



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 32.1 Thursday, January 1, 2026

Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

FREE

Chief McNally plays key role in saving man in house fire

On Saturday, Dec. 27 at about 1:40 p.m., the Van Buren Fire Department was dispatched to 8124 Belleville Rd. (residence located in front of All Seasons) for a report of black smoke coming from the front doorway of a residence.

At the time of dispatch, Fire Chief David McNally was in his personal vehicle at the intersection of Belleville Road and Tyler, en route to his office. He said he arrived on the scene just over one minute after dispatch and confirmed heavy black smoke issuing from the front doorway.

He said as he approached the residence, two passing motorists who had reported the incident advised him that a male occupant was still inside the structure and had been communicating with them.

This information was immediately relayed to dispatch, and a second alarm was requested due to the presence of an active fire with a trapped occupant.

Chief McNally said the male occupant was able to hear him but was unable to reach the doorway. Smoke conditions were severe, with the smoke layer approximately 18 inches off the floor, preventing Chief McNally from safely accessing the occupant.

He said he requested a fire extinguisher from Van Buren Police Department as the first engine arrived on scene. The fire was located just inside the front door, which was already open upon Chief McNally's arrival.

"Using the extinguisher, I was able to knock down the bulk of the fire," he said. "Upon arrival, the engine crew was directed to make entry and conduct an occupant rescue. I then deployed a handline from the front of the apparatus and continued extinguishment operations till the crew advanced inside."

Van Buren Police Department assisted with traffic control, opening a rear door for ventilation, and hydrant operations as the



second engine arrived.

After exiting the structure briefly to secure the gas supply, McNally said he returned to the front doorway. At that time, Firefighter Everett and Firefighter Pierce were already escorting the male occupant out of the structure.

The occupant was suffering from severe smoke inhalation and was immediately treated by Firefighter Maryanski. Huron Valley Ambulance (HVA) arrived shortly thereafter and initiated advanced life support care.

Van Buren Fire Department assisted HVA with patient care and transport to the hospital. Belleville Fire Department later returned the ambulance to service. Canton Fire Department and Ypsilanti Township Fire Department arrived on scene and assisted with overhaul operations.

During a search of the structure, the occupant's dog was found deceased on the second floor. As of the following morning, the male occupant remained hospitalized

at University of Michigan Hospital, where he was reported to be recovering and expected to make a full recovery. The fire was investigated and determined not to be suspicious.

"The rapid notification to dispatch by the bystanders, and the coordinated response of the Van Buren Fire Department and Van Buren Police Department directly contributed to the survival of the occupant," McNally said.

(picture on page 9)



Sumpter Twp. board accepts retirement of Fire Chief Rick Brown

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

At its regular meeting on Dec. 9, the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees accepted, with regrets, the retirement of Fire Chief Rick Brown as of Dec. 31.

He was congratulated for his 40 years of service and dedication to the community and presented with a plaque. He was Sumpter's first full-time chief and served in that position for four and a half years.

Fire Captain Jamie Goode was appointed interim fire chief as of Dec. 31.

In other business at the 25-minute meeting, the board:

- Bowed their heads as treasurer Bart Patterson said a prayer asking for wisdom for the board;

- Approved naming the law firm of Penttiuk, Couvreur & Kobiljak P.C. of Wyandotte as the township's attorneys beginning Jan. 1 and approving their retainer agreement provided;

- Approved the regular board meeting minutes of Nov. 25, the Parks and Recreation minutes of Sept. 15, and the Parks and Recreation minutes of Oct. 20;

- Under unfinished business, approved the special planning commission minutes of Sept. 11. These minutes were removed from an earlier meeting;

- Approved Wayne County Annual Permits A-26044, A-26044, and A-26099. These permits pertain to Wayne County DPS Engineering Division Permit Office combining the annual maintenance permit, annual pavement restoration permit, and annual special events permit into one single application;

- Removed item 16-G from the agenda to bid as needed for emergency sewer and water repairs;

- Accepted the township manager's report, including the holiday employee schedule, pointing out the township is open

(continued on page 3)

PRESORTED
STANDARD
US Postage Paid
Belleville, MI
48111
Permit No. 26

*Postal Regulations Require
This Space On The Front Page.*



The Denton Road bridge has been closed by Wayne County for 1,187 days as of today. (That's 3.25 years or 28,488 hours)



WILLIS FEED MILL

Your Wildlife Headquarters for 2025!

- Dog and Cat Food
- Wild Bird and Squirrel Food
- Certified Organic Products
- Hay and Straw • Poultry Food
- Horse and Livestock Feed

10200 Railroad Street, Willis, Michigan
(South end of Meridian St, off Willis Rd, Between Rawsonville and Bunton)

We look forward to seeing you soon. **(734) 461-1111** willisfeed@att.net

Live Us On  **HOURS:**
MON-FRI 9AM-6PM • SAT 9AM-5PM
SUN 10AM-4PM




Affordable Rental Communities for Seniors

BELLEVILLE CO-OP

For over 75 years as a mission-driven non-profit, we exist solely to provide the highest quality, affordable housing communities possible for seniors.

575 Sumpter Rd, Belleville

For more information call:
734-699-8676
M-W-F 9am-Noon



Amenities

- 100% Smoke free campus
- Individual heating & cooling
- Emergency in-unit pull cords
- Subsidized rent
- On-site laundry
- Transportation available

www.csi.coop **(800) 593-3052** TDD (800) 348-7011



BEST CHIMNEY & MASONRY CO.

OUR 63rd YEAR! **OUR 63rd YEAR!**

- ★ CHIMNEYS BUILT, REPAIRED & CLEANED
- ★ MASONRY WORK
- ★ SCREENS INSTALLED
- ★ TUCK POINTING
- ★ GUTTERS
- ★ RESIDENTIAL
- ★ COMMERCIAL
- ★ VIOLATIONS CORRECTED
- ★ FLEXLINERS
- ★ CERTIFICATIONS INSPECTIONS

Licensed & Insured
State Lic # 40800
Family Owned

WE DO PORCHES

Workers Compensation & General Liability to Protect Homeowner



FREE Estimates **(313) 292-7722** **(734) 242-2992** **Since 1962**



White Pine DENTAL HEALTH

Your Smile Comes First!
Affordable, Kind, and Convenient.

Call Us Today: (734) 252-6002 187 Main Street, Downtown Belleville
www.WhitePineDentalHealth.com

Meet our Dentist: Dr. DeAngelo S. Webster is an award-winning dentist, author, and a University of Michigan graduate.

• **Now Booking New Patients •**
Open Evenings and Weekends
Family Friendly Dentist for Adults and Kids



KP& T AUTO SERVICE NOW OFFERING

RUSTPROOFING

Protect your vehicle from harsh winter snow and road salt. Call for an appointment today!



at it's *Best!*
NH OIL UNDERCOATING

PROTECT THE NEW, PRESERVE THE OLD!
- CARS, TRUCKS, SUVs & TRAILERS -

590 E. Huron River Drive – Belleville 734-391-7292

Visit Perspective Eyecare for all your eyecare needs!



Dr Robert Kennedy, O.D.
240 Main Street
Belleville, MI 48111
734.699.1010

Visit www.perspectiveeyecare.com to schedule online
Find us on Facebook and Instagram

Monday	9am-7pm
Tuesday	9am-6pm
Wednesday	9am-7pm
Thursday	9am-6pm
Friday	closed
Saturday	by appointment
	Closed 1-2pm every day

SERVING BELLEVILLE & SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN!

BARNETT

Roofing and Siding, Inc.

OVER 50 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

Roofing • Siding • Flat Roofs
FREE ESTIMATES!

NOW THRU DEC. 31, 2025
RECEIVE OUR CERTAINTEED ROOF 4-STAR EXTENDED WARRANTY FOR FREE! CURRENT & PAST MILITARY MEMBERS WILL RECEIVE A \$250 CABELAS GIFT CARD!

Licensed & Insured
CALL (734) 397-8122
Visit us @ www.barnettroofing.com
41700 MICHIGAN AVE. – CANTON

SECOND FRONT PAGE

Sumpter planners hold special 4-minute meeting on Thursday, Dec. 11

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

The Sumpter Township Planning Commission held a special, 4-minute meeting on Thursday, Dec. 11, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of Nov. 13 with the following amendments.

On Page 4, under Item C, the amendment was to "remove typo of Warrant" and on

Page 2 the amendment was to "Add item g. to the list that includes G. No inoperable or salvaged vehicles allowed on site."

The Page 2 amendment concerned a motion passed unanimously (with Watson absent from the meeting) to recommend to the township board the special land use at 17450 Savage Rd. for the outdoor sale and display of used automobiles with

conditions. This was a request by Sammy Nasser.

All the planning commissioners were present at the Dec. 11 special meeting and they voted unanimously to approve the minutes as amended.

Minutes of the Dec. 11 meeting said one attendee spoke under the Open Floor part of the meeting but the minutes did not

report the subject of the comment.

The meeting started at 6:15 p.m. and adjourned at 6:19 p.m.

A draft of the minutes of the Dec. 11 special meeting was posted on the township website, with a notice: "Due to technical difficulties this meeting was not recorded. We apologize for the inconvenience."

Sumpter approves special land use for used car lot on Friday, Dec. 12

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

In a special 13-minute meeting of the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees at 5:30 p.m., Friday, Dec. 12, the board unanimously approved the planning commission's recommendation to grant special land use for a used-car lot at 17450 Savage Rd.

The following conditions were included:

- Repair garage license is maintained with the State of Michigan;
- Used automobiles for sale displayed in the front parking area will be moved behind the fenced area after 5 p.m. each day;
- All areas intended for the parking of any vehicle shall be hard-surfaced in accordance with section 10.5;
- All conditions outlined in the township planner's report dated Oct. 31, 2025, which include: Wayne County approval of work to be conducted in Savage Road right-of-way, clarification of location of trash enclosure on plans, providing an additional ADA

parking space on the plans for a total of two spaces, providing loading space location on plans, providing information on timing and frequency of deliveries on plans, providing 10% landscaping calculations on plans, no more than 12 cars intended for sale shall be displayed in the front area at any given time, and any proposed fencing shall be reviewed and approved by the township planner in accordance with zoning ordinance standards.

- Added as an additional condition at the meeting was that no inoperable or salvaged vehicles are allowed on the site.

The board also approved the minutes of the special planning commission meeting of Nov. 13 and the minutes of the special zoning board of appeals meeting of Nov. 20.

Sam Nasser, owner of the used-car lot

on Savage Road said he wanted to do collision work there as well and trustee Matthew Oddy said that was not on the written request and was not discussed at the planning commission meeting. Trustee Oddy said maybe that didn't need to be discussed because it could be allowed under that zoning and he should talk to the township planner about that.

Oddy said as soon as the site plan is approved he will be able to start his business.

At the very end of the meeting, although not on the agenda or recorded in the draft minutes of this meeting, the board also voted unanimously to approve the planning commission's recommendation to rezone from MHP (mobil home park) to RF (rural farm) a list of parcels previously considered at the Nov. 25 meeting.

Township attorney Rob Young said he would consider this action as direction to write up an ordinance to be approved at the January meeting that would amend the Master Plan map.

At the Nov. 25 meeting, attorney Jeffrey B. Schlusel, representing the owner of four of the five parcels named, objected to this rezoning saying that property next to Rawsonville Woods mobile home park was always intended for mobile homes. The board then tabled accepting the minutes of the Sept. 11 special meeting of the planning commission where the rezonings were recommended. The minutes were to be on the Dec. 9 agenda. Attorney Schlusel accused the township of an Open Meetings Act violation since he was unable to get a draft copy of the minutes as allowed by law.

Sumpter Twp.

(continued from page 1)

between the holidays with a skeleton crew and a discussion on the new township logo, with feedback requested from the board. A collection of logos from municipalities around the state, plus options for Sumpter;

- Heard trustee Tim Rush announce the Dec. 15 Parks and Recreation meeting was canceled due to illness and meeting will recommence in January;
- Heard treasurer Patterson suggest that there be proactive planning for the holiday shutdown. Clerk Donald LaPorte suggested this topic be a part of union negotiations next year;
- Approved a resolution to approve the amended Michigan Mutual Aid Box Alarm System agreement through the Washtenaw Area Mutual Aid Council; and
- Approved a resolution for annual exemption from Contribution Act 152 of 2011 as the township meets the provisions for exemption as provided in the Act.

A special 5 p.m. meeting to discuss the upcoming budget was held before the regular 6 p.m. meeting.

City Council approves \$27,130.20 for police cameras

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

At its regular meeting on Dec. 15, the Belleville City Council unanimously approved spending \$27,130.20 over five years to purchase an Axion Interview Room Camera System for the Belleville Police Department.

The quote from Axion Enterprise, Inc. was good until Dec. 31 to keep from having to pay more after the first of the year.

This is for the new city hall being developed at 330 Charles St.

The resolution to purchase the system notes, "the importance of accurate, secure, and reliable audio and video recording of police interviews to promote transparency, accountability, evidence integrity, and public trust..."

The camera system includes hardware, software licenses, evidence storage, installation services, and a five-year extended warranty. The system integrates with Evidence.com and provides secure long-term storage and management of recorded interview evidence for the Belleville Police Department.

In other business at the Dec. 15 meeting, the council:

- Presented awards to four of the five winners of the Home Lighting contest, with one not being present;
- Heard a resident complain about her water bill, noting that something is wrong with her water meter since it showed her home using 50 gallons at 5 a.m. She was told that will be investigated and maybe the meter is not working properly. Mayor Ken Voigt invited anyone with any water meter problems to contact the city;
- Approved a resolution to support a charitable gaming license for the Boogie in Belleville Booster Club, a school booster club;
- Received a written summary report from the Department of Public Works director concerning leaf pickup, a watermain break, things needed to be done to satisfy the state department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) and two violations of the National Resources and Environmental Protection Act (NREPA). There are two certifications to bring the city in compliance with NREPA and he reported will have them both by Jan. 17;
- Approved a residential cross-connection program through HydroCorp, as required by EGLE;

- Approved a job posting for a part-time fire chief, who would work under the general guidance and direction of the director of public safety, who reports directly to the city manager. The fire chief would be required to live in proximity to the city limits; and

- Went into closed-door session to consider a one-year extension of a collective bargaining agreement for the Belleville Firefighters Association union. Among details, it would include a 5% pay raise for all members of the union. The current agreement expires Dec. 31. After the closed-door session was over, the council went back into regular session and did not vote on the agreement.

**READ THE
NEWSPAPER ONLINE!**
**The Belleville-Area
Independent Website
is Online! Visit us @
bellevilleareaindependent.com**

OPINIONS

Editorial:

Things didn't get done, but let's look ahead

This is the time of year to look back at what was not done in our tri-communities and to look forward to see if any progress is on the horizon.

In Van Buren Township, the long-planned Belleville Road widening with sidewalks between Tyler and Ecorse was supposed to finally start, but that didn't happen. But, it's on the horizon.

Completion of the Denton Road bridge was predicted by the end of the year, but that didn't happen. As you can see by the score we're keeping on our front page of how long it's been closed that it's been 3.25 years as of today. The bridge is in Van Buren Township and the township hoped to speed it along with design and engineering work, but it's still behind schedule. It's on the horizon, too.

In the city of Belleville, they had hoped to be in their new city hall, moving in over the holidays, but that didn't happen. That, too, is on the horizon, but the mayor says there is no rush.

Then there's the former hardware store on Main Street in the city of Belleville, renamed the "Wherehouse," by the DDA who bought it to remodel it into a place to start businesses for the town. The interim city manager is too busy to deal with everything, so that project is taking baby steps forward, although they've had two bouts of window painting to try to fool people into thinking it's not empty.

Sumpter Township's Parks & Rec committee has gathered new life, although there is no sign of its popular festival returning. There is a lot on the horizon there.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

This week's edition of the Independent is the first issue in our 32nd year of publishing a local paper. We just completed our 31st year. We started on Jan. 5, 1995.

Can you imagine what it would be like in this community without a local paper telling readers what's going on? Most people can't go to all the governmental meetings and don't unless something is happening in their neighborhoods.

We are happy to report on the things we find out so they can decide if they care and want to intervene in some action or support something else.

A Facebook post explained why Belleville Road was shut down when fire fighters were fighting Saturday's fire. The fire hydrant was on the other side of the road and fire fighters had to string the hose across the road. Just an explanation for those who wondered.

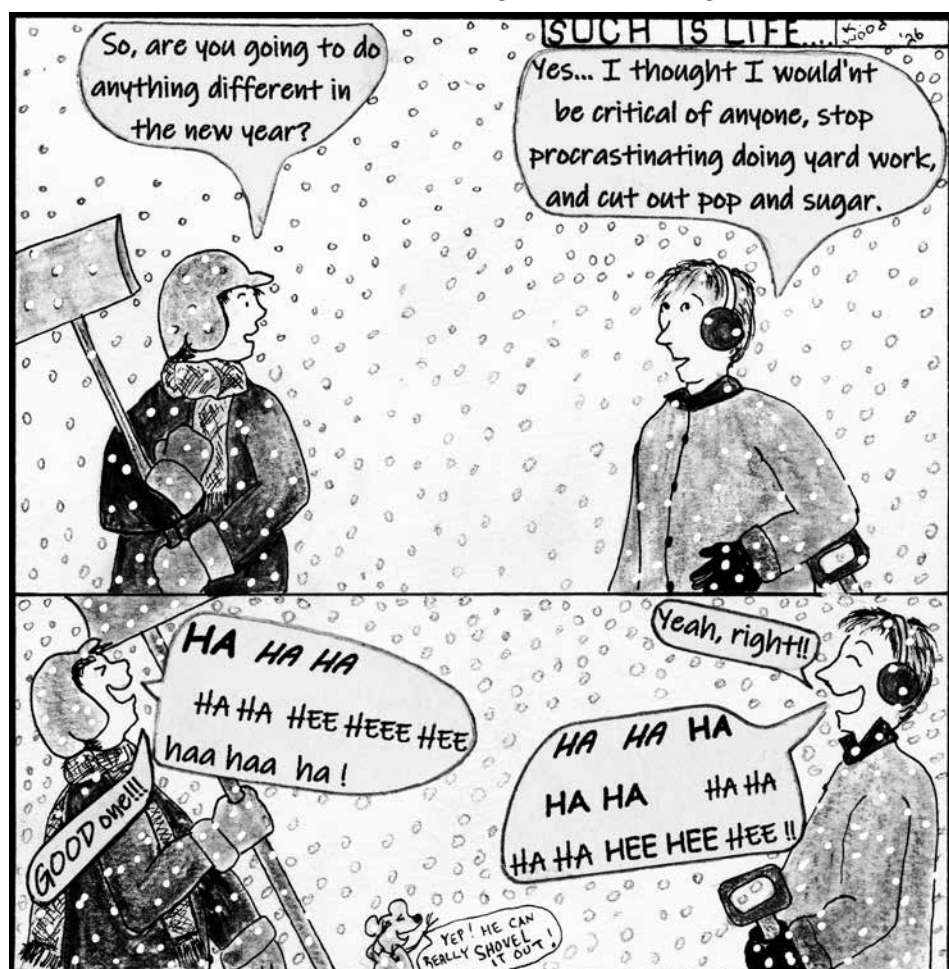
It was very cooperative of Scott Jones and daughter Alex to agree to put up a flag pole that could be used as a Christmas tree at the entrance to the city. They got it up in a hurry and the tree has been sparkling throughout the holidays.

Also, Jones emphasized he would get a spotlight installed on a building to illuminate the 8'x12' American flag that will be put up once the Christmas tree comes down.

That is a big deal to me because the American flag at Five Points in the city has been in the dark at night for so long. The city has a spotlight on city hall pointing at the flag and for years the flag was lighted at night. Then, something happened and the flag is dark.

The spotlight was turned on after

...By Rosemary K. Otzman



complaints called attention to it, but it just lighted a piece of the pole and missed the flag completely. Now, it's dark.

One wonders what will happen to the flag once the city abandons the current city hall and moves over to Charles Street.

We're informed that the new Denton Road Bridge has protected walkways on each side of the road surface. We knew the Iron Belle Trail was set to go over the bridge but didn't think the sidewalk surface was to be on each side. Surprise.

Of course, the bridge is not done yet and township officials hope it will be completely finished in the spring.

Currently, it's been closed by Wayne County for 1,187 days as of today.

Vesta Losen wrote a book for her family and gave it to them for Christmas. It tells the details of their summer 1973 trip to South Africa as part of the Seven Singing Losens' evangelistic crusade. The five children of John and Vesta were ages 7-18 and most had been singing three-part harmony since they were three years old.

When the family was invited to join in this crusade, Vesta and Pastor Losen were serving Bethany Bible Church in Belleville. They joined the "Billy Graham of South Africa" Ken Terhoven and family.

The book is full of how they went from country to country without visas, although visas were required.

I told her it was the Hand of God getting them through and she agreed they operated on trust it would all work out. Families along the way housed and fed them and some became lifelong friends. Vesta hand-washed the family's clothes each night so they would have fresh outfits for their singing as well as traveling clothes. Sometimes the clothes were damp when they put them on.

Vesta brought an accordion to accompany the group since most of the time the piano available was out of tune – or no piano at all was present.

She said she carried a small notebook and people wrote their names and addresses in it and so she was able to spell them properly, along with the names of the towns and cities they visited.

Vesta's book is charming and her family members appreciated her efforts. Some remind her of incidents she didn't include but they remember in detail.

She says she's not going to write another book. This one took a lot of effort, and her family treasures it dearly.

Last Sunday was dark and rainy and warm and was a perfect day to snuggle down to look at the year we were completing and to look forward to a new year at hand. We welcome 2026 with open arms. Bring it on.



www.bellevilleareaindependent.com
baindependent@ameritech.net

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.

Editor Emeritus:
Rosemary K. Otzman

Advertising Manager:
Janet Millard

Bookkeeper: James Otzman

Production Manager:
James Otzman

Office Manager: Yvette Gorecki

Editorial Cartoonist: Kathryn Wood

The Independent is owned and operated by a Michigan Limited Liability Company made up of members of this community.

Member: Michigan Press Association

Entire contents of this paper is Copyrighted © 2026 - All rights reserved.

This paper is available free at sites throughout the community. To get the Independent delivered by mail, cost is \$55 per year for postage, Outside of Michigan - \$60 per year, outside of the USA - call. Also available free to download on our website.

Deadline for news & ads (see below) is Noon of every Monday. Deadline for ads smaller than 1/2 page is Noon Monday, and all advertising 1/2 page or larger is Noon Friday, with the exception of certain holiday weeks. Classified ad deadline is Noon of every Tuesday.

Belleville Area Independent™ is a Trademark and is registered with the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Reg. No. 3,751,670
Belleville Area Independent Holding Company, LLC (Michigan Limited Liability Company)

**Patronize Our
Advertisers!**
*They are the ones
who give you this
free paper!*

Columbia Court Apartments

275 W. Columbia • Belleville
For 1 Bedroom & Studio Apartments Only.
Accepting Applications for Individuals 62 & Older
H.U.D. Guidelines Apply
A Senior Facility of National Church Residences
Affordable Housing • Sec 8-202

Minutes From Shopping, Freeways & Restaurants
 **734-697-8200** 

For Classified Advertising, Display Advertising or News Tips.
One call does it all: 734-699-9020
The Belleville-Area Independent

CHINA KING

45915 S. I-94 Service Dr., Belleville

Next to the Belleville Post Office

(734) 699-1550

See our menu online at:
chinakingbelleville.com

LUNCH • DINNER

Best Buffet Around!



OPEN HOURS

MONDAY - THURSDAY	1:00AM - 9:00PM
FRIDAY & SATURDAY	11:00AM - 10:00PM
SUNDAY	11:30AM - 9:00PM

DELIVERY AVAILABLE THRU UBER EATS, GRUBHUB & DOOR DASH!

BEER & WINE AVAILABLE • DRIVE-THRU PICKUP

HAVEN GROUP

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS & ADVISORS

Formerly Known as

Belleville Tax & Accounting Service, Inc.



Lance Siemen,
CPA, CFE, CFF, CAMS



Susheel Saini,
CPA



Denise W. Baker,
MSA, CPA

Gayl Parr,
CPA

Full Service Accounting Firm for Business & Individuals

- Business Accounting & Financial Statements
- Payroll Services
- Business and Personal Tax Returns
- Business Advising and Start-Up Consultation
- Audits, Reviews & Compilations

Visit our website
www.havencpa.com

Call Us Today!

(734) 697-8000

All major credit cards accepted

152 Main Street

(in The Professional Building)

Belleville, MI 48111



Letters

A New Year: A Time to Walk Together

To the editor:

As we welcome the new year of 2026, I've been thinking about Belleville – not just as a place on a map, but as a hometown made up of neighbors, families, and friendships that go back generations. Small towns like ours have always been strongest when we looked out for one another.

The past few years have reminded us how easy it is to drift apart. Busy schedules, differing opinions, and life's pressures can slowly quiet our conversations and weaken our connections. A new year gives us the chance to change that – to talk with one another again, to listen, and to care.

Scripture tells us, "Let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works" (Hebrews 10:24).

That truth fits a community like Belleville well. Progress happens when we pay attention to one another, when we lend a hand, check on a neighbor, and choose kindness even when it takes effort.

My hope for Belleville in 2026 is that we would rediscover the value of togetherness – working side by side, helping where help is needed, and remembering that no one here is meant to stand alone. Churches, schools, businesses, farms, and families all have a role to play in shaping a healthy community. When we work together, we all move forward.

The Bible also reminds us that *"as we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men" (Galatians 6:10).*

That spirit of doing good – right here at home – can make this coming year one marked by healing, growth, and hope.

As a pastor and a neighbor, I am grateful to be part of Belleville. May 2026 be a year where we speak more kindly, care more deeply, and walk together with purpose – trusting God and looking out for one another.

Respectfully,
Pastor Robert White
Grace Baptist Church

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

KAREN'S PLACE

*A Salon
For Everyone*

**36968 Huron River Drive
New Boston, Michigan**
Appointments & Walk-ins Welcome

734-753-9130

OPEN: Tues.– Fri. 9-5, Sat. 9-3

ANNOUNCEMENT

**Karen's Place has a new Nail Tech.
Call Lexi for an appointment today!**

Former resident honored with international award

To the editor:

I'm absolutely thrilled to share some *incredible news* with you...

In November, I was honored at the International Impact Book Awards Red Carpet Gala in Phoenix, AZ for both Best Memoir and Best Inspirational Story. That means "The Child I Left Behind" is now officially a two-time international award-winning memoir — and I am now an International Award-Winning Author!

I feel so deeply honored and blessed by this recognition. This journey has been anything but easy. As a young girl, I was catapulted into adulthood far too soon — pregnant at 13, and by 14, living in an abusive relationship I only escaped with my life at 16.

But my story doesn't end there. Through determination, healing, and faith, I overcame unimaginable obstacles to build a new life — first as an entrepreneur, and later as a psychotherapist dedicated to helping others find their own healing and strength.

When I wrote "The Child I Left Behind," my deepest hope was that my story would give others the courage to believe that no matter where you start, and no matter what you've been through, there is always hope for a brighter future.

This award isn't just mine — it belongs to every person who's ever had to rebuild themselves after pain, every survivor who's dared to hope again.

Thank you for being part of this journey with me. Your love, encouragement, and support mean more than words can express.

With love and gratitude,
Anjalina McGoldrick
Formerly of Belleville

Editor's Note: McGoldrick returned to Van Buren Township last July for a book signing. She was raised in Detroit, lived in Belleville, and now lives with her husband in Virginia.

BHS at-home game

• **Tuesday, Jan. 6** -- Boys Basketball vs. Livonia Franklin Freshman, 4 p.m.; JV, 5:30 p.m.; Varsity 7 p.m.

Jamie Cichowski
Athletic Secretary
Belleville High School

**ADVERTISE
TODAY!**

Buy 3 Ads, Get 1 FREE!

Call our Advertising Manager

Janet Millard Today! 734-699-9020

Musings

By Janet Millard
Independent
Advertising Director



Happy New Year. We are looking forward to beginning our 32nd year bringing you all the news that is fit to print.

Well, health insurance has certainly been in the news a lot in 2025 and our local HealthMarket on Main Street has been doing its best again this year to make sure you are all covered with the best possible plans. I hope you have taken advantage of their expertise.

Van Buren Community Players are certainly hitting the ground running in the new year. Did you see their announcement in last week's paper for auditions next Monday and Tuesday for their interaction murder mystery in March "Murder's in the Heir?" The audience gets to participate and have dinner too – doesn't get much better than that!

I have quite the wish list for 2026 starting with great hopes that drivers will come to their senses and realize that stop signs and red lights are not just suggestions. Turning left on a red light might not be so clever either. Also, that they plan their time management better and not be in such a rush to get ahead of everyone – patience is a virtue. There have always been some

crazy drivers, but over the last couple of years "out of their mind" more clearly defines it.

I wish the Denton Road bridge gets finished before June and that the only cars in the right lane on Belleville Road intend to turn before or on Denton Road. I give a pass to strangers who might get stuck, but sure hope the sign showing the right

lane ending stays up since obviously some drivers can't read English! The barrels are quite ugly, but they serve a purpose.

I wish good weather and rain starting early and ending by noon for the Farmers Market and car show. No rain on Thursdays when Music Lakeside begins and for Lakefest the end of June, it would be nice to have some cooler weather – maybe around 80

degrees.

As I said last year, I have long ago stopped making New Year's resolutions so these wishes will take their place. I wish you all peace, love, happiness, and patience – Happy New Year!

Do you have an item for this column? Call Janet Millard at (734) 699-9020.

IMPORT AND DOMESTIC



Bukhop's Collision

BODY AND FENDER REPAIR
COMPLETE GLASS INSTALLATION
(734) 699-3641
FAX: (734) 699-3856

112 Davis St.
Belleville, MI 48111

Towing Available
Open Weekdays 8 a.m – 5 p.m.



The Hair Station

(734) 796-4795

151 Main Street
Belleville MI 48111

INQUIRE ABOUT OUR SPECIALS!

thehairstation151@yahoo.com

**HOURS: MON-FRI BY APPOINTMENT ONLY
SATURDAY 11AM-3PM OPEN TO PUBLIC**

Friends of MI Animals Rescue

Promote a Healthy and Safe Environment for All



**ADOPTIONS BY
APPOINTMENT**

**51299 Arkona Road
Belleville, MI 48111**

734-461-9458

info@friendsofmichigan.org
www.friendsofmichigan.org

PRO

PLUMBING

Free Estimates
Service & Repair
Drain Cleaning
Gas Lines & More

Licensed & Insured
Honest & Reliable

Caleb Windiate
734.307.6478
ProPlumbing734@yahoo.com

Birthdays

Dec. 31 – Journy Lynx Long

Do you or does someone you know have a birthday soon? Call the *Independent* and we will publish it as soon as possible.



Simple Alternatives
Cremation and Burial Services

**DIRECT
CREMATIONS**

From \$1,495

Scott Beard
Manager/Director

19865 Sumpter Road
Belleville, Michigan 48111

☎ 734-699-6000
☎ 734-699-6060
✉ info@simplealternatives.net
🌐 www.simplealternatives.net

Arrwood Construction

Grading, Excavating, etc.

Bill Arrwood
owner

313-363-6590



49450 Judd Rd.
Belleville, MI. 48111

arrwoodconstruction@yahoo.com

BONECUTTERS

TREE EXPERTS, LLC

STORM DAMAGE & FALL DISCOUNTS!

50% DISCOUNT IF YOU KEEP WOOD/BRUSH!

- Storm Clean Up
- Free Estimates
- Tree Topping & Trimming
- Tree & Shrub Removal
- Stump Removal • Bucket Service

Insured & Senior Discounts

(734) 431-4202

YEAR ROUND SERVICE BY PROFESSIONALS



B&L
Moving & Maintenance Services

A Division of
C&C Management Services, LLC

RESIDENTIAL COMMERCIAL INDUSTRIAL

- Heating Ventilation & Air Conditioning
- Sheet Metal
- Hot Water Tanks & Furnaces
- Plumbing Repairs
- Appliance Installation
- Handyman Services

P.O. Box 243
Belleville, MI 48112
Phone: 313-826-5723

Email: blservices1990@gmail.com

J.R's Tree Service

734-250-3855

Jeremy Reber
owner

Free Estimate's

- Tree Removal
- Tree Trimming
- Stump Removal
- Fire Wood
- Lot Clearing
- Fully Insured



George E. Long, III

Attorney & Counselor At Law

**Federal & State Criminal
and Civil Defense**

DUI • Wills • Probate Matters
Divorce • Social Security Disability
Notary Public

734-345-9430

321 MAIN STREET, BELLEVILLE, MI 48111 GLONGLAW.COM



Clutter Cleaners

- Full Service Junk Removal
- Dump Trailer Rentals
- Garage/Barn Clean-Outs
- Trash/Junk/Debris Removal
- Material Delivery
- Yard Clean-Ups, Deck/Pool/Jacuzzi Removal
- Storage Units

10% Discount for US Military/Veterans/Seniors & 1st Time Customers

(734) 583-9523 Licensed & Insured
Cluttercleaners734@gmail.com Locally Owned



The Law Office of
Amy M. Eversole
 • Estate Planning • Probate • Property Law
 152 Main St. Suite 11
 Belleville, Mich. 48111 eversoleamy@gmail.com
 Call 734-718-8574



BELLEVILLE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Moving forward in Christ together!
 417 Charles
 Sunday 10am
bellevillefirstumc.org 734.697.9288

BELLEVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
 11900 Belleville Road
 Service and Sunday School
 10:00 a.m.

BELLEVILLE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST
 Saturday Mornings
 Bible Study 10:00 Worship 11:30
 89 South Edgemont
bellevillesda.com

BETHANY BIBLE CHURCH
 810 E. HURON RIVER DR. BELLEVILLE, MI | 734.697.7456
 Sunday | Adult Bible Fellowship & Children's Sunday School 9:45am | Morning Worship 11am
 Wednesday | Kids & Teens 6:45pm | Bible In Action 7pm
 Visit bethanybiblechurch.com for more info

Bethlehem Baptist Church
 Join us this Sunday
 10:00 am Study | 11:00 am Worship
 Join us this Wednesday
 7:00 pm Prayer
 960 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI 48111
bbcbelleville.com | 734-697-0566

FAITH Community Church
 SUNDAYS @ 10 A.M.
 Connect Classes
 11 a.m. Sunday Worship
 WEDNESDAYS @ 6 P.M.
 S.O.S. Recovery & Support Group
 WEDNESDAYS @ 7 P.M.
 Bible Study & Youth Groups
 894 E. Huron River Dr.
 Belleville

FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 6020 Denton Road
 Belleville, MI 48111 (734) 483-2276
www.faithchurchdenton.org
 Sunday Worship at 9:30am. Bible Study & refreshments after Worship.

Would you like to have your Church listed in this directory?
 Call Advertising Manager Janet Millard at 734-699-9020 today!

lifepointe CHURCH
 Our Mission is His Message!
discoverlifepointe.com • 45170 Hull Road
 Services: Sunday @ 11 • Wednesday @ 7

MT. CALVARY Baptist Church
 Sunday Worship Service @ 10:30
 AWANA - Wednesday Night @ 6:00
 42682 Ecorse Rd. Belleville

Ridge Road Church of Christ
 1770 Ridge Road, Ypsilanti, MI 48198
 Sunday Bible Study 10 AM, Worship Service 11 AM
 Sunday Evening Worship 6 PM and
 Wednesday Bible Study 7:30 PM
www.ridgeroadcoc.org (734) 485-2930

RIVER OF LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD
 16650 Sumpter Rd., Belleville, MI 48111
 Sunday Morning Worship 9 a.m. & 11 a.m.
 Wednesday Adult, Youth & Children @ 7 p.m.
 Visit rol-ag.com (734) 699-6700

ST. ANTHONY CATHOLIC CHURCH
 409 W. Columbia Avenue (734) 697-1211
 • Saturday Mass: 6:00pm
 • Sunday Masses: 8:30am & 10:30am
 • Mondays: 6:30pm Adoration
www.stanthonybelleville.com

SOLID ROCK CHURCH BELLEVILLE
 "The Whole Gospel to the Whole World by the Whole Church"
 Come worship with us
 Sundays at 5pm
 494 W. Columbia Ave. Wednesday Bible Study at 7pm
 Belleville, MI 48111

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
 Sunday Eucharist 10:00am
 Wednesday Eucharist 5:45pm
www.trinitybell.org
 11575 Belleville Road
 Belleville, MI 48111
 All are Welcome!

Obituaries

RALPH EUGENE BURRESS

February 19, 1940 – December 20, 2025

Age 85, of Van Buren Township. Survived by wife Maggie; children Christopher, Latonna, Tonja, Vanessa, Melissa; brother Jack; brother-in-law O.B. Cotton; 9 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren. Service at Ypsilanti Missionary Baptist Church. Arrangements by David C. Brown Funeral Home.

www.davidcbrownfh.com

Upcoming Meetings

- Monday, Jan. 5 – Belleville City Council, 6:30 p.m.
- Thursday, Jan. 8 – Keystone Academy School Board, 5 p.m. Also, Sumpter Planning Commission, 6 p.m. Also, Belleville Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- Monday, Jan. 12 – Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m., BHS Commons, organizational meeting
- Wednesday, Jan. 14 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 5:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, Jan. 20 – Belleville City Council, 6:30 p.m. Also, Van Buren Township Board of Trustees, 6 p.m., with 5 p.m. work/study as needed.
- Wednesday, Jan. 28 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 5:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, Jan. 29 – Planning commissions from the city of Belleville, Van Buren Township, and Sumpter Township will meet together at 5 p.m. at Belleville High School. Open to the public.

CREMATION
\$995.00 complete
NO Hidden Service Fees

(800) 331-5051

DUZAK Funeral & Cremation Center, Inc.

Southeast Michigan's Lowest
 Cremation Cost Provider
 Since 1977

www.duzakcremation.com

Supreme Court to hold public administrative hearing on Jan. 14

Justices of the Michigan Supreme Court will hold a public administrative hearing on one agenda item – a proposed amendment of MCR 8.115 that would prohibit the civil arrest of a person while attending a court proceeding or having legal business in the courthouse.

The hearing will be held at 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2026, and individuals wishing to speak at the hearing must reach out by Wednesday, Jan. 7, 2026 at 5 p.m. to be included on the agenda.

The remote proceeding via Zoom will be livestreamed on the MSC YouTube Channel. Speakers will receive Zoom coordinates upon reserving their spots.

The Michigan Supreme Court is required to hold public administrative hearings at least three times annually to receive public comments on proposed court rules and proposed changes to existing court rules.

The court news release said, "Public input is important because it helps to build trust and confidence in the judicial branch, as well as providing access to the judicial process."

Court Watching

Peter Lucas Potts

Peter Lucas Potts, 60, of Van Buren Township is charged with domestic violence on Oct. 13, 2025 in Van Buren Township. He was scheduled for his arraignment pretrial on Dec. 3. His remote pretrial was set for Jan. 13, 2026.

Sunshine Wallace

Sunshine Wallace of Van Buren Township is charged with domestic violence on Nov. 12, 2025 in Van Buren Township. She was video-arraigned in custody on Nov. 13 and scheduled for a remote pretrial on Dec. 10. That was adjourned for discovery until Jan. 2. Personal bond is \$5,000.

Jamil Robert Fuller

Jamil Robert Fuller of Van Buren Township is charged with carrying a concealed weapon, fleeing police in a vehicle, and weapons on May 24, 2024 in

(continued on page 11)

SERVING BELLEVILLE, SUMPTER TOWNSHIP & VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP FOR OVER 41 YEARS

David C. Brown
Funeral Home

Live ~ Laugh ~ Love ♥ Remember

David C. Brown, Founder • Shelly A. Brown-Chudzinski, Manager

(734) 697-4500

www.DAVIDCBROWNFH.com

Complete Line of Monuments & Markers.



460 E. HURON RIVER DR., BELLEVILLE, MI 48111



Independent photo by James Oztman

The former hardware store on Main Street now sports new window paintings after the Belleville Downtown Development Authority allocated \$1,000 for an artist to scrape off the former colorful artwork and paint winter designs. DDA coordinator Steve Jones said the work was to be done by the same artist who did the Rusted Crow windows along North Liberty Street, Gerina Rohman.

Accurate Dental Denture Inc.

"Serving the Belleville and Van Buren community for over 20 years with quality and caring service."

CROWNS • ROOT CANALS • EXTRACTIONS • FILLINGS
WHITENING • BONDING • DENTURES (SOFT & FLEXIBLE)

Quality Dentures at Affordable Prices!
SENIOR & MILITARY DISCOUNTS

HEALTHY KIDS DENTAL
Accepting Blue Cross Complete, Molina, Wellcare, Meridian & Medicaid!

SAME DAY DENTURE REPAIRS
Immediate Dentures and Flippers Available.

734-697-5477
781 Sumpter Rd. Belleville (IN BELLE PLAZA)

COMPLETE DENTURE or PARTIAL \$549⁰⁰ CALL FOR DETAILS WITH COUPON EACH

NEW PATIENT SPECIAL \$49⁹⁹ WITH COUPON Includes Exam, Cleaning & X-Rays

WING FELLAS

WINGS. FINGERS. BURGERS. SLIDERS. SUBS. WRAPS. SALADS.

HOURS: MON.-THUR. 10AM-8PM
FRI. 10AM-10PM • SAT. 12PM-10PM • SUN. 12PM-8PM

WE DELIVER

DOWNLOAD THE WING FELLAS APP ON THE APP STORE

WE CATER TO ALL YOUR PARTY NEEDS!

17441 SUMPTER ROAD
BELLEVILLE MI, 48111
734-345-8032
CURB SIDE PICK UP AVAILABLE
WWW.WINGFELLAS.COM
f WINGFELLAS_BELLEVILLE

SCAN TO ORDER ONLINE

TRY OUR CRISPY FRIES WITH VARIETY OF DRY SEASONINGS!

\$3 OFF Total Purchase of \$15 or more <small>With this coupon. Cannot combine with any other offers or promotions. 1 coupon per customer. Exp. 1/31/26</small>	\$5 OFF Total Purchase of \$25 or more <small>With this coupon. Cannot combine with any other offers or promotions. 1 coupon per customer. Exp. 1/31/26</small>	\$7 OFF Total Purchase of \$40 or more <small>With this coupon. Cannot combine with any other offers or promotions. 1 coupon per customer. Exp. 1/31/26</small>	20% OFF Any Lunch Orders <small>Valid 10am to 2 pm With this coupon. Cannot combine with any other offers or promotions. 1 coupon per customer. Exp. 1/31/26</small>
--	--	--	---

The Pharmacy on Main St that's here to stay!

248 Main St
Belleville, MI 48111

Transfer to Milton's TODAY

Old Pharmacy

- 1 Call Milton's at 734-391-0190
- 2 Tell us you want to transfer to Milton's
- 3 Done, we do the rest!

AFFORDABLE VETERINARY CLINIC **HOUSE-CALLS AVAILABLE**
(734) 699-3800

BUDGET FRIENDLY CUSTOMIZABLE VACCINE PACKAGES
Starting Off At \$99⁰⁰

304 E. COLUMBIA BELLEVILLE, MI
AFFORDABLEVETCLINIC.NET

DID YOU MISS THE DEADLINE?

Enroll by January 15th for Health Insurance coverage that begins February 1, 2025.

OPEN ENROLLMENT

The Gatterer Team
734-252-0064
186 Main Street, Belleville

ORPHAN OF THE WEEK HARBOR



MEET HARBOR – A GENTLE SOUL READY TO DROP ANCHOR IN YOUR HEART!

Harbor is a handsome senior, about 7 years old or older, with the look of a unique Akita mix and the most stunning brown and copper coloring throughout his coat. He's the kind of dog who turns heads with his beauty, but it's his gentle spirit that truly leaves a lasting impression.

After coming to us as a stray, Harbor has shown just how happy he is to be back with people. He clearly enjoys human company and soaks up kindness with quiet gratitude, proving himself to be an incredibly sweet and easygoing boy. There's a calm, steady presence about him that makes being around him feel comforting and peaceful.

We believe Harbor is nearly, if not completely, deaf - but it hasn't slowed him down one bit. He navigates the world confidently and responds well to visual cues and gentle guidance. What he may lack in hearing, he more than makes up for in heart.

Harbor would thrive in a loving home that understands the needs of a senior dog and is ready to offer him patience, consistency, and affection. In return, he'll give you loyalty, companionship, and the kind of love that only a seasoned soul can offer.

If you're looking for a sweet, soulful companion who's ready to settle in and enjoy the quieter side of life, Harbor may be the perfect dog to walk alongside you. Come meet him - he's ready to find his forever harbor.

Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue

51299 Arkona Road
Belleville, MI 48111

734-461-9458

www.friendsofmichigan.org



Photo courtesy of VBT Fire Chief David McInally

The house fire on Saturday in Van Buren Township left a destroyed kitchen and a deceased dog, but the man who lived there was rescued.

FOR RENT – BROWNSTOWN TWP.



AERO REALTY
35890 Goddard Rd.
Romulus, MI 48174

Lovely three bedroom brick ranch with full basement and 2.5 car garage. Clean and move in ready. \$1600 per month. \$2400 security. Applicants must provide credit history, rental history, and verifiable proof of income. Minimum credit score of 620.



**Call Liz at
313-402-0187
Aero Realty**

Things to do in the Belleville area...

• **Wednesday, Feb. 4** – Chief meteorologist Joel Fritsma will tell all about the Michigan Storm Chasers at the Michigan Flight Museum, 47884 D Street, Willow Run Airport. The talk begins at 7:30 p.m., doors open at 6:30. (734) 483-4030. \$10 per person for non-members; museum members free with registration.

READ THE NEWSPAPER ONLINE!

**The Belleville-Area
Independent Website
is Online! Visit us @
bellevilleareaindependent.com**

Sumpter
ACE
The helpful place.

**19500 SUMPTER RD.
BELLEVILLE, MI 48111**

PH: 734-697-9363
FAX: 734-697-9799

M-F: 8AM-6PM
SAT: 9AM-6PM
SUN: 9AM-5PM

WE DELIVER!

PROpane & RV REFILL!
• TANKS 5-100lb

WE CUT KEYS!
• CAR KEYS
• HOUSE KEYS
• RE-KEY LOCKS
• PROGRAMMING

SMALL ENGINE REPAIR!

SCREEN & WINDOW REPAIR
• GLASS AND PLEX CUT TO SIZE
• DOUBLE PANE REPAIR

ARBORIST SUPPLIES

CUSTOM MADE HYDRAULIC HOSES

ACE
TIM

STIHL **recteq** **TRAEGER**
WOOD FIRED GRILLS

CRAFTSMAN **weber** **Big Green Egg**

Milwaukee **DEWALT**

CLARK + KENSINGTON
PAINT + PRIMER IN ONE

Jonathan Green
QUALITY LAWNS SINCE 1981

Scotts **Miracle-Gro** **Benjamin Moore**

STOP BY AND CHECK OUT OUR AMAZING BRANDS!

ACE
JINA

SPECIALIZING IN LARGE AND HAZARDOUS REMOVALS

PROFESSIONAL TREE SERVICE

24 Hr. EMERGENCY SERVICE
TREE TRIMMING & REMOVAL
STUMP & SHRUBBERY REMOVAL
CRANE SERVICE • FIREWOOD
FULLY INSURED • FREE ESTIMATES
SENIOR CITIZEN DISCOUNT
**EMERGENCIES &
BELLEVILLE AREA**

Call Joe (734) 664-9285
10% OFF MENTION AD
Call Tom (734) 864-2243



Photo courtesy of Elena Manalp, VBT Communications Dept.

WE'RE OPEN MONDAY-FRIDAY, 8AM-6PM

Schedule Your Appointment Today!



AMC ANIMAL MEDICAL CENTER
OF VAN BUREN

ANIMAL MEDICAL CENTER of VAN BUREN
Scott Driscoll, DVM Keri Dasher, DVM
491 Sumpter Road, Belleville, MI 48111
734-699-6510
www.amcvanburen.com

Christmas SPA DAY 2025

FREE Teeth Brushing
Upgraded Shampoo
& Conditioner
(A \$50 value with any Full groom or Full bath booking)

Mention "CHRISTMAS25"
Book online at Mainstreetpups.com
177 MAIN STREET BELLEVILLE, MI 48111 • 734.325.6069

Book Now!



MAIN STREET PUPS Inc.
DOG GROOMING

NEW HOLIDAY DRINK MENU!

HOLIDAY HOURS:
OPEN NEW YEAR'S EVE
11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Closed New Year's Day

HAPPY HOUR
Mon.-Sat., 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

DOS PESOS
Mexican Restaurant

HAPPY NEW YEAR
Follow us on Facebook at Dos Pesos Inc.
11800 Belleville Rd.
697-5777

T-N-T TREE SERVICE INC.
RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL
www.TNTTREE.com

(734) 753-5800 Emergency (734) 915-6899

- 24-Hour Emergency Service • Tree Removal • Trimming
- Lot Clearing • Pruning & Thinning • Stump Grinding
- Root Grinding • Brush Removal

OVER 25 YEARS EXPERIENCE
Fully Insured

We Work with Insurance Companies.
Free Estimates
Senior Discounts

10% OFF
ON ANY TREE REMOVAL OVER \$300
With this coupon
Must present coupon at time of estimate.

IS YOUR BUSINESS A TARGET FOR BURGLARS?

734-697-2888

Get SERIOUS about your Security!
WE CAN PROVIDE A REAL SOLUTION
for BOTH your Business & Home...

- Remote Control-View-Playback
- Email / Smartphone Alerts
- PC / Mac Support
- No monthly fees

\$1500 Includes:
• Installation
• 4) HD Cameras (bullet or dome)
• 19" Monitor
• DVR (2TB)

Actual hardware may vary.



innovative COMPUTERS
Full-Service IT • Networks • Cameras

A veteran-owned company, supporting Michigan businesses since 1995.
Serving Metro Detroit to Lansing • InnovativeComputers.net

VBT DDA approves 10 years of new projects in final meeting of year

At its 32-minute meeting on Nov. 25, the Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority approved the 10-year financial projects and the final Capital Improvement Plan and Asset Management Plan that have been discussed for months.

The DDA initiated the process with its engineering consultants Wade Trim to update the 2020 Capital Improvement Plan and create an Asset Management Plan in February. The Capital Improvement Plan is a plan to guide investments in the district for the next ten years.

The document lists 18 potential projects focused on accessibility, safety, traffic flow, aesthetics/beautification, placemaking/identity, and asset management. It includes planning-level cost estimates, prioritization of projects (based on necessity, desirability, and feasibility), maps, and cost breakdowns.

Wade Trim reviewed the conditions of all assets owned and maintained by the DDA district in the public right of way, as well as assets inside Harris Park. The projected maintenance and replacement costs were

identified in five-year segments starting in 2030, and the DDA will review and include the necessary items in the annual budget process.

Bylaws amended

The DDA also approved the fourth amendment to the bylaws, which includes removing remote access to participate in and vote in a meeting because it is against the Open Meetings Act.

The amendment also adds Section 6 for an attendance policy which spells out what it takes to maintain good standing as a DDA member.

Section 6 states: "A board member absent from three consecutive regular meetings, or 25% of the meetings in any calendar year, unless such absence is excused by the board, may be recommended for replacement according to provisions of Act 57 of the Public Acts of 2018, as amended.

"The board member shall be notified in writing by the DDA Board of their delinquency, and a communication shall be directed to the Supervisor and Board of Trustees requesting a replacement."

Director's report

In her monthly report, DDA director Merrie Colburn noted the township is still waiting for its NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) approval for the Belleville Road Widening Project. Wade Trim engineers have submitted the final 100% design plans to MDOT (Michigan Department of Transportation).

The wetland permit secured from EGLE (Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy) and the county has their wetland mitigation credits

assigned and approved by the Michigan Wetland Board.

MDOT submitted the NEPA relocation request to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for approval. Once approved, MDOT can certify right of way, and they will send the obligation request to FHWA.

Wayne County will need to work with SEMCOG and the MDOT planner to request a TIP (Transportation Improvement Plan) grant amendment from FY25 to FY26.

"We are still waiting to pay out the relocation benefits for 7810 Belleville Rd., but this cannot be done until NEPA is approved," she wrote. "Once we have NEPA, the right of way acquired will be deeded over to Wayne County. The projected bid date is Jan. 9, 2026 for a spring 2026 construction start, this includes the clearing of vegetation to avoid the bat breeding season."

She also gave an update on other right-of-way acquisition for the project. She said, to

date, the township has acquired all the right of ways necessary for the widening project through settlement and judgment consent.

"A new appraisal has been completed and under review for 8380 Belleville Rd. to assist with a settlement," she said. "The property owner is getting their own appraisal, as well, to compare to ours. We're waiting on theirs to be completed. This will most likely not be until January."

She said they are also waiting for NEPA approval for the Tyler Road Pathway. Wade Trim is waiting for direction from EGLE on a conservation easement that is adjacent to the trail alignment.

Information meetings

The annual presentation of DDA accomplishments will be held at 10 a.m. Dec. 16 in the DDA building and 6 p.m. Dec. 16 at the Van Buren Township Board of trustees meeting. The presentations are a requirement of Public Act 57.

This was the last meeting of the year. The next meeting is set for Jan. 27.

Court Watching

(continued from page 7)

Van Buren Township. The charges were entered July 7, 2025 and a warrant was issued. He was arraigned July 17 and the warrant lifted. Personal bond was \$1,000. His probable cause conference was set for July 30, 2025 and then the preliminary exam was scheduled for Sept. 3.

On Sept. 3, the defense attorney said his client was in the hospital after a serious car accident and was having surgery that day. The case was to be reviewed on Oct. 15. A preliminary exam was set for Nov. 26. On that date, he retained an attorney and the exam was reset to Dec. 3.

On Dec. 3, he waived his preliminary exam and he was bound over to circuit court for a Dec. 17 arraignment on the information. A calendar conference was set for Jan. 7.

Ashley Ann Evans

Ashley Ann Evans of Van Buren Township was charged with driving while

intoxicated, on March 13, 2021 in Van Buren Township. She pled guilty to a reduced charge of driving while visibly impaired and was fined.

She failed to pay the \$1,330 in the time allotted and violated probation in other ways. A warrant was put out for her arrest. On Oct. 29, 2025 she paid \$282 with a credit card and requested Secretary of State clearance. A bench warrant arraignment was held Dec. 9.

On Dec. 9 the defendant was ordered to obtain fingerprints within 2 days and the case was adjourned for compliance. The probation of the defendant was amended and she was scheduled for review on Jan. 13, 2025.

Kevin Alan Riggs

Kevin Alan Riggs, 34, of Milan is charged with two counts of domestic violence on Sept. 12, 2025 in Sumpter Township. He was arraigned out-county on Nov. 27 and cash or surety bond set at \$10,000. A remote pretrial was held for Dec. 10 and

(continued on page 13)

**WANTED TO BUY
STANDING TIMBER**
Family Owned & Operated
**Land Clearing & Grinding
Services Available**
Sawmill Office
1-(517) 254-4463

 **Dudek Heating & Cooling**
Service and Installation LLC
**Licensed and Insured • Free Estimates • Furnaces • Boilers
Air Conditioning • Duct Work • Humidifiers • Water Heaters
Generators • Electrical • Plumbing**
Keith Dudek : Owner
11681 Rawsonville
Belleville, MI 48111
Office: (734) 461-6165
Cell: (734) 730-9733

 Jasper is now scheduling volunteer appearances in our Tricomcommunity area.
He's credentialed and insured with both Alliance of Therapy Dogs and Canines for Christ — committed to brightening your day!
Say hello to Jasper
Janet Deaton, CGC Evaluator
American Kennel Club
dogs by janet ~ Belleville
janet@dogsbyjanet.com (734) 604-1720
© 2025 D³ Enterprises, All Rights Reserved. USA

HONESTY IS OUR POLICY!
Lonnie's AT 5-POINTS
AUTO REPAIR
HEATER CORE FLUSH Includes Coolant **\$150**
WITH COUPON • LONNIE'S AUTO COUPON EXPIRES 1-31-26
DISC BRAKE SPECIAL
PREMIUM PADS & ROTORS,
INCLUDES LABOR, STARTING AT \$400
Most Cars. Restrictions Apply.
WITH COUPON • LONNIE'S AUTO COUPON EXPIRES 1-31-26
50 South Street at 5-Points, Belleville • 734-325-7065
Open Monday – Friday 8am - 6pm
SENIORS, VETERANS & ACTIVE MILITARY TAKE 10% OFF YOUR TOTAL BILL
WITH COUPON • LONNIE'S AUTO COUPON EXPIRES 1-31-26
LET'S GET READY FOR WINTER!
VEHICLE CHECK
Belts, Hoses, Etc.

EGLE issues renewed operating license to US Ecology Detroit South

The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) has issued a renewed Hazardous Waste Management Facility Operating License to EQ Detroit Inc., doing business as US Ecology Detroit South, following a comprehensive regulatory review and public comment process.

The license authorizes continued operation of the hazardous waste treatment and storage facility located at 1923 Frederick St. in Detroit, subject to updated and strengthened conditions designed to improve protection of the surrounding community and the environment.

The renewed license includes several new requirements, including expanded air monitoring and groundwater monitoring, to increase oversight of facility operations. The license also requires replacement of six existing treatment tanks with new tanks of an upgraded design. Tank replacement is anticipated to begin in January 2026. The license term is 10 years.

To address nuisance odors, the license requires the facility to implement an Odor Management Plan and to install odor control equipment by Dec. 31, 2027. The Odor Management Plan establishes specific actions the facility must take to modify or reduce operations in response to future odor violations. EGLE retains full enforcement authority to ensure compliance with all license conditions.

This license issuance follows a public comment period that was held July 31, 2025, to Sept. 26, 2025. EGLE said it reviewed and considered all comments received. The Response to Comments, the license, and additional information is available at Michigan.gov/USEcologyDetroitSouth.

Questions concerning the license should be directed to Tianna Kilgore, Environmental Engineer, Hazardous Waste Section, Materials Management Division, EGLE, at KilgoreT@Michigan.gov or (517) 230-4395.

**One Call Does It All...
...At The Independent
734-699-9020**

**READ THE
NEWSPAPER ONLINE**

**The Belleville-Area
Independent
Website
is Online!
Visit us @
bellevilleareaindependent.com**

INDEPENDENT CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE

P.A. SYSTEM-Peavy MD-8 mixer. MBT power strip, feedback destroyer pro, QSC Rmx 2450 power amp. Peavy 8.5c 1100 power amp. 3-way Peavy speakers with stands and Anvil Cases. \$1,500 (734) 730-9908 01/01

FRENCHIES, YORKIES, TEDDY BEAR & Cockapoos. Vet checked, happy puppies, \$599 & up. View available pups at Petcitypets.com Ypsilanti. (734) 487-0800 Come see the difference. 01/01

WESTERN SNOWPLOW- 7 ½'. \$500 OBO. (734) 417-3233 01/01

FOOD GRADE BARRELS Plastic &- metal. Inventory & pictures at www.mattsbarrels.com, call or text (734) 474-5981. Located in Willis. 01/01

FENCE BOARDS 2 x 6 and 2 x 8, reasonable. (734) 461-1414 HAY, round bails (708) 646-7595 06/04

FREE

FIREWOOD & KINDLING. You cut. (734) 941-9567 01/01

FREE FILL. Delivery available. (734) 697-1183. Yost Sand & Gravel. Belleville. TFN

"Reacting in anger or annoyance will not advance one's ability to persuade."
— Ruth Bader Ginsburg

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.



HELP WANTED

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
CDL DRIVER NEEDED

**Immediate Position.
Local Driving, Home
Every Night.
Kovalak Excavating
Company
Call 734-645-0100**

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
**Local Excavating Company
has a position for
BACKHOE & ALL SMALL
EXCAVATING EQUIPMENT
Prior Experience Necessary.
PLUS LABORER
Kovalak Excavating
Company
Call (734) 461-6838
or (734) 645-0100**

SERVICES

**A&L SERVICES
Home Improvement &
Handyman Service
Painting, Drywall, Carpentry,
Electrical, Plumbing,
Ceramic Tile, Kitchens & Bath.
Serving Belleville Since
1995. Call Aaron Schultz
@ 734-740-0628**

INTERIOR / EXTERIOR
MAINTENANCE. Painting, roof leaks,
cleaning & gutter repairs, landscape
maintenance, and power washing.
(734) 796-3628 01/08

A-1 QUALITY MOBILE HOME
SERVICE. Licensed over 50 yrs. Seniors,
Veterans, 1st Responders & Educators
10% off. (734) 397-2615 01/01

LARRY'S HANDYMAN SERVICE.
No job too small. Interior/exterior painting,
wallpaper, plumbing, powerwashing
& carpentry. (618) 267-7774 04/03

WANTED

**ADVANCED H & W
PAYING CASH**

**Buying Junk Cars &
Trucks. Free 7 Day
Pick Up. Call Today!
(734) 223-5581
(517) 605-6388**

**D.K. JUNK CAR
BUYERS
PAY CASH**

**We Work
Monday - Saturday.
734-368-5088
734-545-5195**

WANTED – CARS, TRUCKS & VANS
for seniors on low incomes. \$600 -
\$6,000 paid for running, fixable vehicles.
Call Kelly (248) 338-0852 01/15

WANTED TO BUY – Standing timber.
Sawmill office. (517) 254-4463 01/08

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

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

Notice to Advertisers – private gun sales:

It is the responsibility of both the classified seller and buyer to ensure they understand all laws applicable to private gun sales in Michigan. The *Belleville-Area Independent* is not responsible for the legal compliance of classified buyers and sellers.

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.

**READ THE
NEWSPAPER ONLINE!**

**The Belleville-Area
Independent Website
is Online! Visit us @
bellevilleareaindependent.com**

VBT planners vote to OK Ashley Capital's zoning amendment

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

After almost an hour of discussion on Dec. 10, the Van Buren Township Planning Commission voted unanimously to recommend approval to the township board of an amendment to a conditional zoning agreement for Ashley Capital.

The motion by vice-chairman Jeff Jahr was long and there were several stipulations, including having the township attorney review the action to make sure it was legal.

Commissioners first held a public hearing on the change, at which no public spoke. Then they tried to understand the request to amend a conditional rezoning agreement that was approved by the township in 2019 to make way for OUR Next Energy who wanted to create lithium ion batteries there.

This was for the Ashley Crossroads North Building 6 site at 42060 Ecorse Rd.

Kyle Morton of Ashley Capital said they started in 2019 to make a site for OUR Next Energy, but plans for the project were too optimistic and two-thirds of the building is empty now. He said the condition to allow only the OUR Next Energy M-T (Industrial Transportation) use for the building is difficult to follow.

He said Ashley Capital would like to keep OUR Next Energy in the one-third of the building where it is and allow other M-T uses in the other two-thirds. M-T was the original intent of the zoning before the condition. When asked what tenants they would have, he said it would be like others in the development, such as Fed Ex and Scholastic Wholesale Books.

OUR Next Energy has a pilot line, a

miniature line, he explained. It is in the northeast part of the building and they have a drastically scaled-back program and don't want to pay rent on the whole building, Morton said.

It was noted the M-1 (General Industrial) zoning uses are included in M-T zoning uses and Morton said he would put in writing that they would only get tenants that are M-T zoned, but not the M-1 uses.

Monique Kurdowski in the audience voiced concerns about the zoning ordinance and how M-1 zoning allows data centers by right. She said the electrical grid cannot handle a hyper data center.

Vice-chairman Jeff Jahr said that possibly the township zoning ordinance and the state ordinance that allows this are in conflict.

Planning consultant Vidya Krishnan of McKenna Associates said maybe the township should change its wording. She said she will look at the language to make sure it is more clear and they can ask the attorney to review it before the township board votes on the amendment at a future meeting.

In other business at the three-hour-and-39-minute meeting, the commission:

- Re-elected for 2026 chairperson Brian Cullin, vice-chairman Jeff Jahr, secretary Medina Atchinson, and primary liaison to the Board of Zoning Appeals Brian Cullin. Jahr said he was unable to continue as secondary liaison to the BZA for the next year, so Bernie Grant was recommended to the township board for appointment to that position;

- Approved meeting dates for 2026 and all are on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 5:30 p.m., except for the

November and December meetings, which will be the first and third Wednesdays. There would only be one meeting during those two months if they kept to the regular second and fourth Wednesday which could lead to very long agendas;

- Unanimously approved amending the site plan for Chahal Trucking at 6100 Schooner Dr. concerning landscaping and the redesigned pond. No one was present from the repair facility or Davenport Brothers Construction, who requested the amendment on behalf of owner Sdukhdev Singh;

- Unanimously approved a one-year

extension on the final site plan for Brookwood Senior Housing, which is located on the north side of Tyler Road, east of Morton Taylor and west of Springwood Blvd. Chris Garner said they now have the capital and plan to begin building in the spring; and

- Announced a public meeting from 6 to 8 p.m. the next day, Dec. 11, to introduce plans for a data center on 280 acres between Haggerty and Hannan roads and the I-94 North Service Drive and I-275. This area had been in competition for the Stellantis warehouse and had meetings with neighbors in November 2024.

Court Watching

(continued from page 11)

bond changed to \$5,000/10%. Remote pretrial is Jan. 6.

Arthur Alexander Roe

Arthur Alexander Roe of Van Buren Township is charged with domestic violence – third offense notice on Nov. 26 in Van Buren Township. He was arraigned out-county on Nov. 27 and cash or surety bond set at \$15,000. A probable cause conference was held Dec. 10 and preliminary exam set for Dec. 17. Bond was reset at \$10,000/10% and was posted. On Dec. 17, he pled guilty to a reduced charge of domestic violence and the case was sent to probation for a proposed sentence.

Brandon Charles Frierson

Brandon Charles Frierson of Indianapolis, IN, is charged with receiving and concealing a stolen vehicle and operating with forged or altered license or ID on Sept. 5, 2022 in Van Buren Township. He was video-arraigned in custody on Sept. 7 and bond set at \$20,000/10%. He is not to return to the Waverly apartment complex. His preliminary exam was set for Nov. 16, 2022 and then Dec. 28, 2022. He failed to appear and a bench warrant was issued. On June 17, 2024 a letter was sent

to the court by the defendant. A probable cause conference was held Dec. 10, 2025. It was confirmed he will come by zoom from an Ohio prison. The probable cause conference was adjourned until Jan. 20 for discovery. Warrant was canceled. Bond is \$5,000/10%.

Marrie Sekayi Slaughter

Marrie Sekayi Slaughter of Sumpter Township is charged with carrying a concealed weapon on Nov. 13 in Sumpter Township. A warrant was entered into LIEN on Nov. 19. She retained an attorney and she was scheduled for an arraignment/probable cause conference on Dec. 10. The warrant was removed from LIEN. She pled guilty to a reduced charge and the case was sent to probation for a recommended sentence. It is to be reviewed on Jan. 2.

Garrett John Guilloz

Garrett John Guilloz of Sumpter Township was charged with prohibited use of a chemical agent and disturbing the peace on Oct. 18, 2025 in the city of Belleville. His remote arraignment/pretrial was held Dec. 10. A remote pretrial was set for Jan. 2. Personal bond is \$500.

Adrienne Marie Hill

Adrienne Marie Hill, 25, of Redford is charged with driving while license suspended, operating without security,

(continued on page 15)

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

Having trouble finding the Belleville-Area Independent on the newsstands or just want to subscribe? Fill out the form below and send a check for \$55(in Michigan), \$60 everywhere else in the U.S. 6 month subscriptions are available for just \$27.50. To subscribe even faster, call us Monday - Friday between 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (local time) at (734) 699-9020. We accept almost all credit/debit cards. We also have gift subscriptions available for any occasion. Thank you!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone# _____

Mail to: **Belleville-Area Independent**

152 Main St., Suite 9

Belleville, MI 48111

Just incase we have any trouble with your order.

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!



City of Belleville Public Notice



CITY OF BELLEVILLE CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING

The Belleville City Council will conduct a Public Hearing on
Monday, January 5, 2026 at 6:30 P.M.

The purpose of the public hearing is for public input on the
city's proposed Parks and Recreation Plan.

The Public Hearing will take place at the Municipal
Building, 6 Main Street, Belleville, MI 48111, in the City
Council Chambers.

Briana Papin, City Clerk/Treasurer

Publish: Dec. 18 and 25, 2025 and Jan 1, 2026

Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

There were 235 dispatch calls reported by Van Buren Township police this week including the following.

Sunday, Dec. 21:

0020 – assist fire dept., W. Archwood Dr.
0050 – noise complaint, Parkwood Dr.
0047 – welfare check, Birch Dr.
0109 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Oak Blvd.
0814 – intrusion alarm, Tavistock Dr.
0814 – road hazard, Denton Rd./Ecorse Rd.
0843 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Denton Rd.
0924 – dumping complaint, Rawsonville Rd.
1145 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Rawsonville Rd.
1302 – runaway, Quirk Rd.
1412 – welfare check, Moms Dr.
1455 – disorderly, Rawsonville Rd.
1517 – neighbor trouble, Tyler Rd.
1649 – mental subject, Sonrisa St.
1926 – family trouble, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1949 – family trouble, Lake Villa Dr.
2011 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Ecorse Rd./Denton Rd.
2059 – road hazard, Belleville Rd./E. I-94
2101 – missing person, Victoria St.
2108 – civil matter, Chinkapin Dr.
2256 – missing person, Victoria St.

Monday, Dec. 22:

0303 – suicidal person, Harmony Ln.
0721 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
0920 – parking complaint, Daniel Dr.
0952 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
1052 – fraud, Savage Rd.
1246 – fraud, Pebblebrook Dr.
1247 – property damage accident, Rawsonville
1252 – larceny from auto, Oak Ln.
1336 – civil matter, Birch Dr.
1348 – 911 welfare check, Buchanan St.
1422 – private property impound, Belleville Rd.
1454 – larceny from auto, Savage Rd.
1502 – holdup alarm, Dover Ct.
1542 – suicidal person, Chinkapin Dr.
1604 – larceny from auto, N. Bellridge Dr.
1622 – civil matter, Parkwood Dr.
1653 – larceny from auto, S. Bellridge Dr.
1849 – misc. complaint, Chandler Dr.
2013 – missing person, Ayres Ave.
2259 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Quirk Rd.

Tuesday, Dec. 23:

0707 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
xxxx – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1043 – private property/property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1038 – mental subject, Pebblebrook Dr.
xxxx – private property impound, Belleville Rd.
1234 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1250 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1401 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1616 – threat, Belleville Rd.
1629 – civil matter, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1706 – assist fire dept., Ecorse Rd.
1727 – fraud, Lake Crest Dr.
1737 – intrusion alarm, Harmony Ln.
1859 – sexual assault, Pebblebrook Dr.
2057 – threat, Bemis Rd.
2112 – shooting, Morton Taylor Rd.
2145 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Marlowe Ave./Crowley Ave.
2308 – civil matter, Victoria St.
2325 – welfare check, W. Huron River Dr.

Wednesday, Dec. 24:

0011 – domestic, N. I-94 Service Dr.
0117 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Parkwood Dr.
0439 – intrusion alarm, Haggerty Rd.
0445 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0651 – 911 welfare check, Parkwood Dr.
0729 – intrusion alarm, Tyler Rd.
0840 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Martz Rd.
0907 – assist other dept., Tyler Rd.
0929 – civil matter, Pinewood Ln.
1036 – welfare check, Lake Point Pass
1058 – larceny from auto, Elwell Rd.
1143 – larceny from auto, Elwell Rd.

1329 – disorderly, Belleville Rd.
1447 – malicious destruction of property, Estate Dr.
1454 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Rose Blvd.
1458 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, Ecorse Rd.
1524 – suicidal person, Denton Rd.
1616 – 911 welfare check, Chinkapin Dr.
1819 – PPO violation, Tyler Rd.
1914 – road hazard, Savage Rd./Country Walk Blvd.
2051 – larceny from auto, Hoeft Rd.
2118 – threat, Freedom Way
2105 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Water's Edge Ln.
2317 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Pebblebrook Dr./Rock Creek Dr.

Thursday, Dec. 25:

0010 – road hazard, Ecorse Rd./Denton Rd.
0313 – assist other dept., S. I-275/Van Born
0350 – 911 welfare check, S. Bellridge Dr.
0807 – parking complaint, Haggerty Rd.
0948 – family trouble, Sadie Ln.
0953 – domestic, Denton Rd.
1030 – intrusion alarm, Van Born
1040 – mental subject, Brandi Dr.
1054 – 911 welfare check, Lake Villa Dr.
1251 – threat, Park Estates Dr.
1312 – private property impound, Kirkridge Park
1454 – domestic, Sylvia Dr.
1822 – runaway, Quirk Rd.
2054 – welfare check, S. I-94 Service Dr.
2147 – parking complaint, pinewood Ln.

Friday, Dec. 26:

0032 – welfare check, Ecorse Rd.
0153 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Morton Taylor Rd./Tyler Rd.
0417 – 911 welfare check, Haggerty Rd.
0931 – intrusion alarm, Haggerty Rd.
1001 – fraud, Tyler Rd.
1105 – civil matter, Sumpter Rd.
1302 – domestic, Pebblebrook Dr.
1133 – property damage accident, Ecorse Rd./Belleville Rd.
1202 – 911 welfare check, Andover Dr.
1401 – civil matter, Wildrye
1435 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1457 – missing person, Spinaker Way
1554 – missing person, Quirk Rd.
1555 – intrusion alarm, Samuel Barton Dr.
1705 – missing person, Quirk Rd.
1851 – property damage accident, Oak Blvd./Maple Dr.

1819 – parking complaint, Belleville Rd.
1827 – breaking & entering, Belleville Rd.
1833 – neighbor trouble, McBride Ave.
1859 – breaking & entering, Lake Point Blvd.
2030 – juvenile complaint, Huron River Dr.
2055 – domestic, Parkwood Dr.
xxxx – repossession, S. I-94 Service Dr.
2208 – assist fire dept., W. Huron River Dr.
2236 – welfare check, Oak Ln.

Saturday, Dec. 27:

0036 – welfare check, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0043 – domestic, Lighthouse Dr.
0127 – parking complaint, Cobblestone Ct.
0220 – welfare check, E. I-94/Rawsonville I-94 ramp E.
0232 – repossession, Oak Ln./N. I-94 Service Dr.
0344 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Belleville Rd.
xxxx – 911 welfare check, N. I-94 Service Dr.
0953 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Ecorse Rd.
1133 – property damage accident, Hannan Rd. / Cheyenne Blvd.
1235 – intrusion alarm, Rawsonville Rd.
1232 – fraud, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1256 – hospice death, Alden Ave.
1341 – assist fire dept., Belleville Rd.
xxxx – private property impound, Rawsonville
1506 – private property/property damage accident, Hoeft Rd.
1629 – disorderly, Rawsonville Rd.
1636 – missing person, Quirk Rd.
1655 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Victoria St.
1656 – welfare check, W. Archwood Dr.
1722 – private property/property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1827 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Water's Edge Ln.
1813 – welfare check, Berkdale Dr.
1858 – parking complaint, Cambridge Ct. / Stamford Rd.

1916 – misc. complaint, Kirkridge Park Dr.
1929 – civil matter, Sheldon Rd.
1938 – larceny from auto, Beckley Rd.
2008 – unauthorized driving away of auto, S. I-94 Service Dr.
2101 – motorist assist, Belleville/Tyler
2124 – domestic, N. Ponderosa Trl.
2254 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, N. I-94 Service Dr.
2330 – misc. complaint, Tyler Rd.
2330 -- family trouble, Landmark
Also, on this log are 78 traffic stops, 12 of which are on the I-94 freeway.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Dec. 21:

0008 – welfare check, Main St.
0054 – intrusion alarm, S. Edgemont Ave.
0258 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Main St.
0357 – noise complaint, S. Biggs Ave./Robbe St.
0634 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
0704 – assist fire dept., Carmell St.
1631 – mental subject, Fourth St.
2314 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Henry St.

Monday, Dec. 22:

0801 – assist fire dept., Menlo Park Dr.
1608 – personal injury accident, Sumpter/Owen
1845 – assist fire dept., Sumpter Rd.
1858 – welfare check, Main St.

Tuesday, Dec. 23:

0250 – assist fire dept., Menlo Park Dr.
1410 – property damage accident, Main St.
1828 – welfare check, Carmell St.

Wednesday, Dec. 24:

0748 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Harbour Pointe Dr.
0926 – assist fire dept., Sumpter Rd.
Thursday, Dec. 25:
0736 – assist fire dept., Main St.
1031 – assist fire dept., W. Thornhill Ct.

Friday, Dec. 26:

0937 – parking complaint, Third St./N. Liberty
0951 – assist fire dept., Roland St.
1626 – follow up by officer, Elwell/W. Huron River Dr.

Saturday, Dec. 27:

1241 – property damage accident, South St.
1306 – assist fire dept., Wexford Ave.
1323 – suicidal person, South St.
1638 – assist other dept., Quirk Rd.
1729 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Sumpter Rd.
2212 – assist other dept., Carmell St.
There are 54 reports on this week's log, 27 of which are traffic stops.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Dec. 21:

0209 – family trouble, Birch Dr.
0216 – property damage accident, 51000 bl. Willis Rd.
0729 – mental health call, Birch Dr.
1159 – animal complaint, 46000 bl. Willow
1209 – 911 hangup, 40000 bl. Harris Rd.
1552 – fire dept. assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1627 – suspicious circumstance, 21000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1837 – civil matter, Utah St.
1935 – fire dept. assist, 22000 bl. Clark Rd.
2356 – welfare check, Sumpter Rd./Willow
Monday, Dec. 22:
0213 – fire dept. assist, 13000 bl. Rawsonville
0713 – civil matter, 21000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1255 – animal complaint, 50000 bl. Willis
1257 – property damage accident, Rustic Ln.
1400 – fire dept. assist, 18000 bl. Savage Rd.
1526 – harassment complaint, 21000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1648 – mental health call, Oregon St.
1739 – motorist assist, Rawsonville/Willis
1840 – fraud complaint, 20000 bl. Sherwood
1909 – fire dept. assist, Walnut St.

2115 – fire dept. assist, 23000 bl. Bohn Rd.
2154 – assist other agency, 22000 bl. Bohn
Tuesday, Dec. 23:
1123 – suspicious circumstance, Brookview Dr.
1241 – assist other agency, 22000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
1443 – 911 hangup, Idaho St.
1523 – animal complaint, 44000 bl. Willow
1749 – suspicious circumstance, Oregon St.
2121 – felony warrant arrest, Carriage Ln.
2232 – property damage report, 48000 bl. Willow Rd.

Wednesday, Dec. 24:

0118 – suspicious circumstance, Rustic Ln.
0353 – fire dept. assist, Birch Dr.
0749 – recovered stolen vehicle, 50000 bl. Willis Rd.
0944 – follow-up investigation, California St.
1217 – civil matter, New Mexico St.
1243 – personal injury accident, Rawsonville Rd. / Willis Rd.
1419 – family trouble, Indiana St.
1428 – suspicious circumstance, 40000 bl. Willis Rd.

1447 – larceny complaint, Country Club Blvd.
1742 – 911 hangup, Washington St.
1846 – citizen assist, 19000 bl. Elwell Rd.
2131 – suspicious circumstance, 45000 bl. Judd Rd.
2229 – suspicious circumstance, Carriage Ln.

Thursday, Dec. 25:

0304 – fire dept. assist, Mulberry Dr.
0556 – 911 hangup, Iowa St.
0915 – civil matter, 44000 bl. Judd Rd.
1011 – neighbor dispute, 17000 bl. Savage
1342 – 911 hangup, Colorado St.
1526 – welfare check, 44000 bl. Bemis Rd.
2229 – fire dept. assist, 24000 bl. Elwell Rd.
2314 – suspicious vehicle, 24000 bl. Sumpter

Friday, Dec. 26:

0008 – welfare check, 28000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
0029 – family trouble, Nevada St.
0522 – fire dept. assist, 22000 bl. Martinsville
1012 – harassment complaint, 50000 bl. Arkona Rd.
1116 – 911 hangup, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1301 – alarm, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1526 – larceny complaint, 23000 bl. Sumpter
1824 – family trouble, Arizona St.
2216 – 911 hangup, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

Saturday, Dec. 27:

0846 – fire dept. assist, Mulberry Dr.
1023 – 911 hangup, Knollwood Dr.
1302 – family trouble, Alaska St.
1455 – suspicious circumstance, 46000 bl. Judd Rd.
1539 – 911 hangup, 22000 bl. Fenster Ave.
1734 – fire dept. assist, Carriage Ln.
1819 – fire dept. assist, 19000 bl. Haggerty
2155 – family trouble, 19000 bl. Sharon Ct.
2329 – fire dept. assist, 19000 bl. Crandell Ave.
2343 – disorderly person, 51000 bl. Willis Rd.

Also on this week's log were 123 patrol checks, 39 traffic stops and eight misc. details.

Caleb Smith named to Fall Dean's List at Cedarville University

CEDARVILLE, OH -- Caleb Smith of Van Buren Township, was named to the Dean's List at Cedarville University for Fall 2025. This recognition requires the student to obtain a 3.50 GPA or higher for the semester and carry a minimum of 12 credit hours.

Cedarville University, an evangelical Christian institution in southwest Ohio, offers undergraduate and graduate residential and online programs across arts, sciences and professional fields. With 7,265 students, it is among Ohio's largest private universities.

“I am reminded of the professor who, in his declining hours, was asked by his devoted pupils for his final counsel. He replied, ‘Verify your quotations.’”
– Sir Winston Churchill

Court Watching

(continued from page 13)

and disobeying traffic control device on Oct. 28, 2025 in the city of Belleville. She was scheduled for a remote arraignment / pretrial on Dec. 10 for the DWLS and security charges and a remote pre-hearing on the traffic control device set a \$230 fine.

She failed to appear on Dec. 10 and a remote show-cause/arraignment was set for Jan. 6.

John Steven Condra

John Steven Condra of Southgate was found guilty in a district court trial on a charge of domestic violence on Feb. 17, 2019, in Van Buren Township. The

conviction was appealed and affirmed. On Oct. 10, 2025 an application was received by the court to set aside the conviction. He was scheduled for a Dec. 10, 2025 motion to set aside the judgment.

Steven Michael Komora

Steven Michael Komora, 32, of Sumpter Township is charged with assaulting / resisting / obstructing a police officer and operating while intoxicated on March 22, 2025 in Sumpter Township.

The charge was entered on Oct. 1, 2025 and a warrant put out for his arrest. He was scheduled for an arraignment/probable cause conference on Dec. 10. Personal bond was set at \$5,000. Then a probable cause conference was held on Dec. 17

and the warrant withdrawn. The notice to appear had been emailed to the Washtenaw County Jail. It was found the defendant is in Sharhouse Rehabilitation in Detroit. A probable cause conference was set for Jan. 6.

Richard White

Richard White of Taylor is charged with failing to use due care/caution and injuring a construction worker on April 18, 2024 in the Lower Huron Metropark. He failed to appear for a court hearing and failed to appear for a showcause hearing so a warrant was put out for his arrest.

On Nov. 7, 2025, \$150 cash bond was posted and the warrant was canceled. A remote show cause arraignment/pretrial

was held Nov. 19, 2025 and a remote pretrial held Dec. 10. A remote pretrial then was set for Jan. 6, so digital discovery could be obtained. Huron Clinton Metropark Officer Mark Buxton is lead officer on the case.

William Joseph Huziak

William Joseph Huziak was video-arraigned in custody on Oct. 21 on charges of assault with intent to inflict physical harm less than death (strangulation) and domestic violence on Oct. 18 in Sumpter Township. Personal bond is \$5,000/10% and he is not to be released without a GPS. A probable cause conference was set for Oct. 29 and a preliminary exam for Nov. 5. On Oct. 29 the probable cause conference was held and the exam date changed to Dec. 10.

On Dec. 10, the charge was dismissed on a motion of the defendant and the tether ordered removed. Case closed.

Robert Costica Bonas

Robert Costica Bonas of Sumpter Township was video-arraigned in custody on Dec. 15 on charges of assaulting/resisting/obstructing a police officer and operating a vehicle while intoxicated on Aug. 30, 2025 in Sumpter Township. The charges were brought on Dec. 4 and a warrant entered into LEIN. It was noted he is a habitual offender.

Judge Patton set bond at \$5,000/10%. His probable cause conference was held Dec. 22 and his preliminary exam for Jan. 2, 2026. He is to have no mood altering drugs while on bond or to have no firearms, weapons, or ammunition while on this bond.

Kaleb Augustus Chelli

Kaleb Augustus Chelli of Van Buren Township was charged with domestic violence on Nov. 5 in Van Buren Township. He was scheduled for remote arraignment/pre-trial on Dec. 17 and the arraignment was held virtually. The defendant is in rehab in Colorado. Personal bond is \$5,000. A final pre-trial was set for Jan. 13 and the defendant and the complaining victim must appear.

Justin Michael Daugherty

Justin Michael Daugherty of Sumpter Township is charged with domestic violence on Dec. 4 in Sumpter Township. He was arraigned outcounty on Dec. 6 and personal bond set at \$10,000. His remote pre-trial was held on Dec. 17. There is to be no contact with the victim or the address. The final pretrial was set for Jan. 13 and the complaining victim must appear.

Antonina Monet Withers

Antonina Monet Withers, 34, formerly of Detroit and now of of Houston, TX, is charged with false pretenses - \$100,000 or more, counterfeiting/forging/using a state ID card to commit a felony, identity theft, false pretenses - \$1,000-\$19,999, using computers to commit a crime, and another identity theft on May 12, 2022 in Van Buren Township. A warrant was out for her arrest.

She retained an attorney and was scheduled for an arraignment / probable cause conference on Dec. 17 and she was arraigned. Bond was set at \$20,000 personal and her probable cause conference set for Jan. 6.



GET FIT FOR FREE AT THE VBC.

FITNESS CLASS FREE DEMO WEEK

January 5 - 10

Van Buren Community Center 46425 Tyler Rd.

Van Buren Township, MI 48111

- Discover fitness favorites; TRX, Gentle Yoga & Zumba.
- Try low-impact classes options like Tai Chi and Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program (AFEP) for seniors.
- Plus, youth karate and soccer demos for kids.
- Space is limited - register in advance.

<https://tinyurl.com/4a2ej9mk>



734.699.8921



vbcinfo@VBTmi.gov



RE/MAX

CROSSROADS III

418 Main Street

Belleville, Michigan 48111

email: mrsold@mrsold.com

website: mrsold.com

WE DON'T CHARGE WHAT THE OTHER BROKERS CHARGE - NO DOCUMENT STORAGE FEES NO COMPLIANCE FEES NO JUNK FEES

GLENN SILVENIS

www.MrSold.com

SELL PHONE (734) 740-3000

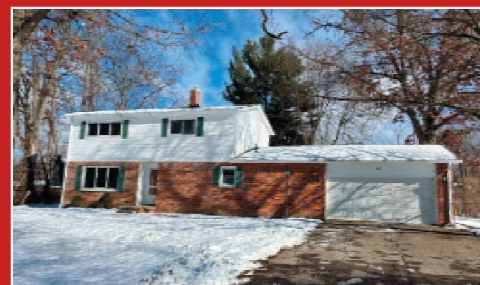
Office (734) 699-4000

Prior #1, #2 and #3 RE/MAX
Agent Southeastern Michigan

Past Mayor City of Belleville

*Real Trends Rankings
Top 1% Nationwide*

**Happy
New
Year**



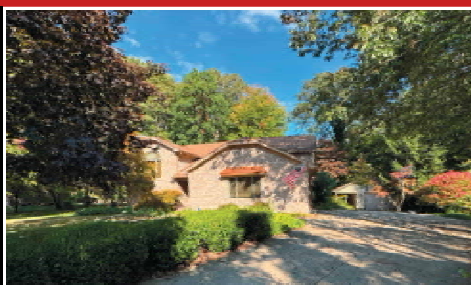
207 WILSON, YPSILANTI, TWP

FRESH PAINT - OAK HARDWOOD FLOORS, with 3 Large Bedrooms and 2 Full updated baths. updated Electrical, backup sump pump & more. Preferred Privacy \$369,900.



48620 WEAR, SUMPTER TOWNSHIP

BEAUTY WORTH CELEBRATING 3 Bedrooms, 2 Baths (One New) 1,690 Sq Ft on 1.3 Acres. Deck and Large Pole Barn room for a workshop and more. Extra Clean \$325,000



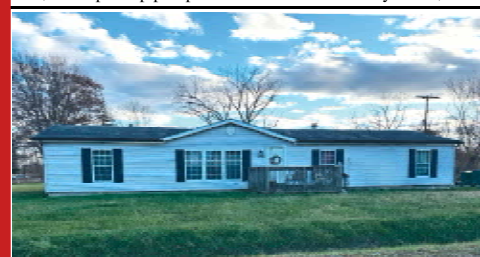
28503 MARGARET LN, HURON TOWNSHIP

THIS BRICK HOME HAS IT ALL 3,828 Total Square Feet of finished living space, 4 Bedrooms, 3 Baths, Hot Tub, 14x27 Family Room, 2 + 1 Car Garages .85 Acres Short Sale \$385,000



11012 JACKSON, VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP

FOR LEASE IMMEDIATE OCCUPANCY Super Clean, freshly painted with new flooring throughout. 3 Bedrooms, 1 Bath Ranch. Two car garage. No Smoking or Pets \$1,600 mo



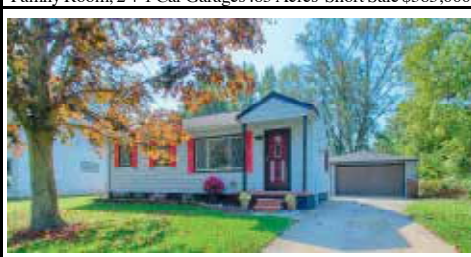
29515 CHARLES, ROMULUS

COMING SOON. It's Loaded with 4 Bedrooms, 2 1/2 Baths, 1,647 Square Feet, Fireplace, Deck and More. On 1/2 Acre with Huge Garage. 1996 Construction Just \$200,000



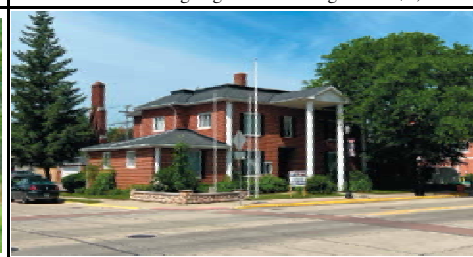
36928 ELLIS NEW BOSTON

NO ASSOCIATION FEES, Low Taxes 1 Bedroom, New plumbing, New flooring, New kitchen, Bathroom, New water heater, 11x11 covered patio \$147,500



46083 REED, SUMPTER TOWNSHIP

Amazingly Affordable 3 Bedroom One Bath Ranch with New Carpet, Large Patio, Big Garage with New Roof, Fenced Yard, City Water and Sewer on Paved Street. A Best Buy \$239,900



209 MAIN STREET, BELLEVILLE

IT'S A POSSIBLE ANYTHING! 7,000+ Square Foot Building on High Traffic Main Street. Large Rooms Everywhere Finished Basement 6 plus Car Attached Garage. \$749,000

84 ACRES OAKVILLE WALTZ ASH TOWN-SHIP-MONROE COUNTY. 1268 FRONTAGE ZONED LIGHT INDUSTRIAL AND RESIDENTIAL. NEAR I-275 Great Investment \$795,000

3 PARCELS 22530 Bohn Road Sumpter Twp One is 10.7 Acres at \$120,000 and 2.37 Acres at \$45,000 and 1.87 at \$45,000
SHERWOOD SUMPTER 4.09 Acres \$60,000

GRANT & WAHRMAN 4 ACRES LT IND BY METRO AIRPORT \$250,000
WILLIS & MARTINSVILLE 1.64 AC PAVED ROAD WATER & SEWER AT STREET \$65,000

MARIO ANN COURT ROMULUS Finest Private Area in Romulus. Perfect location with City Water and Sewer at the Street. \$35,000
GRANT ROMULUS 1.8 AC LT IND \$29,500

***** BELLEVILLE LAKEFRONT ***** 2405 RAWSONVILLE 99X328 .74 AC \$99,900
NORTHLINE ROMULUS 1.1 ACRES 208 FT FRONTAGE LT INDUSTRIAL ZON \$59,900



ATCHINSON



DRIVING HAPPINESS THIS SEASON

9800 BELLEVILLE RD.

(734) 697-9161

WWW.ATCHINSON.NET

WELCOME,

JOHN CAMILLERI

CALL: (734) 697-2359