



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

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Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

FREE

Belleville City Council sets special meeting

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

A special meeting of the Belleville City Council has been set for 6:30 p.m. Monday, Aug. 12, to approve the wording of a public safety assessment proposal and the amount needed.

The wording has to be determined by Aug. 13 in order to be on the Nov. 5 ballot.

The city council is able to levy an assessment without having to go to the public for approval, so this ballot proposal will be advisory, and the council will still be able to levy the assessment if the proposal fails.

Mayor Kerreen Conley said that they have been waiting to have a full council in attendance before voting on the assessment and two council members – Tom Smith and Jesse Marcotte – were absent at last Monday's regular meeting.

She decided to go ahead with setting the special meeting to get the city attorney's wording for the ballot and the recommendation from administration on the amount needed.

Mayor Conley said all the tax money coming in now is spent on public safety and if they had a public safety assessment, then some of the money now spent on public safety could be put back into city services.

Mayor Conley said the ballot question will be used to educate the people that this assessment would be for multiple years, although the council would have to vote on it annually.

City Clerk Sherri Scharf said the "drop-dead deadline" for wording to be on the Nov. 5 ballot is Aug. 13.

Mayor Conley pointed out that if the council asked voters to approve a public safety "millage," the Downtown

(continued on page 17)



The Summer Reading Program was a huge success at the Belleville Area District Library with 263 elementary-schoolers registering for the program. The Cedar Point ticket winners were Nuraz Kabir and Joshua Barker. Joshua is pictured in the photo with his sister, Talia. Library Director Mary Jo Suchy donated the Cedar Point tickets.

VBT Board of Trustees hears criticism of Scott Jones' condo plan

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

On Monday, the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees held a special 1 p.m. meeting before it began two days of budget sessions.

Jeff Riggs addressed the board before it took action on the future land use map amendment for the Scott Jones property at 41620 E. Huron River Dr.

Riggs said several years ago he had started development of that property and had been friends with family that had owned it since the mid 1800s. He said

everything was signed off and he was ready for development, when GM filed for bankruptcy and he backed off.

He said he shared his development information with Steve Davenport and Scott Jones and he looked forward to their development.

"But I did not count on multiple dwellings with five feet between the buildings," he said, adding he had planned 35 lots and Jones is planning 70 to 80 homes.

Riggs said, in a published report Jones said he would not be looking at putting

(continued on page 16)

Info meeting set on phosphorus load in lake

The Belleville Yacht Club is hosting an informational public meeting to discuss the phosphorus levels in Ford Lake and Belleville Lake at 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 13.

Peter Creal of the BYC said he and other lakeside property owners hope the public will attend this important meeting to discuss the phosphorus that encouraged the green algae growth on Belleville Lake last summer. The BYC is located at 831 E. Huron River Dr., Van Buren Township.

The meeting is being put on by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) – the former MDEQ.

EGLE is developing a new Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for phosphorus in Ford and Belleville lakes, which was originally written in 1996 and updated in 2004.

When a lake or stream does not meet Water Quality Standards (WQS), a study must be completed to determine the amount of a pollutant that can be put in a water body from point sources and nonpoint sources and still meet WQS, including a margin of safety. A TMDL is a document that describes the process used to determine how much pollutant load a lake or stream can assimilate.

The purpose of the TMDL is to analyze data, identify problems, and develop appropriate goals and reasonable assurance that will work toward restoring the designated uses to the water bodies.

The residents of this area have been identified as important stakeholders in this watershed.

Elevated levels of phosphorus contribute to excessive plant growth, including algae blooms, and thereby impairs the Other Indigenous Aquatic Life and Wildlife designed use for these lakes.

At the meeting, the TMDL process and associated activities will be discussed with the public.

Following development of a draft, a TMDL is noticed for public comment, such as the Aug. 13 meeting at the BYC. After

(continued on page 10)

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SECOND FRONT PAGE

Sumpter hires finance director, audit firm in special meeting

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

At a special, 15-minute meeting on Aug. 1, the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees hired Michelle Cole, CPA, of Ann Arbor as its new financial director and Post, Smythe, Lutz, and Ziel of Plymouth as its new auditor for this year and next.

That Plymouth CPA firm is replacing Post, Smythe, Lutz, and Ziel of Wayne, which has been the auditor for decades, for those two audits only.

Trustee Donald Swinson was absent from the meeting.

The township has been advertising for a finance director since Scott Holtz resigned with one week's notice as of April 30. The posting for the position, at a salary of \$60,000, began running on May 6 and the township received 14 applicants.

Cari Ford of Post, Smythe, Lutz & Ziel of Wayne, which oversaw the hiring process, said they chose only to interview seven of the 14. She said the applicants they chose not to interview were either asking too much money or had a business administration background with very little accounting.

Of the seven selected for interview, one withdrew his application the day after the interview because he said he was "shocked" at the \$60,000 salary offering, two accepted other positions (one shared that he accepted Assistant Finance Director for Eastpointe at \$82,500), three were

impressive professionals, but did not have governmental or BSA software experience, she said.

Ford said, "I would expect that I would spend a year training and assisting them even though I expect they would be requiring more salary..."

The last interviewee, Michelle Cole, was originally interviewed at the end of May, Ford went on to say in a memo to the township board.

"In our negotiation process it was determined that she would not be available on Thursdays, so she would only be at the township four days a week," Ford wrote. "At that time, we decided to continue to look for a qualified candidate who was available five days a week.

"We have been unable to find a candidate anywhere near Michelle's qualifications," Ford wrote. "She has extensive governmental, budgeting, and BSA software experience. She reached out to me last week after seeing that our ad was still running, to let me know that she was still available in any capacity to help me out.

"The hiring committee is recommending the hiring of Michelle Cole at a starting salary of \$65,000," Ford wrote. "She is by far the best candidate for the position who should need minimal assistance from me. She seems to be a real go-getter who has vowed to fulfill her duties as finance director and is very excited to become a part of the township."

Ron Traskos of Post, Smythe, Lutz, and
(continued on page 8)



Michelle Cole



Photo by J. Ross Baughman

Townfolk cringe during deafening gunfire as German infantry creep along beside their armored half-track on Main Street in Belleville on Friday during the annual Battle for Belleville put on by reenactors to promote the Air Show at Willow Run Airport.



Photo by Reg Ionn

A Waffen-SS reenactor suffers from a gunshot to his chest, and receives first aid from his fellow German comrade.



Independent photo by Bob Mytych

Demolition work began in the 500 block of Main last week and the old buildings were completely down by Saturday. This work is being done by Davenport Construction in preparation for a retail development by Scott Jones.



Photo by Reg Ionn

OPINIONS

Editorial

Splash Pad to hold grand opening on Friday, Aug. 23

On Tuesday the Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority announced the grand opening date for the new, \$1 million Splash Pad.

It will be at 5 p.m., Friday, Aug. 23, in Quirk Park, behind Van Buren Township Hall.

Lisa Lothringer, assistant DDA director who has been steering the Splash Pad project along, said there will be no soft opening as previously speculated by some.

She said at 5 p.m., Chuck Covington and his family will unveil the memorial to his murdered daughter, Egypt Covington, and then everyone will walk over to the nearby Splash Pad for the next part of the grand opening.

Lothringer said it wouldn't be right to open the Splash Pad and have kids playing in it before Egypt's memorial is formally dedicated.

She said, actually, the Splash Pad will be done around Aug. 16, but there is more work to be done, including landscaping, cleaning the restrooms, and other details.

"This is for the kids," Lothringer emphasized.

This is the largest Splash Pad in Wayne County. It will offer free entry and a lot of splashy fun for all ages. Lothringer said when you stand in the middle of the pad you can experience how huge it really is.

The opening date always had been set for August and here we are.

It's almost ready! They did it.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

Martha Brown is doing much better and is on the mend. I talked to her Monday and she said she has been in and out of the hospital since Mother's Day. She had surgery on her toe and then an infection. Then they had to open it up and operate again. Now she has five pins sticking out of her toe, which looks strange, but is fine.

That's on her right foot. Her left foot is scheduled for September. We send all the best to Martha.

During our conversation, she told me that the boy who won the contest for estimating the number of bricks in the new library building is her grandson, Andrew. His mother is the Browns' other daughter, Amy. Everybody knows Shelly over at the funeral home and her son Seth.

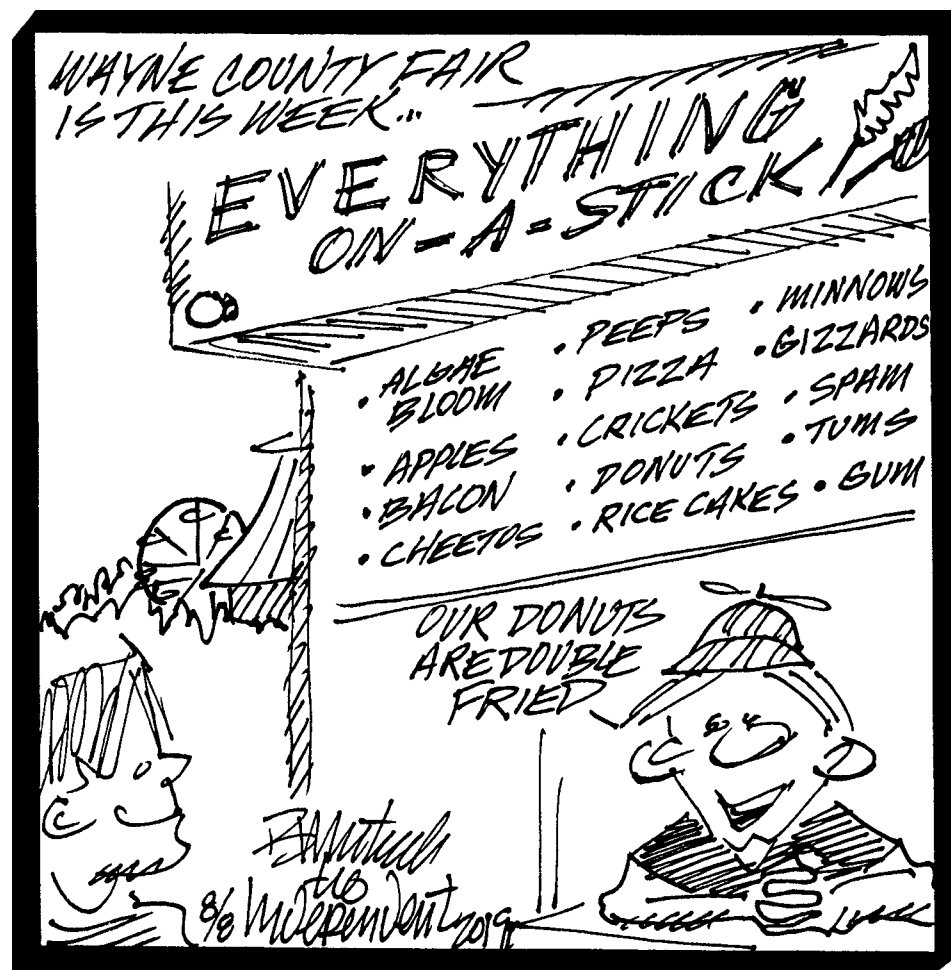
Click on Detroit, Channel 4, reported on Aug. 1 that a woman insists she saw a real alligator in Belleville Lake, about four or five feet long. She is said to have reported the sighting to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

There have been other alligator sightings in Michigan this summer and experts say it's from people dumping their former pets into waterways.

A reader said she got a phone call from 801-238-7300, District of Utah, United States District Court. She said a voice said, "A Grandma" and then hung up. It's a scam, she said.

The new commander of the Belleville VFW Post on Sunday evening was telling us the story of what happened to him the night before.

His daughter had been married in a



ceremony at a hall in Howell and he had stayed around after the celebration to clean up, so it was early in the morning that he left for home. He said he hadn't gone two blocks when he was stopped by a police officer.

John Blackstone said he has never been a drinker, never drank, and hadn't had a drink that night. The officer let him go. He said that was the first time in 30 years that he had been stopped.

Then, when he got to Bemis Road a Sumpter Township police officer stopped him, saying he hadn't dimmed his lights for oncoming traffic. Blackstone said he hadn't had his bright lights on and there was no oncoming traffic. He said he was not ticketed.

Blackstone said if either officer would have opened his trunk, they would have found all the bottles of opened liquor that he had removed from the party, but when they are locked up like that in the trunk, away from the passenger compartment, that is legal.

He still can't stop shaking his head. Twice in one night, after 30 years!

Belleville City Clerk Sherri Scharf was in Dayton, Ohio, over the week end and woke up at her brother's home there on Sunday to hear of the shooting in the city, not far away. Very unnerving.

She was in Dayton to visit her father who had back surgery and was recovering well. After the surgery he was able to feed himself and hold his cellphone to his ear. Everyone was happy about that, she said. He did not

like having to be fed.

The hospital isn't far from the entertainment district where the shootings took place. She said at night the hospital locks the front door because people tended to come inside to drop off the wounded or dead there. Now everyone has to go through the emergency room, where there is triage.

At Monday's regular meeting of the Belleville City Council, City Manager Diana Kollmeyer told about people from city hall sitting across the street from the demolition in the 500 block of Main to watch the building torn down on Friday.

Building Official Rick Rutherford said the new storm system is in place on the property. He said they always had a problem with water on that site, but no more.

Mayor Pro-Tem Jack Loria said they were looking for pictures from "back in the day" to put on the fence next to pictures of what's coming.

Councilman Tom Fielder said he had some time to kill while waiting for the Battle of Belleville on Friday and so he went into the museum and they found a picture of the old Ben Franklin store that used to be in that block. He said that could be mounted on the fence with a picture of what's coming – a before and after grouping.



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Letters

Bridge Walk, Taste of Belleville set for Aug. 15

To the editor:

The Belleville Central Business Community is looking forward to an enjoyable Taste of Belleville on Thursday, Aug. 15, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Horizon Park on High Street following the Annual Bridge Walk that begins at 5:30 p.m. from the Gateway Sign at Main and Denton roads. In addition to the City of Belleville and the Belleville Downtown Development Authority, sponsor of the Taste Is Wayne County Community College District.

The Belleville Area Council of the Arts will be hosting its final Music Lakeside from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on High Street. Music begins at 6 p.m. with Unlimited DJ in the park and then with Toppermost, a Beatles Tribute Band, at 7 p.m. on the stage on High Street. Bring a lawn chair for your comfort when you are not dancing in the street!

Participating in the Taste this year are: Applebees, Belleville Community Chorus, Benito's Pizza, Bobby McShane's Pub, C&C Seven Star BBQ, Egan's Pub, Hidalgo's Mexican Restaurant, Hungry Howe's Pizza, Johnny's Grill, Lunch Box, and Twisted Rooster. Van Buren Public Schools will be there with their new Tiger Logo, Belleville Kiwanis will be selling water and collecting cereal for the Friday Fill-Up and the Van Buren Soccer Association will be holding registration, having a raffle for a free registration, and a children's game.

The menu will be published in this paper next Thursday. Looking forward to a beautiful day by the lake.

Janet Millard, Event Coordinator
Belleville Central Business Community

Kiwanis will be collecting cereal boxes

Dear Belleville / Van Buren / Sumpter Friends:

Next Thursday, Aug. 15, the Belleville Area Kiwanis will be at the Taste of Belleville collecting boxes of cereal for the Friday Fill-Up! Program.

Friday Fill-Up! provides backpacks of food for children in the Van Buren school district who live in food-insecure homes. We will also be selling bottled water and soda! Please help us!

Bring a box (or two or three...) of cereal to the Taste of Belleville and help us help kids!

Belleville Area Kiwanis meets the second and fourth Tuesday at 6 at Johnny's Grill

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- we would love for you to join us. You can find more information on Facebook-Belleville Area Kiwanis!

See you at the Taste of Belleville!

Karen Mida
Belleville Area Kiwanis

Time to sign up for free backpacks, school supplies

To the editor:

The Sumpter Progressive Civic League is sponsoring our Fourth-Annual Back to School Family Fun Day Aug. 24 from 2 to 5 p.m. It will be held at Graham Park in Sumpter Township at Sumpter and Wear roads.

We will be giving away backpacks and school supplies for the school-age children of Sumpter. You must register to receive supplies. You can register at (734) 587-2993 or (734) 217-2019. Call or send a text of child's name, age, and grade. You must register by Aug. 17, 2019.

Please come out and spend the afternoon. We will be serving refreshments and there will be activities, games, and prizes.

Karitheia Murry Hanible
Sumpter Progressive Civic League
Sumpter Township

Thanks for speaking out against racist rhetoric

Dear Reverend Walker:

Thank you for speaking out against the racist rhetoric of President Trump. May I add that his racism has gone beyond rhetoric to include policies such as inhumane treatment of asylum seekers. I am appalled that anyone can fail to see the consequences that his immorality and narcissism are having on the health of our Democracy.

The message in your letter of Aug. 1 speaks not only to your constituents, but to all of us who value the Constitution, common decency, and human morality. I urge all Michigan voters to wake up and take to heart your message that "we expect better of our leaders."

Readers, please note the relevancy of this from Edmund Burke, an Irish statesman, 1729-1797: "All tyranny needs to gain a foothold is for people of good conscience to remain silent."

Dee Crowe
Van Buren Township

Birthdays

Aug. 3 – Kathy Niemann

Aug. 10 – Melissa Crova

Aug. 11 – Claudia Roullier, Marek Thompson

Aug. 14 – Nick Dearing, Lianne Clair

Aug. 16 – Darlene Gerick, Phil Miller

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

Obituaries



Robert Richard Ostrowski, Jr.

ROBERT RICHARD OSTROWSKI, JR.

April 7, 1965 - August 3, 2019
Age 54, died peacefully at his residence in Canton with his family by his side, Saturday evening, August 3, 2019.

Robert is the devoted husband of Catherine for thirty-one wonderful years; cherished father of Claire Ostrowski of Milan, Christopher (Jessica) Ostrowski of Southgate and Connor Ostrowski of Canton; loving son of Raye Ostrowski of Belleville; beloved brother of Lori (Greg) Nowak of Tecumseh, Sandra (Ron Nash) Overmeyer of Belleville, Steven (Lynn) Ostrowski of New Boston and Sherry (Daniel) Yeager of Southgate. Rob is also survived by many loving extended family and friends and his #1 daily companion, his dog, "Ace". Rob was preceded in death by his father, Robert Richard Ostrowski, Sr., who passed away in April 2019.

A proud veteran of the United States Marine Corps., Robert was a sheet metal journeyman with Custom Architectural Sheet Metal Specialists (C.A.S.S.) for nearly 25 years and parishioner at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church of Plymouth. In his spare time, he was an avid outdoorsman who enjoyed hunting and fishing especially with his family, and he was known for his "green thumb" in the garden. A devoted father, he loved watching his kids play competitive sports. He was married to Cathy since 1988 and they were high school sweethearts from the Class of 1983 at Belleville High School. Rob will always be remembered for his unmatched humor, brilliant pranks, ability to fix or build anything, skill at all things outdoors, and loyalty and dedication to everyone he loved.

A Funeral Mass with military honors, will be celebrated on Thursday at 10:30 a.m. at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, 47650 N. Territorial Rd., Plymouth, 48170. The Ostrowski family will greet guests one hour prior to the Mass.

Interment will follow at Michigan Memorial Park, Flat Rock.

Visitation was held Tuesday from 5-8 p.m. and Wednesday from 2-8 p.m. at the David C. Brown Funeral Home of Belleville, 640 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, (734) 697-4500.

Rob preferred that in lieu of flowers, those who wished might consider contributing to one of the following charities:

Robert Richard Ostrowski, Jr. BME Cancer Research Fund (checks payable to University of Michigan) or ACTS XXIX (<https://actsxxix.org/>) - (checks payable to ACTS XXIX). www.davidcbrownfh.com

More Obituaries
on page 7 & 19

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Upcoming Meetings

- Thursday, Aug. 8 – Keystone Academy board meeting at 6 p.m.
- Monday, Aug. 12 – Special meeting of the Belleville City Council, 6:30 p.m. Also, Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m., Administration Building
- Tuesday, Aug. 13 – Van Buren Township Recreation Committee, 5:30 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township workshop at 6 p.m. and

regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. Also, Belleville Area District Library Board, 7:30 p.m.

- Wednesday, Aug. 14 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m.
- Monday, Aug. 19 – Van Buren Township work/study meeting, 4 p.m. Also, Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, Aug. 20 – Van Buren Township regular meeting, 6 p.m.
- Wednesday, Aug. 21 – Belleville Downtown Development Authority, 6 p.m. Also, Van Buren Township Environmental Commission, 7 p.m.

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Obituaries



George Langley Craven

GEORGE LANGLEY CRAVEN

September 5, 1927 – August 2, 2019

Age 91, of Belleville, passed peacefully in his home on Friday, August 2, 2019, of cancer. George is survived by his children David G. (Brenda) Craven, James G. (Angie) Craven, and Patricia J. Craven; his grandchildren James and Brett Joslin, James and Jason Craven, Jessica, Jenna and Amy Craven, Timothy and Christina Bitson; and three great-grandchildren, Lukas, Kinsleigh, and Nataleigh.

George was preceded in death by his wife of 66 years Doreen J. Craven, October 31, 2015, and his daughter Diane Craven Joslin, October 28, 2017.

George was the only child of George and Alma Craven of Detroit, MI.

George was an active member of the VFW Post #9568 and played "Taps" during Memorial Day ceremonies. He was also active in the Belleville Eagles #3996 and Belleville Yacht Club (BYC). George was born in Detroit and attended Cass Technical High School. After graduation he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and attended Boot Camp at Great Lakes Naval Base. Upon completion of his training, he found that the hostilities of WWII had ended and he was assigned to the USS Markab in Shanghai, China.

The ship was decommissioned in Houston, Texas, after a stop in New Orleans. George was discharged from the Navy on August 14, 1946.

He then enrolled in the University of Michigan School of Architecture. He was anxious to start working and left school in 1948 for employment with the Architecture firm of Albert Kahn and Assoc.

In 1946 he met Doreen Powser and they married in 1949. They bought a house in Detroit and he continued his career with Albert Kahn.

In 1952 George was drafted into the Army for the Korean War. He and Doreen moved to Newport News, Virginia, Fort Eustis, where he played trumpet in the 221st Army Band. Once he was discharged, they moved back to Detroit, bought a house, and started their family, first their daughter Diane, then two sons, David and James.

In 1957, George passed his Michigan State

Architecture exam and became a licensed Architect. He then changed firms and moved to the Jahr, Anderson, and Machida Architecture firm in Dearborn, MI. George and Doreen then purchased property in Belleville (1962) and George designed and built the house they lived in on Fisher Road. This is where they continued to raise their family and added another daughter Patricia.

George served as Van Buren Township Supervisor for 2 years and 6 months in the mid '70s. He decided to go back to school and get his Architecture degree from the University of Michigan. He accomplished this in 1993.

George and Doreen enjoyed many happy years (1999-2015) as snowbirds going to Bradenton, Florida every winter, where they had a very active social life including playing his trumpet with the Suncoast Mimmers.

His most memorable feat was playing "Taps" on the deck of the WWII Memorial in Washington, D.C., in September 2017. His son, David, accompanied him on the Honor Flight with Talon's Out.

A Memorial Luncheon will be held on Sunday, August 18, 2019 from 1:00-4:00 p.m. at the Van Buren Eagles on Beck Road.

MILDRED HURTE

August 24, 1928 - July 31, 2019

Mildred Hurte, age 90, of Van Buren Township, MI, passed away Wednesday, July 31, 2019 at Villa at Parkridge, Ypsilanti, MI. She was born August 24, 1928 in Oakman, Alabama, daughter of William Chester & Lela Belle (Mulinax) Waide.

Survived by son Ralph Edward (Susan) Earnest of Oakridge, Tennessee, daughter Janice (Robert) Kennedy of Belleville, three grandchildren: Beverly Boss, Mathew Storms and Chris Kennedy; five great-grandchildren: Jasmine, Madison, Peyton, Bentley and Silas; also, numerous nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

Preceded in death by her parents, first husband Fred Earnest, second husband Edward Hurte, son James Douglas Earnest in infancy, son Rayford in 1978, also eight siblings.

Dignified cremation rites have been accorded. Arrangements by David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville, MI.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the family to defray expenses for her burial in Alabama.

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Phyllis Jean Carpenter

PHYLLIS J. (ROBERTS) CARPENTER

October 31, 1931 - July 4, 2019

Phyllis Jean Carpenter of Britton, MI, passed away on July 4, 2019 at Lenawee Care Facility. She was born on October 31, 1931. She was the daughter of William Harold (Bus) Roberts and Margert Foder. She grew up in Belleville, MI and lived there many years. She met her husband Don who also grew up in Belleville.

After her family moved to Britton in 1972, she worked in accounting at Bohn Aluminum. A few years later she found her passion - flowers. She opened the Herb Hang Up at her home. It was a dried flower business that allowed her and her husband Don to travel and sell their arrangements at craft shows locally and across the country.

Phyllis loved growing the flowers from seeds to be used in her arrangements. She and her husband Don had about 1 acre of flowers they took care of for about 20 years. Phyllis also loved to play 4-deck Solitaire, start a football pool, watch the Red Wings and celebrate Christmas. She was competitive at any game she played.

Phyllis is survived by daughters Cynthia (Joe) White of Georgia, Amy (Fred) Cattell of Stockbridge, MI, and son Mark (Jackie Lynch) Carpenter of Saline, MI; 5 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, brother and sister. Her husband Don passed in 2015. They were married for 65 years.

Dignified cremation rites have been accorded. Arrangements by David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville, MI.

Well-wishers are encouraged to send donations to Hospice of Lenawee, Adrian, MI.

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WILLARD JR. RUNYON

March 1, 1949 – August 1, 2019

Age 70, of Van Buren Township. Survived by wife Linda; daughter Michele; stepchildren Richard and Tracy; grandchildren, step-grandchildren, and great-grandchildren; five sisters. David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville. www.davidcbrownfh.com



ARNOLD ROBERT CLARK

May 16, 1936 – August 1, 2019

Age 83, of Belleville. Survived by wife Betty; sons Robert, Andrew and Lawrence; grandchildren Ryan and Melanie. Served in U.S. Army. Mass will be held at 10 a.m., Aug. 10, at St. Anthony Catholic Church, Belleville. David C. Brown Funeral Home.

www.davidcbrownfh.com



RONALD 'RON' LOUIS WERSTEIN

April 1, 1939 – July 31, 2019

Ronald "Ron" Louis Werstein, 80, of Belleville, Mich., passed away July 31, 2019, with his loving wife Shirley at his side.

Ronald was born April 1, 1939, to Charles and Thelma (Caretto) Werstein in Detroit. He graduated from Belleville High School in 1957 before joining the U.S. Air Force. Ronald was a member of the military police and was stationed in Roswell, New Mexico, earning the rank of Airman First Class. Following his service, Ronald began his career at General Motors where he was employed for 30 years until his retirement in 1988.

Ronald was an avid fan of the Detroit pro sports teams. He enjoyed bowling, loved horses, airplanes, movies, solving crosswords in ink, collecting Star Trek memorabilia, going to the casino, seeing his grandchildren, and aggravating his wife.

Ronald is survived by Shirley, his wife of 51 and a half years, as well as one brother and one sister. He is also survived by three daughters, six sons, 15 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, one brother, and one sister.

The family will host a memorial service Aug. 24 from 3-6 p.m. If you would like to attend, contact Shirley Werstein at (734) 697-4412.

**More Obituaries
on page 6 & 19**

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Sumpter Twp.

(continued from page 3)

Ziel of Wayne, shared Ford's letter with the board before joining in the recommendation to hire Cole.

Cole's resume shows 20 years of progressive municipal finance experience, starting with Plante Moran and moving on to division finance officer for the Genesee County Water Authority in Flint, 2009-2012; workforce management consultant for KRONOS; regional territory manager for New World Systems, Troy; chief financial officer for Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority, 2016-17; and consultant from 2012 to the present.

She will begin work at four days a week starting Aug. 12.

Treasurer Ken Bednark voted against hiring Cole. He had invited Plante Moran in for a recent presentation on how they offer financial director services without a community having to pay benefits for a full-time employee. He did not comment on his "no" vote on Aug. 1.

Audit firm

For the other item on the agenda, Traskos recommended hiring Post, Smythe, Lutz & Ziel of Plymouth to perform the audits for fiscal years 2018-19 and 2019-20 because his firm -- Post, Smythe, Lutz & Ziel of Wayne -- could not do the audits for those years because it had been involved in helping out Sumpter's financial office and couldn't audit its own work.

Treasurer Bednark said that Plante Moran withdrew from the audit bidding because they were just going to do finance director work and then found they couldn't do that.

Traskos said one bidder, Rehmann of Ann Arbor, did the audit for Sumpter about 15 years ago when there was an issue and his firm had to be finance director.

The bids submitted by Post, Smythe, Lutz, and Ziel of Plymouth call the firm PSLZ LLP of Plymouth and Bloomfield Hills, with no reference to the longer name.

Traskos recommended Post, Smythe, Lutz, and Ziel of Plymouth, the low bidder, to do the work. That firm bid \$14,000 for the first year and \$14,000 for the second year.

Rehmann bid \$21,000 to do the first audit and \$19,000 for the second audit.

Traskos said the two firms -- Post Smyth, Lutz and Ziel of Plymouth and his firm Post, Smythe, Lutz, and Ziel of Wayne -- separated 12-13 years ago and "functionally we are separate. ... We have been two different firms."

Traskos went on, "There is no collusion. We gave them the same information as Rehmann," noting 13 years ago Rehmann's fee was \$13,000 for the Sumpter audit.

"They committed to deliver Sept. 30," Traskos said. "It won't be a problem and we can move forward."

Trustee Don LaPorte asked why Rehmann had to take over for Traskos' firm in the past.

Traskos said his office has done Sumpter's audits "for eons."

He said his firm came in to do the audit preparation work because the financial director at that time didn't post anything.

"They filled in when we couldn't do it," Traskos said of Rehmann.

Sumpter attorney Rob Young said the names of the two firms are identical and he wanted to make sure that when the two companies separated they had a dissolution of employees.

"These are two separate companies? But people will say you're hiring yourself. There's no ownership crossover?" Young asked.

Traskos said that Post, Smythe, Lutz, and Ziel are all dead. When they separated into two firms they kept the name because, "The name carries weight," he said. He added that it's the same name, but one is of Wayne and one is of Plymouth.

"There is no connection in any manner whatsoever," Traskos said. "Zero connection."

Trustee Tim Rush made the motion to hire the Plymouth firm for the two audits and Trustee Matthew Oddy seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Court Watching:

Tony Duncan case reset for probable cause hearing on Aug. 21

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

The preliminary exam on a charge of possession of crack cocaine, less than 25 grams, on Feb. 27 in Van Buren Township, against Tony Keith Duncan, 50, of Van Buren Township had been scheduled for July 31 before Judge David Parrott at 34th District Court.

But on July 31, retained attorney Murray Duncan appeared before Judge Parrott without his client and said Duncan had been admitted to a rehabilitation center earlier that morning.

He told Judge Parrott he didn't know how long Duncan would be in rehab and he just got the case last week.

Judge Parrott said the case was supposed to be a preliminary exam hold on July 31, but he reset it to start over for a probable cause conference in three weeks, Aug. 21, with the preliminary exam set for Aug. 28.

Duncan is free on personal bond of \$10,000.

Vetra Denise Pettway

Vetra Denise Pettway, 60, of Detroit was before Judge Parrott for preliminary exam on July 31 and her court-appointed attorney Jeahad Kadaf and the Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor held a sidebar with the judge.

Then, Judge Parrott announced the two attorneys are seeking a forensic exam to see if Pettway is competent to stand trial and competent for criminal responsibility. No date was set for her next court appearance.

Pettway has been charged with felonious assault, interfering with a crime report, and reckless driving on May 26 in Sumpter Township.



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Correction: Pokerwinski says she was misquoted

Sharon Pokerwinski said she was misquoted in the July 4 issue of the Independent. She said she didn't say that she and her husband visited Banotai Park every day, as reported.

But, that is not what we reported. On page 13 we quoted Pokerwinski as saying she and her husband come out "four times a week to mow the lawn and weed whack..." This is what she said.

Also, she said the Parks and Recreation

Commission is not giving up Family Fun Day, but just are not having it this year so they can help put on Gabby's Games.

The Independent reported in the editorial on page 4 in the July 25 issue that Gabby's Games "is replacing the Sumpter Township Parks and Recreation's annual Fun Day." It is replacing it this year. Chief Luke said he hoped to make Gabby's Games an annual event.

-- Rosemary Otzman, editor

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EGLE meeting

(continued from page 1)

making any appropriate modifications in response to the public comment, the TMDL is sent to the United States Environmental Protection Agency for approval. Required pollutant load reductions from point source discharges in a TMDL watershed are implemented through existing programs, such as NPDES permits. Nonpoint sources of pollution are reduced mainly through voluntary programs and the work of local stakeholders. Nonpoint source work in TMDL watersheds can be funded by grants such as Federal 319. The efforts to clean-up nonpoint sources of pollution are often led by local agencies (such as conservation

districts) or watershed councils.

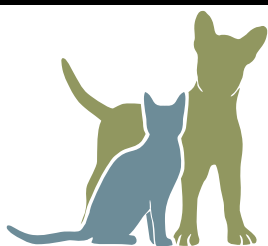
A copy of the draft TMDL for Ford and Belleville lakes that will be presented on Aug. 13 is available on the EGLE web site at <http://www.michigan.gov/waterquality> or can be obtained by contacting Denise Page at (517) 284-5523 or page@michigan.gov.

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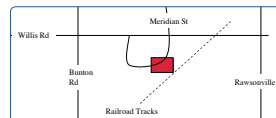


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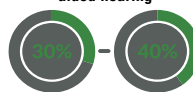
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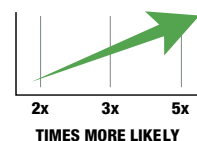
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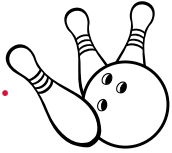
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Graham Park (Sumpter & Wear Rd.)
Sumpter Township

We will be giving away backpacks with school supplies for the school age children of Sumpter Area, Pre-K to 8th grade.

You must register to receive supplies. You can register at (734) 587-2993 or (734) 217-9309

You must register by Aug. 17
Call or text name age and grade.

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ANNUAL BELLEVILLE BRIDGE WALK & TASTE OF BELLEVILLE
THURSDAY, AUGUST 15, 2019
Horizon Park—High Street



The Belleville Central Business Community invites you to an evening lakeside.

Taste Tickets \$1
50/50 Drawing and Door Prizes

Menu in the Independent on 8/15

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

5:30 pm	Belleville Bridge Walk begins at the Gateway Sign (Main & Denton)
6 pm-8 pm	Taste of Belleville-High Street
6 pm-7 pm	Unlimited DJ
6:30 pm	Rubber Ducky Race Sponsored by the Belleville Rotary
7 pm-9 pm	Music Lakeside: Toppermost A Beatle's Tribute Band

Special Thanks to the City of Belleville, the Belleville DDA, and Wayne County Community College District

Wayne County Community College District

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**Minding
Your Business
with Bob Mytych**



Fall sports at Belleville High School start up Aug. 12 with practice and tryouts in football, cross-country, boys' tennis and soccer and girls' golf, volleyball, swimming and diving, and cheerleading. Visit the BHS website for details, physical forms, permission slips, etc.

Walter's Bar and Romulus Lanes in Romulus has openings for the upcoming fall bowling leagues, such as Monday's Beer Trio at 6 p.m., Wednesday Seniors at 10 a.m., Thursday Ladies at 7 p.m., and Saturday Mixed (bi-weekly) at 6:30 p.m. See their ad in today's paper, call (734) 941-1640 and visit their website at www.romuluslanes.com. Walter's Bar invites bowlers and the general public to come in and enjoy their daily lunch and drink specials every Monday through Friday after 11 a.m. Be sure to check out their Trivia Nights on Friday at 7:30 p.m. Check them out on Facebook at Walter's Bar and Romulus Lanes. They're located at 37452 West Huron River Drive near the Five-Points intersection in Romulus.

The Music Lakeside Concert Series continues Thursday, Aug. 8, with the Tequila Mockingbirds at Horizon Park. Next week, Toppermost, one of the best Beatles tribute bands on the planet, will take stage in the final concert of the summer. In case of rain the concert will move across the street inside Belleville First United Methodist Church. Visit www.bacaart.org and www.musiclakeside.com. The Taste of Belleville is also next Thursday along with the annual Bridgewalk starting at 5:30 p.m. The list of participating restaurants and eateries will be published next week.

The Belleville Area Kiwanis will be attending next week's Taste event, collecting boxes of cereal for the Friday Fill-up Program, which provides backpacks of food for children in the Van Buren School District. They'll also be selling bottled water and soda.

Barry's HVAC Service in nearby Ypsilanti is a Trane dealer for residential and commercial customers with parts, service, and installation. They're licensed and insured. See their ad in today's paper and call (734) 992-7232. Visit www.barryshvacservice.com.

Belton Hearing Aids at 889 Sumpter Rd. in the Belle Park Plaza is offering free hearing screenings through Aug. 16 along with \$850 off their Amaze Technology System with their ad coupon in today's paper. Call (734) 256-4113.

The Wayne County Fair continues this week through Saturday at the Fairgrounds on Quirk Road. Country artists Downriver Dan and Kelsie May will perform at 6:30 and 8:30 p.m., respectively, at the track on Thursday followed by Wayne County's Got Talent on Friday evening at 6 p.m. A mud bog is set for 6 p.m. on Saturday. For a list of events and activities, visit their website at www.waynecountyfairgrounds.net and call (734) 697-7002.

**Things to do in the
Belleville area...**

• **Thursday, Aug. 8** -- Music Lakeside at Horizon Park at 7 p.m., Tequila Mockingbirds, Classic Rock.

• **Thursday, Aug. 8** -- Wayne County Fair, Downriver Dan and Kelsie May, 6:30-10 p.m. Fair runs through Saturday.

• **Friday, Aug. 9** -- Wayne County Fair presents "Wayne County's Got Talent!" at 6 p.m. Fair runs through Saturday.

• **Friday, Aug. 9** -- Join Van Buren Township Parks and Recreation for a trip to Comerica Park to watch the Detroit Tigers play Kansas City Royals. Cost includes bus transportation, game admission and food voucher. Information: (734) 699-8921.

• **Saturday, Aug. 10** -- Wayne County Fair presents "Mud Bog" at 6 p.m. Final day of fair.

• **Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 10 and Aug. 11** -- Ladies Auxiliary Yard Sale, noon to 5 p.m., at the Van Buren Eagles, 9961 Beck Rd., Van Buren Township.

• **Sunday, Aug. 11** -- September Days Senior Center, 46425 Tyler Rd., offers free Sunday music from 2 to 5 p.m. This week it's Jay/Sac. For information: Jimmy Baleja, (734) 223-4824 or Lynette Jordan (734) 699-8918.

• **Monday, Aug. 12** -- Belleville Farmers Market, 4-7:30 p.m. at the Fourth Street Square in Belleville, sponsored by the Belleville Central Business Community. Also, Cruise Main Street Classic Car Show, 6-9 p.m. on Main Street in Belleville, sponsored by Egan's Pub.

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AUCTION

NOTICE OF AUCTION AT J&T CROVA TOWING

**287 Industrial Park Dr.
Belleville, MI 48111 (734) 699-0584
Friday, Aug. 16, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.**

Year	Make/Model	VIN
1995	Chevrolet pick up	1GCCS14Z9SK101566
2001	Pontiac Aztek	3G7DA03E21S549035
1999	Nissan Altima	1N4DL01D6XC265000
1997	Pontiac Grand Am	1G2NW12M6VC810785
2008	Ford Escape	1GMCU93188KE28386
2004	Ford Focus	1FAHP38Z84W155634
2004	Saturn Ion	1G8AJ52F04Z218225
2005	Chevrolet Monte Carlo	2G1WW12E559138324
2008	Saturn Aura	1G8ZS57B08F185112
2004	Pontiac Grand Am	2G2WS522641271093
1991	Bayliner	BL1A18CXF091
2001	Mercedes Benz Clk	WDBLK70G81T077727
2005	Lincoln Aviator	5LMEU88H55ZJ06250
2003	Chevrolet Malibu	1G1NE52J73M523693
2004	Chrysler Sebring	1C3EL45X24N327393
2005	Dodge Durango	1D4HB58D75F574443
2000	Tenderjet	TRI00114G900
2001	Mercury Mountaineer	4M2ZU86P01UJ14387
2001	Honda Civic	1HGEM225X1L118671
1996	Cadillac Deville	1G6KD52Y0TU275056
2010	Mazada MZ6	1YVHZ8BH5A5M54401
2004	Chrysler Sebring	1C3EL45X24N327393

These vehicles were towed by Sumpter Police Department.
Publish: Aug. 8, 2019

PUBLIC AUCTION U-Lock-It Self Storage LLC 6130 Rawsonville Rd., Belleville, MI 48111 (734)-482-1502

**Notice is hereby given that on 8/15/19
at 12:00 P.M. thru 8/21/19 at 12:00 P.M.
contents of the following storage unit(s)
will be sold on line at:**

Bid13.com

SPACE #D40 James Smith, #G6 Charles Brewer, #B40 Christina Clayton, #G33 Katrilla Cottingham, #A15 Nickolas Gomolok, #F35 Reginal Griffin0, #C38 Stephanie Harbin, #G39 Mario Holmes, #D13 Linda Sabo, #A10 Monique Waker, #F33 Latrice Walls, #E39 Derrick Yates
Unit(s) may or may not include the following: household items, recreational items, appliances, furniture, seasonal decorations, and tools.

Published: August 8, 2019
August 15, 2019

GARAGE/YARD SALE

INSIDE VAN BUREN EAGLES #3996, 9961 Beck Rd. August 9 & 10, 9am-5pm & August 11, 9am-3pm. 08/08

2-FAMILY YARD SALE (using Antioch Church property) 6538 Rawsonville Rd. Misc. items, Adult & girl's clothing, baby items, toys. August 9 & 10, 9am-6pm. 08/08

HUGE MOVING SALE. August 16 thru 18, 10am-4pm. 49354 Peninsular, Mission Pointe Sub. off W. Huron River Dr. All must go. 08/15

GARAGE/YARD SALE

HUGE SALE – 7046 Hogan Dr, off Merritt between Hitchingham & Whittaker. August 8 & 9, 9am-5pm. Lots of clothing, shoes, purses & more. 08/08

2-FAMILY GARAGE SALE. Fri. & Sat., August 9 & 10, 9am-5pm. 14007 Deanna Dr., Van Buren Township (off Elwell in Pine Forest Sub.) 08/08

FOR SALE

OLD INSULATORS \$2/ea. Old canning jars \$2/ea. Old glass medicine bottles \$1.50/ea. (734) 340-5668 08/08

CRAFTSMAN AIR COMPRESSOR w/ airline – 110 oil free, 150 PS1-6 HP 33 gal., 4½' tall, used once. \$175 OBO. Works good. (734) 564-8018 08/08

ANTIQUE DRESSER & CHEST \$200/ both OBO. Wooden cabinets, various sizes priced separately, \$35 & up. Custom jewelry \$.50/ea. & up. Solid wood doors 80"x30"x1.5" \$50/ea. OBO. Youth's white desk w/chair \$45 OBO. Vintage green sea chest (trunk) \$30 OBO. Antique GE refrigerator \$40 OBO. (734) 645-5606 08/15

5'X8' UTILITY TRAILER. Excellent condition. \$500 OBO. (734) 340-5668 08/15

MOSSBERG 12 GAUGE SHOTGUN. \$225. Pump action. Model 500, 2 barrels w/scope. Like new. (734) 787-9259 must leave message. 08/15

BEER & WINE LICENSE (SDM). Serious inquires only. Call or text Jackie at (313) 220-0780 08/22

PADDLE BOAT. 4-seats w/canopy. Like New. \$275. Professional basketball pole w/ rim \$100. (734) 699-8370 08/22

COMMERICAL KUBOTA F2100 LAWN MOWER. Rear engine, 20hp, power steering, 70" 3-blade deck. Very clean. \$2,995. (734) 697-7777 or (734) 355-9400 08/22

23 LAYING HENS \$2/ea. Must Sell. Call (734) 270-2583 or (734) 740-0845 08/22

ATTENTION TRUCKERS! A Coleman brand 1500W/3000W peak power inverter. \$125. Please call (734) 483-6609 08/22

STOLEN

STOLEN IN Van Buren Twp. on Elwell. Blue Go Kart w/LED lights. Vector on the side. (734) 697-7339 08/08

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FISHING POLES at Banotai Park. (734) 776-3193 08/22

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1998 FORD MUSTANG. Automatic. 6- Cyl engine. Dependable transportation. Private Owner. (734) 695-0819 08/22

1996 MUSTANG CONVERTIBLE. Automatic 6 cyl engine, power steering & brakes. \$2,350 OBO. Private Owner. (734) 695-0819 08/22

2009 PONTIAC VIBE GT. 4-door SUV, 5-speed manual transmission, sunroof, air, clean, loaded with extras. \$2,500. Private Owner. (734) 695-0819 08/22

2005 FORD FREESTAR MINI VAN, seats 7, 90K miles. Looks & runs good. Needs belts & blades. Clean interior. Must Sell. \$3,900. (734) 796-5079 08/22

HOUSE FOR SALE

3-BEDROOM/2-BATH home in Augusta Woods, Willis. Large attached carport. All new Wallside windows. Asking \$89,900 negotiable. Very motivated. (734) 516-0600 08/08

CONDO FOR SALE

BAYSHORE CONDO \$219,000. Items for sale: antiques & bikes. Treadmill \$300. Call Tom (734) 395-0299 08/15

PARCEL FOR SALE

2.51 ACRES LOCATED AT 21560 Elwell, North of Judd Rd, Sumpter Twp. \$25,000. Call (734) 787-6106 09/12

FOR RENT

ROOM FOR RENT. Beautiful country living in a log home. Full use of house. Must love animals. Female preferred. \$390/mo., includes utilities. 08/15

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– Steven Wright

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LARRY'S HANDYMAN SERVICE. No job too small. Interior/exterior painting, hang wall paper, yard work, power washing & carpentry. (618) 267-7774 09/26

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7' WOODEN PICNIC TABLE. (734) 697-8764 08/15

OLDER STYLE MAGNAVOX. 25" working TV. (734) 941-9567 08/22

INDEPENDENT CLASSIFIED ADS

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JIM KOVALAK EXCAVATING & SEPTIC. CDL Driver to Start Immediately. Full-Time & Part-Time Available. Motivated. Lots of Overtime. (734) 461-6838



Full time labor position starting at \$15/hr. Benefits after 90 day probation. Must be a US citizen and have a valid driver's license. Great opportunities for advancement. Call (734) 699-4442

AREA TRAINEE for local Real Estate Firm. For appointment call. (734) 697-1800 TFN

EXPERIENCED BRICK PAVER to finish cutting & laying the final rows on a paving job. Belleville Lake near Haggerty. Compensation negotiable. (734) 740-0595 08/08

NURSE AIDE NEEDED. Day shift 6am-3pm. Part-time, some afternoons. Experienced, driver's license & references. (734) 482-4847 08/22

JIM KOVALAK EXCAVATING. Full-time construction laborer. Start immediately. Motivated. No experience necessary. Driver's license required. (734) 461-6838 08/29

WANTED

H & W TOP DOLLAR \$

Cash For Salvage & Scrap Vehicles. 7 Days. Free Towing. Licensed & Insured. (734) 223-5581

WANTED – ANY SIZE MEN'S JEANS for the homeless. Please drop off at Bladex's 601 E. Huron River Drive. (734) 697-5600 TFN

WANTED

WANTED – SMALL CONTAINERS of shampoo, toothpaste, etc. to take to homeless in Detroit. Drop off at Bladex's, 601 E. Huron River Dr. (734) 697-5600 TFN

INSIDE STORAGE NEEDED for 22' long by 11' high RV. Call (313) 580-8277 with pricing & location. 08/08

CASH PAID for sports cards and comic books. '50s, '60s, & '70s. Private collector can come to you. (734) 697-3546 08/08

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.

Sumpter Solar Services featured on 2019 Top Solar Contractors List

With renewable energy expected to be the fastest growing source of U.S. electricity generation for at least the next two years, local solar installer Sumpter Solar Services is happy to be contributing to the country's energy mix.

Sumpter Solar Services has been recognized by Solar Power World magazine for its installation efforts, achieving a rank of 411 on the magazine's 2019 Top Solar Contractors list.



Matt Kadwell

Matt Kadwell is the owner of Sumpter Solar Services, located on Sumpter Road near Clay Road, just north of township hall.

The Top Solar Contractors list is developed by Solar Power World to recognize the work completed by solar contractors across the United States.

Produced annually, the Top Solar Contractors list celebrates the achievements of U.S. solar developers, subcontractors and installers within the utility, commercial, and residential markets, and ranks contractors by kilowatts installed in the previous year.

"Solar Power World enjoys assembling the Top Solar Contractors list each year,

and our 2019 edition features hundreds of companies making big impacts in local energy markets," said Kelly Pickerel, editor in chief of Solar Power World.

"Solar power is becoming competitive with traditional electricity sources in more markets, and cities and states are demanding more renewable energy options. It's a great time to be a solar installer, and we're happy to highlight the best installation companies in the country on our list."

The U.S. solar market is expected to see 14% growth in 2019, with over 12 GW of new solar power added to the grid this year — enough to power 2.3 million average American homes. This increase in installations is attributed to strong residential solar interest and a rush to get projects in before the 30% federal investment tax credit steps down to 26% next year.

Sumpter Solar Services expects to install 20 new solar arrays in the Ann Arbor/Detroit area this year. Sumpter Solar Services employs 4 workers who installed 108,000 watts of solar power in 2018, and expects to install over 200,000 watts this year. Since its founding in 2017 the company has installed 129,000 watts of solar. The company was founded to help solar owners take care of their systems, then quickly expanded into doing new installations due to frequent requests.

"We are excited to be a part of this exclusive list of top solar installers across the nation -- one of only four Michigan contractors to make the list," said Matt Kadwell, the owner of Sumpter Solar Services.

Kadwell can be reached at (734) 512-7508 and matt@sumptersolarservices.com



They're reading the Independent everywhere

Connie Haynes, center, of Belleville, reads her *Independent* in Ketchikan, Alaska, where she was during an Alaskan cruise. At left are Mary Anne and Jim Harris of Fort Myers, Florida, and at right, Pat and Daryl Bauman of New Boston.

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.

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.



VBT

(continued from page 1)

in boat docks and residents would use the docks at Sandy's Marina next door. But, he said, there are no dock spaces available at Sandy's.

He said he believes in the future Jones will look at putting in docks at his development.

He said he is looking out for the aesthetic values of property owners on the lake. He called for a study of boat traffic and input from the DEQ and police.

"I could have developed into apartments," he said. "I thought Van Buren Township would maintain its Master Plan and it shouldn't be changing it. I know that property better than anyone. I walked it more than anyone."

Trustee Paul White made a motion to remove the item on the Jones' development from the agenda for further study, since it was not discussed at a work/study session, and Trustee Reggie Miller seconded the motion.

"It's 1 p.m. and people haven't been able to attend this meeting," Trustee Miller said. "One p.m. on a Monday. I'm not saying this isn't a great project. It probably is and I might be interested in one [of the condos]."

Director of Public Services Matthew Best explained that there are steps when you change a Master Plan and the request was first heard on June 12 and on June 21 the notice of intent to plan was mailed out and on July 10 the planning commission held a public hearing and approved recommending to the township board to send out the proposed map changes and this is the next step.

It would require the township board to distribute the proposed change to surrounding communities to get their comments.

"I withdraw my support," Reggie Miller said and Trustee White's motion died for lack of support.

Trustee White said this proposal calls for six to seven homes per parcel and it shouldn't be more than three or four.

Clerk Leon Wright made the motion, seconded by Trustee Sherry Frazier to distribute the future land use map for the

42-day review.

"I was unclear," said Trustee Frazier. "I agree with Mr. Riggs. We need to have a look at boat traffic on the lake. It's crowded out there. We need input from Sandy's Marina. We don't want to give *carte blanche* approval."

Supervisor Kevin McNamara said Jones hasn't even submitted a site plan yet, so this is not approval.

Director Best said the proposed map will be sent to 25 parties, which includes Wayne and Washtenaw counties and surrounding communities.

"All this requires is for us to mail out notification for comments on this ... The first step in the process," Best said.

Miller asked if they would send notices to everyone around the lake and Best said no such notification is required. He said notices were sent out for surrounding properties for the public hearing.

Best said for the next step they will come back to the planning commission for a public hearing and then the board will get "the second bite of the apple."

Treasurer Sharry Budd read off the schedule that was in everyone's packet about all the steps between now and 2020.

"I think everybody will have plenty of time to comment," Treasurer Budd said.

Trustee White said he may be interested in one of the condos, but right now they are too close together.

"I don't want to stand in my bedroom window and hear what's going on in the next bedroom window ... I don't know if Sandy's needs more space and will want to expand."

He said they want VBT to be a premiere community and how they want VBT to look in the future is important.

"The lake is congested on holidays. We all know that," White said. "We need to be sure we'll be doing the right thing."

Clerk Wright said the schedule shows several meetings until the final one on Jan. 21 and it comes back to the board several times, including a work/study in November.

"We want to get the process started," Wright said.

"There will be at least two public

hearings," Frazier said. "Everyone who lives on the lake should be notified. It will affect everyone. Congestion on the lake is my main concern."

Miller said she would like to see the schedule printed in the paper and otherwise distributed.

Supervisor McNamara said the township has community outreach and the information will be put out.

The motion carried unanimously to send the future land use map proposal out for the 42-day review.

In other business at the 42-minute meeting, the board:

- Approved selecting Penchura Russell Design and VanAssche Construction, Inc. for the French Landing Park improvements not to exceed \$120,000. Russell will develop a park design – a vision -- with tree and vegetation removal to improve visibility from the road and from the park to Belleville Lake. The project plans to demolish and remove the current play structure which is rotting from within, Best said. Construction would be in 2020. They found a potential of \$150,000 in Wayne County money for the physical park improvements that needs to be spent by Sept. 30. McNamara said this grant is left over from the Linda Combs administration and the county found it two weeks ago. If it's not used, the county will take it back, McNamara said;

- Approved the Communications

Specialist job description at a salary of between \$50,000 and \$60,000, plus \$20,000 to pay for assistance. Miller explained why she asked to delay this approval for more information and said she got the information she needed. She said some of it was sensitive and needed one-on-one conversation. Clerk Wright said he also got the information he sought. White said, "What we're asking one person to do is a lot ... You're asking more than what one person can do."

Projected timeline

The following is a projected timeline for the amendment to the Van Buren Township Future Land Use Map for 41620 E. Huron River Dr., if everything is approved in a timely manner by the required boards and commissions:

- June 12 – Introduction to the Planning Commission. Planning Commission considers submitting notice of intent to plan.
- June 17 – Notice of Intent to Plan sent out.
- July 10 – Planning Commission acts to submit the proposed plan amendments to the township board.
- Aug. 5 – Township board work/study.
- Aug. 6 – Township board approves plan distribution.
- Aug. 9 – Notices for 42-day comment period sent out.
- Sept. 25 – Planning Commission moves to decide to hold a public hearing.
- Oct. 23 – Planning Commission holds public hearing. Votes to adopt Master Plan Amendment.
- Nov. 4 – Township board work/study.
- Nov. 5 – Township board decision.
- Nov. 8 – Notice of adoptions sent out.
- Dec. 11 – Public hearing for rezoning of property. Recommendation made by the Planning Commission.
- Jan. 6 – Township board work/study.
- Jan. 7 – Township board first reading of ordinance amendment.
- Jan. 21 – Township board second reading.

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Charter Township of Van Buren Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, August 28th, 2019, at 7:30 p.m.** in the Board of Trustees Room, 46425 Tyler Road, Charter Township of Van Buren, Wayne County, Michigan to consider the following proposed amendments to the Charter Township of Van Buren's Zoning Ordinance:

1. Proposed amendment that would modify the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance with regard to required setbacks for non-conforming single family residential zoned parcels with lake frontage. The amendment will be to Section 3.106. Single Family Residential Districts dimensional requirements and the addition of a footnote to Section 4.102 Schedule of Regulations.

Please address any written comments to the Van Buren Township Planning Commission at, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, MI 48111 or via e-mail at mbest@vanburen-mi.org

Written comments will be accepted until 4:00 p.m. on the hearing date. All materials related to this request are available for public inspection at the Van Buren Township hall prior to the hearing.

Van Buren Township will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aides and services to individuals with disabilities who are planning to attend. Please contact Van Buren Township hall at 734-699-8913 at least seven (7) days in advance of the meeting if you need assistance.

Published: August 8, 2019

Posted: August 8, 2019

City of Belleville Public Notice

City of Belleville PUBLIC NOTICE SPECIAL CALLED MEETING

The Belleville City Council will hold a Special Called Meeting on Monday, August 12, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers at City Hall, 6 Main Street. The purpose of the meeting is to determine a Public Safety Special Assessment.

Sherri Scharf,
City Clerk/Treasurer
Publish: August 8, 2019

JOB VACANCY



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN JOB VACANCY

Position Title: Director of Planning and Economic Development

Department: Public Services

Classification: Regular, Full-time

FLSA Status: Non-exempt **Union Affiliation:** Non-Union salary position.

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General Duty Statement:

Van Buren Charter Township is now accepting applications for the Director of Planning and Economic Development

Position Summary

This is administrative division head directing the activities of the Van Buren Township Planning & Economic Development Division. As Director, the employee is responsible for overall direction and management of the division and performs professional and administrative work in planning, reviewing, organizing and coordinating development activities. This position also oversees building code enforcement and staff in coordination with the Public Services Director, the Township Engineer, Township Supervisor and other department heads and consultants. Additionally, the Director oversees contract and Township employees responsible for planning and development related operations to protect the health and safety of the public. Significant emphasis is placed on maximizing the efficiency and effectiveness of operations. Although general direction is received from the Public Services Director, the duties and responsibilities require considerable independent judgment and initiative. Interacts in a consistently pleasant and helpful manner with fellow employees, visitors and residents of the Charter Township of Van Buren, and demonstrates the highest standards of internal and external customer service.

- Oversees the administrative functions of the Planning & Economic Development Division including; personnel, budgeting, financial, and general administration.
- Oversees all planning and zoning functions of the Township.
- Oversees the Township's building department.
- Jointly oversees the Township's condemnation and demolition activities.
- Acts as Zoning Administrator for the Township and is responsible for the administration and enforcement of applicable local ordinances and State laws.
- Provides staff support for the Planning Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals, Local Development Finance Authority, Township Board of Trustees, and attends other meetings as may be required.
- Receives and processes variance requests, land division requests (in coordination with Assessing Dept.), and development plans; prepares case files and is responsible for publication notices and notifying property owners, as necessary; makes recommendations to Planning Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals, Local Development Finance Authority and Township Board based on professional planning principles and the comments of other reviewing agencies.
- Acts as coordinator of the site plan review and building plan review processes which involve external agencies, departments, and consultants.
- May conduct site plan reviews, variance reviews, or any other necessary reviews of planning/zoning applications.

Detailed information can be found on the Van Buren Township website.

www.vanburen-mi.org/about-the-community/help-wanted

Please submit a cover letter, resume and application to:

nsumpter@vanburen-mi.org.

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Belleville Council

(continued from page 1)

Development Authority would be able to capture 40% of that.

An "assessment" would be for the amount needed and the city would get it all without the DDA capturing any of it.

Also, an assessment would be on all property in the city, even those generally tax-free such as the schools and churches.

City Manager Diana Kollmeyer said the city's intent could be to put \$100,000 total assessment for 10 years, all for public safety.

"The public would know what our intent is," said Mayor Conley. "If the bottom drops out [of the economy], we could decide not to levy the assessment that year."

Planning Commissioner Mike Renaud said the council is asking the voters to approve this, but what if they don't?

"If they don't support it, we know it wouldn't be popular with them," Mayor Conley said.

"You're setting yourself up, if they vote it down and you approve it," Renaud said.

"I would hope the people would support public safety," Mayor Conley said.

Councilman Tom Fielder said the ballot proposal would be the best way to educate the public. He said the ballot issue would be covered by the local papers and there would be conversations in local coffee houses.

Mayor Conley pointed out that absentee ballots now may be requested without having a reason and the wording would be on those ballots, laying on people's tables. It would be a tool to get the words out, she said.

Councilman Fielder said although the properties have gone up in value, the Headlee Amendment keeps the city from having the taxes it had in the past. He repeated that all of the city's tax money goes to public safety.

"This is the tightness we have," he said.

Fire Chief Brian Loranger said with this assessment the city would have to use it all for public safety. If the DDA captured some of it, as in a millage proposal, the DDA would not be able to use it for public safety, but would have to use it for development.

The assessment of one or two mills a year was discussed and Chief Loranger said with two mills they'd be able to have a new fire truck in five years.

"We need to get Steve to write the language so it can be certified," Kollmeyer said, referring to city attorney Steve Hitchcock.

Kollmeyer said it is required to have a public hearing before levying an assessment and Mayor Conley said, "We're not taking action. We're just putting it on the ballot," and there would be time for a public hearing before the council's vote on the assessment.

Kollmeyer said they would look into the equivalent of one or two mills and whether to have accelerated or prolonged purchase of public safety equipment.

Renaud said as far as a new fire engine, the city doesn't want to front-load it for the public to pay now for something they won't be able to use later.

"Bills on your taxes never go away," Renaud said.

"I'm replacing a 30-year-old truck and I've got a 20-year-old truck," said Chief Loranger. "Fix that and we'll be good for a very long time."

Mayor Conley said with the information in the ballot proposal the public will know there is a plan tied to it.

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Obituaries



Loretta Deanne Speaks

LORETTA DEANNE SPEAKS

November 27, 1941 – August 6, 2019
Loretta Deanne Speaks, age 77, of Belleville, MI, passed away Tuesday, August 6, 2019 at her home. She was born November 27, 1941 in Detroit, MI, daughter of Andrew A. & Genevieve Dorothy (Dyerzinski) Joyce.

Loretta enjoyed quilting gardening and time spent with family. She felt her biggest accomplishment was her boys and cherished family get togethers.
Survived by her cherished husband of nearly 60 years George Elmer Speaks I; two sons George E. (Alehli Martinez Morales) Speaks II of Shepherd, MI, and Kenneth A. (Allison) Speaks of Bellvue, MI; five grandchildren: Jennifer (Will) Kidney of Climax, MI, Staci (Chris) Hewitt of Battle Creek, MI, Ken A. Speaks, Jr. of Bellvue, MI, Andrew Speaks of Sterling Heights, MI and Adam Speaks of Sterling Heights, MI; two great-granddaughters; two sisters Carol (Joseph) Scamazzo of Mikado, MI and Sandra (Leonard) Frania of Bonita Springs, Florida; also numerous nieces, nephews, extended family and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents.
Funeral Services will be held 4:00 PM Saturday, August 10, 2019 at David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville, MI. The family will greet guests from 3-4 PM. Interment will be in Parkview Memorial Cemetery, Livonia, MI. Memorial contributions may be made to the family.
www.davidcbrownfh.com

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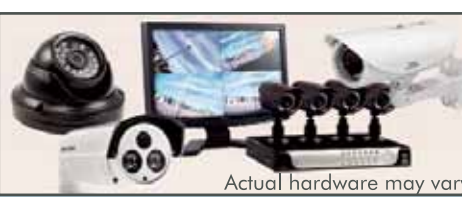
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