





# The RECORDER

OCTOBER 24, 2019

**Death Notices:** (see page 3)

Judith Ann “Judy” Horton, age 75  
Gracie May Patterson (Wesley) age 87  
Dininny, Robert James, age 87

**AREA SPORTS IN THIS WEEK’S RECORDER**

- Concord High School**  
Boys and Girls Cross Country, page 8  
Football, page 8  
Volleyball, page 6  
Golf, page 8
- Marshall High School**  
Boys and Girls Cross Country, page 8  
Football, page 8  
Volleyball, page 6  
Golf, page 8  
Soccer, page 8  
Swimming, page 6
- Springport High School**  
Football, page 7  
Volleyball, page 6



Springport homecoming honors United States Military servicemembers  
See page 7



Marshall earns comeback win in district final  
See page 8



Marshall falls short in I-8 football  
See page 8



Albion Medical Associates closes its doors  
See page 2

## A new dump truck is coming ... but very slowly

By KEN WYATT  
Contributing Writer

It won't happen soon, but the village of Concord voted this week to buy a fully equipped new dump truck.

The old one is a 1993 truck that was bought used. Jason Blossom, DPW director, sought prices from three manufacturers - Kenworth, International and Freightliner. He recommended the Freightliner to the Village Council, partly because he was able to check out one locally.

However, orders are so backed up that he said it will take about 300 days to place the order and have it ready. Fully equipped with underbody scraper, box and salt spreader, the cost will be \$161,489 through D&K Truck Co. of Lansing with the upfit by Truck & Trailer. The expense will be charged from several vil-

lage funds.

Council members went ahead and approved the expense, since it will take so long to get the vehicle. It will be used for snow removal and leaf pickup among other things.

Freightliner Trucks is an American manufacturer and division of Daimler Trucks North America. It is known mostly for its heavy-duty diesel trucks in various classes.

In other business before the council: PLAN. On the heels of last week's open house on the new Concord Area Master Plan, the council gave its approval to the 157-page document. It is a five-year plan that came to the council with the recommendation of the planning committee. Since it is a joint effort with Concord Township, both the township's planning commission and board must approve the

plan before it goes to the Jackson County Board of Commissioners for its approval. The plan is a long-term guide to land use, recreational development and other aspects of local government.

FIRE. On a motion by council member Ashley Meeks, who serves also on the fire board, the council approved a \$3,000 increase to the \$121,000 fire budget. Concord's department is jointly operated by the village and township. The increase to the budget is due to the added expense of training for new volunteer members of the department. The actual increase will be split \$1,500 to both village and township.

RAILING. Blossom reported that latest improvement to the village office entrance platform is being completed. A new handrail has been installed and will be completed by the end of the week. The work has been done by

Jackson Industrial. This is the last of a number of improvements made to the entrance to the village offices over the past few months - new concrete steps and platform, railings and a stone bench.

RATES. In preparing the budget for next year, Blossom and Clerk Judy Lefere alerted the council to the possible need for a water/sewer rate increase. The U.S. Department of Agriculture, which administers the loan being used to finance the village's \$4 million water main replacement project, requires annual cost-of-living increases be incorporated in the rates. For the water project, that would amount to 2.8 percent, or \$1.41 increase to the existing monthly rate, which is \$50.24. However, before a decision is made, officials are going to

See DUMP on page \_

## Albion Branch NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet held Saturday



Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson is pictured with Robert Dunklin, president of the NAACP branch.  
Photo by Michelle Mueller

by MICHELLE MUELLER  
Contributing Writer

It was a sell-out crowd for the 48th annual Freedom Fund Banquet of the Albion Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, which was held Saturday in Upper Baldwin Hall on the Albion College campus. Intensified promotional and networking efforts boosted this year's attendance to 250 people, a 25% increase over last year's event.

"The evening was filled with learning, laughter, community engagement, and excellent cuisine prepared by Albion College's Café Bon Appétit," said Vivian Davis, chairperson of the event, whose theme was "When We Fight, We Win." It is the only fundraising event put on by the Albion Branch to support its activities.

Before dinner, greetings were given by Robert Dunklin, president of the NAACP branch; Leroy Wright, Albion College's vice president for student development and dean of students; Albion Mayor Dave Atchison; and Marshall Public Schools Superintendent Randall Davis.

Former outstanding Marshall High School graduates Kei'Asianique Hill, Larenz Hill, Cassidy Porter and Victory Stovall will be recognized for having received scholarships from the branch for the 2019-20 academic year. All of the recent scholarship recipients are Albion College Fellows and members of the graduating class of 2023.

Then the crowd helped themselves to dinner. Because Upper Baldwin was completely packed with

See NAACP on page 3

## Albion City Council

By ANN DWYER  
Contributing Writer

At the Albion City Council meeting, Mayor Atchison requested approval for a Resolution of Recognition and Appreciation for Chief Scott Kipp.

The request was questioned by various members of council who pointed out that city workers were generally recognized through a proclamation.

"I wanted to give every council member a voice and to publicly thank [or not] the chief for serving as the interim city manager three times and for the good job he's done in nearly 20 years of faithful, quality service to the city of Albion."

The council also voted to pay \$10,000 to the Michigan Municipal League as part of a pending lawsuit brought by the family of the child who was punched by an Albion Public Safety Officer last November. The money is a required deductible as part of the city's contribution to future settlements.

The city council voted to deny Cascarelli's a gaming license. There are currently back taxes owed on the business, and board members found that Cascarelli did not serve the public by not paying taxes.

The city has a judgement against Cascarelli's for payment of the roughly \$6,000 owed in back taxes.

"When you get in situations where you have judgments against you. There's a repeated history of failed plans, default payments, bounced checks...it gets to the point where can you really trust that person," asked council member Shane Williamson (Prec. 6).

## Eaton St. and Clinton St. railroad crossing detour



Eaton St and Clinton St will be closed at the north spur line railroad crossings starting Wednesday, Oct. 23 for two weeks while repairs to the crossings are completed. Please seek alternative routes during this time.

## Friends of Albion's Animals needs cat fosters

By SYLVIA BENAVIDEZ  
Contributing Writer

Put simply. People, whether residents or from the surrounding areas, are abandoning their cats in Albion. Besides this problem behavior from cat owners, the usual round of kittens are being born throughout the year, so the need for cat fosters has increased in the neighborhoods.

During the fundraising event Casseroles for Kitties earlier this month at the American Legion, Friends of Albion's Animals Secretary Jason Strong said, "With this past kitten season and with the two hoarding situations that have come up, all in all about 60 to 62 cats got dumped on us in the area."

"A cat hoarder is someone who is unable to mentally, physically, financially take care of their animals, but still has them," he said. He continued, "We have an extreme need for a foster system in town. Right now all of our members are fosters and all of our foster homes are full." To bring a cat or kitten home for domesticating makes all the difference in getting the pet a permanent home. Even with having cooperation with other cat rescues to place an overflow of animals, more has to be done

"We have had so many people abandoning and dumping cats recently that this fundraiser

is our effort to getting these animals fixed," said Adeia Strong, senior trustee, Friends of Albion's Animals, and organizer of the fundraiser.

The organization operates on the TNR philosophy which means that they Trap, Neuter, Release.

Through the TNR method, large colonies of cats can be diminished, but because people continue abandoning animals the group has to remain vigilant.

"At Union Steel we had the colony down to three cats. It's now up to 29 again. Cats were brought there again," said Strong.

She described some of the cruelty against cats in Albion found by the Friends of Albion's Animals. "We had to pull some cats that were dropped at Arby's. One of the cats did not survive, sadly she was hit by a car. We had another one thrown out at the Mobile Station with a seriously injured foot." But there are happy endings to many of the rescues, too. One cat that was dropped off two year ago, before we could catch her and get her fixed, she had 21 kittens in one summer but fortunately all of them got trapped, fixed, and went to good homes. They got adopted out. And mama was finally caught before she could get pregnant again. She is now a happy, healthy house cat."



Courtesy photo

See JUMP on page 2

Rescued cat