



# BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 26.14 Thursday, April 2, 2020

Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

FREE

## 'It's around us, it's here,'

By Rosemary K. Oztman  
 Independent Editor

Belleville City Manager Tracy Schultz Kobylarz said the COVID-19 is likely to get worse before it gets better and people need to stay home and stay safe.

The numbers reported daily of new cases and total cases appear to be by the 48111 zip code, and all the cases – which are growing – are reported as being in Belleville.

[On Monday, the total for “Belleville” was 62, with 0 for Van Buren and Sumpter, and no deaths. Eleven new cases were confirmed on Monday.]

“It is around us. It’s here. The numbers are the numbers. They don’t matter,” she said on Tuesday.

She said she knew of one positive case in the city.

City Manager Kobylarz said to wash your hands. She said it’s a simple thing we learned in elementary school and forgot.

She said children also learned to cover their mouths with their hands when coughing and now that has to be relearned with coughing into your elbow.

She said although city hall is closed, the staff is working diligently with a remote process and although it is inconvenient, it seems to be working.

“But, we miss the face-to-face contact,” she said.

Kobylarz said the waste hauler has eliminated bulk pickup and they will pick up only what fits into the refuse can. There will be no yard waste pickup, that was due to start this week, but Belleville residents may use the dumpster in the DPW yard that is clearly marked.

Also, she said, the city is switching from monthly to bimonthly water billing, to reduce the foot traffic and make less paperwork. She said the water billing procedure has been changed several times in the past.

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Independent archive photo by Bob Mytych

The Sumpter Township Country Fest for this year has been canceled due to the COVID-19. This year Sumpter was going to celebrate its 180<sup>th</sup> year after being named a township. This photo is from the 2019 Sumpter Fest parade.

## Sumpter Country Fest canceled for 2020

By Rosemary K. Oztman  
 Independent Editor

Sumpter Township Country Fest has been canceled for 2020.

Township Trustee Donnie Swinson, the liaison to the Parks and Recreation Commission, announced the decision at the regular meeting of the township board on March 24.

Trustee Swinson said Parks and Rec didn’t want to put anyone at risk and they had canceled both the March and April Parks and Rec meetings and wouldn’t have time to put on the festival with the time left for planning.

Swinson said the township’s annual Easter Egg Hunt also was canceled.

The festival, which was scheduled for the Memorial Day weekend, May 23-25, was going to honor the 180<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Sumpter becoming a township.

“We’ll celebrate 181 years,” Swinson said of the 2021 festival.

“It’s sad ... It’s a shame ... but I’d rather be safe than sorry,” Swinson said.

The full township board was present at the meeting with the exception of Treasurer Ken Bednark, who was absent and excused, Treasurer Bednark did not attend the meeting because he said he felt the meeting room was not professionally sanitized from the COVID-19 virus.

Board members were spread out at the board table, with Trustee Tim Rush and township attorney Rob Young tucked back against the wall. Deputy Clerk

Anthony Burdick was in the audience with Sharon Pokerwinski, Kim Toms, Deputy Supervisor Karen Armatis, and Finance Director Michelle Cole, with Public Safety Director/Police Chief Eric Luke stationed at the back door.

### Budget Public Hearing

The meeting began with a public hearing on the 2020-21 financial budget and the amended 2019-20, both of which by law had to be approved by April 1.

Director Cole presented the budget, noting the proposed budget is a planning document and can be changed as needed.

“Just because it’s in the budget doesn’t mean it’s approved,” Cole said, adding due to the national emergency she will get through the budget items quickly, so they can get to important items on the agenda.

She said in the amended budget the

(continued on page 3)

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# SECOND FRONT PAGE

## Sumpter Twp.

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revenues are up and the expenditures are up, too. The amended general fund budget revenues for fiscal year 2019-20 are \$5,335,644.35 with total expenditures \$5,020,953.53. The proposed revenue for 2020-21 is \$5,718,350, with expenditures of \$5,381,040.

She said the township is doing a good job in handling late water payments and they need to stay on top of collections.

Cole said the township has to do an overall assessment of its computers and where they need to be changed. She said several computers were replaced this year and there still are some that need to be replaced. She said they are budgeting for a new phone system, township-wide email, and other items.

She said the police Interceptor vehicles are higher in cost now at \$85,000 each and they are budgeting for them. Public Safety Director Luke spoke about the cost from the back of the room and this was not picked up on the audio/video of the meeting that was put on Youtube.

Cole said by buying the cars the way they are instead of buying 20 at once they save the township money. She said the police building needs repairs of \$1,500 and prep radios will cost about \$20,000 since they are going from the old style to the new.

She said the clerk's office needed a filing cabinet for about \$12,000 that was budgeted last year but not purchased.

Cole said the big item for purchase this year is a fire truck, estimated to be about

## Belleville

(continued from page 1)

Kobylarz said she has been on the job about six weeks and the office team is stepping up and working differently.

She said that both she and Police Chief David Robinson, who also is new on the job, are happy with the attitude and morale of the staff that has embraced them both.

Chief Robinson said he is working on a news release for next week's paper on all the assistance the city has received for help with its coronavirus battle. He said he has sent home most of the staff to protect them and he is answering the phone. He said 80% of the phone calls are from people who live outside of the city limits.

Chief Robinson said only one of his officers was on quarantine and that was because she was off on a honeymoon out of the country. He said he takes his officers' temperatures every day and has a policy for cleaning the office. He said he was delayed answering the *Independent's* telephone call because he was wiping down the doorknobs with a bleach solution on the other side of the room.

\$550,000, that will be paid for by the general fund and then paid back by the fire department over seven years, with a \$150,000 payment scheduled this year. Cole suggested they go out and get quotes so when they are ready they can bring the purchase before the board.

Cole said the truck being replaced will be 20 years old by the end of this year.

Trustee Don LaPorte, the liaison to the fire department, said the National Fire Protection Association sets the standards and after 20 years a piece of equipment has to come up to current standards and be recertified. He said, for example, it's \$45,000 to \$60,000 just for a lights package.

He said the fire department equipment influences the cost of home insurance in an area through the ISO (Insurance Services Office) rating. The better the ISO rating, the lower the insurance cost.

Trustee LaPorte said the fire department won't scrap the 20-year-old engine, but it can't come out first, according to the rules. It could come out second, as support to fight structural fires, under the rules of the NFPA, he said.

He said by getting pre-approved, it will be like a young couple buying a home and getting pre-approval. He said the township missed out on the chance to buy a demo that was available last week because it wasn't ready.

"This will be the biggest expense this year," Cole said, noting that this process will save the township interest expenses.

She progressed to the Water Department where \$35,000 is needed to replace meters, and radio readers are needed. She said a five-year grinder pump replacement plan will be put into effect at a cost of \$117,600 this year. She said such a plan was put off for a decade and is needed. Also, \$10,000 will be used for partial funds replacements for two entrances.

Cole said the township had a 9% increase of its net position in the water fund, following a 6% fall in 2012-2019 and they have grown another 5%.

Cole said there has been a perception that the landfill royalties have been going down, but actually they have been increasing. She said it is not a steady jump and they were a little down in 2019, but they are going up. The figure in the budget for the expected year-end figure on March 31 was \$2,470,000, with a proposed 2020-21 year-end figure of \$2,630,000 including interest.

She said only one employee position is open. A second part-time driver is needed.

A work/study session was then held followed by the regular meeting.

### Regular Meeting

At the regular meeting, the board:

- Approved the amended 2019-20 budget and the proposed 2020-21 budget as presented;
- Turned down the proposal for professional

services to reassess all residential property in the township by WCA Assessing for \$114,540 over four years, which was tabled from the Feb. 25 meeting. Clerk Esther Hurst made the motion to approve, which was seconded by Supervisor John Morgan. Supervisor Morgan did not call for the nay votes, but only Hurst and Morgan voted aye, not enough to pass the motion. He said the motion died for "lack of support." Supervisor Morgan said the last time the residential parcels were reassessed was 30 years ago and many new buildings have been put up since then. Also, houses have burned down and people are still paying taxes on them. He said it was not responsible not to do this. Trustee LaPorte said spending \$114,540 of taxpayers' money to get taxpayers to spend more money on taxes wasn't right. Since the county gets most of the tax money, the county should be paying the \$114,540, LaPorte said. Deputy Supervisor Karen Armatis said, "It goes both ways" and some residents will be taxed less due to burned out buildings or those that have been torn down. The ones who have improved their properties will pay more in taxes. "It will bring us up to speed," Morgan said. "We don't want to sit here and let this continue." Trustee Matt Oddy said the building department records will be updated with photos and sketches of houses. "What are we going to do to insure they are maintained going forward?" he asked of the records. Deputy Supervisor Armatis said there is a process in place to keep the records updated. Trustee Rush said because of the coronavirus, WCA may not be able to start for six months and maybe this should be tabled. Clerk Hurst said the township never did this before because of the cost. She said, "We couldn't do it after we purchased the program. This is necessary to come into the 21<sup>st</sup> century and update our system";

- Approved the paying of warrants until May 12 and have the bills reviewed for payment by Financial Director Cole and Supervisor Morgan, as recommended by attorney Rob Young, who is writing a policy to cover that;

- Approved canceling the April 14 and April 28 board meetings. The next board meeting is expected to be May 12;

- Approved canceling all board and commission meetings until May 12. Trustee Oddy pointed out a planning commission meeting had been scheduled for April 9 and now that is canceled;

- Held 30-seconds of silence in memory of Police Detective/Corporal John Ashby, who died Feb. 28, and then heard words praising Det./Cpl. Ashby from attorney Young, Supervisor Morgan, and Public Safety Director Luke;

- Heard Director Luke say police and fire will respond to calls for service in spite of COVID-19. He said there will be

minimum person-to-person contact. Luke said to call 911 for emergencies only and for other matters to call dispatch at (734) 461-6898; and

- Heard attorney Young say that the Moose, which is paying off the purchase of the former PNA Hall, has asked to pay interest only for a month or two until it gets back on its feet. He said he will work with Moose manager Robert Coutts and bring the agreement back to the board in the future.

**Editor's Note:** This meeting was covered by watching the recording of the meeting on Youtube.

## Sumpter tentatively schedules special meeting for April 2

Sumpter Township has tentatively scheduled a special meeting for 6 p.m., Thursday, April 2, to approve furloughs, approve employee pay through April 13, and hire a new police officer to replace the late Det./Sgt. John Ashby.

On Monday, Supervisor John Morgan met with Clerk Esther Hurst, Human Resources Director Michelle Bellingham, Finance Director Michelle Cole, Public Safety Director Eric Luke, Water Superintendent Ken Kunka and Deputy Supervisor Karen Armatis. They held a phone conference call with labor attorney S. Belisle and then decided a meeting was in order.

The township was awaiting Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's announcement if she plans to extend the Stay at Home Order past the April 13 deadline. President Donald Trump's announcement to Stay at Home until April 30 was a suggestion, not an order.

In the event Gov. Whitmer extends her Stay Home, Stay Safe order until April 30, the township will hold its special meeting.

Public Safety Director Luke has announced the interviews for the police position have been held and candidate has been chosen. Supervisor Morgan said the officer is in need at this crucial time and this is not a new position.

## Visteon to hold 2020 annual meeting June 3 at Grace Lake Lodge

On Saturday, Visteon Corporation (Nasdaq:VC) announced it will conduct its 2020 annual meeting at 11 a.m., June 3, at Grace Lake Lodge on the campus of Visteon's headquarters and innovation center in Van Buren Township.

Visteon has approximately 11,000 employees at more than 40 facilities in 18 countries. Visteon had sales of approximately \$3 billion in 2019.

# OPINIONS

## Editorial

### Can we bear another month of 'Stay Home, Stay Safe?'

The governor is expected to sign yet another executive order – this one to support President Trump's suggestion to stay home for another 30 days – until at least April 30.

Can we bear another month of staying home? It's difficult, but when we see the number of cases being diagnosed in Wayne County and Michigan every day growing by leaps and bounds, we know it's necessary to keep out of the path of that deadly, invisible virus.

Also, when we stay safe we assure the safety of those we love. The virus does not recognize age, nor county line, nor zip code.

The 48111 zip code is obviously being used to report cases in this area and those in charge do not differentiate between Belleville and Sumpter and Van Buren. We're all Belleville in this, whether we insist we're in Van Buren or not.

As of Monday's report to local leaders, there were 62 total confirmed cases in "Belleville" and 11 new cases confirmed on Monday.

State medical officials say it is expected to get worse before it gets better, so we all need to do the best we can to stay away from others and wait it out.

This, too, shall pass. Studies show that the 1918 virus came in waves and just as soon they thought it was over, it came back, several times. That could happen here, too. Soon our gardens will need tending and that will give us something to do. Stay home. Stay safe.

## EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

Last Saturday there was heavy rain, with 2.33 inches falling, according to our rain gauge. There was lots of flooding across the roads. Of course, Hines Drive was closed due to flooding and the dip under the railroad track on Belleville Road near Van Boren Road was flooded and closed to traffic.

On Sunday, there were wind gusts up to 60 mph in this area, which caused some power outages.

And, this is on top of all the concern about the COVID-19 pandemic hitting our world.

Our paper is still operating, aiming to bring local-local news to our readers. Some of our advertisers have had to close, so our papers will have fewer pages, but we still will give you local news.

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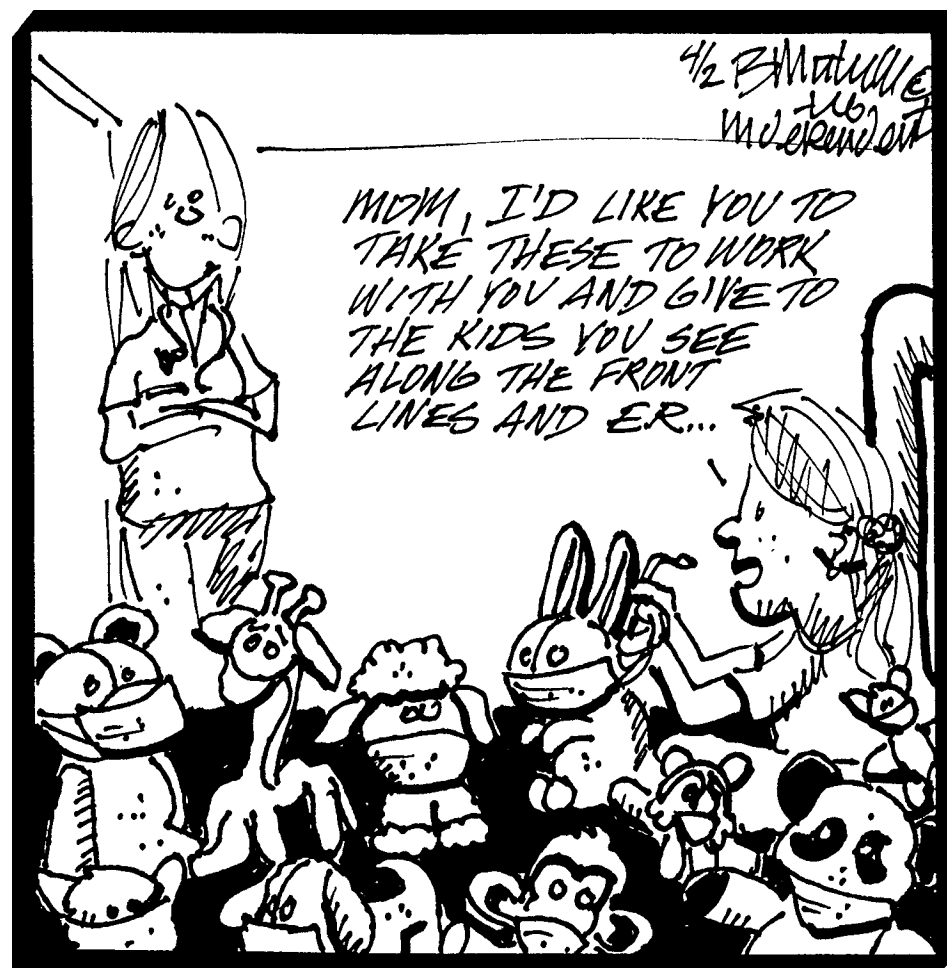
Back in mid-February, when the world was bright and the economy was humming, our investors decided to raise our rates, due to rising costs for us. It was due to take effect April 15, but that's not going to happen. We have put that off until further notice. The world has to settle down before we can even think of such a move.

\*\*\*

On Monday, my son Jim picked up my prescriptions at Meijer. He was decked out in a mask and gloves and hopefully he was safe. He said while waiting to check out, he overheard two clerks talking.

One told the other the store had a maximum purchase of one package of toilet paper rolls and a police officer walked up with two.

She said she told him that the maximum purchase was one package. She said he replied, "But, I'm a cop!" She said that



made her laugh and she told him that's still the rule. He replied, "I'm going to complain to President Trump!"

\*\*\*

A reader from Sumpter called on March 20 to ask us if dispatch was closed down for the Sumpter police. He said he tried to call the non-emergency dispatch line several times but it just rang and rang. He wanted to report some kids doing donuts on the lawn at Sherwood Park. He finally did get through to the non-emergency line, but by then the kids were gone.

He was so understanding of the situation. He said maybe the staff was depleted and the dispatcher had to use the rest room. It wasn't an emergency, he pointed out. He was very pleasant to talk to.

I told him the Huron Township does the dispatch for Sumpter now and he knew that.

\*\*\*

When listening to the fire scanner, we regularly hear reports on people being picked up by HVA with difficulty breathing and reporting a positive COVID-19 screen. On Monday afternoon a 30-year-old mother and a 3-year-old child were picked up together by ambulance. Both had COVID-19 symptoms.

This pandemic is difficult to bear.

We have to give great credit to the emergency crews who head out to care for our suffering neighbors. They are very courageous to do these tours of duty under these most-dangerous conditions. And,

family members must worry and pray for their loved ones who are out in the line of duty – and not hug them when they get home safely.

To those of you who are fighting the good fight against this invisible monster: Thank you, with all our hearts.

\*\*\*

We received a call from a reader in Belleville who wanted to give credit to those at the dialysis provider. She said that is the only place she can go now and she has to go there – or die.

She said the nurses there work long, long hours and then go elsewhere to help others, ending up with 16-18 hour days. She said the nurses are so kind to the patients and check them as they come in to make sure they are well.

She will be writing a letter for a future edition to praise these workers.

\*\*\*

We have been able to get an outside box for our newspapers, so we can have them outside for our readers to pick up even when we aren't here and our offices are locked. We hope to have it in place this week. We should have done this years ago, but there was a time, in the early days, when people were vandalizing our paper drops.

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**Editor:** Rosemary K. Otzman  
Home phone (NO ADS, PLEASE!): 697-1294

**Advertising Manager:** Bob Mytych

**Sports Editor:** Bob Mytych

**Bookkeeper:** James Otzman

**Production Manager:** James Otzman

**Office Manager:** Janet Millard

**Business Manager:** Gerald McKelvey

**Editorial Cartoonist:** Bob Mytych

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## Letters

### This is what I know about Nelson Po

To the editor:

To address a previous letter.

I have known and worked with Nelson for over a decade. No, he is not a politician and he's stated that. His first letter to the Belleville Independent, published Aug. 15, 2019, explains his background, where he came from, and what he's done. He can be inexorably honest and wouldn't lie to save your day. He also has one of the biggest hearts I have ever seen. I learn from Nelson and share similar core values with respect to faith and empathy.

Nelson has played a very meaningful role in the community. Just off the top of my mind, he has been the biggest contributor to the children's Christmas fund, donating two to three thousand dollars every year. He paid \$2,500 for the funeral of a young girl who succumbed to injury by a drunk-driving Sumpter resident. He donated \$2,000 to the wife of former Sumpter Trustee William Hamm to help with funeral costs. He has regularly taken and paid for his neighbors to eat with him at his favorite restaurants. He has given his neighbors cash directly to help, whether they are on hard times or for congratulatory donations.

All of the beacons of hope in Nelson's life have been women. He has said on many occasions everything he does is for his wife, mother, and grandmother. Nelson's team guiding him through his campaign and running for positions alongside him in the township are all respected Sumpter women (whom I will not mention by names, but everyone will find out in a short time). A statement as bold and inaccurate as "he hates women" is inhuman, strips credibility from the previous letter and expresses motives and advocacy to the administration which Nelson is standing against.

Expressing fear for repercussions by him is misleading. If the unnamed person has a malevolent history, or has committed wrongdoing in any way that can be told, then I can understand refraining from signing the letter. I want to thank Nelson for his courage and humble approach to exposing individual misdeeds, and by name. I have researched much of what he has written, and it is all unfortunately true. Don't scratch out someone as charitable as Mr. Po, because the world is running critically short of people with such a giving nature.

Speaking of truth, I think many people know Nelson's story with the township. They confiscated his marijuana and later returned it back to him in exchange for \$40,000. Later they tried to do the same, but went too far. They arrested him and his wife illegally, froze and seized his wife's pension (45 years of nursing) and their bank accounts. Sumpter requested another large sum of money to resolve the issue, but Nelson opted to fight in court by his

attorney's recommendation. The township dragged the case on and choked him financially until he would sign a settlement stating that he will not come back and sue the township for what they did wrong to him and his wife. This was all in the last year before Michigan civil forfeiture was amended, as the law was so widely exploited in a malicious way. His attorney promised him that such violations of his civil rights were damning for the township but missed the point in court and so let Nelson and Clarita Po down. Sumpter guided him through his entire operation and took advantage of his misunderstanding of the legislation. Up until now, Sumpter has yet to fulfill their end of the settlement agreement terms.

Respectfully,  
DJ Hartford

### They argue while the world burns

To the editor:

It's a shame that the politicians in Washington are more concerned about whose fire truck will lead the way to help put out the fire than they are in putting out the fire.

I think that the whole bunch of them don't give a good rip about the people of the U.S. They are more concerned about the election in November than they are about the pandemic.

The "look at me, see what I'm doing" attitude, instead of getting on the truck and actually doing something for the people, is enough to make me sick.

Personally, I wouldn't pee in their ear to put a fire out in their brain.

I wouldn't be voting for any of them come November. I would vote for the devil. At least I know he stays true to what he is.

Vic Franzoi  
Van Buren Township

### A thought for those filthy gas pump handles

To the editor:

Gas pump handles are filthy and so are door handles everywhere. I see many people using latex gloves, but those are needed in the medical field. Here is a thought -- use cheap doggie poop bags instead of the much-needed medical gloves.

Mary Jane Dawson  
Belleville

### Easter Egg Hunt in Sumpter Twp. canceled

To the editor:

The Sumpter Township Parks and Recreation Commission has canceled the Easter Egg Hunt on April 4 and we wish everyone the best Easter possible for them. Stay Safe and Be Well.

Sharon Pokewinski  
Sumpter Township

# Obituaries



Philip Lee Bailey

## PHILIP LEE BAILEY

(November 9, 1930 – March 28, 2020)

Philip Lee Bailey, 89, died peacefully at Cedar Woods Assisted Living, Saturday, March 28, 2020. Philip was born to Harry and Mary Allene (Glueck) in Cape Girardeau, Mo, November 9, 1930. Phil was the youngest of his late brothers, George and Harry Bailey.

Phil married Delores Nell Murley on March 1, 1952 and they have four children, eight grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren.

Daughter, Denise L. Foster, G: Annie Foster Ward (Jeremie), GG: Adeline, twins Clara & Dennis. G: Benjamin Foster (Olivia) GG: Michael, Aaron, & Ava Faith Foster. G: Michael Foster (Lyndsi) GG: Roxi Jay & Solomon Foster. Daughter Roxanne L. Kempf (Randy) G: Paul Kempf (Heather) GG: River Rose Kempf. G: Madison Murley Kempf. Daughter, twin Brenda Lee Bailey, G: Kelsey Murley Hall, G: Konal Christopher Hall (Lindsey) GG: Chloe Hall. G: Cassidy Ann Hall. Son, twin Philip J. Bailey. And his favorite niece, Casey Murley Buckner.

Phil served in the Korean War from 1952-1954. He worked at Kelsey Hayes in Romulus, MI for 30 years and retired in 1984. Phil loved animals, his 2 kitty cats, and especially enjoyed feeding the birds, squirrels and ducks daily from his back-porch swing. Phil loved tinkering in his garage, but his favorite past time was fishing with his dear friend John Price.

## Sumpter police seek information on shots fired on Edgewood Dr.

On Monday, at about 12:10 a.m., Sumpter police officers responded to the area of Edgewood Drive in the Rawsonville Woods mobile home community on the report of multiple shots fired.

Upon arrival, it was found that at least seven rounds had penetrated the outer walls and entered nearby residences, one round at the first location and six rounds at the second. Both were occupied at the time but no injuries were sustained.

At this time evidence does not appear to show that either residence was targeted, police said, but instead the possibility of two subjects near the street shooting at each other.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the detective bureau at (734) 461-4833 + option 4.

## Friends of Library cancel April 11 meeting, postpone April 25 event

The Friends of the Belleville Area District Library announce the April 11 board of directors' meeting has been canceled, and the April 25 celebration, "Find Your Place at the Library," has been postponed. No new date has been set.

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- Yoda

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|-------------------------------------------------|------------|
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| Register Book Package .....                     | \$140.00   |
| Crematory .....                                 | \$180.00   |
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Includes arrangement conference, local transportation, crematory, cremation container, website obituary and video tribute.



## Obituaries



Louis J. Kissel, Jr.

### LOUIS J. KISSEL, JR.

(August 11, 1924 – March 22, 2020)

Louis J. Kissel, Jr., born August 11, 1924, passed away March 22, 2020. Louis was preceded in death by his wife, Ruth P. Reinhackel, in 2001. Ruth and Louis were married on June 4, 1949. They have three daughters, Karen (Mike) Cochenour, Sharon (Don) Friday, Frankie (Gary) Jividen.

Grandchildren are Michele (Randy) Koths, Jonathon (Dani) Cochenour, Tina (Nick) Tallman, Tracy (Al) Rohlinger, Beth Friday, Laura (Greg) Boyd, April (Steve) Burger, Brandy (Rene') Kristensen, Steven (Anne) Jividen, Angela (Vince) Cinquigrani.

Great-Grandchildren are Ryan, Jason and Zachary Koths, Riley Cochenour, Lyla Shordt, Matt and Alicia DaSilva, Alex Tallman, Jorden and Ethan Rohlinger, Austin and Kaitlyn Smith, Zachary and Madison Boyd, Courtney (Josh) Daily, Brittney Polzin, Joseph and Hayley Burger, Justin and Savannah Kristensen, Cody Franklin and Fabian Cinquigrani, Lucas and Logan Doty.

Great-Great-Grandchildren are Jeremy, Dylan, Viviana Koths, Anna Mae Daily.

Louis served our country in the armed services with an Honorable discharge. He was a Past Master of the Masonic Order. He worked for Ford Motor Company for 22 years as Clerk in the paint shop. His name tag read "Paint Shop Lou Top Dog"! His love for his family, flowers and living life was passionate. He took immense pride in his appearance, his cars and his rules for living a proper life. He was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Belleville for 54 years.

Dad carried a little poem in his wallet that he would read to us upon occasion: "Life is not a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in a pretty and well-preserved body, but rather to skid in broadside, thoroughly used up, totally worn out, and loudly proclaiming – WOW – What a ride!" Author unknown.

### DORIS MAY FLINT

(February 17, 1924 – March 25, 2020)

Age 96, of Ypsilanti. Survived by sons Joseph and Jeffery and sisters Emily, Janet, Katherine and Shirley. A simple cremation was accorded; no public services are planned at this time. David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville.  
[www.davidcbrownfh.com](http://www.davidcbrownfh.com)

### ROBERT A. YANDURA

(May 12, 1936 – March 28, 2020)

Age 83, long-time Romulus resident, after a courageous battle with cancer. Survived by wife Judy, four children, four grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, sister Agnes, brother Jack. Cremation rites accorded.  
[www.davidcbrownfh.com](http://www.davidcbrownfh.com)



Doris June Smallwood

### DORIS JUNE SMALLWOOD

(February 25, 1933 – March 22, 2020)

Doris June Smallwood, a resident of Sumpter Township for 63 years, died March 22, 2020. Doris enjoyed gardening, playing cards, crocheting and her Mountain Dew. She passed away peacefully surrounded by family at Evangel Nursing Home in Saline, MI. She is survived by her children Kevin and Brenda (Wade) Losey, Tony Losey and Kim Ames, and Mellanie (Marsh) Veercamp. Seven grandchildren: Kevin and Kristen Losey, Jr., Keith and Veronica Losey, Ken and Jessica Losey, Shila (Losey) and Danny Clark, Maeghan (Veercamp) and Brian Holmes, Mindy Veercamp, and Dagan Perdue. Eleven great-grandchildren: Juliana, Giovanna, James and Gavin, Elija Losey; Evelyn, Emmitt, and Eli Losey; Helena Clark; and Nicholas and Eva Holmes.

Three brothers: Wes and Dawn Bowler, Sid and Mary Bowler, and Melvin "Buster" Bowler. She was preceded in death by her husband Garland Smallwood; her parents William James and Bertha Elbissa (Mark) Bowler; five sisters: Margret, Lita, Lorraine, Mable, and Amy; three brothers: James "Smoke", Arlin, and Marvin "Butch"; along with a host of grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins.

Cremation has taken place. A graveside burial will be held in the Upper Peninsula, to be announced in June of 2020.

In lieu of flowers a donation in Doris' name may be made to the American Heart Association.

### LESLIE EUGENE KELLY

(September 9, 1955 – March 25, 2020)

Age 64, long-time resident of Willis. Survived by wife Betty Jean, daughter Angela, son Christopher, 8 grandchildren, sister Brenda. Private visitation and funeral. David C. Brown Funeral Home. [www.davidcbrownfh.com](http://www.davidcbrownfh.com)



Roy D. Schroeder

### ROY D. SCHROEDER

(March 18, 1944 – March 23, 2020)

Roy D. Schroeder, age 76, a former Van Buren Township Police Officer, died March 23, 2020 in St. Clair Shores. He is survived by sons David (Sue) Schroeder and Marc Schroeder. A service is pending. Arrangements are by Arthur J. Van Lerberghe Funeral Homes, St. Clair Shores.

**More Obituaries  
 on page 6 & 8**

# Obituaries



Kenneth P. Fondaw

## KENNETH P. FONDAW

(November 26, 1936 – March 27, 2020)

Kenneth P. Fondaw died peacefully at home with his children and family present. Ken was a printer/pressman/mgt. from his high school apprenticeship years at Cass Tech in Detroit until he retired from the printing trade several years ago. He and his wife of nearly 50 years, Janet, were avid travelers. She preceded him in death in 2011.

Ken was an outdoorsman and fished every body of water he could throw a line in. He enjoyed golfing and hunting, bringing home more stories of nature and his interactions with wildlife than trophies.

In his early years, he was a Sergeant Air Medic Technician in the Air National Guard. For years, he stopped at every accident to assist, with his and his wife's coats given to many victims. He was recognized for the abundance of blood donated every month to the Red Cross for years. He was a proud Master Mason for 53 years and also a member of the Scottish Rite. He was a voracious reader, often reading several books simultaneously. He was known by his neighbors to always offer a wave, smile, or joke if you went past his home. With his quick wit and sense of humor, when anyone met Ken, there were only two choices, you either liked him or loved him.

He leaves behind his four children, Jeffrey Fondaw (wife Patricia, children Kyle and family, and Cody), Kim Maxim (husband Darold), Sherry Newman (husband Charlie, children Lance and family, Troy, and Kendra), and Kelley Fondaw (husband Dan Fisher). Per his wishes, there will be no services. He will be laid to rest next to his wife at Denton Cemetery.

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### Belleville First United Methodist Church- Emergency Food Closet

Open Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10 to 1 p.m.

**734.697.9288**  
bellevillefirstumc.org

### Nourishing Gardens

Food assistance to low-income families.

**734.713.7715**  
nourishinggardens.org

### Salvation Army

Food/Rent/Utilities assistance programs, by appointment.

**734.453.5464**  
www.misalpymouth.org

### Belleville Church of God Mountain Assembly

Open Food Pantry on Thursdays with valid ID.

**734.699.0927**  
find them on FaceBook



### Van Buren Twp. Senior Center

Focus Hope/Food Pantry to qualified & registered VBT community members.

**734.699.8919**  
vanburen-mi.org/senior-center

### St. Anthony Belleville

Food assistance to approved families.

**734.697.1211**  
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## TRI-COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH INFORMATION & OPTIONS

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neguidance.org

### Home of New Vision

Specialized services such as treatment, mental health counseling, etc.

**734.975.1602**  
homeofnewvision.org

### Centralized Access Center

24/7 Crisis information & referral helpline.

**313.224.7000**

### Ozone House

Emergency Shelter for youth 10-17 years old. (call/text any questions)

**734.485.2222**  
ozonehouse.org

### Trans Lifeline

Resources ran by trans people, for trans & questioning callers.

**877.565.8860**  
translifeline.org

### Prevencion Del Suicidio

24/7 Suicide Hotline (en espanol)

**888.628.9454**

### Trevor Hotline

24/7 Suicide Hotline

**866.488.7386**  
thetrevorproject.org

### SOOAR

Prevention services & trainings DWIHN provider, QPR trainer.

**734.697.9511**  
sooar-nonprofit.org

# Van Buren Township running without sickness among employees

On Tuesday morning, Van Buren Township Supervisor Kevin McNamara gave the following report on how the township is doing during the COVID-19 pandemic that has closed the doors to all offices except the

police department:

All departments are responding to voice mails. We are handling business that we can, either remotely or by special entry (rarely).

Fire is responding to a lot of calls. HVA

is taking the majority of the direct Corona contact runs. No major fires, we are fully staffed, and no one is out sick or on quarantine.

Cops are strong with no one out sick

or on quarantine. Our runs have greatly reduced due to businesses being closed. We are changing shifts around to minimize exposure.

We are on modified shifts, 4 days on at 12 hours and then eight days off.

We are inspecting all personnel when they come in to work.

Citizens are helping us and coming by to offer support and are dropping off masks and sanitizer at the police and fire stations.

Senior citizens are still operating the Meals on Wheels on Mondays with five meals delivered.

Food Bank is the third Thursday of the month.

We are calling the homebound and calling other residents that want us to check in on them.

If you need food, call 211 (not 911). The state will send it through the system and you will get food.

If you need to be on the Food Bank system call VBT Seniors at (734) 699-8918.

The clerk's office and the treasurer are operating on skeletal shifts. They are processing payroll, accounts payable and we have had five burials and a lot of tax and water bills. They are keeping everything running.

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## More Letters

### Work continues at Belleville Tax & Acctg.

To all valued clients of Belleville Tax & Accounting Service:

For the duration of the State of Michigan "Stay Home, Stay Safe" executive order, Belleville Tax & Accounting will remain available to all of our clients. Although the office is closed for face-to-face contact, we are working from home.

We have forwarded our main line and calls will be answered from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Voicemail messages left outside of these hours will be checked daily. As always, we can be reached on our cell phones or by e-mail.

**For our Tax Clients:** We will continue to work on tax returns that have been dropped off. We have made available a locked drop box inside the lobby of 152 Main St. where you can drop off your tax information. This is available when the building is open. We will contact you once your tax return is complete.

**For our Business Clients:** We will continue to process payroll every week. If you have questions or need assistance with applying for either SBA loan, the Economic Injury Disaster Loan or Paycheck Protection Program Loan, call or e-mail us.

**To all:** The IRS has extended the filing date for 2019 federal returns to July 15, 2020 and this includes any tax due and first-quarter estimates. The State of Michigan has recently extended the due date for 2019 returns and payments to July 15, 2020.

Thank you for your support and stay healthy.

Denise Baker, CPA  
Gayl N. Parr, CPA  
Belleville Tax & Accounting Service

### Thank you for being so thoughtful, caring

To the editor:

Last Monday morning about 10:30, I was at Meijer. I probably shouldn't have been there, but there were several items that I needed. After shopping, I went to check

out and there were about 20 carts in every cashier's line, and I was trying to decide which line to get in when some young man told me to follow him. He took me down to the line that he was in and placed me ahead of him, that was just one person from the cashier. I was out of there in about 2-3 minutes.

While I was checking out a young lady in the same line gave me some hand sanitizer. I want to thank both of them for being so thoughtful and caring.

A 91-year-old male  
Van Buren Township resident

### In Sumpter: If you see something say something

To the editor, our citizens, friends, and visitors of Sumpter Township, Michigan:

My name is Ronald Barrington Robinson, a taxpayer, resident for 21 years, and an elected precinct delegate of this small community.

Let me say that at a recent township board meeting, I was appalled by the terrible behavior exhibited by Sumpter Police Chief Eric Luke. His conduct towards the "Editor of the Belleville Independent Newspaper," Rosemary K. Oztman, was for intimidation purposes only. He was screaming and pointing his fingers two inches from her face. It was horrifying. I have never witnessed anything of that nature in my entire 23 years of professional employment as a supervisor with the Michigan Department of Corrections, or as a vice-president with the Flint, Michigan, Branch of the NAACP. I have attended numerous meetings in that span of time and have never witnessed such unprofessional behavior by anyone in a leadership role like I did at that board meeting.

This is not the first time that the editor has been disrespected and harassed for telling the truth. It takes integrity, the belief in God, and moral sustainability to do her job. I know this to be a fact as I was once a reporter for the Flint, Michigan, "Enquirer" newspaper for ten years.

If that situation of exhibited, terrible, and un-professional behavior was not bad enough, here comes Sharon Pokerwinski who allegedly stole/misappropriated tens of thousands of dollars from taxpayers trying

to pay their property taxes at the township hall. She is now involved with the Parks and Recreation Department, where tens of thousands of dollars more are at stake. Pokerwinski was yelling and screaming at our elderly editor and reporter of the Belleville Independent newspaper calling the newspaper trash several times.

Rosemary K. Oztman, a businesswoman and a professional in the world of newsprint and a greatly respected pillar throughout our community and the State of Michigan, is a winner of many professional awards. This lady is a friend to thousands. She has lived in our community for much of her life. She has spent a great deal of her life trying to report the news as truths to the people in our communities (which she has done for many years). She has many awards to prove her professionalism, integrity, dedication to the rule of law and the oath as an editor and reporter, and our Constitution's 1st Amendment Freedom of Speech.

Above are just two of the many horrible instances that I have witnessed in Sumpter Township, Michigan, over the last few years. I have talked to many Sumpter Township residents that have experienced the terrible and unprofessional behavior from certain employees and board members of this township.

My friends, we pay millions of dollars in taxes every year. This is our tax money that they receive in their checks every month. These township employees and elected board members work for US. If they can't show the citizens respect, whether they are board members or employees, then they should find employment elsewhere.

At no time did the elected board of trustee's

intervene in this despicable behavior by Luke or Pokerwinski. It's time to replace these individuals with people that believe in honesty, truth and integrity. Remember, election day 2020 is only months away. Your vote counts. Board meetings are the second and fourth Tuesdays of every month. If you see or hear about something that is illegal or not right, speak up. SAY SOMETHING!

Ronald Barrington Robinson  
Sumpter Township

**Editor's Note:** The Sumpter Township Board of Trustees has canceled all the meetings until May 12 due to the governor's order on public gatherings.

### Thank you, St. Jude

To the editor:

Please print this. Thank you.

Say this prayer nine times a day and by the eighth day your prayer will be answered. It has never been known to fail. Publication must be promised.

St. Jude's Novena

May the sacred heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, helper of the hopeless, pray for us.

Thank you for answering my prayers. I have many more prayers to be answered and I know that through you God will answer them.

Sincerely and with love always,  
GR, Belleville



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#### Faith Assembly Church

Sunday School - 10:00am • Worship Service - 11:00am  
Wednesday Bible Study - 7:00pm  
Kid's Classes • Youth Group • Boy Scouts  
894 E. Huron River Drive, Belleville, MI 48111  
Find us on Facebook! or [www.faithassemblybelleville.com](http://www.faithassemblybelleville.com)

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# Keystone reinstates third 8th grade class, ups seats to 768

By Rosemary K. Oztman  
Independent Editor

Keystone Academy Principal Jorvonna Drain gave a glowing report on enrollment and attendance, teacher retention, and interim educational improvement during the Keystone board of directors' meeting on March 12.

The next day, the school had half a day of classes and then closed until April 6, along with all other schools in the state, a step mandated by Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer in her plan to slow the spread of the coronavirus.

At the March 12 meeting, Principal Drain said National Heritage Academies have reset the 2020-21 school enrollment for Keystone at 768, instead of the 746 previously approved. This includes 78 students in three eighth-grade classes. There had been a decision to reduce eighth grade to two classes.

She said Stephanie Laurie was hired for 10 hours a week to increase the enrollment and now, because of her successes, she has been increased to 20 hours a week.

Drain also noted that staff retainage is very high for the 2019-20 school year, with

just 2.67% of the teachers leaving for a variety of reasons, way down from 27.52% leaving in 2018-19 and 30.25% leaving in 2017-18.

Student attendance has improved and now they have an average daily attendance of 95.1%, which exceeds the State's goal.

Student discipline shows reduced suspension and events per student.

Student interim data, before the testing set for April and May, shows growth the staff is proud of, she said.

According to the 2017-18 M-STEP results, Drain said, Keystone out-performed the local districts as well as the State average in all subjects and grade levels for the past 12 years.

Drain said NHA has tracked scores for Van Buren, Lincoln, Huron, Milan, Romulus, Wayne-Westland, and Ypsilanti over the last 12 years and Keystone has outperformed them all.

"Our biggest competition is ourselves," Drain said.

"Due to Keystone's ongoing enrollment efforts and positive response from the community, we are excited to be adding back the third section of eighth grade for the 2020-21 school year," Drain later said. "Keystone consistently attracts and accepts new students for this current school year as well as the next. We look forward to continuing our positive relationships

and partnerships within our school and community."

In other business at the one-hour-and-33-minute meeting, the board:

- Approved grades 6, 7, and 8 to have AP (advanced placement) classes available;

- Approved Plante Moran to perform the school's year-end financial audit for 2019-20. The negotiated fee with Plante Moran is \$5,670 for the basic financial statements and an additional \$4,790 if a single audit is required;

- Discussed the 2020 National Charter Schools Conference, June 21-24 at the Marriott World Center in Orlando, FL, with vice-president Darren Hicksonbottom voicing an interest in attending;

- Approved the 2020-21 board calendar and the 2020-21 school calendar;

- Approved the revised 2020-21 Offered Seats schedule as presented by NHA;

- Approved allocating more than \$5,000 to the PTO to help pay for the four new bottle refill water fountains -- one in each hallway and one in the gym -- to improve the school's green footprint;

- Discussed that the board might pay for playground equipment for the middle school. President Losen said NHA will put fill dirt in the area chosen for the equipment, but the school needs a plan;

- Discussed how to observe Administrative Assistants Week, April 20-24, and Teacher Appreciation Week, May 4-8; and

- Discussed the NHA Board Symposium Oct. 20 at The Inn at St. John's, Plymouth. This is the tenth year of the symposium.

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— Joseph Stalin

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Photo courtesy Steve Marshall

The regulars that gather at Tim Hortons have moved to the Walmart parking lot to practice their "Social Distancing."



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## Birthdays

|                                                                     |                                                          |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| March 28 – Jazzman Marie Long                                       | April 9 – Tina Brooks Green                              |
| April 3 – Tony Gibson                                               | April 12 – Theresa McCuean, Martha Warren, David Parrott |
| April 4 – Tina Buxton                                               | April 15 – Heather McArthur                              |
| April 6 – Jaclyn Villas, Joan Bodnar                                | April 22 – Elliott Sala, Sarra Atwell                    |
| April 7 – Rosemary Fitzsimmons, Keith David Barner III, Mark Mercer |                                                          |

### 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.



## Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

### Charter Township of Van Buren Annual Cemetery Cleaning Notice

The Department of Public Services will be conducting its annual spring cleaning at all Township cemeteries.

**Spring cleaning will begin  
April 6, 2020 and run through April 9, 2020**

Receptacles placed on graves such as flowerpots, religious items and similar objects will be discarded if not removed by April 5, 2020

New items may be displayed beginning  
April 10, 2020

Van Buren Township provides maintenance for the following cemeteries:

**Denton** - 49780 Cross St. (Michigan Avenue and Denton Road)

**Soop** - 49250 Denton Road (South I-94 Service Drive and Denton Road)

**Tyler** - 39820 Tyler Road (Tyler and Hannan Roads)  
**Otisville** - 41875 Riggs Road

For additional information contact  
The Department of Public Services 734.699.8925

Leon Wright  
Township Clerk

Posted: March 12, 2020  
Published: March 19, 2020  
April 2, 2020

## INDEPENDENT CLASSIFIED ADS

### FOR SALE

FOOD GRADE BARRELS – Various sizes & styles. Inventory & pictures at [www.mattsbarrels.com](http://www.mattsbarrels.com) Call/text (734) 474-5981. Located in Willis. 05/07

4 TIRES, 235/65R18. Used for 90 miles. \$325 OBO. (734) 697-4947 04/02

### VEHICLE FOR SALE

2010 ESCAPE LIMITED. Non-smoking car. Like new. New tires, struts & brakes. 98,000 miles. In Carleton. \$7,800 firm. (734) 818-6068 04/09

OLD SCHOOL 1992 FORD RANGER XLT Pickup w/truck cap. Auto, 6 cyl., w/ power. No rust. Very low miles. \$2,750 OBO. (734) 695-0819 04/09

2009 PONTIAC VIBE GT. Runs great. \$2,650 OBO. (734) 695-0819 04/16

1999 FORD ESCORT ZX2 COUPE. Automatic. Excellent running condition. Low miles. \$1,600. (734) 695-0819 04/16

### MANUFACTURED HOMES FOR SALE

NEW & USED HOMES in Belleville/ Canton area. Family Communities: Holiday West (734) 461-9797 & Holiday Estates (734) 495-0500. Senior Community: Royal Holiday (734) 455-2666 04/02

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### HELP WANTED

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### 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.

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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

CASH PAID for sports cards and comic books. '50s, '60s, & '70s. Private collector can come to you. (734) 697-3546 04/02

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"You can observe a lot just by watching."  
– Yogi Berra

# Minding Your Business

with Bob Mytych



Belleville A&W is still open for carry-out and pick-up orders only and are offering half off all kids' meals through April 6. They also have daily specials, like coney hotdogs for 99 cents every Tuesday and other specials on foot-longs and basket meals. To place an order call (734) 699-1800 and visit them on Facebook for daily

offerings.

\*\*\*

Willis Feed Mill in Willis along the railroad tracks behind Boneheads BBQ offers delivery on their every-day items like dog and cat food, hay and straw, horse and livestock feed, bird seed and feed, poultry food, and so much more. Their first batch of chicks have arrived and the mill is dedicated to ensuring their chicks are as healthy as possible which is why they've been vaccinated against Marek's Disease and use expedited shipping. Visit their Facebook page for details like the different breeds, sex, etc. The little peepers are

looking forward to meeting you, according to Willis Feed Mill owner Bob Durham. With spring weather just around the corner, the mill offers fertilizers and other lawn-care products. Check out their line-up of organic products, as well, and see their ad in today's paper. Call (734) 461-1111.

\*\*\*

Lonnie's Auto Repair at 5 Points remains open for business during these challenging times offering essential services including brake jobs, engine diagnostics, heating and cooling, and other services. See their ad in today's paper for a vehicle inspection coupon for \$19.99 where they'll inspect

your belts, hoses and other systems. They're open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., but call ahead for times, (734) 325-7065. Other nearby shops offering essential repairs and services include Superior Auto Repair on Davis Street, but we suggest you call them at (734) 697-5811 and schedule an appointment. Martin & Son Auto repair will also do their best to help you with repairs by calling (734) 347-8405. Do not visit the location before calling. Kwick Automotive Repair at 54 East Huron River Drive is also open for essential services. Call (734) 391-8218. Hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. KP&T Auto Service, also down East Huron River Drive, is open for service with drive-ups and appointments. Call Kevin at (734) 365-7778. Hours are Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visit their website at [www.kpandtautoservice.com](http://www.kpandtautoservice.com). Gulf Auto Lube at 5 Points is also open. Call (734) 325-6008.

\*\*\*

Our churches in our church directory continue their efforts to bring services live on social media. Belleville Faith Assembly Church and Pastor Doug Valentine are now streaming Sunday services. Visit their website for details. They join Belleville Church of God, Bethany Bible Church, St. Anthony, and River of Life Assembly of God. See the directory for website info. Want to join the list? Give me a call at (734) 699 9020 or email [sportzriter@aol.com](mailto:sportzriter@aol.com).

\*\*\*

Today's paper has a list of places and businesses where you can pick up an Independent newspaper. Can't find one? Stop by the office at 152 Main Street as we'll have them outside in a rack if the weather allows, and just inside the front door if the weather isn't good. You can also simply read the newspaper online at [www.bellevilleareaindependent.com](http://www.bellevilleareaindependent.com). Be safe and take care of each other.

\*\*\*

*Do you have a business item you would like to see in this column? Call Bob Mytych at (734) 699-9020. There is no cost to be in this column.*

## Van Buren Township trucker charged in fatal crash in Ohio

A Van Buren Township semi driver was charged with vehicular manslaughter and failure to stop at a clearly marked stop sign in Rossburg, Ohio on March 18.

Andrei Mihaescu, 28, was taken into custody on the charges after a Rossburg woman, Karla K. Greer, 55, died in the two-vehicle crash in Darke County, sheriff's deputies say.

The Darke County Sheriff's Office said the white, 2011 Freightliner tractor-trailer drove through a stop sign and struck a 2014 Dodge Journey at about 12:40 p.m.

The driver of the Dodge was pronounced dead at the scene. The driver of the semi was treated and released at the scene but later taken into custody.

## Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice



**VAN BUREN**  
CHARTER TOWNSHIP

**For Immediate Release**

**Contact: Alysha Albrecht & Ryan Nichols**

**Phone: (734) 699-8910**

**Email: [Communications@vanburen-mi.org](mailto:Communications@vanburen-mi.org)**

### Wayne County & TCF Bank Announce Small Business Relief Loans

VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP, Mich.,- On Wednesday, March 25, 2020 Wayne County and TCF Bank launched a \$6 million small business relief loan program providing fast relief, through microloans, to help small businesses with the effects of COVID-19. Available loan amounts range from \$5,000 to \$50,000, depending on the number of employees. Loan details include 12-month terms with interest rates of two percent or less.

Eligible businesses must have been established for at least one year at the time of application and have certain approval credit guidelines met. To qualify, a small business must:

- Employ fewer than 100 employees
- Have a revenue of approximately \$1 million or less.
- Be located in a low income census tract.
- Be in good standing with County and State creditors, prior to the COVID-19 emergency.
- Have suffered substantial hardship (at least a 25% loss of revenue) due to COVID-19 emergency, and must use proceeds to assist with that hardship.

Wayne County Commissioner and Chairman of the Economic Development Committee, Al Haidous, is supporting assistance to business owners and is continuing to provide relief to small businesses in District 11. The Commissioner can be contacted at 313.224.0944 or his legislative aid at 313.319.1307.

"Van Buren Township is working to get money into the hands of small businesses and will search every avenue to do so," said VBT Supervisor, Kevin McNamara.

Van Buren Township, Sumpter & Belleville business owners should contact TCF Bank Manager, Stephanie Tomlinson by phone at 734-699-5178 or email: [stomlins@tcfbank.com](mailto:stomlins@tcfbank.com). More details about the program and steps on how to apply can be found at: <https://www.tcfbank.com/waynecounty>

Van Buren Township is committed to releasing news and information to help support local businesses during the COVID-19 "Stay Home, Stay Safe" Executive Order.

## Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

*These are the 161 dispatch calls reported by Van Buren Township police for last week.*

### Sunday, March 22:

0118 – suspicious person/vehicle, Fay Dr.  
0149 – suspicious person/vehicle, Quirk Rd./Ayres  
1022 – family trouble, Maude Ct.  
1108 – family trouble, S. I-94 Service Dr.  
1207 – intrusion alarm, Anna Dr.  
1327 – larceny from auto, S. I-94 Service Dr.  
1424 – assist other dept., Parkwood Dr.  
1455 – intrusion alarm, Anna Dr.  
1543 – trespassing, Robbe Rd.  
1600 – suspicious person/vehicle, Hannan/Ecorse  
1613 – intrusion alarm, W. Huron River Dr.  
1646 – trespassing, Parkside Dr.  
1801 – suspicious person/vehicle, Elwell Rd.  
1924 – assist other dept., Dellor St.  
2121 – mental subject, Elwell Rd.  
2133 – intrusion alarm, Haggerty Rd.  
2223 – intrusion alarm, Haggerty Rd.  
2246 – disorderly, Parkwood Dr.  
2243 – domestic, Laguna Dr.

### Monday, March 23:

0007 – breaking & entering, Independence Ln.  
0204 – suspicious person/vehicle, Amanda Dr.  
0548 – vehicle lockout, Village Green Ln.  
0749 – domestic, W. Walden Dr.  
0818 – 911 welfare check, Riggs Rd.  
0828 – assist fire dept., W. Huron River Dr.  
0928 – assist other dept., Rawsonville  
0934 – animal complaint, Victoria St.  
1041 – intrusion alarm, Haggerty Rd.  
1141 – civil matter, Rogers Ave.  
1228 – disorderly, Maple Dr.  
1229 – domestic, Daisy Blvd.  
1322 – larceny from auto, Park Estates Dr.  
1425 – welfare check, Haverhill Rd.  
1430 – lost property/child, Park Estates Dr.  
1432 – animal complaint, Outer Dr.  
1503 – 911 welfare check, Bemis Rd.  
1526 – disorderly, Robson Rd.  
1531 – vehicle lockout, E. Sadie Ln.  
1540 – domestic, Elwell Rd.  
1612 – malicious destruction of property, E. Sadie  
1634 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Denton  
1822 – mental subject, Wildbrook Dr.  
1832 – disorderly, Parkwood Dr.  
1855 – 911 welfare check, Belleville Rd.  
1926 – suicidal person, Outer Dr.  
1934 – intrusion alarm, Lake Pointe Pass  
1942 – assist fire dept., Parkside Dr.  
2000 – welfare check, Denton Rd.  
2010 – fraud, Belleville Rd.  
2127 – property damage accident, Bemis Rd.  
2235 – assault & battery, Belleville Rd.  
2333 – suspicious person/vehicle, Bog Rd.  
2343 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.

### Tuesday, March 24:

0128 – noise complaint, Lake Villa Dr.  
0904 – intrusion alarm, E. Schooner Dr.  
0934 – threat, Wildbrook Dr.  
0946 – civil matter, Robson Rd.  
1031 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.  
1102 – civil matter, Greenbriar Dr.  
1105 – disorderly, Parkside Dr.  
1139 – welfare check, Rose Blvd.  
1236 – suspicious person/vehicle, Wildbrook Dr.  
1324 – assist fire dept., Park Estates Dr.  
1348 – malicious destruction of property, Lohr Rd.  
1431 – assist fire dept., Madison Dr.  
1519 – civil matter, Pebblebrook Dr.  
1557 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. /  
S. I-94 Service Dr.  
1642 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Beck /

Ecorse

1740 – intrusion alarm, Ricardo Dr.  
1846 – family trouble, Daniel Dr.  
1917 – threat, Sumpter Rd.  
1947 – disorderly, S. I-94 Service Dr.  
1956 – motorist assist, WB I-94/Belleville Rd.  
2006 – assault & battery, Parkside Dr.  
2153 – family trouble, Outer Dr.  
2256 – animal complaint, Belleville Rd.  
2326 – welfare check, N. Ponderosa Trl.  
2337 – noise complaint, S. Bellridge Dr.

### Wednesday, March 25:

0712 – intrusion alarm, Rawsonville Rd.  
0806 – civil matter, Jeremy Rd.

0903 – suspicious person/vehicle, Holly Ln.  
0931 – noise complaint, Woodbury Dr.  
0951 – assist fire dept., Van Born/Belleville  
1046 – animal complaint, S. I-94 Service Dr.  
1118 – follow up by officer, Lake Villa Dr.  
1158 – assist fire dept., Belleville Rd.  
1257 – welfare check, Hamilton Ct.  
1328 – welfare check, Parkwood Dr.  
1343 – intrusion alarm, Timberview Ct.  
1523 – civil matter, Truman Ave.  
1607 – welfare check, W. Archwood Dr.  
1616 – intrusion alarm, Arlene Ln.  
1705 – suspicious person/vehicle, Michigan/Dellor  
1743 – assault & battery, Rose Blvd.  
1823 – domestic, Rawsonville Rd.  
1905 – disorderly, S. I-94 Service Dr.  
2134 – mental subject, Belleville Rd.  
2208 – threat, S. I-94 Service Dr.  
2234 – intrusion alarm, Haggerty Rd.  
2250 – intrusion alarm, Rawsonville Rd.

### Thursday, March 26:

0646 – suspicious person/vehicle, W. Woodbury  
Green  
0919 – mental subject, Wildbrook Dr.  
0938 – welfare check, Elwell Rd.  
1039 – welfare check, Park Estates  
1102 – welfare check, Sumpter Rd./Hull Rd.  
1146 – intrusion alarm, Martinsville Rd.  
1140 – animal complaint, Ormond Dr.  
1249 – civil matter, Parkside Dr.  
1315 – overdose, Meadows Ct.  
1404 – malicious destruction of property, Village  
Center Dr.  
1414 – disorderly, Belleville Rd.  
1505 – noise complaint, Pine Dr.  
1700 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.  
1713 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Westlake  
Cir.  
1718 – suicidal person, Bak Rd.  
2006 – suspicious person/vehicle, E. Walden Dr.  
2204 – assist other dept., Belleville Rd.  
2248 – noise complaint, S. Ponderosa Trl. /  
Sugarbush Ln.

### Friday, March 27:

0713 – suspicious person/vehicle, Parkwood Dr.  
0748 – warrant arrest, Tyler Rd.  
0759 – welfare check, Harmony Ln.  
0916 – civil matter, Belleville Rd.  
1318 – assist other dept., S. I-94 Service Dr.  
1325 – welfare check, Westlake Cir.  
1506 – animal complaint, Brookside Dr.  
1623 – fraud, Belleville Rd.  
1724 – animal complaint, Savage/Haggerty  
1725 – threat, Spruce Ln.  
1734 – hospice death, S. I-94 Service Dr.  
1809 – property damage accident, Denton/Mott  
1916 – property damage accident, Ecorse/Denton  
1923 – 911 welfare check, Montague Ave.  
2119 – suspicious person/vehicle, Haggerty/Riggs  
2207 – family trouble, Kirkridge Park Dr.  
2219 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.  
2246 – hospice death, Edwards Rd.

### Saturday, March 28:

0710 – personal injury accident, NB I-275/Ecorse  
0826 – animal complaint, Hannan Rd./Ecorse Rd.  
0904 – intrusion alarm, Ecorse Rd.  
1132 – assist fire dept., Estates  
1230 – civil matter, Kahla Dr.  
1247 – noise complaint, Oak Ln.  
1344 – unattended death, S. I-94 Service Dr.  
1507 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.  
1558 – civil matter, Spencer Ave.  
1556 – unauthorized driving away of auto, N.  
Woodbury Green  
1631 – welfare check, Westlake Cir.  
1629 – disorderly, Pine Dr.  
1848 – family trouble, Lighthouse Dr.  
2245 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.  
2349 – noise complaint, Parkwood

There were no traffic stops listed for last week.

## Belleville Police Dispatch Log

### Sunday, March 22:

0052 – assist other dept., Carmell St.  
0321 – noise complaint, Carmell St.  
0419 – noise complaint, Carmell St.  
0826 – disorderly, Menlo Park Dr.  
0844 – welfare check, W. Columbia Ave.

1054 – civil matter, Menlo Park Dr.  
1132 – suspicious person/vehicle, Santa Clara St.  
1225 – animal complaint, Carmell St.  
1256 – misc. complaint, Third St./Main St.  
1307 – animal complaint, Loza Ln.  
1308 – animal complaint, Loza Ln.  
1334 – trespassing, E. Davis/the mill  
1340 – trespassing, Davis/RR tracks

### Monday, March 23:

1216 – 911 welfare check, Main St.  
1551 – welfare check, Astor Place

### Tuesday, March 24:

0131 – misc. complaint, Bell Cove Ct. / Harbour  
Pointe Dr.  
0154 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belle Villa Blvd.  
/ Sumpter Rd.  
0354 – suspicious person/vehicle, N. Aberdeen Ct.  
2209 – civil matter, Belle Villa Blvd.

### Wednesday, March 25:

1130 – motorist assist, Main St.  
1352 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.  
2214 – property check, Potter Dr.

### Thursday, March 26:

0841 – intrusion alarm, E. Columbia Ave.  
1315 – civil matter, South St.  
1420 – vehicle lockout, Independent

### Friday, March 27:

1045 – intrusion alarm, N. Liberty St.  
1502 – parking complaint, West Columbia Ave.  
1745 – neighbor trouble, Main St.

### Saturday, March 28:

0733 – 911 welfare check, S. Edgemont Ave.  
1224 – intrusion alarm, Carmell St.

There were no traffic stops recorded for this week.

## Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

### Sunday, March 22:

0355 – mental health call, 20000 bl. Karr Rd.  
0543 – follow-up investigation, 20000 bl. Karr Rd.  
1112 – suspicious circumstances, 20000 bl. Karr  
1633 – ordinance violation, 49000 bl. Wear Rd.

### Monday, March 23:

1058 – civil matter, 48000 bl. Judd Rd.  
1452 – traffic hazard, Martinsville Rd./Willis Rd.  
1649 – animal complaint, 44000 bl. Clay Rd.  
1749 – suspicious circumstances, 10000 bl.  
Rawsonville Rd.  
1920 – mental health call, Rustic Ln.  
1944 – civil matter, 46000 bl. Reed Ave.  
2135 – assist other agency, 43000 bl. Bemis Rd.

### Tuesday, March 24:

0000 – 911 hang up, 20000 bl. Sherwood Rd.  
0132 – alarm, 19000 bl. Crandell Ct.  
0208 – noise complaint, Rustic Ln.  
0828 – citizen assist, 24000 bl. Elwell Rd.  
1547 – suspicious vehicle, 51000 bl. Willis Rd.  
1753 – shots fired, 43000 bl. Willis Rd.  
2144 – fire dept. assist, 8700 bl. Rawsonville Rd.

### Wednesday, March 25:

0021 – property damage accident, 22000 bl. Karr  
0118 – suspicious circumstances, 29000 bl. Elwell  
0222 – 911 hang up, 41000 bl. Willis Rd.  
0322 – fire dept. assist, 25000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
1215 – juvenile complaint, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
1451 – larceny, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
1504 – alarm, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
1548 – fire dept. assist, 41000 bl. Wear Rd.  
1553 – fire dept. assist, 28000 bl. Elwell Rd.  
1622 – suspicious circumstances, Carriage Ln.  
1623 – suspicious circumstances, Country Club Blvd.  
1630 – 911 hang up, Rustic Ln.  
1708 – missing person, 19000 bl. Karr Rd.  
1731 – assist other agency, 43000 bl. Dunn Rd.  
1920 – fire dept. assist, 45000 bl. Harris Rd.  
1943 – juvenile complaint, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

### Thursday, March 26:

0830 – alarm, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
0833 – animal complaint, Wear Rd./Karr Rd.  
0930 – suspicious person, 10000 bl. Rawsonville  
1209 – fire dept. assist, 23000 bl. Haggerty Rd.  
1316 – suspicious person, Carriage Ln.  
1540 – 911 hang up, 25000 bl. Martinsville Rd.  
1726 – noise complaint, Florida St.  
1752 – shots fired, Wilmot Rd./Kozma Rd.  
2246 – civil matter, 22000 Bohn Rd.

### Friday, March 27:

0528 – suspicious person, Sumpter Rd./Judd Rd.  
1341 – civil matter, Virginia St.  
1544 – mental health call, 23000 bl. Elwell Rd.

1654 – welfare check, Rustic Ln.  
1814 – assist other agency, 45000 bl. Arkona Rd.  
1854 – fire dept. assist, 22000 bl. Sherwood Rd.  
1925 – citizen assist, Rustic Ln.  
1952 – animal complaint, 42000 bl. Judd Rd.  
2018 – fire dept. assist, Texas St.

### Saturday, March 28:

0049 – civil matter, 50000 bl. Judd Rd.  
0757 – fire dept. assist, 39000 bl. Willis Rd.  
0900 – fire dept. assist, 42000 bl. Judd Rd.  
1413 – traffic hazard, 40000 bl. Harris Rd.  
1733 – fire dept. assist, Rustic Ln.  
1813 – animal complaint, Willow Rd./Karr Rd.  
2121 – civil matter, Rustic Ln.

Also on this week's log are six traffic stops, 75 patrol  
check, sand 22 miscellaneous details.

## More Letters

## Strawberry Festival canceled this year

Good morning ladies and gentlemen,

Due to the on-going COVID-19 crisis the City of Belleville must do everything in its power to ensure the health and safety of our residents, staff and businesses. It is for that reason and through the powers of emergency management bestowed upon me through City Council, I am cancelling the City's participation and withdrawing all approvals of associated activities of the National Strawberry Festival this year.

I thank you for your willingness to plan and organize this annual event as you have done for decades. You have made a tremendous impact on our city, the tri-community area and all of our residents.

While we all look forward to that day that this virus stops its dreadful spread and impact on our lives, we recognize the fact that the day is still quite a way from us. In lieu of the festival and the activities that go along with it, the Mayor, Council Members and Staff ask that you join them in supporting our Health Care Workers by participating in Henry Ford Health System's White Ribbon Campaign.

Please display a white ribbon outside your home or business (or place a white ribbon image in your front window). Your display will let everyone know that you are supporting everyone in the medical field that is working to fight this pandemic. Let them know you have their backs!

The City of Belleville looks forward to sponsoring the biggest ribbon-cutting ceremony ever... the day we cut those ribbons because we fought the battle against COVID-19 and won!

*Stay home. Stay healthy  
WASH YOUR HANDS!*

Tracey Schultz Kobylarz  
Interim City Manager, City of Belleville

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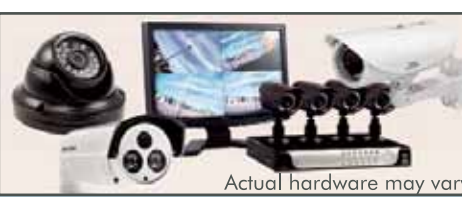
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## Here's where we're dropping *Independents* in your neighborhoods

Here are the places we are dropping free copies of the *Belleville-Area Independent* during this time when so many businesses we usually service are closed:

- Belleville City Hall, outer entryway
- Tuscan Manor apartments
- Columbia Court
- Lonnie's Auto Repair
- Gulf Oil Change
- Dr. Macdermid's office
- Burhop's Collision
- Superior Auto Service
- Co-op apartments
- NAPA Auto Parts
- Citgo gas station, Sumpter/Hull roads
- Gas station at Bemis/Sumpter roads
- Zino's Pizza
- McShane's restaurant
- Ace Hardware
- Sumpter Township Fire Dept.
- Sumpter Township Hall
- Sumpter Township Senior Center
- Sumpter Township Police Dept.
- Willow Party Store, Willow/Sumpter
- Little Town liquor/deli, Sumpter/Judd
- Sumpter Collision, Sumpter/Judd rds.
- Citgo gas station, Sumpter/Willis
- Liquor Wagon, Willis rd.
- Five Star/Benito's pizza
- Red Rooster restaurant
- Rawsonville Woods office
- Willis Feed Mill
- BP gas station, Rawsonville/Willis
- Augusta Woods office
- Fox Auto
- Valero gas station, Rawsonville/Martz
- Harold's U-Haul
- Pinter's greenhouse
- American Presidential Estates office
- U-Lock-It storage
- 7-Eleven, Rawsonville/Textile
- Cedar Woods
- 34<sup>th</sup> District Court
- Metro Park Party Store
- Accurate Transmission
- KP&T Auto Repair, E. Huron River Dr. /

S. Biggs

- Kwick Automotive
  - David C. Brown Funeral Home
  - Mr. Muffler
  - Credit Union, Main/Second
  - Clement Insurance
  - CVS pharmacy (Andrew's)
  - Belleville Hardware
  - Hayward's party store
  - Chase bank, downtown
  - Dr. Al-Ado's office
  - Medical clinic, Main/Third
  - Beaumont clinic, Third St.
  - Higgerson & Neal Funeral Home
  - Tornado's Pizza
  - Animal Medical Center of Van Buren
  - Hidalgo Mexican restaurant
  - Marathon gas station at Five Points
  - Kabob Garden
  - Jet's Pizza
  - Belleville Mini-Mart at Five Points
  - Sam's restaurant
  - Lunch Box
  - Meijer gas station
  - Speedway gas station
  - Van Buren Township Police Dept.
  - Leo's
  - French Landing Liquor
  - Metro by T-Mobile
  - Tim Horton's
  - Hungry Howie's Pizza
  - Al's Smoke Shop
  - Check n' Go
  - H&R Block
  - Culver's
  - Camping World
  - T-Rex Arms
  - China King, Shell gas station
  - Van Buren Urgent Care
  - Beirut LaPita
  - Dos Pesos Mexican
  - Subway
  - Bake Shoppe
- New Boston:
- Mobil/Subway
  - Tony's Coney Island
  - Country Pantry Store
  - Huron Dental & Assoc.

There are always newspapers at the *Independent* office at 152 Main St., Belleville. You can just reach inside the front door and take them from the rack.

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**SEEKING INFORMATION RELATING TO THE DEATH OF**  
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 Van Buren Township | Friday, June 23, 2017

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**OR CONTACT**  
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### BOOMING WITH ROOM



**48024 BEMIS, VAN BUREN TWP**  
**ORIGINAL OWNER** 2,500 Square Foot Brick Colonial Offering 4 Bedrooms, 2 Baths, Hardwood Floors Everywhere, Large Family Room with Fireplace, Basement, Huge Fenced Yard, 2 1/2 Car Garage. \$242,900

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### PRIME LOCATION



**41405 TYLER, VAN BUREN**  
**PRIME LOCATION.** Corner of Haggerty and Tyler. Opportunity Awaits - 3 Bedroom, 1 Bath Home. Large Lot with Larger 2 1/2 Car Detached Garage. This Property could be the key to a larger development parcel. \$135,000

### LARGE BRICK RANCH



**41577 MCBRIDE, VAN BUREN**  
**KING SIZED BRICK** and Vinyl Ranch 1,484 Sq Ft Ranch featuring 3 Large Bedrooms, 1 1/2 Baths 15X12 LivingRoom, 15X20 FamilyRoom, Wallside Windows, Central Air, Deck, 2 1/2 Car Block Garage. \$150,000 Immediate Occupancy

### DUPLEX OR SINGLE FAMILY



**10106 WILLIS, WILLIS**  
**HUGE HOME** in the Village of Willis. Residential Zoning and used as a Duplex. 2 Kitchens, 2 Baths, 2 Living Rooms, and 5 Bedrooms. A Home Filled with Historic Character and Charm plus Basement, 90+ Furnace, 2 Car Detached Garage, Covered Porch and Large Lot. \$172,900

### 4,224 SQUARE FEET



**23560 SUMPTER, SUMPTER TWP**  
**RESIDENTIAL OR INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY.** Possible Residential, Day Care, Group Home, Apartments or Your Ideas Large front covered porch. Large Covered Patio & fireplace and patio area. Fire System. 10 Bedrooms, 2 Apartment Kitchens, 5 Bathrooms. \$225,000

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**17164 RENTON, VAN BUREN TWP**  
**LARGE COUNTRY HOME** on more than an Acre. Just minutes from expressways and shopping. Open Floor Plan with Huge Rooms, Wood Flooring, Fireplace, Rear Patio, Fire Pit with 2 1/2 Car Detached Garage PLUS Pole Barn. A Serene Setting with Mature Trees \$199,900.

### DREAM WORKSHOP



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**LARGE 2,700 SQUARE FOOT COUNTRY HOME** on 2.24 ACRES with Possible Split. This home could use some updating 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, bright and open kitchen, family room with wood stove, covered patio. Many outbuildings. \$189,500

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HURON TWP VAC ASH .87 ACRES \$55,000  
JUDD 10 ACRES SUMPTER TWP \$80,000  
SAVAGE 1 ACRE SUMPTER TWP \$45,000  
25817 SUMPTER 80X529 .97 AC \$20,000  
SHERWOOD 37.55 AC BY WEARS \$189,900  
24053 BOHN 3.3 ACRES SUMPTER \$67,000

WILLIS SUMPTER 1.14 ACRES \$45,000  
28710 SUMPTER ROAD \$10,000  
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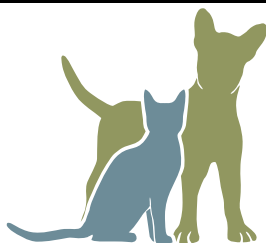
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