

Official Newspaper of Record for the City of Belleville & the Charter Township of Van Buren
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BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

VOL. 32.41

Serving the communities of Belleville, Sumpter & Van Buren

FREE

Thursday, October 8, 2026

Sumpter Township Board Looks at Pool of 7 for Manager Role

Emily Flesch

Independent Reporter

The Sumpter Township Board of Trustees took its first steps toward selecting a township manager at a special meeting on Sept. 30.

With the job posting for the role currently paused, the board is focused on a pool of seven applicants. Much of the meeting was spent establishing a clear framework for scoring candidates to establish who would receive an interview.

Board members will fill out an evaluation for each candidate, assigning a score between 1 and 20 for professional and operational metrics required for the position. These include municipal government background, grant writing experience, personnel and human resources management, career tenure and overall application professionalism.

Treasurer Bart Patterson noted that he preferred this point scale over the previous model of scoring between 1 and 5 because the larger range of numbers allows for more nuanced figures.

All trustees will submit their completed scorecards to Township Administrative Coordinator Karen Armatis by end of day Oct. 5.

Following the tally, the board will hold another special session on Oct. 7 to review the results and select candidates for interviews.

The meeting adjourned at 6:17 p.m. Clerk Donald LaPorte was absent and excused.

Tigers Royalty



A huge congratulations to King Artrail Green and Queen Morgan Liggins. The Tigers made it an unforgettable Homecoming weekend, rolling past the Novi Wildcats, 55-6, on Friday, Oct. 2. What a night to celebrate. Congratulations, King Artrail and Queen Morgan ... GO TIGERS!!! PHOTO COURTESY | DARLENE GERICK

Belleville Council Appoints New City Clerk/Treasurer

Emily Flesch

Independent Reporter

The Belleville City Council appointed a new City Clerk/Treasurer at its Oct. 5 regular meeting.

Julie Campbell, a lifelong Belleville resident, will officially begin her duties on Tuesday, Oct.

13. Campbell was selected from a pool of ten applicants during an interview process that included both standard interview questions and



Campbell

a presentation, as well as input from clerk's office staff. City Manager Brady Peck said that Campbell "stood out" among the other candidates.

"I'm excited to get started," Campbell said, adding that she is really looking forward to getting to know everybody and that the people she has met so far have been amazing.

Having grown up in Belleville and graduated from Belleville High School, where her mother worked as a teacher, Campbell said taking on this position is like coming full circle.

She will train alongside Deputy Clerk Michelle Bellingham, who has been serving as interim clerk/treasurer. The council and city manager thanked Bellingham for stepping into the role following former Clerk Papin's departure in August.

SEE APPOINTS ON PAGE 8

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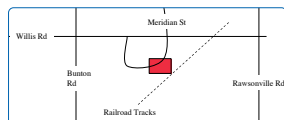
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PAGE THREE



< King Artrail Green and Queen Morgan Liggins are all smiles.
PHOTO COURTESY | AUBREY BILLINGSLEA • BELLEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL



Tigers Own the Night

Friday, Oct.2 was a beautiful night to crown Belleville's Homecoming king and queen. The Novi Wildcats came into town and the Tigers didn't disappoint the home crowd. They rolled to a 55-6 victory. (See Sports, page 9)

PHOTOS | BLAIR TEMPLE



OPINION

From the Editor

Here's How to Report Improper Signage in Public Right of Way

With election season comes political signs and complaints about the placement of these signs, as well as year-round placement of business advertising signs that are in the public right-of-way.

An interested reader came in and showed me a photo he'd taken of two commercial signs and one state election sign by an I-94 onramp in Van Buren Township.

Sarah Rigg
Managing Editor

He told The Independent that he's called the Van Buren ordinance department, but it seems like enforcement is spotty.

I reached out to Van Buren Deputy Police Chief Joshua Monte for clarity on the issue and showed him the photo for comment.

Deputy Chief Monte agreed that the signs in the picture are not allowed under the township's sign ordinance.

"There are some exemptions for temporary signs contained within state law that we have no control over, but for the most part, campaign signs and advertising signs placed in the right-of-way are prohibited under the township ordinance," Monte wrote to us in an email reply.

"Our ordinance officers typically seize about ten signs a day during the summer," Monte tells us.

In my email, I'd asked if Van Buren Township police are able to confiscate signs on ramps, which belong to the state and are overseen by the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT).

"The ramps are MDOT's responsibility, but if we receive a complaint or see signs on the ramps and our ordinance officer can safely remove them, we will remove signs from the on and off ramps

of I-94," he wrote.

To report an ordinance violation, anyone can go to the Animal Control and Ordinance page on the township website and complete the ordinance violation submission form.

That form can be found at: https://vbtmi.gov/departments/public_safety/animal_control__ordinances/index.php

Monte also provided a link to a township webpage that contains the Van Buren Township Zoning Ordinances: https://vbtmi.gov/departments/public_services/building_planning__economic_development/community_plans.php#outer-304

The link for "Van Buren Township Zoning Ordinance 2026" is near the middle of the page.

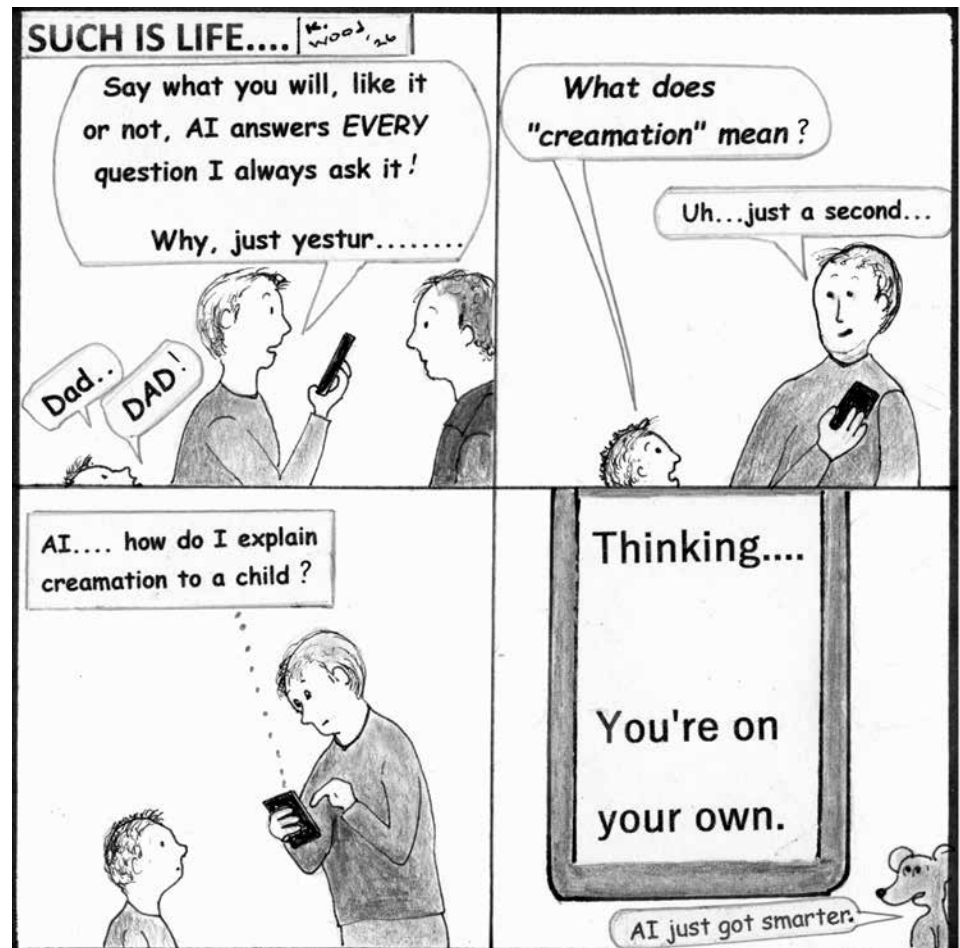
"The zoning ordinances are extensive, but the sign ordinance is contained within Section 11.105. There are also carve-outs in state statutes that our ordinance officers have to research when addressing certain complaints, such as agricultural advertisement signs or governmental sign exemptions," Monte explained.

"Our ordinance department primarily deals with advertising by private businesses and campaign signs."

Monte is referring to the fact that, on MDOT roads (like I-94), signs have to sit more than 30 feet from the road's edge, can't block sight lines at intersections or driveways. They get yanked by MDOT crews if they don't comply, and must come down within 10 days after the election. There's also the 100-foot rule — no campaign materials within 100 feet of a polling place entrance on Election Day.

The primary goal of confiscating these signs in the public right-of-way is to preserve lines of sight for drivers; it's about safety, not about banning free speech.

So, there you have it. Everyone is excited to promote the candidate or business they truly believe in, but we need to make sure we follow city and township ordinances for sign placement.



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CORRECTION:

We have two corrections this week. 1) An error in my "From the editor" column Sept. 10 incorrectly listed the church offering a Friday backpack program. The program is provided by Open Arms Lutheran Church, with the ministry run by Dana Underwood and her son. 2) A story in our Oct. 1 issue about a community cookoff by local food pantries incorrectly identified the sponsors of the event. The event was co-hosted by The Makana Foundation and the Wordhouse Community Foundation.

We aim for accuracy at the Belleville Area Independent, but if you spot an error, please call or email us with the correct information, and we will publish it in the next issue.



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Letters to the Editor

MORE LETTERS ON PAGE 17

VFW Post 4434 Announces Changes to Flag Committee

To the editor:

It is with great reluctance that I had to relinquish my position as chairman of VFW post 4434 Flag Committee. But with my deteriorating health it was a situation that had to come about. Refurbishing of flags will continue at the post and be available for pick-up.

The program has been transferred to the VFW post 4434 on Bemis Rd.

However, I hope, in the near future after recovering from my scheduled surgery this week, that I will be able to continue to have FREE flags available at my south Biggs address. The "DISPOSAL" box located on the front porch will remain while I am having surgery.

Thank you all for the support you have given over the last 10+ years. I consider my efforts refurbishing flags an honor and privilege. At some point, maybe I can resume the effort.

*Thank You,
Pete Pitzen
Jr. Vice Commander
VFW POST 4434*

Makana Foundation Helped Our Family Through Tough Times

To the editor:

I'm writing to share what Makana Foundation has meant to me and my family, as well as what I have personally witnessed them do for families in our community.

I have been with Makana for several years, and I can honestly say that they have helped my family through some very difficult times. There have been times when I simply could not put dinner on the table for my children, especially during the summer when I was unable to work. Makana was there to help make sure my children had food.

More recently, as a new mother again with my third child, I have needed help in ways that I did not expect. Making sure my baby has enough nutritious food and the things she needs can be difficult, especially when resources are limited and there have been concerns surrounding food availability and recalls. Makana has helped me with food for my baby and even diapers. When I walk through the

doors, they always greet me with a smile. If I have questions about introducing foods, baby-led weaning, or simply feeding my baby, they are always willing to talk with me and share their experience. They welcome me with open arms, no matter what I may be going through.

But Makana has given me more than food. They have given me a sense of community.

I have personally seen how hard this family works for the community. They bend over backwards to help families, sometimes serving 150 families or more in a single day that they are open. And while they are caring for so many other families, they are also a family themselves, with their own children and their own challenges to care for. Yet they continue to show up for other people.

To me, that is what makes Makana so special. They don't just distribute food; they share the compassion, kindness, and love that they have been blessed with, along with the physical food they have been blessed to provide. They make people feel seen, welcomed, and cared for.

I also believe Makana deserves to be properly recognized for the work they do in our community. They do not always receive the recognition they deserve, and I have personally seen how much work goes into what they provide. The recent pantry cookoff is one example. Makana organized and co-hosted the event, and I believe it is important that the community knows that.

This is not about recognition for recognition's sake. Makana should be identified for the work they do because that visibility directly affects their ability to build community support, attract donors, apply for grants, and ultimately help even more families.

For me, Makana is not just a food pantry. They are people who know me, remember me, welcome me, and genuinely want to help my family. I am grateful for the way they have been there for my children and for the way they continue to be there for so many families in our community.

I hope our community recognizes Makana for what they truly are: a family willing to pour into other families, even while carrying responsibilities of their own. I know firsthand that the work they do matters, and I believe they deserve to be seen for it.

*Sincerely,
Tymesha Bland
Taylor*

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Obituaries



Ronald Joseph Wepler

RONALD JOSEPH WEPLER
(April 4, 1958 - October 2, 2026)

Ronald Joseph Wepler, age 68, of Sumpter Township, Mich., passed away Friday, October 2, 2026, at his home. He was born April 4, 1958, in Decorah, Iowa, son of Percy Aldo & Patricia Jane (Tepesch) Wepler. He graduated from Central High School, Waterloo, Iowa, class of 1976, where he was on the swim team and played saxophone in the Jazz Band. He went on to earn his bachelor's degree in engineering from Iowa State University in Ames, IA. He began working for Ford Motor Company in 1989 in Connersville, Indiana and retired in 2021. On May 19, 1990, Ron married the love of his life, Carole Jeanne Wooge, his "angel" as he lovingly referred to her. They moved to Belleville, Mich., in 1994, and had their son Christopher in 1995. Ron loved his cats, his 1965 Mustang, going to steak houses and most of all his family. He enjoyed debating many topics with Chris, who shared his love for photography and astronomy. He loved going to the movies, especially on Tuesdays for family day at Imagine Theatre. Mr. Wepler was a man of faith and a current member of Trinity Episcopal Church, Belleville, MI, where he was a member of the Vestry, a Junior Warden, and he taught Sunday School for several years.

Ron is survived by his loving wife of 36 years, Carole Jeanne (Wooge) Wepler, son Christopher Wepler, both of Belleville, sister Teresa (Scott) Chaffee of Palm Harbor, Fla., brother Michael Wepler of Waterloo, Iowa, brother-in-law William Edward Wooge of Washington, D.C., sister-in-law Rebeckah Wooge of Ames, Iowa, niece Melissa (Evan) Bond of Key Largo, Florida, two nephews Kyle Shader of Palm Harbor, Florida, and LuVern James "Trey" Wooge III of Ames, Iowa, also numerous friends.

Mr. Wepler was preceded in death by his parents Percy & Patricia Wepler, also a brother-in-law LuVern James Wooge, Jr.

Dignified cremation rites have been accorded. Arrangements have been trusted to David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI 48111-2764 (734) 697-4500.

A Celebration of Life is being planned at his church and will be announced.

Memorial contributions may be made to Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue or Trinity

Episcopal Church and would be appreciated.

Thank you for keeping Ron's family in your thoughts and prayers at this time.



Jean Rider

JEAN RIDER
(June 14, 1958 - October 3, 2026)

Jean Marie Rider, 68, of Belleville, Michigan passed away peacefully at her home on October 3, 2026. She was a cherished wife, mother, grandmother and friend and will be deeply missed.

Jean was born on June 14, 1958, in Madison Heights, Mich. to Norman and Marguerite Kuhfeldt. She went to Lamphere High School and Concordia University in Ann Arbor.

Jean met Jeff Rider in 1980 when they both worked at Stop and Go Stores. She knew quickly upon meeting him that she was going to marry him. They got married on December 12, 1981, at Faith Lutheran Church in Ypsilanti, Michigan. They moved to Belleville several years later.

Jean loved signing and was in the choir at St. Michael Lutheran Church and School in Wayne, Michigan. She was active in different groups and bible studies after retiring from Wayne Westland Community Schools in 2019. Jean loved the Detroit Tigers and was a devoted, lifelong Tigers fan. She was also very active in the St. Michael Youth Group and dedicated her time and talent to them.

Jean loved deeply and fiercely. She found joy in being grandma to her 8 grandkids. Jean is survived by her husband Jeff, son Aaron (Elizabeth) Rider, daughters, Bethany (Jacob) Brown, Sarah (Alexander) Grougan, son David Rider, her grandkids, Hannah Grougan, Benjamin Grougan, Luke Grougan, Aletheia Rider, Levi Grougan, John Rider, Eliana Grougan, and Josiah Rider, as well as many other family and cousins that she deeply loved.

Please keep Jean's family in your prayers at this difficult time.

If desired in lieu of flowers donations to St. Michael Church in Jean's memory would be appreciated and envelopes will be available at visitation times.

Visitation has been planned for Friday, October 9, 2026, 4-8 p.m. at the David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Drive, Belleville, and a visitation at 1 p.m. with a 2 p.m. service on Saturday, October 10, 2026, at St. Michael Lutheran Church 3003 Hannan Road, Wayne, Mich., 48184, Pastor Andrew Gruenhagen will officiate, burial will follow at Michigan Memorial Park in Flat Rock, Mich.

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APPOINTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

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

- Formally recognized the retirement of Todd Schrecengost after 25 years of service with the Belleville Police Department;
- Declared November 2026 as Family Court Awareness Month to advocate for child safety in custody cases and utilize evidence-based research in training and judicial decisions;
- Authorized the purchase of 200 tons of Morton road salt required for ongoing operations in the amount of \$14,160;
- Discussed a draft Request for Proposals (RFP) for the former city hall building at 6 Main Street, with a vote



expected at the next meeting following council feedback;

- Approved accounts payable in the

Schrecengost (right) retires after 25 years with the Belleville Department. PHOTO | EMILY FLESCHE

amount of \$220,529.78;

Received an update from Deputy Clerk Bellingham regarding the Wayne County Absentee Ballot printing error involving the Belleville Area District Library Board race, noting that new ballots have been received and are being mailed to voters, while old ballots numbered 805 and below should be discarded;

• Heard from Department of Public Works (DPW) Director Nathan Johnson that the Horizon Park Bank Stabilization Project is “in full swing” and on target, adding that the small crew is “working like machines.”

The meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m. Councilmember Jeremiah Beebe was absent and excused.



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A Homecoming Rout



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PHOTO | BLAIR TEMPLE

ON LEFT: Senior Kamari Westbrook celebrates his 5-yard TD reception to give the Tigers their first score. ON RIGHT: Junior Treshawn Reed hauls in a 60-yard TD pass from senior quarterback Kendall Franklin.

Belleville Rolls Past Novi, 55-6, for Fourth Straight Win

Belleville's offense was clicking and its defense was relentless Friday night, as the Tigers rolled past the Novi Wildcats, 55-6, on homecoming night for their fourth consecutive victory.



Stewart B. Gotts
Independent
Reporter

After Novi opened the game with a punt, Belleville needed just seven plays to find the end zone. Senior quarterback Kendall Franklin capped the drive by connecting with fellow senior Kamari Westbrook on a 5-yard touchdown pass. Freshman Lucas Meyer added the extra point to give the Tigers an early 7-0 lead.

The Wildcats answered with a defensive stop and then showed some life on offense, cutting the Belleville lead to 7-6 on a 30-yard touchdown pass. Novi opted to go for two, but the conversion attempt fell incomplete.

Belleville immediately answered ... or appeared to. On the ensuing kickoff, Charles Britton III raced 88



PHOTO | BLAIR TEMPLE

yards to the end zone, but the touchdown was wiped out by a holding penalty. Instead of six points, the Tigers took over at their own 33-yard line.

It hardly mattered.

Two plays later, Franklin found junior Treshawn Seed streaking down the sideline for a 60-yard

< The Tigers defense was suffocating as it held the Wildcats to 6 points in a 55-6 romp for their 4th straight victory.

touchdown. Meyer's extra point pushed the Belleville lead to 14-6 with 1:57 remaining in the first quarter, and the Tigers never looked back.

Belleville continued to pour it on in the second quarter, scoring three touchdowns to take a commanding 35-6 lead into halftime.

Senior Trenton Foley found the end zone twice on touchdown runs of 10 and 5 yards, while Franklin connected with junior Dylan McMullan for a 60-yard touchdown strike to cap the first-half scoring.

The second half brought more of the same.

Britton III broke loose for a 60-yard reverse in the third quarter for his second touchdown of the night. Later in the quarter, Cameron Sims took a pitch from Franklin and raced 25 yards for another score, extending the Tigers' advantage to 48-6.

Belleville added one final touchdown in the fourth quarter when senior Geonte Morris broke through the middle and rumbled 50 yards to the end zone, putting the finishing touches on a 55-6 victory.

With the win, Belleville improves to 4-2 on the season and will return home this week to face the Northville Mustangs, who enter the matchup at 5-1. Kickoff is scheduled for 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 9.

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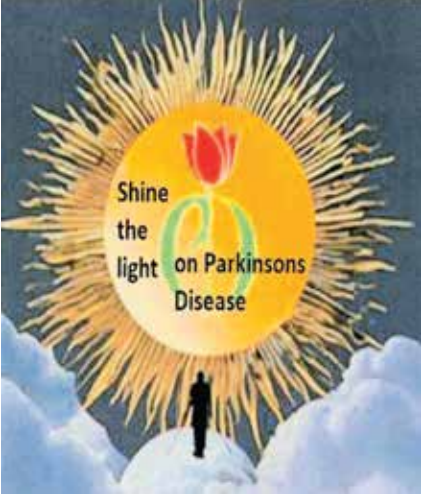
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Dungeons and Draughts Opens in Van Buren Township

Heavy wooden furniture and salvaged 19th-century cathedral windows welcome visitors into the fantasy world of Dungeons and Draughts, a tabletop gaming tavern holding its grand opening in Van Buren Township on Oct. 16.

Owners Hannah and Braden Jones said the idea for this unique venue came from real-life experience. As a frequent visitor to game stores, Braden noticed that most of them offered no food or drink, leading players to leave when they got hungry. He thought, "It'd be cool if you could have both."



Emily Flesch
Independent
Reporter

Van Buren Township was the "perfect sweet spot" when searching for a location, said Hannah, as they wanted to fill a gap in a community that did not already have a local game store.

The tabletop game library at Dungeons and Draughts has something for everyone, ranging from family-friendly titles like Clue and Outburst to complex strategy and puzzle games. Those who prefer something simple can grab a deck of playing cards or create something illuminating on a Lite Brite.

The tavern will also host a weekly lineup of events. Thursday nights, for example, will feature back-to-back trivia games, with general knowledge at 7 p.m. and a rotating theme or fandom at 8 p.m. Future plans include euchre and video game tournaments, interactive events, and beginner Dungeons &



< Dungeons and Draughts owners, Hanna and Braden Jones. PHOTOS | EMILY FLESCH

Dragons instruction with experienced Dungeon Masters.

The menu keeps things straightforward, with savory food options like black bean burgers and pot pies from Ackroyd's Scottish Bakery. For lighter snacks, there's a wide variety of munchies including pretzels, Bosco Sticks, hummus, desserts and even giant pickles, in a nod to traditional Renaissance Festival fare. A rotating selection of craft beers will be offered alongside wine, mead, soft drinks and cold-brew coffee.

Hannah and Braden emphasized a desire to source from local vendors and artists whenever possible, from the beer lineup to handmade merchandise. They even plan to display and sell local artists' work on consignment.

The biggest message Hannah and Braden have for the community is not to be afraid to visit alone. They want Dungeons and Draughts to be a place for "fellow nerds" to come together and forge new friendships. "Players Wanted" signs are available for solo visitors and groups looking to grow.

The Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce is holding a ribbon-cutting ceremony for Dungeons and Draughts on Oct. 16 at 2 p.m.

Dungeons and Draughts is located at 1000 Sumpter Rd. and will be open Tuesday through Sunday. Hours and additional information can be found at dungeonsanddraughts.com.

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RAIN DATE: OCTOBER 24



Bring the whole family out for some free Halloween fun at Quirk Park! Kids can walk a short, festive trail and collect treats from local businesses and community groups. Dress for the weather and a great time outdoors.

Parking is available at the Van Buren Community Center, behind Township Hall on Tyler Road.

Registration is suggested to allow for easy communication if the event is rescheduled due to weather.



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Business Briefs for the Belleville Area

Pinter's, 6830 Rawsonville Road, marks 100 years in business with a Customer Appreciation Day Oct. 17 from noon-4 p.m. The event will include sales, food trucks, and giveaways. Owner Debbie Blackstone says everyone will leave with at least one door prize. Pinter's was established in 1926 by Blackstone's great-grandfather as a farm, with greenhouses added later. The family flower farm has both a retail flower side and a wholesale side, providing the garden center Frank's with flowers for decades.

~~~~~

The **Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce**, in partnership with **HealthMarkets**, hosts a monthly networking session from 8-9 a.m. on the first Thursday of each month at different locations each time. The Nov. 5 event takes place with the Lakeside Singers at Faith Community Church, 894 E. Huron River Dr. The Dec. 3 event is scheduled for **Crafted Beanery & Gift Shop**, 381 Main St.

~~~~~

A new fantasy-inspired tavern featuring board gaming called **Dungeons and Draughts** will host its



grand opening with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 2 p.m. Oct. 16 at 1000 Sumpter Rd.

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A **Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce** social media competition asked Belleville area residents to name the best locally-made burger. The winner was **Sam's Bar and Grill**, 40675 Bemis Road in Sumpter. The owners received a plaque from the chamber to celebrate the win.

~~~~~

Trinity Health IHA Medical Group recently announced the opening of two new medical centers: one in Belleville and one in Oxford. Trinity Health Medical Center - Belleville is located at 51341 W. Huron River Drive and opened Monday, Oct. 6.

Forkstrike, a free site that gives every Metro Detroit restaurant a 0 to 100 Strike Score built only from the last 180 days of reviews, gave high scores to two Belleville-area restaurants. The local restaurant with the highest score is Shawarma Valley with a score of 93.

Things to do in the Belleville Area

- **Thursday, Oct. 8** – Classic movie night at the Belleville Area District Library, 6 p.m. Tonight: 3:10 To Yuma. Also, film discussion with John Monaghan.
- **Thursday, Oct. 8** – Support group for the blind and visually impaired, Sumpter Community Center, 23501 Sumpter Rd., noon-1:30 p.m. Meet and greet Tyrone, Julie, Ken, Denise, and Victoria and celebrate Tyrone's birthday. Transportation available for Sumpter, Belleville, and Van Buren residents. For rides, call 734-461-9373.
- **Saturday, Oct. 10** – Van Buren Fire Department Pancake Breakfast, 9 a.m.-noon, Van Buren Fire Station 2. Meet a firefighter, participate in a raffle, eat

- pancakes and sausages, and celebrate the fire department's 75th anniversary. \$5 tickets include pancakes, sausage links, coffee, juice, or milk.
- **Saturday, Oct. 10** – HarvestFest, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Belleville Area District Library & 4th Street Place. Tractor Parade, Harvest Market, Food Vendors, live music, nickel dig, and more.
- **Saturday, Oct. 10** – Open Arms Annual Harvest Festival & Trunk or Treat, 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Open Arms Lutheran Church on Belleville Rd. Includes a helicopter candy drop at 12:30.
- **Saturday, Oct. 10** – Animal Magic Annual Halloween Party, 5-8 p.m.,

- 46110 Judd Rd. Free candy, food, and drink for visitors, opportunity to win raffle baskets.
- **Saturday, Oct. 10** – Jasen Magic close-up magic and comedy act at 7 p.m. at the Van Buren Community Center. Ages 18+, \$20 general admission.
- **Monday, Oct. 12** – Farmers Market, 4-7:30 p.m., and Main Street Auto Show, 5-8 p.m. in downtown Belleville.
- **Wednesday, Oct. 14** – WCCCD hosts College night from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at 9555 Haggerty Rd. Get information on more than 40 colleges and universities, as well as the Armed Forces.
- **Thursday, Oct. 15** – Zion Well instructors host sunset yoga at the Michigan Flight Museum's Roush

- Aeronautics Center, 7-8 p.m., \$35 per person. Repeats Nov. 19.
- **Saturday, Oct. 17** – Monster Mutt Walk, noon-2 p.m., starting at 4th Street Place. Registration is noon-12:30. The fee is \$10 plus a can of dog or cat food. First 40 to register get a goody bag. Pet costume contest with prizes, with medals for first through third place in four categories. In partnership with Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue.
- **Saturday, Oct. 17** – Adult Prom at the Van Buren Eagles #3996, 9961 Beck Rd. Doors open at 5 p.m., catered dinner at 6 p.m. The event includes a DJ and crowning of king and queen. Tickets are \$25 at the bar.

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Orphan of the Week

PEGGY



MEET PEGGY!

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Peggy recently spent time in a foster home with another dog and did amazing. She's also potty trained and ready to settle into a forever home. She may need a little patience while she learns a new routine, but she's eager to please and full of personality.

Peggy loves her zoomies, cuddles, sunshine, and making people laugh. She's the whole package—a goofy, loving girl who is ready to find her family!

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 **BELLEVILLE-AREA INDEPENDENT**

Steven's Can-Do Spirit Helps Fill the Food Pantry

Marilyn Wood, head of the Belleville United Methodist Church's Emergency Food Closet wrote to us about an outstanding volunteer. She writes:

Steven Dolot, a non-verbal adult with multiple challenges, has been returning pop bottles and cans that the congregation of Belleville First United Methodist Church and community residents have donated.

With staff and family, over \$14,000 has been donated to the Emergency Food Closet since the Fall of 2020. That's over 140,000 donated cans and bottles returned! This donation has filled many, many bags with food! This fundraiser has not only benefited the Emergency Food Closet, but according to Steven's mom, a former educator, it's been a valuable skill-building activity for Steven as well as an opportunity for the family to serve and reconnect with the community after the pandemic.

To continue their efforts, returnable bottles/cans that are rinsed and bagged, can be dropped off at Belleville First United Methodist Church, 417 Charles St., Tuesday-Thursday between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Thanks to everyone who has



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donated bottles and cans. Thanks to Steven for his dedication to fight food insecurity in Van Buren and Sumpter Townships and the City of Belleville.

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Saturday, October 10
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7-8 PM
 Ages 18+
 \$20 General Admission
 \$18 VBC Member
 \$16 Seniors / Students

 Save \$5 off General Admission with the purchase of 10+ tickets
 **Van Buren Community Center**
 vbcinfo@VBTmi.gov 734.699.8921 <https://vbtvbc.ludus.com>

Musings



Janet Millard
Advertising Director

Well, October is here and it is time to enjoy The Pumpkin Factory. They are celebrating 50 years of bringing Halloween fun to the greater Belleville area. See their ad in the paper with all the activities you are used to and maybe a few more!

~~~~~

If you have been paying attention to our ads, you should have noticed that the Belleville Central Business Community, the Belleville Area District Library and the Belleville Area Museum will have their annual Harvest Fest this Saturday.

We are all looking forward to the many free events for the kids, the Tractor Parade and, of course, the first visit from the Lake Erie Hexenbrut. The Harvest Market is full and this year they will even have a few Young Makers. Bring the kids and enjoy the fall weather at 4th and Main.

~~~~~

The residents of the Belleville Co-op on Sumpter Road are having another of their famous Rummage Sales on Oct. 8, 9 & 10 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The weather is still cooperating so come and enjoy a good shopping weekend.

~~~~~

The Belleville Community Chorus is celebrating Booville by having a Music Bingo fundraiser at the Baitshop Bar on

Tuesday, October 20 from 6- 8 p.m. Only \$20 for three rounds plus a coverall.

~~~~~

This month brings the last of the lecture series for the year at the Belleville Area Museum. They had a waitlist last month, so be sure to get your reservation in early for the Thursday, Oct. 29 program by Nikki Pickeral. Nikki will be speaking on Solemn Echoes: Uncovering the dark and eerie practices of Victorian death culture. To make sure you have a seat email bam@vbtmi.gov or call (734) 697-1944. Next month the Museum will be gearing up for the Festival of Holiday Trees. Keep watching for information so you can put up a tree this year for your business, organization, or family.

~~~~~

LifePoint Church is preparing for The Bash on Friday, Oct. 16 at 6 p.m. Located at 45170 Hull, this family friendly annual gathering brings great fun for the littles with trunk or treat, hayrides, games and, of course, lots of candy!!

~~~~~

Well, Novi HS fell to our Tigers just as I supposed they would. It is always good to win Homecoming and the final score tells it all – Belleville 55 vs. Novi 06. Did I hear someone say crushed?? BHS has another home game on Friday. Sure hope Northville HS is ready to lose gracefully. This game may be a little more challenging, but I'll have on my lucky T-shirt, so no worries!. Come on boys, let's hear you ROAR!

Commission Overrides Veto of Data Center Tax Break

Tax breaks for the proposed data center in Van Buren Township have been a hot topic at Wayne County commission meetings over the last few weeks.

Wayne County commissioners voted unanimously Oct. 1 to override County Executive Warren Evans' veto of \$125 million in tax incentives and a community benefits agreement tied to a proposed Google data center in Van Buren Township.

The 13-0 vote, with two commissioners absent, reinstates the commission's Sept. 15 approval of the incentive package for "Project Cannoli," a 282-acre hyperscale data center planned east of Haggerty Road and north of the I-94 North Service Drive. Developer Panattoni has proposed three data-processing buildings for Google, plus an administrative building and two network service buildings.

Evans vetoed the package Sept. 25, calling the process "rushed" and saying Google had pressed the county to act within about two weeks on a proposal with long-term consequences for residents, infrastructure, water and energy resources, and county finances.

Evans said the county should focus more on the public interest and shouldn't be rushed by a private corporation's sense of urgency about the deal.

After the override, Evans said he stands by his concerns but accepted the outcome.

Commission Chair Alisha Bell, who had called

the negotiated package "lucrative" for the county, said the Sept. 15 vote remains in effect.

Commissioners stressed that Thursday's vote did not approve construction of the data center itself, only the county's role in the tax benefits under state law. Final authority over the project and the local tax abatement rests with Van Buren Township, whose Planning Commission is expected to vote on the final site plan Oct. 14.

Among those voting to override was Commissioner Allen Wilson, whose district includes Van Buren Township. Wilson said he had previously voted against the project but changed his position after getting more information, including the potential for union jobs.

The facility is projected to use 2 million to 3.6 million gallons of water per day and about one gigawatt of power. Google and DTE Energy have proposed a 2.7-gigawatt portfolio of renewable energy and storage to support it; the Michigan Public Service Commission approved a supply agreement between DTE and Google on Oct. 1.

The project has drawn opposition from some township residents over water use, electricity demand, noise and utility costs — opposition that fueled a recall effort against nine township officials, including the supervisor and the entire Board of Trustees.

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Upcoming Meetings

■ **Thursday, Oct. 8** - Keystone Academy school board, 5 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township Planning Commission, 6 p.m. Also, Belleville Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.

■ **Monday, Oct. 12** - Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m., BHS Commons

■ **Tuesday, Oct. 13** - Sumpter Township Board of Trustees, 6 p.m. Also, Belleville Area District Library Board, 7:30 p.m.

■ **Wednesday, Oct. 14** - Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 5:30 p.m.

■ **Monday, Oct. 19** - Belleville City Council, 6:30 p.m.

■ **Tuesday, Oct. 20** - Van Buren Township Board of

Trustees, 6 p.m., with 5 p.m. work/study as needed.

■ **Wednesday, Oct. 21** - Belleville DDA board meeting, 6 p.m.

■ **Monday, Oct. 26** - Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m., BHS Commons.

■ **Tuesday, Oct. 27** - Sumpter Township Board of Trustees, 6 p.m. Also, Van Buren DDA board meeting, 3 p.m.

■ **Wednesday, Oct. 28** - Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 5:30 p.m.

■ **Monday, Nov. 2** - Belleville City Council, 6:30 p.m.

Letters to the Editor

Township Decisions
Should Include
Community Voices

To the editor:

“Males as a group have and do benefit the most from patriarchy, from the assumption that they are superior to females and should rule over us. But those benefits have come with a price. In return for all the goodies men receive from patriarchy, they are required to dominate women, to exploit and oppress us, using violence if they must to keep patriarchy intact. Most men find it difficult to be patriachs. Most men are disturbed by hatred and fear of women, by male violence against women, even the men who perpetuate this violence. But they fear letting go of the benefits. They are not certain what will happen to the world they know most intimately if patriarchy changes. So they find it easier to passively support male domination even when they know in their minds and hearts that it is wrong.” – bell hooks

In honor of recent happenings locally and throughout the country, this quote felt important to share.

Decisions are to be made together, not almost exclusively by men who communicate only within their own sphere of influence. That sphere is far too small to encompass the thoughts and opinions of those who work tirelessly every day - not just at 9-to-5 jobs, but at 6-to-6 jobs - while also caring for children.

The children who will carry the burden of the decisions made today.

Many of those children already fight for their health and well-being every

day, without the added environmental trauma being brought into the places intended to be their safe spaces: their homes and communities.

In my heart of hearts, I do not believe the VBT Board of Trustees has acted in good faith, based on the information I have seen. Township officials signed nondisclosure agreements surrounding Project Cannoli while this massive development was being discussed and planned. By the time residents were given the opportunity to fully understand what was happening, decisions were already in motion.

That is exactly the problem. Decisions that will affect generations of people should not be made within a small sphere of influence and then explained to the rest of us afterward.

I urge you to please follow Stop Data Center 48111 on Facebook and pay attention to the hyper-local information being shared there.

Please consider stopping by one of our many locations to sign the recall petitions, and look for the folks in aprons:

Saturday the 10th: Volunteers will be wandering Harvest Fest by the Belleville Library from 11 a.m.–3 p.m.

Every Sunday from 1–3 p.m. at Horizon Park

Every Monday at the Car Show from 5–7 p.m.

Or shoot us an email, and we will have someone come to your home: SpilltheVBTea@protonmail.com

I’m looking forward to helping each of you build a better VBT with a brighter future.

Jenn Smith
BHS Grad, Class of '02
VBT Recall Committee Member

Birthdays

- Oct. 8 – Stewart B. Temple
- Oct. 10 – Anna Smith
- Oct. 11 – Sheila Dufek
- Oct. 12 – Angela Jones
- Oct. 12 – Korena Johnson
- Oct. 12 – Pierre Rice
- Oct. 12 – Todd Schrecengost

- Oct. 14 – MJ Dawson
- Oct. 14 – Shane Convery

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

Say Cheese



Donna Hogue of Van Buren Township took a copy of the Independent with her to visit her father Jim Takacs during the Cheeseburger in Caseville Festival in August. Hogue reports: A great time and lots of food and fun enjoyed in Caseville, MI.

Van Buren Township Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN
PLANNING COMMISSION
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Charter Township of Van Buren Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on **October 28th, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.** The meeting will be held in person at Van Buren Township Hall, located at **46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, MI 48111**, in the Board Room.

Child Care Institutions – Ordinance Amendment. A proposed amendment to Sections 2.102, 3.104, 5.109, and 5.112 of the Van Buren Township Zoning Ordinance will be considered. The amendment is intended to incorporate definitions for child care organizations and other licensed child care uses as outlined by the State of Michigan.

Please address any written comments to the Van Buren Township Planning Commission at, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, MI 48111 or by e-mail to bwilliams@vbtmi.gov. Written comments will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. on the hearing date and all materials relating to this request are available for public inspection at the Van Buren Township Hall prior to the hearing.

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

Posted: September 29, 2026
Published: October 08, 2026

City of Belleville Public Notice

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN BY THE UNDERSIGNED THAT ON **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2026** at 10:30 AM., at Region Towing, 45908 Bemis Rd., Belleville, County of Wayne, Michigan, a public sale of the following vehicles will be held:

- 2018, CHEVROLET, MALIBU, VIN: 1G1ZD5ST6JF199434
- 2016, FORD, EXPLORER, VIN: 1FM5K8F81GGB25890

BELLEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT
330 CHARLES ST.
BELLEVILLE, MICHIGAN 48111

MICHELLE BELLINGHAM, INTERIM CLERK
PUBLISH: October 8, 2026

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, September 27:
0119 Operating while intoxicated, E Huron River Dr/Potter Dr
1433 Suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, E Columbia Ave
1521 Assist fire department, W Columbia Ave

Monday, September 28:
0204 Found property/child, W Columbia Ave
0959 Vehicle lockout, Sumpter Rd
1526 Vehicle lockout, Main St
1620 Animal complaint, W Columbia Ave
2041 Assault & battery, Main St

Tuesday, September 29:
0022 Welfare check, Church St
0743 Warrant arrest, S Highlander
0857 Ordinance violation, W Columbia Ave
0948 Larceny, N Liberty St
1409 Property damage accident, Sumpter Rd (missing time stamp)
Animal complaint, Henry St

Wednesday, September 30:
1234 Domestic, Menlo Park Dr
1648 Suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Owen St
2250 Ordinance violation, N Liberty St
2318 Suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, N Liberty St

Thursday, October 1:
1413 Disorderly, Sumpter Rd
1512 Suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, W Columbia Ave/Edison Ave
1527 Suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, High St/Roys St
1608 Trespassing, Owen St
1609 Property damage accident, W Columbia Ave
1742 Assist fire department, Breakwater Ct
2120 Alarm intrusion, Sumpter Rd
2152 Assist fire department, W Columbia Ave

Friday, October 2:
0020 Alarm intrusion, E Columbia Ave
0849 Abandoned auto, Wexford Ave
1147 911 welfare check, E Columbia Ave
1320 Private property impound, Carmell
1338 Fraud, Belle Villa Blvd
1414 Property damage accident, Denton Rd/Main St
1830 Alarm intrusion, W Davis St
1929 Vehicle lockout, N Liberty St
1950 Parking complaint, West Columbia
2100 Juvenile complaint, W Wabash Ave
2239 Alarm intrusion, Sumpter Rd
2349 Assist other department, W Columbia Ave

Saturday, October 3:
0754 Assist fire department, Sumpter Rd
1200 Suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Huron River/High
1313 Abandoned auto, N Liberty St
1430 Assist other department, Quirk Rd
1451 Juvenile complaint, Main St
1546 Trespassing, S Biggs Ave
1654 Domestic, Carmell St

Totals for this log: 30 traffic stops, 5 property checks, 2 misc. complaints removed

These logs also contained 30 traffic stops, 5 property checks, and 2 misc. complaints.

Van Buren Twp. Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, September 27:
0026 Noise complaint, Holly Ln
0044 Suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Parkwood Dr
0122 Property damage accident, Brookside Dr
0230 Larceny, S Bellridge Dr
0757 Suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Belleville
0821 Suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Chan-

lder Dr
0824 Suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Country Ln
0918 Welfare check, Riggs Rd
1039 Assault & battery, Haggerty Rd
1201 Welfare check, Lindsey Dr
1225 Domestic, Maple Dr
1409 Threat, Oak Blvd
1531 Vehicle lockout, Parkwood Dr
1621 Suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Belleville Rd
1802 Domestic, Brandi Dr
1851 Civil matter, S Ponderosa Trl
1927 Fraud, N I-94 Service Drive
1947 911 welfare check, Parkwood Dr
2009 Disorderly, Parkwood Dr
2037 Animal complaint, Michigan Ave
2055 Parking complaint, Hanover Dr/N Cumberland Dr

Monday, September 28:
0035 Assist citizen, Speedway
0119 Motorist assist, E I-94/Belleville
0127 911 welfare check, Purple Sage Ct
0148 911 welfare check, Tyler Rd
0355 Suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Oak Ln
0415 Noise complaint, Tallgrass Ct
0507 Alarm intrusion, Samuel Barton Dr
0653 Assault & battery, Michigan Ave (missing time stamp)
Assist fire department, Landmark
0722 Retail fraud, Belleville Rd
0911 Larceny, Birch Dr
0954 Welfare check, Country Ln
1052 Larceny from auto, S I-94 Service Dr (missing time stamp)
Repossession, Lighthouse Dr
1057 Bank detail-VB only, Belleville
1200 Larceny from auto, S I-94 Service Dr
1214 Welfare check, Parkwood Dr (missing time stamp)
Warrant arrest, Wayne County CJ Center
1216 Suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Belleville Rd
1258 Warrant arrest, Russell St
1307 Larceny from auto, Belleville Rd
1442 Property damage accident, Haggerty Rd/Tyler Rd

Tyler Rd
1620 Property damage accident, Belleville Rd/Tyler Rd
1633 Larceny from auto, S I-94 Service Dr
1707 Juvenile complaint, Belleville
1714 Unauthorized driving away of automobile, S I-94 Service Dr
1850 Suicidal person, Country Ln
1851 Property damage accident, Sumpter Rd/Bemis Rd
1906 Disorderly, Lighthouse Dr (missing time stamp)
Harassment call, Holly Ln
2030 Disorderly, Rawsonville Rd
2031 Welfare check, Richard Run Dr
2054 Suicidal person, Sylvia Dr
2148 Harassment call, Sylvia Dr
2224 Juvenile complaint, S I-94 Service Dr
2257 Harassment call, Beckley Rd
2344 Domestic, Parkwood Dr

Tuesday, September 29:
0008 Neighbor trouble, America
0735 Animal complaint, Barkley St
0735 Civil matter, S I-94 Service Dr
0810 Property damage accident, Tyler Rd/Roland Meadows Dr
1008 Harassment call, Parkwood Dr
1041 Juvenile complaint, S I-94 Service Dr
1049 Ordinance violation, McBride Ave
1119 Ordinance violation, Ecorse Rd
1203 Civil matter, Martinsville Rd
1239 Fraud, Ladonna Ln
1243 Leaving the scene property damage accident, N I-94 Service Dr
1300 Harassment call, Ecorse Rd
1414 Property damage accident, Sumpter Rd
1428 Bank detail-VB only, Belleville
1444 Domestic, S I-94 Service Dr
1534 Motorist assist, Belleville Rd/N I-94 Service Dr
1630 Suicidal person, Colony Ln
1638 Property damage accident, Ecorse Rd
1705 Suicidal person, S I-94 Service Dr
1719 Animal complaint, Henry St
1824 Domestic, Rawsonville Rd

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1846 Assist citizen, Tyler Rd
1930 Follow up by officer, S I-94 Service Dr
2004 Sex offender registration, Fret Rd
2030 Sex offender registration, Renton Rd
2033 Suspicious person/veh/circumstance, Park-wood Dr
2046 Sex offender registration, Rose Blvd
2120 Suspicious person/veh/circumstance, Sandle-wood Dr
2125 Suspicious person/veh/circumstance, America
2135 Assist other dept, Rawsonville Rd/Bemis Rd
2248 Welfare check, Westlake Cir

Wednesday, September 30:
(missing time stamp) Repossession, Parkwood Dr
0056 Suspicious person/veh/circumstance, Belleville Rd
0222 Suspicious person/veh/circumstance, Belleville Rd
0639 Welfare check, Meadows Ln
0707 Background investigation, Tyler Rd
(missing time stamp) Private property impound, Belleville Rd
0826 Bank detail-VB only, Belleville
0827 Unattended death, Tyler Rd
0841 Unattended death, Denton Rd
0945 Larceny from auto, Denton Rd
1031 Retail fraud, Belleville Rd
1101 Property damage accident, Belleville Rd/Ecorse Rd
1117 Welfare check, Country Ln
1200 Suspicious person/veh/circumstance, Main/Huron River Dr
1224 911 welfare check, Parkwood Dr
1256 Suspicious person/veh/circumstance, Cobble-stone Creek Dr
1316 Pp pda, Belleville Rd
1406 Follow up by officer, Ecorse Rd
1533 Civil matter, Beck Rd
1606 Property damage accident, Belleville Rd
1625 Sexual assault, Bog Rd
1840 Domestic, Greenbriar Ct
2148 Leaving the scene property damage accident, S Ponderosa Trl
2205 Welfare check, Dewitt Rd

Thursday, October 1:
0043 Assist citizen, S I-94 Service Dr
0710 Civil matter, Pebblebrook Dr
0946 Suspicious person/veh/circumstance, S I-94 Service Dr
1044 Personal injury accident, Belleville Rd/N I-94 Service Dr
(missing time stamp) Repossession, Assembly St
1343 Assist other dept, Brandi Dr
1403 Ordinance violation, Van Buren St
1407 Fraud, Marina Dr
1410 Found property/child, Belleville Rd
1434 Domestic, Tyler Rd
1505 Bank detail-VB only, Belleville
1541 Ppo violation, E Huron River Dr
1553 Sexual assault, Pebblebrook Dr
1650 Suspicious person/veh/circumstance, Belleville Rd
1716 Fight, Rawsonville Rd
1846 Trespassing, Belleville Rd
1849 Animal complaint, Tyler Rd
1855 Harassment call, Belleville Rd
1913 Road hazard, Belleville Rd/Ecorse Rd
(missing time stamp) Assist other dept, Tyler Rd
2007 Neighbor troub, Freedom Way
2024 Missing person, Richard Run Dr
2038 Family trouble, S I-94 Service Dr
2126 Suspicious person/veh/circumstance, Union St
2151 Civil matter, Country Ln
2248 Property damage accident, Haggerty Rd/Ecorse Rd

Friday, October 2:
0623 Property damage accident, Bog Rd/Hoeft Rd
0958 Trespassing, Haggerty Rd
1015 Retail fraud, Belleville Rd
1033 Threat, Victoria St
1039 Civil matter, Ruthan Drive
1122 Assist other dept, Belleville Rd
1339 Retail fraud, Belleville Rd
1443 Assault & battery, Quirk Rd
1519 Assist fire dept, W Huron River Dr
1600 911 welfare check, Meadows Cir
1627 Ppo violation, W Archwood Dr
(missing time stamp) Missing person, Ecorse Rd

1839 Welfare check, N I-94 Service Dr/Oak Ln
1900 Alarm intrusion, Belleville Rd
1923 Assist other dept, S I-94 Service Dr
2050 Assist other dept, S I-94 Service Dr
2051 Assist citizen, WB I-94/Rawsonville Rd
2131 Assist other dept, S I-94 Service Dr
2138 Assist other dept, S I-94 Service Dr
2148 Suspicious person/veh/circumstance, Robson Rd
2158 Alarm intrusion, Hannan Rd
2221 Traffic offense, Van Born Rd/Morton Taylor Rd
2244 Assault & battery, Locust Dr
2254 Mental subj, Rolan Meadows Dr
2312 Alarm intrusion, Belleville Rd
(missing time stamp) Repossession, Waters Edge Ln

Saturday, October 3:
0108 Domestic, N I-94 Service Drive
0242 Noise complaint, Kent Ln
0433 Suspicious person/veh/circumstance, Bel-leville/Quirk Rd
0526 Noise complaint, Peninsular Dr
0633 Domestic, S I-94 Service Dr
0633 911 welfare check, Oak Ln
0644 Suspicious person/veh/circumstance, N I-94 Service Drive
0653 911 welfare check, Savage Rd/Country Walk Blvd
(missing time stamp) Repossession, Wheeler St
0925 Animal complaint, Martz Rd
1001 911 welfare check, Jeannette Ave
1012 Property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd/Martz Rd
1140 Suspicious person/veh/circumstance, Hag-gerty Rd
1156 Pp pda, Savage Rd/Haggerty Rd
1157 Civil matter, Maple Dr
1227 Welfare check, Bemis Rd
1303 Harassment call, Ruthan Dr
1315 Private property impound, Belleville
1337 Traffic offense, Martz Rd/Elwell Rd
1343 Assist other dept, Red Oak Dr
1404 Threat, Harbour Club
1404 Property damage accident, Belleville
1426 Juvenile compl, Quirk Rd
1438 Family trouble, Bemis Rd
1512 Assist fire dept, Belleville Rd
1539 Animal complaint, Westlake Cir
1627 Suicidal person, Quirk Rd
1638 Property damage accident, Rawsonville
1714 Assault & battery, Lake Villa Dr
1721 Found property/child, Westlake
1812 Missing person, Quirk Rd
1913 Traffic offense, Michigan Ave/Denton Rd
2127 Suspicious person/veh/circumstance, Raw-sonville
2135 Personal injury accident, Ecorse Rd
2203 Assist other dept, Lauren Ct
2221 Suspicious person/veh/circumstance, Park Estates Dr
2230 Domestic, Locust Cir

These logs also contained 53 traffic stops, 2 property checks, and 2 misc. complaints.

Sumpter Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, September 27:
0209 Assist fire dept, Redwood St
0247 Civil matter, Willis Rd
1423 Found property, Savage Rd/Harris Rd
1437 Property damage accident, Bemis Rd
2032 Assist other agency, Washington St

Monday, September 28:
0127 Suspicious person, Dakota Ct
0345 Noise complaint, 1st St
0606 Assist fire dept, Harris Rd/Savage Rd
0735 Welfare check, Brookview Dr
0934 Suspicious circumstance, Judd Rd
1231 Suspicious person, Brookview Dr
1346 Assist fire dept, Judd Rd
1828 Mental health call, Dunn Rd
1958 Suspicious person, Rustic Ln/Carriage Ln
2146 Family trouble, Arizona St

Public Safety Briefs

FORMER VBT POLICE LIEUTENANT FACES TAMPERING CHARGE

Marc Louis Abdilla, 52, a former Van Buren Township Police lieutenant, is facing two felony charges in the 34th District Court in Romulus, according to court records.

Abdilla was charged Sept. 15 with common law offenses under MCL 750.505 and tampering with evidence under MCL 750.483a(6)(a), both felo-nies tied to an alleged incident on Jan. 19. The common-law-offenses statute covers acts punishable at common law but not defined elsewhere in state law and carries up to five years in prison; tampering with evidence carries up to 10 years.

The case is being prosecuted by the Wayne County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office. Abdilla is represented by attor-ney Benjamin James Hall.

Abdilla was arraigned before Judge Lisa M. Robinson Martin on Sept. 22 and released on a \$5,000 personal bond. The case remains open, with a review hearing scheduled for Oct. 30. Court records list the case as 2026-26-0722-FY and show no further action taken since the arraignment.

MCPHERSON SENTENCED TO 22-40 YEARS FOR MURDER

David Paul McPherson, a 39-year-old Van Buren Township man charged with the death of 24-year-old Haleigh Pace, was sentenced to 22-40 years in prison on Sept. 29.

The death was originally reported as a suicide at the victim’s home on Mon-tana Street in the Holiday West Mobile

Home Community on June 29. After an investigation, McPherson, her live-in boyfriend, was arrested and charged with her murder.

McPherson was arraigned in the 34th District Court on charges filed by the Wayne County Prosecutor’s Office, including second-degree homicide and felony firearm possession.

Following a nine-day jury trial, McPherson was found guilty of both counts.

POLICE NAB BELLEVILLE WOMAN SUSPECTED OF SERIAL ARSON

According to a release from the Washtenaw County Sheriff’s Office Oct. 5, a woman responsible for setting fire to several utility poles in and around Ypsi-lanti Township was arrested in Sumpter Township.

The arrest came after a series of at least five utility pole fires between Sept. 29 and Oct. 1

During the investigation a suspect was identified based on vehicle descriptions, witness statements and video footage. Several other jurisdictions within the state that were also targeted.

A 38-year-old Belleville woman was arrested in Sumpter Township in con-nection with these arsons. The motive for the arsons is unknown and currently under investigation by the Washtenaw County Sheriff’s Office as well as the other jurisdictions affected. Anyone with any additional information on the arsons which occurred in Washtenaw County are urged to contact us at 734-994-2911 or 734-973-7711.

Tuesday, September 29:
0313 Alarm, Willis Rd
0717 UDAA, Nevada St
0852 Suspicious circumstance, Harris Rd/Martins-ville Rd
0933 Juvenile matter, Rustic Ln
1002 Welfare check, Delaware St
1103 Harassment complaint, Virginia St
1219 Mental health call, Nevada St
1231 Civil matter, Willow Rd
1422 Assist other agency, Rawsonville Rd
1444 Property damage accident, Willis Rd/Mar-tinsville Rd
1512 Assist fire dept, Bemis Rd
1524 Animal complaint, Arkona Rd/Clark Rd
2014 Property damage accident, Oakville Waltz Rd/Martinsville Rd
2034 Noise complaint, Magnolia Dr
2038 Follow-up investigation, Nevada St
2102 Shots fired, Willis Rd
2133 Juvenile matter, Rustic Ln
2311 Suspicious circumstance, Elwell Rd

1810 Harassment complaint, Rawsonville Rd
1812 Suspicious circumstance, Sully Dr
2104 911 hangup, Birch
2148 911 hangup, Wear Rd
2158 Assist other agency, Birch
2303 Shots fired, Sumpter Rd/Willow Rd
2317 Assist fire dept, Elwell Rd
2326 Family trouble, Bohn Rd

Thursday, October 1:
0531 911 hangup, Dunn Rd
0854 Suspicious person, Delaware St/California St
1209 Suspicious circumstance, Sumpter Rd
1317 Assist fire dept, Sherwood Rd
1422 Welfare check, Colorado St
1704 911 hangup, Elwell Rd
1705 Harassment complaint, Oregon St
1927 Shots fired, Elwell Rd/Judd Rd
2012 Follow-up investigation, Dakota Ct
2020 Civil matter, Paris Dr
2120 Assist other agency, Brookview Dr
2300 Family trouble, Oregon St

Friday, October 2:
0317 Citizen assist, Sumpter Rd
0348 Assist fire dept, 2nd St
1050 Assist other agency, Judd Rd
1059 Death investigation, Bemis Rd
1225 Traffic complaint/hazard, Sumpter Rd/Willis Rd
1331 Follow-up investigation, Bemis Rd
1419 Harassment complaint, Sumpter Rd
1422 Civil matter, Oregon St
1429 Welfare check, Bemis Rd



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A SECLUDED LOG CABIN IS WAITING. Brand New Roof. Septic just pumped and approved. 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 Baths, Fireplace with Walkout to Deck. 9.6 Acres. \$455,000



9205 BEMIS, YPSILANTI TOWNSHIP

THIS HOME HAS MORE SPACE THAN SPACE 5 Bedroom, 3 Bath 3,350 sf Country Home on 10 Acres. Detached 3 Car Garage and attached to a 1,200 sf Pole Barn. \$695,000.



29515 CHARLES, ROMULUS

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48620 WEAR, SUMPTER TOWNSHIP

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46026 TRASKOS, SUMPTER TOWNSHIP

LARGER 1,357 SQUARE FOOT RANCH 3 Bedrooms, 1 Bath, Hardwood Floors, Newer Furnace and Water Heater, Vinyl Windows, Deck, Porch and Huge Garage \$258,900



43373 ALVA, VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP

FOR LEASE Duplex featuring 2 bedrooms, 1 Bath plus one car attached garage, central air. Stove, Refrigerator, Washer and Dryer. Minimum credit score of 640 \$1,500 Month



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WILLIS & MARTINSVILLE 1.64 AC PAVED RD WATER & SEWER AT STREET \$65,000

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