyway.

The Michigan Association of Christian Schools took the case all the way to the Michigan Supreme Court and won. It took

seven years and Bethany continued to operate. She said Bethany complied with all fire, health, and safety rules, but when it got to the curriculum the state couldn't go there.

"They were scary," Losen said of the state, who referred to the churches as "the Bible-thumpers from Grand Rapids."

The court combined the churches' case with current cases involving homeschooling parents. At the time, those parents were being threatened with jail time in Michigan and Losen knew some of them who were jailed.

Finally, the Supreme Court ruled that "the state has no compelling interest in the program or personnel in church-operated centers" and the state cannot control this.

Because of the cost and length of the battle, most of the churches lost everything. Just five remained.

The state has a book of rules on child care and 300 pages of interpretation of the rules. In that interpretation, Bethany is listed as being exempted, along with the four other churches. She said two of those are still in business and the other three are now out of business.

Homeschoolers also gained their freedom as a result of the court's decision, and it has lasted to this day.

"We have a lot more freedom in this country than we claim ... But you have to claim it ... It takes a lot of work ... It was a worthwhile fight and I met a lot of wonderful people," she said.

Losen said the state will tell you only

(continued on page 12)

OPINIONS

Editorial

Sumpter Planners put brakes on plan to enlarge FMAR

Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue have a lot of supporters throughout this region and so we're sure the non-profit, no-kill animal shelter will be able to get past the blockade put up by the Sumpter Township Planning Commission.

Last Thursday, under the leadership of its young planning consultant, the commission set a list of requirements that needed to be satisfied before they could get any permits.

Pete LaFramboise, vice president of FMAR, told them of the grant that FMAR could lose if construction on the new dog kennels didn't begin soon. He told them how the township's building department had accepted hand-drawn plans in the past and supported this project. But the commission stood firm on the list. After LaFramboise left in frustration and anger, they voted to table the site plan.

LaFramboise had come to the meeting alone – one against a wall of NO. Usually, his wife Marcie, the founder of FMAR, would have been at his side, but she was grieving her mother, who had died a few days earlier.

It's fine to have rules, but it would have been so nice if the planning consultant or planning commission members had said to this highly productive resident of their township: "Tell us what you want to do and we'll help you figure out how to do it. After all, we all want a safe and beautiful township. And, we don't want you to lose your grant."

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

At last, T-Rex gun shop and indoor shooting range is ready to open. It has set up a ribbon-cutting ceremony with the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce for noon, Friday, Aug. 26. Everyone's invited to that so people interested in looking around are welcome.

They tell me their 50-yard range is wonderful -- better than they had expected. They've been working on the project since December and are very happy to finally be opening. T-Rex is located in an existing building at 44800 I-94 North Service Drive, Van Buren Township.

A man called me on Thursday to ask why Van Buren police don't enforce handicap parking violations. He said he was calling from Mike's Kitchen where he saw a person on a walker have to travel farther than necessary because all the handicap spaces were taken up by vehicles without the proper licenses or tags. He said the same thing happens at Meijer.

I told him I thought police couldn't enforce handicap parking unless invited since the parking lots are private.

VBT Police Lt. Charles Bazy corrected me: "We can enforce handicap parking on private property without permission of the property owner. However, the designated handicap parking spot must be properly marked and signed as required in the Michigan Motor Vehicle Code if it is to stand up if challenged in court.

"If the designated parking spot is not properly signed that can be addressed by Ordinance and Code Enforcement if they see it or it is brought to our attention," he said.

LET ME
GET THIS
STRAIGHT...
YOU'RE ON
THE BRIDGE
WALK
OLYMPIC
TEAM?



I also told him my caller said he asked a VBT cop why he didn't write tickets for handicapped parking violations and the cop said, "Because we don't want people to get mad at us."

Lt. Bazy replied: "I would love to know the name of the officer who allegedly made that statement."

I was informed that the City of Belleville had fired J&T Crova Towing and wouldn't be calling that business based in the city any more because of the \$30,000 the city had to pay J&T for the recent law suit.

Police Chief Berriman said they didn't fire J&T. I requested under FOIA any interoffice memos or whatever on towing services and got the following reply:

"The Belleville Police Department is unable to produce any official written communications regarding towing services and companies. There was an unofficial notice posted on the squad/report room door asking that officers utilize the Great Lakes Towing and J&M Towing in an effort to evaluate the three towing companies in the area. The memo is no longer posted, and because it was unofficial, no number was affixed to it, nor was it a fileable notice."

That Aug. 9 reply was signed by Chief Berriman. City Manager Diana Kollmeyer said they are thinking of going out for bids.

When the young man drove into the train recently, J&T, based a half block from the

accident, offered to come in and move the wrecked car, but Cpl. Schrecengost told him no thanks and called Great Lakes Towing based on Van Born Road, almost to Canton. A second truck had to be called because the first truck couldn't move the wreck for some reason.

J&M Towing, also named in the FOIA response, is on Inkster Road in Romulus.

When J&T used to be the city's towing service, vehicle owners could walk from the police station to the tow company to pick up their cars.

Shop local? J&T pays \$25,000 a year in city taxes, I'm told.

We've had some complaints about J&T costs and service, but maybe all the problems could be worked out if everyone put their heads together.

I'm informed the first BHS football game is on the road at Salem on Sept. 26 and the first home game is Oct. 9 against Fordson. There's been some switching around, but these are the final dates, I've been assured.

The Belleville Area District Library and the Friends of the Library invite the public to an Ice Cream Social at the library from 7 to 8 p.m. Aug. 24. Free ice cream and information on the proposed new library.



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BELLEVILLE - AREA

INDEPENDENT

Established Dec. 3, 1994 First Edition Jan. 5, 1995

The Belleville-Area Independent is a free, weekly newspaper
published each Thursday in Belleville, MI.

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Michigan - \$35 per year, outside of the USA - call.
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Letters

We can set up clean water plant in Sumpter

To the Editor:

OK, time to weigh in on the Flint Water Controversy. I'd like to point out that Detroit/Wayne County's misuse of funds have jacked up the water & sewer prices to cover their irresponsibility. When the City of Flint decided to get out, it was because of this unending price hike -- and they got into a mess.

Here, it has been often mentioned about the upward spiraling of Detroit water costs, yet we here on the Huron River have been offered no real options. But there ARE options and I have one, with some historical precedent.

By 1919 Belleville had installed its own water supply (remember the old water tower?) from deep wells. I wonder why they did not take the water from the Huron for treatment and supply. This was a good idea and kept the service under local control and responsibility. WHY CAN'T WE DO IT AGAIN?

There is a large diameter (30") Interceptor sewer that runs along the Huron River bank from Van Buren to Brownstown/Wyandotte for treatment. There's a large holding basin at Hannan and Wabash on the VB/Romulus border.

The folks who own the Carleton Farms Landfill have indicated in the past that they were interested in opening a wastewater treatment plant -- and the interceptor runs close enough to make it a feasible idea. I'd like to add to that.

WHY NOT A CLEAN WATER SUPPLY PLANT ALSO? AT THE SAME SITE ?

This idea I've had and been tweaking for TEN YEARS. And nothing but politics has hindered it, due to inaction and lack of vision.

This could be a real moneymaker for Sumpter Twp.; gravity sewers (kiss your grinder pumps goodbye), and supply everything south of the Huron with water, and points north and east jumping on that bandwagon. This is Wayne County's proper reward for their fiscal irresponsibility. LET'S DO IT!

And then there's the schools. We had a new High School shoved in our faces despite the majority not wanting one. They tried to get a new site, but the People weren't going for that. Then the scores were among the lowest in the state. Then Elwell Elementary was torn down, at taxpayer expense, the real reason being that the Public Rats wanted to keep Elwell from being bought by a Charter School, which does really well for the money they are given (no guns, dope, etc. have been reported at any Charter school, to my knowledge!) and consistently higher scores than public schools.

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And now the Savage School Controversy! High scoring students accused of cheating? Teachers must've been doing their jobs, were noticed, told to stand down, and QUIT rather than get fired. For doing a good job.

The responsible parties for all of the above? Mr. Van Tassel. And the Board of Education. Both must go -- before we slide into a bankrupt, Detroit-style education problem.

Yes. It is time to consider all of the above in an election year. Pick your candidates carefully. And then STAND WITH THEM. Otherwise you will have more of the same, no matter who or what you call it.

And: I SUPPORT VB TEACHERS AND STAFF = SAVAGELY STRONG!
And the River Rolls On
James/Jimmi Chapman
Candidate for VB Trustee
SAVE THE RIGGS HERITAGE HOUSE
WITH SAVAGE STRENGTH

Glad Officer Wickham is on Belleville's force

To the Editor:

Police officers lately seem to get a bad rap. Last Friday, Aug. 5, I was traveling east on Huron River Drive not far from Coolidge Cone ice cream shop. Sure miss it since its closing.

As I was driving, I saw a police cruiser SUV driving the other way. As I drove, I saw the officer had turned around. He had his lights and siren going, so the car behind me pulled over and so did I.

As he approached my van, the officer, Jeff Wickham, said, "Are you all right?" and I said yes. I just knew I was going to get a ticket. It was a 30 mph zone and I thought, maybe, I was five miles over.

Instead, he said, "Your headlights keep flashing. I thought you were in trouble."

Belleville ought to be glad to have Officer Wickham on their force. So, the next time you talk about police, think of Officer Wickham, who is really on the ball. Think of the good policemen and women who put their lives on the line for us.

Thanking all officers,
Rev. Charlie Crispell
Sumpter Township

No more money to give, voting NO on all taxes

To the Editor:

How much money is our township leaders asking us to give? First, let's increase our taxes for a new \$12 million (+or-) library, then \$2.1 million for the PlaceMaking Project, and another \$1.2 million for a pedestrian bridge over I-94. (Isn't there already a ped. bridge?)

When is enough, enough? I pay too much in taxes already. I'm paying for SMART buses I don't use, DEA that I don't use, Detroit zoo that I don't use. Our government just looks at us like cash cows.

Just so it is known, I vote NO on all taxes. New taxes, old taxes, tax renewals, ALL TAXES. I'M TAXED ENOUGH ALREADY.
Joe Flange, Van Buren Township

Birthdays

Aug. 9 – Tanya Stoudemire
Aug. 14 – Lianne Clair
Aug. 15 – Jeff Jahr, Diana Kollmeyer
Aug. 16 – Angelina Johnson
Aug. 17 – Timmy Sibbitt
Aug. 20 – Martha Hanoian
Aug. 21 – Stacy Etherton
Aug. 22 – Louise Montie
Aug. 25 – Christina Brasil
Aug. 26 – Yvonne Rickel
Aug. 27 – Theresa Antonelli, Kevin McNamara
Aug. 31 – Linda Combs



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Obituaries



Aaron "Bub" Frederick

AARON 'BUB' FREDERICK

(October 2, 1973 – August 2, 2016)

Aaron "Bub" Frederick, age 42, formerly of Sumpter. Loved by so many, passed away at home on August 2, 2016. A celebration of his life will be held on Saturday, August 27, at Banotai / Sherwood Park, a place he loved so much. BYO drinks and a dish to pass. Hot dogs and hamburgers provided. You may bring any pictures for the bulletin boards to share. At 24598 Sherwood Road at Wear Road, noon until ?

BOBBY LEE COLDIRON

(March 18, 1934 – August 11, 2016)

Bobby L. Coldiron, age 82, of Belleville, passed away August 11, 2016. Beloved father of Bonnie (Rick) Schoder and Robin (James) Cox-Burnett. Loving grandfather of Brandon, James Matthew, Cassie Sybil and Travis and great-grandfather of 8. He is preceded in death by his grandchildren Rachel Cox and Sheldon Schooler, his parents Levi and Bonnie Coldiron and 4 brothers and sisters. His cremation will take place at "The Witness Crematory" located inside of Michigan Memorial Funeral Home (next to Michigan Memorial Park) 30895 Huron River Dr., Huron Twp., (734) 783-2646.

www.mimemorial.com



THOMAS GEORGE MARKS

(January 26, 1925 – July 29, 2016)

Thomas George Marks, former resident of Van Buren Township, passed away peacefully on July 29, 2016. He was 91 and predeceased by his wife of 53 years, Stella Marks. He was the father of Thomas (Susan) Marks and JoAnn Marks and had four grandchildren and six grandchildren.

He was an honorably discharged veteran who served in the army during World War II. Cremation and a memorial service for the family has taken place.

September Days sets Summer Extravaganza and Chinese Auction

September Days Senior Center will present its second-annual Summer Extravaganza and Chinese Auction fund raiser on Friday, Aug. 26. Those aged 50 and over are welcome.

A \$15 per-person ticket includes dinner with an evening of dancing, three raffle tickets and giveaways. Tickets are available at the senior center prior to Aug. 23. For information, call (734) 699-8918.

Things to do in the Belleville area...

• **Thursday, Aug. 18** – Belleville Bridge Walk begins at 5:30 p.m. from Doane's Landing, followed by the Taste of Belleville at Horizon Park. Music at the Taste, but no Music Lakeside concert this week. The annual Rubber Ducky Race also is scheduled.

• **Thursday, Aug. 18** – Applebee's restaurant, 10526 Belleville Road, is holding a fund raiser to raise money to fight Type 1 Diabetes. Throughout the day, 10% of all guests' food sales will be donated to JDRF.

• **Friday, Aug. 19** – World War II vehicles, including a tank, manned by reenactors in U.S. Army and Germany uniforms, will hold the Battle of Belleville starting around 6 p.m. around the museum on Main Street in downtown Belleville. The vehicles and reenactors will convoy from Willow Run Airport at about 5:30 p.m. This is to promote the annual Air Show.

• **Friday, Aug. 19** – Romulus DDA presents free Sounds in Downtown at the Romulus Historical Park, 11147 Hunt Street, at 7 p.m. Tonight it's Remedy – *Rocking Country*.

• **Friday, Aug. 19** – Friends Family Drive-In FREE Movie night, sunset, 8:29 p.m. Family films, fun, food, all free. At Friends Field, 7890 Tuttle Hill Road at Bemis, Ypsilanti. Featuring: "God's Compass." Questions: (734) 482-5074. Preview: www.friendsfamilytheater.com

• **Saturday, Aug. 20** – The Brothers "Gemini" are San and Laz from Ann Arbor and they will present an End-of-Summer Music Program for the whole family at 3 p.m. at the Belleville Area District Library. Free.

• **Saturday, Aug. 20** – From 6 to 9 p.m., the public is invited to a steak dinner at Moose Lodge 934 at the corner of Sumpter and Harris roads in Sumpter Township. Southern Heat Band goes on stage from 8 p.m. to midnight, with special guest "Willie Nelson" arriving at 10 p.m. Tickets are \$15 per person, sold at the lodge. Only 100 will be sold. Information: (734) 325-7799.

• **Saturday, Aug. 20** – Friends Family Drive-In FREE Movie night, sunset, 8:29 p.m. Family films, fun, food, all free. At Friends Field, 7890 Tuttle Hill Road at Bemis, Ypsilanti. Featuring: "Rather to be Chosen Premiere Showing." (734) 482-5074. www.friendsfamilytheater.com

• **Saturday, Aug. 20, and Sunday, Aug. 21** – Annual Air Show at Willow Run Airport. For more information see: www.yankeeairmuseum.org/airshow

• **Monday, Aug. 22** – Have coffee with State Rep. Kristy Pagan at 7 p.m. at Panera Bread, 41950 Ford Road in Canton Township. Tell her your concerns about state issues.

• **Wednesday, Aug. 24** – The Belleville Area District Library and the Friends of the Library invite the public to an Ice Cream Social at the library from 7 to 8 p.m. Free ice cream and information on the proposed new library.

• **Thursday, Aug. 25** – Dig a Phony (Beatles tribute) will entertain at Horizon Park starting at 7 p.m. The free Music Lakeside concert is presented by the Belleville Area Council for the Arts. If it rains, it will be in the United Methodist Church across the street.

• **Friday, Aug. 26** – T-Rex indoor gun range is having a Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce ribbon-cutting ceremony at noon today and the public is invited to drop by and tour the new business. It's at 44800 N. I-94 Service Drive, just east of Belleville Road.

• **Friday, Aug. 26** – Romulus DDA presents free Sounds in Downtown at the Romulus Historical Park, 11147 Hunt Street, at 7 p.m. Tonight it's Infinity and Beyond – *Journey Tribute*.

FMAR

(continued from page 1)

He said he cut out 10' from his building plan to deal with the setback Lonnerstater said he needed and the planner said he would have to go to the planning commission for the small addition to his dog kennel.

LaFramboise said FMAR has a grant for the project and, "If I don't start building, we'll lose it."

After Stalmack gave him the list of things they had to have, saying, "I'll have to have all this," the usually affable LaFramboise left the meeting in angry frustration, replying, "I'll have to see if I can proceed."

"It's obvious he's not happy," said Trustee Matt Oddy, who sits on the planning commission. When Lonnerstater said LaFramboise needed to go to the Zoning Board of Appeals for his setback, Oddy reminded him LaFramboise had cut back his plans to satisfy that and eliminate a trip to the ZBA.

"The water line is just a line," said chairwoman Stalmack in criticism of the site plan presented.

Oddy suggested cutting the project into two phases, since a project up to 900 square feet can be approved administratively under the zoning ordinance.

"If you want to beat around the bush a little," Lonnerstater said, later saying that wouldn't work under the ordinance.

"All you need is one sheet from an engineer," Lonnerstater said.

"I'd like to see us talk to him," Oddy said, saying he thought it was a dollar grant and could have two phases.

Lonnerstater said since it was extending a principle structure you can't do phases.

"We have specific standards for kennels," Lonnerstater said. "I'm not recommending denying, but postponing until the specifications can be met. I can't give a recommendation for approval.

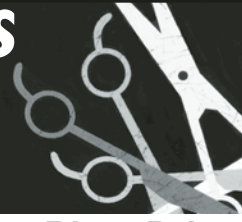
"I'll follow up with him," Lonnerstater said.

When the *Independent* suggested the commission could be more helpful to a resident, Oddy said, "We can't ignore what the text says."

"He doesn't have footage between buildings," Stalmack said, still criticizing the site plan.

"He doesn't want to spend the money," Oddy said, referring to a professional site plan. "It may be an honorable use, but the proper information has not been provided."

(continued on page 13)



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5:30 p.m. Bridge Walk - Meet at Doane's Landing Park (Welcome followed by Bridge Walk)

6:00 p.m. Taste of Belleville
Horizon Park, High Street

6:30 p.m. Rubber Ducky Race
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Van Buren Parks & Rec. Kids Activity Tent
Raffle, 50/50 Drawing

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BBQ Rib Tips..... 3 tickets
Pulled Pork Sandwich 3 tickets
Grilled Corn on Cob..... 3 tickets

Culvers

One Scoop - no topping 1 ticket
One Scoop w/topping..... 2 tickets
Two Scoops - no topping... 3 tickets
Two Scoops w/topping..... 4 tickets
Any topping over (1) will be
(1) ticket per topping.

Sweet Cream Bakery

Cheesecake cupcake..... 2 tickets
Parfait Cup..... 2 tickets
Assorted Cakes..... 2 tickets
Assorted Cookies..... 1 ticket

Lunch Box

Corned Beef &
Swiss Hoagie 4"..... 3 tickets
Philly Steak Hoagie 4"..... 3 tickets

Benito's Pizza

Cheese or Pepperoni Slice. 2 tickets
Slice of Specialty Pizza 3 tickets

Applebee's

Grilled Oriental
Chicken Salad..... 1 tickets
Southwest Chicken Salad... 1 tickets

Egan's Pub

Corned Beef Slider..... 3 tickets
Celtic Stick..... 3 tickets
Reuben Roll 3 tickets

Kabob Garden

Chicken Shawarma..... 2 tickets
Tawook Lemon-Oregano 2 tickets
Hummus & Garlic..... 2 tickets

Belleville Area Kiwanis

Face Painting..... No charge

Hungry Howies Pizza

Cheese or Pepperoni Slice... 2 tickets
Deep Dish Slice..... 2 tickets
Brownie samples
(chocolate or carmel)..... 1 ticket

Van Buren Twp Parks & Recreation

Kid's Activity Tent..... No charge

Beirut LaPita

Hommous & Pita..... 1 ticket
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Chicken Shawarma..... 1 ticket

Zino's

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Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce

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Belleville Community Chorus

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Homemade Brownie 2 tickets

Van Buren Public Schools

Mini Cheesecake 1 ticket
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Angel Foods Catering

Mini Beef Wellington..... 2 tickets
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Tropical Ice Tea 1 ticket

Twisted Rooster

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Minding Your Business with Bob Mytych



The Belleville Area Council for the Arts' Concert Lakeside takes one week off for the Taste of Belleville event along High Street on Thursday. The series returns next week, Aug. 25 with the music of Dig A Phoney, a Beatles tribute band, beginning at 7 p.m. The concert is free.

The 21st-annual Bridge Walk & Taste of Belleville is Thursday evening, beginning with the bridge walk at 5:30 p.m., followed by the Taste immediately following along High Street and Horizon Park. The taste menu features food and drink samples from C & C Seven Star BBQ, Culver's, Sweet Cream Bakery, Lunch Box, Benito's, Applebee's, Egan's Pub, Kabob Garden, Belleville Kiwanis, Hungry Howie's, Beirut LaPita, Zino's, Belleville Chamber, Angel Food Catering, Belleville Community Chorus, Van Buren Public Schools, Twisted Mitten Food Truck, and Twisted Rooster. For menu details, see the half page ad in today's paper. Tickets are \$1 each. Van Buren Parks & Rec will feature a kid's activity tent and music will be provided by Unlimited DJ. The Belleville Rotary's annual rubber ducky race is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. I'll be there to take the official newspaper photo of the bridge walkers in

front of the welcome to Belleville sign. See you there!

This weekend is Thunder Over Michigan air show at Willow Run Airport, featuring the Breitling jet team of France, an F-22 Raptor Demo, an F/A-18 Super Hornet Demo, a MIG -620 Demo, an F-100 Super Sabre Demo, Helotown USA, a group of helicopters from the Cold War era and the ever-popular WWII battle re-enactment. The Batcopter from the first Batman movie and TV show will also be there. Tickets at the gate are \$40 with children 15 and under free. Gates open at 9 a.m. Visit www.yankeeairmuseum.org for more information, entry restrictions, etc. A battle re-enactment featuring a WWII tank and other military vehicles, and personnel in uniform will take place here in downtown Belleville Friday evening, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Main Street will be closed, along with Roys and Fourth Street. The event is free.

Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue of Sumpter Township is holding their monthly pet adoption clinic this Saturday, Aug. 20, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Petco Pet Store in Westland on Warren Ave, across from the mall. Call (734) 461-9458 and visit www.fmar1.org.

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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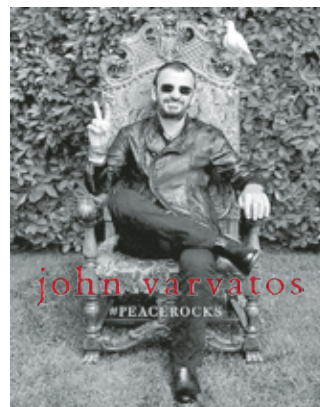
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Battle for Belleville on Friday to pit GIs against Nazis to save museum

The second-annual Battle for Belleville World War II Reenactment will take place this Friday, Aug. 19, at 6 p.m., to promote this week end's Thunder Over Michigan Air Show at Willow Run Airport.

World War II-era tanks and vintage cars will parade from the Yankee Air Museum to the Belleville Area Museum beginning around 5:30 p.m. Once they are positioned and ready, the Battle for Belleville will begin.

Museum Director Katie Dallas said the story is that the German Nazi forces have overtaken the museum and are using it as their headquarters.

"The United States troops are here to liberate the museum and our city!" Dallos said. After the reenactment vehicles and the reenactors will be on hand for photos.

The following day, on Saturday, Aug. 20, the liberated museum will host a trip to Pewabic Pottery in Detroit. The tour will begin promptly at noon. Carpooling from the museum is available. Cost is \$5 for Belleville Area Historical Society members and \$7 for non-members.

Dallos said the group will try to lunch at Green Dot Stables immediately following the tour. Contact Dallos at the museum, (734) 697-1944 or kdallos@provide.net. Reservations must be made before Friday, Aug. 19, at noon.

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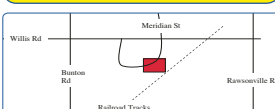


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Harvey and Betty (Oakley) Rhodes

Harvey, Betty Rhodes attend 100th family reunion in Perry, MI

Harvey and Betty (Oakley) Rhodes of Belleville attended the 100th Rhodes reunion held July 31 at the home of Bob and Joy (Rhodes) Belaire in Perry, MI.

Gerald and Agnes Rhodes, who had an engine shop at their New Boston home in the early 1900s, had six children survive, grow, marry and multiply.

Harvey married Betty in 1941. He is the last surviving child and turned 96 years old Aug. 12. His great-great-grandson, Roman Tracey, is almost one and was the youngest to attend.

It is quite an accomplishment that the families still care enough to meet every last Sunday of July year after year. This family has grown and expanded across the country and into Italy. Forty-seven family members enjoyed the potluck luncheon, visits, and bingo with prizes.

ORPHAN OF THE WEEK “RUBY”



Violets are pretty and blue but we have just the **Ruby** for you! **Ruby** is a young tabby kitty looking for a calm and quiet fur-ever home to match her personality. She is very laid-back and gentle and has trouble keeping her cool when things get too chaotic. **Ruby's** favorite things include days filled with napping, snacking and bird watching and quiet nights filled with cozy beds and tuna filled dreams. She requests a home without kids or dogs and if it includes other cats only calmer ones like her. **Ruby** may take a little time to adjust in a new environment but if you give her the time she needs you will end up with a true gem of a cat. Her short coat is made up of stripes of black and brown with bursts of beautiful copper that match her eyes. Phone us today to meet **Ruby**, she's already spayed, vaccinated, tested neg. for FeLuk/FIV and micro-chipped.

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This is a Rhodes family picture from 1942. Harvey is in the back row on the left. Out of his 96 years, he has only missed the years he was in the service during World War II.



MARY STYRK

HAPPY 75TH BIRTHDAY to a woman who has touched so many lives in these years. She is faithful to her family, friends and church. She is a rock of faith for countless people and you know who you are. She is also celebrating 30 years of service to Lincoln Consolidated Schools where she has helped many students behave in the lunch room and was also voted, “Best Lunch Lady” at Lincoln Middle School recently. Most kids joke around and call her grandma, but that's because of her kind, giving spirit and the cookies she may have made for them. ~ We love you mom and grandma, you are the best!
Love, Kandy Mae, Mike, future granddaughter Gatny, Lloyd, Jen, Kade, Sophia and of course, Little Bit and Peggy Sue.

Vesta Losen

(continued from page 3)

those five are exempt, but that's not true. But, she emphasized, "You have to claim it."

She said Gov. Engler ordered there be no more interpretative manual, to just have rules that are easy to understand. It was gone for 3-4 years, but now it's back. She said a few years back she downloaded the whole 300 pages to have on hand and then was told by a state worker that they change it every week.

She said Bethany takes no federal or state money because, "We feel we can't afford to... They still try to send us clients. I don't want any."

Losen said there has been very little staff turnover over the years. Kay Brooks has been director of the curriculum for the preschool for most of 42 years and developed and upgraded it. There is a staff of 18 and last fall, for Boss' Day, they counted up 300 years of total staff time at Bethany.

"Just to have the continuity is wonderful," Losen said. "They don't make a lot of money. There is a lot of dedication."

Losen grew up on a farm with three brothers and three sisters. Her parents Ellis and Ardis Bracy moved the family to town when her dad took a job with the county. They lived in a big house in Charlotte across from the courthouse. Their garage used to be the original courthouse. The jail was next door.

The four-story house had lots of room and Vesta's mother took in children who needed a place to stay for up to a year. She also took care of children during the day. "That was my introduction to child care," she said.

Her mother died at less than 50 years old and her father remarried and they had 30 years together. She had a very stable home life, with three of her family going into the ministry or being a pastor's wife.

Music has been a big part of Losen's life since her youth. She said she bought her first musical instrument, a clarinet, by raising chickens.

She was active in Lansing Youth for Christ and played the accordion and sang in Spanish to the braceros working in mid Michigan.

Through a music group she met Pastor John Losen, a 28-year-old widower with two young children. They married six months later. She recalls she was almost 21 when she moved into the parsonage.

She said one year and one day later, Johnny was born. Then, Kevin two years later and Andrea. With Pastor Losen's two children,

Brian and Valerie, that made five children in the family.

When the children were young, in 1973 the "Seven Singing Losens" toured South Africa with an evangelist known as the Billy Graham of South Africa. In order to afford the trip, her sons took jobs, Vesta got a job, and they cashed in their life insurance policy.

She and Pastor Losen have 14 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

"Common Core is a big fake," Losen said of one of her current projects. She said people say Common Core is "rigorous," but it's not rigorous enough for college and career readiness. She said obviously the standards were not written by classroom teachers.

"I hope it's on the way out in Michigan," she said. "Maybe that's what I'll do in retirement."

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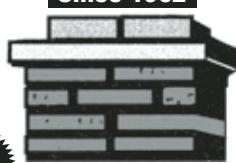
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FMAR

(continued from page 8)

Toby Leis talked to the *Independent* the next day saying six weeks earlier he and LaFramboise met with township Supervisor John Morgan telling them of the plan and asking for help. Leis plans to do the plumbing for the project and has done other FMAR projects in the past, such as the cat building, which was brought to the township building department with a hand-drawn site plan.

Leis said they told Supervisor Morgan that they wanted to follow all the rules and have this be a safe project, but they asked

him if he could help them move it forward as quickly as possible. Other communities put certain projects on a fast track, Leis said.

He said Supervisor Morgan told them he has no control over the planning commission.

Leis, too, is frustrated. He said he thinks Lonnerstater is delaying their project because he feels FMAR tried to go over his head.

Leis said he tried to get permits to start the project, but was told the township can't issue permits until this is resolved. He said 99.9% of the project is underground plumbing for drains and vents.

Then, Leis said LaFramboise told him last week the township said he could do anything he wanted inside his building, so Leis could have started some of the work weeks earlier.

FMAR is working to get a professionally designed site plan.

In other business at the Aug. 11 meeting, the planning commission:

- Held a public hearing on proposed text amendments to the Medical Marijuana zoning ordinance relating to caregiver facilities within Agricultural, Residential, and Industrial zoning districts. Changes were suggested and so the amendments were tabled until the next meeting for consideration; and

- Discussed Lonnerstater's proposed zoning text amendments to allow portable storage containers temporarily, one to a parcel. The commission wanted him to add provisions for permanent storage containers. Robert Vredenburg said people are buying rail containers and five freight boxes are "sitting back there on Willis Road." The item was tabled for Lonnerstater to make changes. "This could open Pandora's Box," said Commissioner Borden.

Present at the Aug. 11 meeting were Commissioners: Bardell, Borden, Belinski, Cichewicz, Stalmack, Oddy, and Pokersinski. Absent were Commissioners Clark and Sherwood.

"The most dangerous moment for a bad government is when it begins to reform."

— Alexis de Tocqueville

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Publish: August 4, 2016; August 18, 2016

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CUB SCOUT PACK 924 bottle drive. Aug. 27, 10am-4pm at the Lunch Box on Main.

8/25

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8/18

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8/18

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Anniversary

Aug. 22 – Ryan and Jessica Thompson, 7 years

"You have to be odd to be number one."
— Dr. Seuss

Police Chief Luke: 'Those involved have been held accountable'

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

"Those involved have been held accountable," reported Sumpter Township Police Chief Eric Luke to the township board of trustees at its Aug. 9 meeting.

He said the Oct. 31, 2014 cases surrounding the events at Rollers Skate Park are finally closed with the Aug. 1 sentencing at the Third Circuit Court in Detroit of Santino Dominick DeLeon to 6 to 22 years in prison.

He said Ralph Rosas, 29, was sentenced to 18.75 to 50 years in prison last October.

The court dismissed charges against the third defendant, Robert Kristopher Stilson.

On the police department website, Chief Luke explained the cases further:

Three individuals were charged for their part in several separate incidents that night; including a stabbing, felonious assault and the armed robbery of three security guards who were working a private party.

The stabbing victim, one of the three security guards involved, was transported to the hospital with life-threatening injuries, but survived and has since recovered.

The disposition of the three defendants is as follows:

SANTINO DOMINICK DELEON, 24, of Saginaw, recently entered into a plea agreement with the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office in which he pled guilty to Assault w/ Intent to Murder and Felony Firearm. All other charges were dismissed. On Aug 1, he was sentenced to a prison term of 6-22 years.

RALPH ROSAS, 29, of Saginaw, was found guilty by a jury following his trial in October 2015. He was found guilty of Assault w/ Intent to do Great Bodily Harm Less Than Murder, Robbery-Armed, and Assault with a Dangerous Weapon (Felonious Assault). He was found not guilty of Assault w/ Intent to Murder. On Oct. 30, 2015, Rosas was sentenced to a prison term of 18.75-50 years.

ROBERT KRISTOPHER STILSON, 26, of Saginaw, who had been charged almost identically to the other two defendants, had the charges against him dismissed by the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office in June of this year.

The board and audience applauded handing of the case and its successful conclusion.

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Upcoming Meetings

- Thursday, Aug. 18 – Keystone Academy School Board, 6 p.m.
- Tuesday, Aug. 23 – Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority, 5:30 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township work/study at 6 p.m. and regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. (State Rep. Bill LaVoy announced he will be attending the 6:30 p.m. Sumpter meeting.)
- Wednesday, Aug. 24 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, Sept. 6 – Van Buren Township work/study session, 4 p.m., followed by regular board meeting at 7 p.m. Also, Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.

- Thursday, Sept. 8 – Keystone Academy School Board, 6 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township Planning Commission, 7 p.m. (optional) Also, Belleville Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m.
- Monday, September 12 – Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m., BHS Commons.
- Tuesday, Sept. 13 – Van Buren Township Local Development Financing Authority, 2 p.m. Also, 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, Sept. 14 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m.

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<u>Friday, August 26th</u>	<u>Saturday, August 27th</u>	<u>Sunday, August 28th</u>
Hours: 4:00 PM – 11:00 PM	Hours: 1:00 PM – 11:00 PM	Hours: 1:00 PM – 11:00 PM
Box On Family Band from Grand Rapids, Michigan 5-6 PM, 7-8 PM & 9-10 PM	The Polish Muslims from Hamtramck, Michigan 2-3:15 PM, 3:45-5 PM	The Ampolaires from Chicago, Illinois 1-1:45 PM, 2:30-3:15 PM, 4-5 PM
New Brass Express from Ubly, Michigan 6-6:45 PM, 8-9 PM & 10-11 PM	Ray J & The Carousels from Fort Vue, Pennsylvania 5-6 PM, 7-8 PM, 9-10 PM	Duane Malinowski from Toledo, Ohio 1:45-2:30 PM, 3:15-4 PM
P.R.C.U. Rogalin Polish Dancers of Wyandotte, Michigan @ 6:45 PM	Echoes of Poland Dancers of Toledo, Ohio @ 6:45 PM	Polka Family Band from Bloomsberg, Pennsylvania 5-6 PM, 7-8 PM & 9-10 PM
Baked Fish Dinner \$11.00 4:00 PM until sold out!	Jimmy K & Ethnic Jazz from Cleveland, Ohio 6-6:45 PM, 8-9 PM & 10-11 PM	Tri-City Drive Band from Chicago, Illinois 6-7 PM, 8-9 PM, 10-11 PM
	Roasted Chicken Dinner \$11.00 3:00 PM until sold out!	Pork Chop Dinner \$12.00 1:00 PM until sold out

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12:00 noon only! Polka Mass with Duane Malinowski

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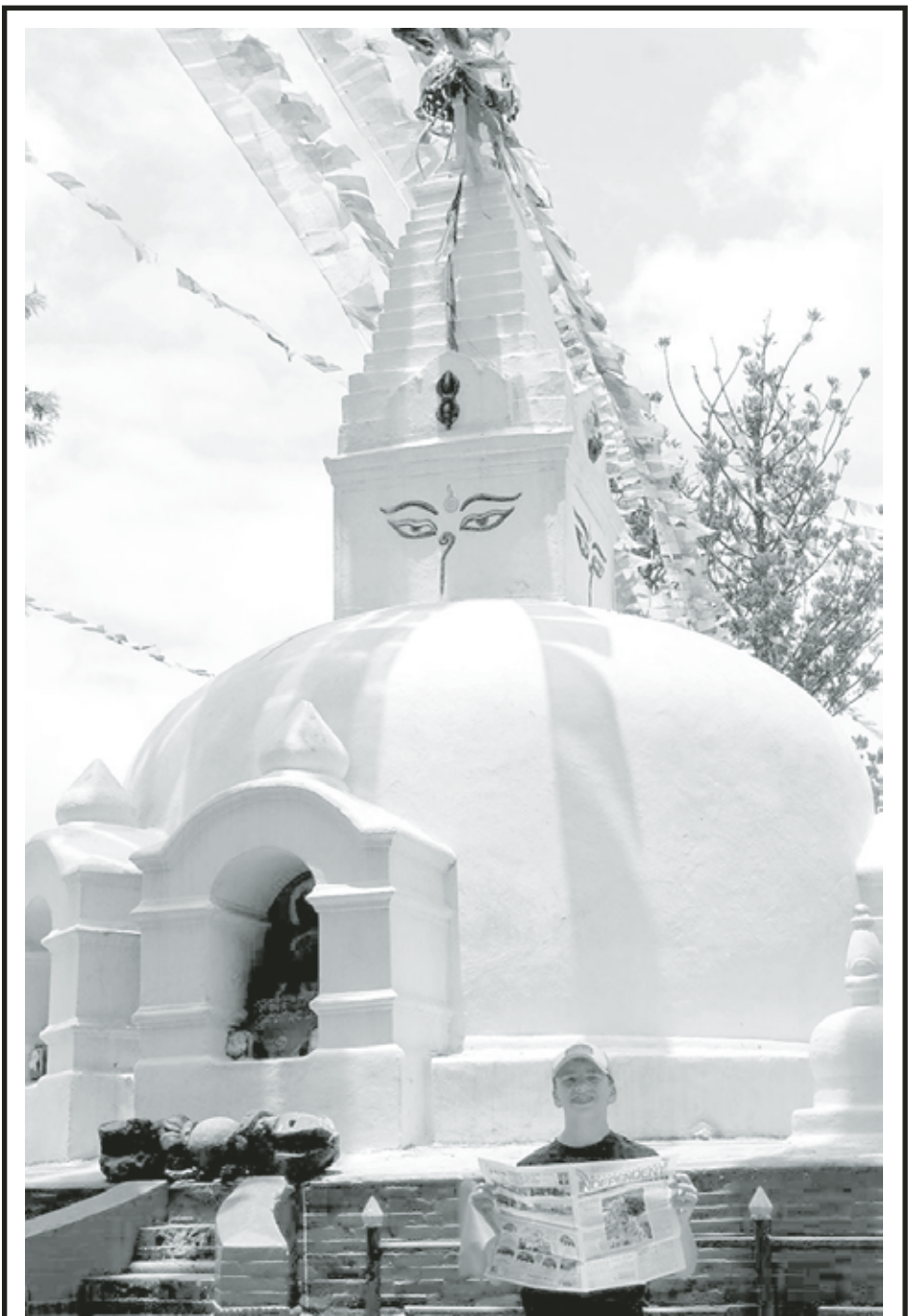
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This is Noah Kilmark reading the *Independent* at Swayambhunath, also known as the Monkey Temple, in the Kathmandu Valley of Nepal. Noah went to Nepal in July 2016 with his parents Jim and Veronica Kilmark and his grandparents Vic and Joan Franzoi. They also went to Agra, India to see the Taj Mahal and took a mountain flight to view Everest.

You, too, are invited to submit a photo of you reading the *Independent* in an exotic location. Please include the name and address of the person you wish to get the free subscription when it is printed. Include your phone number if you want us to let you know just before goes in the paper. A person may use this offer to get a total of two free subscriptions – and no more.

If you aren’t going to an exotic location, just send us \$30 for postage to an address inside Michigan or \$35 out of state, and we’ll provide mail delivery of the *Independent* so you won’t miss a single, exciting issue.

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES AUGUST 9, 2016

Supervisor Combs called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. in the Board Room. Present: Supervisor Combs, Treasurer Budd, Clerk Wright, Trustee Hart, Trustee Jahr, Trustee McClanahan and Trustee Miller. Others in attendance: Secretary Montgomery, Developmental Services Director Akers, Developmental Services Deputy Director Best, Public Safety Deputy Director (Police) Wright, Public Safety Director Laurain, DDA Director Ireland, Executive Assistant Clair, and an audience of thirteen (13).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Jahr moved, McClanahan seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Motion Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: Supervisor Combs read a note thanking the Public Safety Department for keeping us safe and a letter thanking the Public Safety Department for cleaning up materials dumped on Morton Taylor Rd.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Residents commented on the following: Request for a Public Safety millage renewal in the amount of 4 mils only; request to provide the tax payers options on the millage ballot question language; asked if a graduated tax had been considered, support for a 4 mil renewal; support for 6.5 mils, request for clarification on the purpose of a Public Safety millage increase, the need to provide adequate funding for Public Safety, the need to provide funding for services beyond Public Safety and the posting date of the special meeting notice.

NEW BUSINESS:

Wright moved, Miller seconded to approve Resolution 2016-10 Public Safety Millage Proposal ballot language. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: Combs, Budd, Wright, Hart, Jahr, Miller. Nays: McClanahan. Motion Carried. The approved language request for 6.5 mils for Public Safety, for seven (7) years will appear on the November 8, 2016 General Election ballot. The funds, if approved, would be dedicated to Public Safety, a committee has been formed to educate the public on the millage. Board members expressed the need to more closely fund the Public Safety budget to maintain the current level of services because the current 4 mils only funds approximately half of the annual budget. Trustee McClanahan read a statement expressing her desire to delay a millage proposal until further discussion and collaboration with the residents occurs.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

NON AGENDA: Comments included: Lack of control over spending; proposed 2.1 million renovation project proposed by the DDA for property located on Belleville Rd, lack of Board approval for DDA projects, DDA issuance of bonds vs. projected DDA expenses, establishing budget hearing dates and the need for updates and corrections to the dashboard on the Township website.

ADJOURNMENT: Miller moved, Wright seconded to adjourn at 4:50 p.m. Motion Carried.

Leon Wright, Township Clerk
Linda Combs, Supervisor
Publish: August 18, 2016



City of Belleville Regular City Council Meeting Minutes August 1, 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 Absent (excused)

Council Member Smith Present

Council Member Tindall Present

Mayor Pro Tem Loria Present

Mayor Conley Present

3. PRESENTATIONS AND CITIZEN COMMENTS

Presentations None.

Council follow up list None.

Citizen Comments None

4. AGENDA APPROVAL

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Tindall, Second by Smith to approve the Regular City Council meeting minutes of July 18, 2016 as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS None

7. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

A. Sign Ordinance Amendments.

Planning Commission Chair Steve Jones briefed City Council about the recommended amendments to the Sign Ordinance which include definition changes and Sign Standard changes. Mayor Conley stated that Planning Commission held a public hearing so City Council will not need to. This was the first appearance of the Sign Ordinance amendments. This item will appear at the August 15, 2016 meeting for approval.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

A. "Battle for Belleville" – Use of City Streets.

Aaron Peters representing the Yankee Air Museum was in attendance to request use of Main Street, Roys Street and Fourth Street for the "Battle of Belleville" and the display of military vehicles in downtown Belleville. The request also included the use of a smaller version tank with new track rubber in the downtown.

Motion by Tindall, Second by Smith to approve Resolution No. 16-086, use of City streets for the "Battle of Belleville, a WWII battle reenactment and Military vehicle display on August 19, 2016 from 6:00-7:30PM. Streets will be posted no parking.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. CBC Request – "Monster Mutt Walk".

Bill Wolters representing the CBC was present to request a Booville event which will be the "Monster Mutt Walk". This event will take place starting and ending at Fourth Street Square on October 15, 2016 starting at 3:00PM.

Motion by Loria, Second by Tindall to approve Resolution No. 16-087, MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

C. Lease/Purchase – 2017 Ford Police Interceptor Utility AWD.

This vehicle will be leased/purchased for three (3) years with payment amounts being \$10,161.25 annually. Sealed bids will be solicited for the emergency vehicle package very soon.

Motion by Loria, Second by Smith to approve Resolution No. 16-088, three (3) year lease/purchase of 2017 Ford Police Interceptor Utility AWD.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

9. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE & DEPARTMENTAL EXPENDITURES

Motion by Tindall, Second by Loria to approve Resolution No. 16-089, approve accounts payable and payables over \$500.00 for a total of \$294,056.39. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

10. ACTION ITEMS FOR NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING

Sign Ordinance Amendments.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Loria, Second by Tindall to adjourn the meeting at 8:58 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana J. Kollmeyer

City Manager

Approved: August 15, 2016

Published: August 18, 2016

Attorney

(continued from page 1)

Vredenburg said he got into a discussion with them when they put the drowned cars there. "What if he says I have 300 people who are caregivers and I want to give them a place to grow?"

He was told the Sumpter ordinance allows only one caregiver per property and even if he subdivides, the facilities have to be 500 or 1,000 feet from another caregiver.

At the July 26 regular meeting of the Sumpter Township board, two upset neighbors from the 50500 block of Willis alerted the board to the clear-cutting that suddenly occurred on the property next door, reportedly to build a marijuana-grow complex.

They said the man, who is growing marijuana in a building on Harris Road, is moving his operation to Willis Road. They said he already has blueprints and plans,

which one of them saw.

One neighbor said the cutting went 30 feet into his property and so they are taking civil action because they lost some big trees next to their pond. The neighbors said there were five buildings planned for the property. The big buildings planned would be leased out to caregivers to grow their marijuana and there would be a huge dispensary at the front to sell marijuana and fertilizer and other products to grow marijuana that the people in Detroit could come out and buy.

Also, they said, two big retention ponds are planned. They expect to have 150 employees and a 20' fence all around, the neighbors said.

"That operation you described cannot be built in the township," stated township attorney Rob Young, adding that state lawmakers are considering changes to the law but until the law changes, "There's no communal grow or dispensary in Sumpter Township."



Sumpter Township Regular Board Meeting Minutes July 26, 2016

Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m., showing present: Supervisor J. Morgan, Clerk C. Hoffman, Treasurer Bates, Trustees: Oddy, P. Morgan, LaPorte. Excused absent: Swinson. Also showing present: Attorney Young, Deputy Clerk J. Hoffman and approximately 30 residents.

3. Agenda:

A. Motion by P. Morgan, supported by C. Hoffman to add Item C: Consider approval to purchase equipment for Firewall System for Police Department for \$2,577.98 out of the Police Forfeiture Funds. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Bates to approve Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Public Comments on Agenda Items only:

5. Minutes:

A. Motion by C. Hoffman, supported by Oddy to approve Regular Board Meeting Minutes of July 12, 2016. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Bates to accept Planning Commission Minutes of June 9, 2016. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Warrants: Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Bates to approve warrants totaling \$248,803.59. Roll call vote: Yes: J. Morgan, C. Hoffman, Bates, P. Morgan, LaPorte, Oddy. Nay: None. Absent: Swinson. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Parks & Recreation/Chamber Report-Swinson: Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Bates to Receive and File Parks & Recreation/ Chamber Report. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Planning/Zoning Report-Oddy:

A. Planning Commission continues to stay busy

B. Rezoning Denied and will send recommendation to Board

C. Continue to work on the Master Plan

D. Medical Marijuana Language for Industrial Area

E. Zoning Board of Appeals continues to be very active

Motion by LaPorte, supported by Hoffman to approve Planning/Zoning Report. Motion carried unanimously.

9. Attorney's Report-Young:

A. Appreciation for the Chair and Board taking a moment of silence for his friend and partner Levon King and wife Gloria King who died in an airplane crash.

Motion by Oddy, supported by P. Morgan to approve Attorney's Report. Motion carried unanimously.

10. Board Response:

11. New Business:

A. Motion by C. Hoffman, supported by Bates to approve to renew the "Cross-Connection Control Program" Agreement between Sumpter Township and

Midwest Backflow Prevention Inc. from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2019. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Motion by C. Hoffman, supported by P. Morgan to approve the Installation of a Street Light at Kozma and Wilmot at a cost of \$527.33. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Bates to purchase equipment for a Firewall System for the Police Department for \$2,577.98 out of Police Forfeiture Funds. Motion carried unanimously.

12. Announcements:

A. P. Morgan: Parks & Recreation did a great job on Family Fun day, Police Department did a great job passing out bags to children.

B. LaPorte reported on following invoices through system. LaPorte wanted residents to be aware that money is being watched and all monies are being accounted for.

13. Open Floor:

A. Mary Ban

1. Attorney Young and Attorney King

2. Brush growth becoming hazard

3. Dog Ordinance Update

4. Huron Township Fire Station

5. Willis Road clearing of property.

B. Lydia Graber

1. Transition Plan

C. David and Jill Brierley

1. Voiced concerns on property being cleared on Willis Road Industrial Area

D. Chris Riesner

1. Voiced concerns on property being cleared on Willis Road Industrial Area

E. Ronald Barrington Robinson

1. Bardell Team would like to Thank Sumpter Township's Police and Fire Departments.

2. Fire hydrants

3. Supervisor Morgan

14. Adjournment: Motion by P. Morgan, supported by C. Hoffman to adjourn at 7:22 pm.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Clarence J. Hoffman Jr., Clerk

Sumpter Township

Certification

I, Clarence J. Hoffman Jr., Clerk of Sumpter Township, do hereby certify that the following is a true copy of minutes taken at a Regular Board Meeting of the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees on July 26, 2016 at 6:30 pm at the Sumpter Township Hall, 23480 Sumpter Road, Belleville, MI 48111, County of Wayne, and that the said meeting was conducted and public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in full compliance with the Open Meetings Act, being Act 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, and that the minutes of said meeting were kept and will be available as required by said act.

Clarence J. Hoffman Jr., Clerk

Publish: August 18, 2016

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Moose Lodge invites public to enjoy steak dinner, 'Southern Heat'

On Saturday, Aug. 20, from 6 to 9 p.m. the public is invited to Moose Lodge 934 at the corner of Sumpter and Harris roads in Sumpter Township for a steak dinner with salad, potato and dessert, and to enjoy the Southern Heat Band from 8 p.m. until midnight with special guest "Willie Nelson" at 10 p.m.

Tickets for the whole evening are \$15 per person, sold at the lodge. Only 100 tickets will be sold. Information: (734) 325-7799.

Wayne County hosts Alien Invader program at Crosswinds Marsh

Wayne County Parks will host "Alien Invaders" at the Marsh on Saturday, Aug. 27, from 10 a.m. to noon. Participants will have an opportunity to hike along the wetland and forest trails to investigate the invasive plants and wildlife that have been wreaking havoc throughout Michigan.

The event fee is \$6 per child and \$2 per adult, add \$1 per person for out-of-county residents. In the event of inclement weather, such as heavy storms and rain, the program will be cancelled.

Advance registration is required. Participants may call (734) 654-1220 to register for this event. Crosswinds Marsh is located at 27600 Haggerty Road in Sumpter Township.



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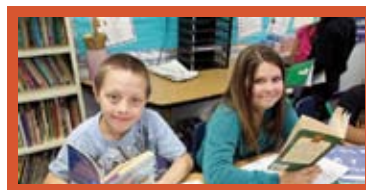
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TRIPLE LOT AND CHARACTER-RICH with original details. 3 Bedrooms, 2 Baths, Larger Kitchen, Impressive Formal Dining Room with Large Living Room, Fireplace, Hardwood Floors and Basement. This home includes, Big 3 Car Garage, Rear Deck & Fish Pond. \$245,000

HURON TOWNSHIP



21239 OTTER, HURON TOWNSHIP
LIVE THAT COUNTRY LIFE just minutes from everywhere. Great location and Updated, This Huron Township Country Home offers 2 Bedrooms, 1 Newer Bath, Newer Furnace, Newer Vinyl Siding, Side Deck, Shed, on 2.37 Acres of Green Grass, Trees and Wildlife. Priced at \$134,900

4 BR 2 BA PRICED RIGHT



26353 JUDY CIRCLE, BROWNSTOWN
IMPRESSIVE 4 BEDROOM - 2 BATH - FULL BRICK Country Home. Super New Kitchen with Hardwood Floors, Countertops, Oak Cabinets, and More. Large Living Room with Fireplace and Lots of Living Space. This location is secluded yet close to shopping and main roads. \$130,000

EASY LIVING & CLEAN



6306 HARLEQUIN, PITTSFIELD TWP
IMMACULATE 3-Story, 2 Bedroom, 2.5 Bath, Condo with many Upgrades and Updates. New Hardwood Floors. Stainless Steel Appliances, Both Ceramic, Hardwood Floors & Maple Cabinets. Large Study that can be used as a Third Bedroom. Property Backs Up to Woods & across from Prairie Park Nature Area. Low Taxes. \$179,900.

AUGUSTA TOWNSHIP
VACANT MCKEAN 11+ ACRES \$85,000
RAWSONVILLE & JUDD 78 AC \$400,000

SUMPTER TOWNSHIP
VACANT KARR ROAD 5 ACRES \$35,000
26455 KARR 5 ACRES 162X1308 \$35,000

25817 SUMPTER RD .97 ACRES \$20,000
26960 SHERWOOD 2.5 ACRES \$30,000
45885 BEMIS PAVED BUIDABLE LOT \$25,000
24409 SHERWOOD 1.15 ACRES \$30,000
20743 GRIFFIN COURT 1.4 AC \$29,500
ELWELL ACROSS FRM 29300 10AS\$9,500

BELLEVILLE
337 MAIN PLEASANT 83X165 \$79,500
VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP
739 SAVAGE PAVED ST 1.02 ACRES \$35,000
47441 MARTZ ROAD 17+ ACRES \$176,000
VACANT BOG ROAD .55 ACRES \$29,750

BELLEVILLE
VACANT BOG ROAD 1.36 ACRES \$30,000
VACANT BOG RD 12.83 ACRES \$129,000
6422 GILMORE 82X165 LOT WITH WATER AND SEWER PRICED RIGHT AT \$19,500
BOG ROAD 2.74 ACRES \$47,500
5900 DELLOR 1.81 ACRES \$31,000



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