



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

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Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

F R E E

Stellantis Megahub gets 12 years of 50% tax cuts

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

After two public hearings on May 20 at which no public spoke, the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees established Industrial Development District #26 and granted 50% tax abatement on the project for 12 years.

This is the Stellantis Mopar Megahub to be built on property north of Ecorse Road and east of Denton Road to replace four other Stellantis warehouses.

Supervisor Kevin McNamara said cutting the taxes in half for the future is what they are doing while noting, "We're getting zero now."

Valerie Knol, public affairs officer for Stellantis, said the company is one of the largest auto makers in the world and encompasses 14 brands, including Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge, and Ram, manufacturing in 30 countries with 26 plants in North America.

She said there are 75,000 employees in North American and 30,000 in Michigan, with 20 Parts Distribution Centers (PDC) which offers end-to-end logistics for auto parts.

The new hub facility in Van Buren Township is a regional PDC that will have employees from Michigan and Wisconsin.

Knol said Stellantis is investing \$388.88 million to build the 2.1 million-square-foot facility. She said it is already zoned general industrial so they need no rezoning. The 13,000-square-foot building in the front will be for offices and the rest will be warehouses.

She said they will only be able to see the office building from Denton Road. She said half of the 355 acres will be built on and the rest will be open space with screening and wildlife. There will be no chain link fence. There will be no manufacturing there, she said.

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Independent photo by Rosemary K. Otzman

Lori Day and Geof Bush, husband and wife veterans, sang the National Anthem at Monday's Memorial Day ceremony at the Veterans Monument on High Street in Belleville. Rev. Robert White, who gave a prayer, said this was the largest turnout for the Memorial Day service in many years. Wreaths were placed by officials from the city of Belleville and Van Buren and Sumpter townships, as well as the Veterans of Foreign Wars and Polish Legion of American Veterans, who sponsored the ceremony.

Belleville DDA: City may get camera to find geese feeder

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

At its regular meeting on May 21, the Belleville Downtown Development Authority was told that the Goodbye Geese contractor it hired had an encounter with someone who is actively feeding the geese in Horizon Park.

Steve Jones, assistant city manager and DDA director, said the sidewalk is not as covered as last year and he presented a report of 27 visits by Goodbye Geese this season with different numbers of geese

seen at the park. He said they have gone down on the docks and into the water with a paddle board to chase the geese.

In its written report, Goodbye Geese wrote: "Late one afternoon one of our team members was stopped by a woman from the community driving a white SUV (make and model not clear, unable to recall license plate number). She declared that she had had conflicts in the past with the former geese control team and that she was deliberately feeding geese at Horizon Park morning and evening and would not cease

until she was arrested."

Goodbye Geese said it was working with the city to install a camera to try to catch the feeder in the act in an attempt to identify who they are so the Civil Ordinance can be applied.

Jones said the city council passed an ordinance not to feed the geese and they're talking about putting in a camera to try to fix the situation.

When asked, Jones said he didn't know if this feeding was new this year. He said

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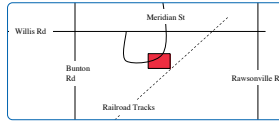
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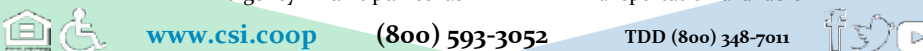
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SECOND FRONT PAGE

VBT Board

(continued from page 1)

Knol said parts will be shipped in, stored, and shipped out. She said the facility will be run by 488 upscaled employees working in two shifts, five days a week.

The south drive onto Denton Road will be for employees only and the north drive onto Denton would be for emergency access only.

The trailer trucks will come and go only off of Ecorse and there will be no entry from Denton Road. They are keeping the trailers off Denton Road, she emphasized.

Two hundred trucks a day will enter and leave the site, every two minutes, all using Ecorse Road. From the west, trucks will come from I-94 to Michigan Avenue to Ecorse. From the east they will use I-94 to Michigan to Ecorse. And those are the routes coming and going, mostly through Washtenaw County.

"They will not take Belleville Road," she stated.

Anthony Fioritto II, Supply Chain and Facilities Management director for Stellantis, said they had a similar situation in Texas with traffic and they solved the problem. He said they don't have truck driver turnover and the drivers have been with Stellantis a while. He said if they make a wrong turn they are corrected and "three times and you're out." He said all the trucks are equipped with GPS technology.

Knol said when they met with neighbors at a recent open house, the number-one message was they don't want truck traffic.

She said they will leave as much vegetation as possible and the development will go before the planning commission and they are open to suggestions.

Knol said they've been searching for property for some time in Southeast Michigan and they found Van Buren Township a great location.

"Our employees are coming from other facilities," she said. "We're consolidating." She said they will use Schoolcraft College to upscale employees.

Supervisor McNamara said that he will be voting yes on the tax abatement. He said there are a lot of wetlands on the property and this project is not a big water user or sewer user.

He said the last major infrastructure project in Van Buren Township did not go well, referring to Visteon Village.

"We don't do very many Industrial Development Districts and there are only two or three in the township," he said.

In other business at the 59-minute meeting on May 20, the board:

- Held a moment of silence in memory of Robert McKenna who died on May 12.
- Treasurer Sharry Budd said he was a retired postal worker and a township volunteer;
- Heard Deputy Supervisor Dan Selman



This is a rendition from Stellantis on what the new Metro-Detroit Megahub in Van Buren Township will look like when constructed on the 355 acres at the northeast corner of Denton and Ecorse roads.

announce that earlier that day they learned that the township won a Telly Award after submitting the "State of the Township 2024" video as an entry. He said Elena Manalp and Chloe Michaels put the video together;

- Approved a resolution setting the 2025 total tax rate request to the county at 7.272. The township's taxable value is \$1,527,519,987 and the tax amounts to \$11,105,070. The allocated millage to run the township is 0.8917, slightly less than last year's 0.8935 mill because of the Headlee Amendment. The extra voted millage for public safety is 6.3803, slightly less than last year's 6.3931. Assessor Jennifer Stamper said Headlee reduces the tax when the increase in taxable value

is over the cost of living adjustment. Supervisor McNamara said, "We are still one of the lowest tax rates in the county, probably the region";

- Approve consolidating the township's current 10 voting precincts to 7 precincts to reduce the voting locations to 3 at Township Hall and 4 at Wayne County Community College. Clerk Leon Wright explained Proposition 2022-2 changed the way the State of Michigan votes with the addition of Early Voting. With voters now able to vote 9 days early during the state and federal elections, the precinct size restrictions were changed from 2,999 voters to 5,000. This has allowed the township to consolidate down to 7 precincts at 2 voting locations. He said

this will allow the township to cut down on manpower and save money. New voter cards will be sent out; and

- Heard Supervisor McNamara say that Wayne County Executive Warren Evans asked McNamara to show him around his township. Supervisor McNamara said it was a treat to show him around. He said Evans tried to move to Van Buren Township a few years ago and it didn't work out. Now it's so much better, Evans said. He complimented the township on its new community center and its use of high-impact space. He said communities that built pools are having a hard time maintaining them and it's killing them. Evans eventually wants a house and acreage for horses, McNamara said.

Belleville DDA

(continued from page 1)

the company chasing the geese is new this year, replacing the former company that retired.

Mayor Ken Voigt, who sits on the DDA, said the DNR or EGLE says not to feed wildlife because that makes it more dependant on people.

"We can take enforcement if we have to," mayor Voigt said. "But we don't want to... But we have a stick now."

For violating this municipal civil infraction, a person is charged \$100 for the first violation and \$250 for subsequent violations, with each day another offense.

DDA member Chris Donley said the island is covered with nests.

DDA chairman John Winter said when he came in to work at about 7 a.m. that morning, he saw six adult geese and 18 goslings walking down the middle of High

Street.

In other business at the one-hour-23-minute meeting, the DDA:

- Was informed by DDA treasurer Sabrina Richardson-Williams that the Summer Kickoff event being planned for high school students on the last day of school in June will not be happening. She said she asked for volunteer chaperones or staff to help with the event which had included closing Main Street, but she said they were not available, with the staff just wanting to end the school year and leave. She said there was not enough police available. Also, she said, the things the committee bought were what the students wanted. But, she said, everyone wants to get out of school. "When school starts up, I'll follow up. We'll start over. We know we'll be back on this," she said;

- Heard Jones report on the Big Incubator Project at the "warehouse," which is what they are now calling the former hardware

store the DDA purchased. He said they are exploring a cooking incubator project and will get drawings of the building to lay out where things can be. Mayor Voigt said they contacted local kitchens the people could use. "We were hoping Tech Town would work on this differently and were taken aback by their proposal and asking for finances." He said Tech Town laid off 10% of its workforce in March. "We're dropping back to punt on an incubator program," he said. DDA member Mike Gatteri said there is a local man who sets up portable kitchens. Mayor Voigt said the fenced in area at the back of the "warehouse" could be a place for people to eat. "We are actively working on a final plan," he said. When asked, Jones said they have paused on the flooring he had recommended and the mayor said all options are open as far as the building being for sale;

- Set up a DDA committee to work

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OPINIONS

Editorial

Stellantis reveals plan to keep trucks off Belleville Road

What route will those 200 tractor trailers take as they come and go daily from the new Stellantis mega-hub on Ecorse Road?

At last week's regular Van Buren Township meeting a traffic expert from Stellantis told how they had a similar traffic situation in Texas that was solved and their plan to keep the trucks off Belleville Road will work.

The 2-million-square-foot mega-hub is planned to be built on 355 acres at the northeast corner of Ecorse and Denton roads and begin operating in 2027.

First of all, only the 488 employees on two shifts will come and go to their parking by way of Denton Road. A second, northernmost drive off Denton will be for emergency traffic only. No trucks on Denton Road.

The tractor trailers bringing and taking away auto parts from the huge, regional warehouse will use Ecorse to Michigan Avenue to I-94. If they want to head north, they take Ecorse to Michigan Avenue to I-94 to I-275.

The township had trouble with Costco drivers not following directions and taking the most convenient route on Belleville Road to I-94.

Stellantis said their drivers have been with them a long time, have GPS tracking, and follow directions. Three wrong turns and you're out, they said. The traffic will be mostly borne by Washtenaw County roads and I-94. We hope so. Belleville Road already is very crowded.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

On Monday, I buzzed into Belleville at about a quarter to 10 a.m. for the 10 a.m. Memorial Day parade down Main Street. But, Five Points looked like it might be closed. I tried to get through. I like to park in the bank parking lot near the Veterans Memorial so I can get to the parade route on Main and the ceremony afterward at the monument. It worked great last year.

This year, there were police cars blocking Five Points. I knew the parade hadn't started yet and it was too early to block Main Street passage. That's what I thought. What do I know?

When I was blocked by a police car, I rolled down my window and I was pleasantly surprised to see Officer Fred Yono approach. He said I couldn't get through and said he would take care of me as I turned around. And, he did. I went merrily on my way by another route.

When I was new at this job some 30 years ago, Officer Yono worked for the Van Buren Township police and he was known as the top traffic cop on the job. And, he could get several cars to stop at once and wait for him to hand them their tickets. He was very polite and I can't remember a complaint about his demeanor ever.

I had the chance to experience his work and he was very polite. He called me by name. I'd rather not be stopped by an officer, but this didn't hurt a bit.

Yono retired from Van Buren Township Police Department and then went to work for Huron Township where he still works. He told me recently he had no plans to retire. That's when I ran into him at the Bake Shoppe when I was delivering papers.

From what I surmise, he does a lot of traffic stops for Huron Township on the I-275 stretch of highway in that township. Just follow the

...By Rosemary K. Otzman



traffic signs and you'll be fine.

It's funny. When I stop to turn out of the Van Buren Township hall after a meeting, I always remember Officer Yono's admonition to put on your turn signals, even if no one is around. That's what I do.

A very kind lady brought me back a notebook from Costa Rica where she had just visited. The paper in the book is made of banana and sugar cane, which saves trees. The paper feels great. What a lovely gift.

The parade on Monday was very nice and a lot of people turned out to watch it go by on Main Street. Although I thought the rule was not to throw out candy at parades to keep the kids safe from being run over, there were several units tossing it out onto the street.

At another Memorial Day parade nearby over the weekend a two-year-old child got run over by a golfcart and they had to lift the golfcart off of the child. There was no report on the condition of the child. That's why they used to ask people not to throw candy in the street.

Another reason why I like daytime parades is because you can see who is in the vehicles and what it says on signs they carry. Although on Monday, one truck had blackened windows all around so I couldn't see who was inside.

Those nighttime parades are difficult because I can't really tell who is in the unit because it's so dark and the units aren't lighted enough. At the nighttime parades, the only place to see the units clearly is near the stage at the end where they stop and the announcer tells who they are

and lets people speak from their units. That area is extremely crowded, however.

The parade on Monday was led by Kris Faull, who is Belleville Police Chief and also bears the title of Public Safety Director, putting her in charge of both the police and fire departments. It was never announced at a meeting, but it seems to be the way it is now.

I asked if she was the new fire chief and was told she could not be fire chief because she doesn't have the fire credentials. But she's in charge.

The Belleville Fire Department Auxiliary is even changing its name to the Public Safety Auxiliary, we're told.

In Sumpter Township a few years ago, Police Chief Eric Luke became Public Safety Director/Police Chief and it was a big deal, announced at a township board meeting, and he was applauded. Different strokes for different folks, I guess.

This is the week that movers and shakers throughout southeast Michigan are heading to Mackinac Island to put their heads together and come up with ideas for the state. I asked Van Buren Township supervisor Kevin McNamara if the taxpayers of the township are paying his way and he said they weren't. He said he will be there representing the Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority, where he sits on the board.



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Keystone board elects new president: Christine Mahaly of Van Buren Twp.

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Christine Mahaly of Van Buren Township was unanimously elected the new president of the Keystone Academy Board of Directors and she will take over her duties on July 1.

Keystone president Steven Harsant said that he and Mahaly agreed last year that Harsant would serve a year and then Mahaly, who was vice-president, would step into the president's role and he would become vice president.

He said when the former president, Vesta Losen, retired she had served on the board since the school was formed and was president for many years. When she left there was a gap in the experience on the board.

By spreading the experience around the board will "deepen the base of tribal knowledge," he said at the May 8 regular meeting of the board.

The new board will be president Mahaly, vice president Harsant, treasurer Charlene Derrick and secretary Kimberly Kowalski. That will be it unless Kowalski, who was not at the meeting, turns down another

term as secretary.

In other business at the 56-minute annual meeting on May 8, the board:

- Held a budget hearing with no comments from the public on the proposed 2025-26 budget as prepared by National Heritage Academies, who manages the school. Later in the agenda the proposed budget was unanimously adopted;

- As part of the annual meeting action items, approved the new FOIA officer, attorney Ruth Skidmore; the same board legal counsel; the AHERA contact; the Title VI, Title IX, and Section 504 contact; and the school safety commission liaison;

- Approved the 2025-26 Parent and Student Handbook with the addition of a policy for screening threats;

- Ratified the 2024-25 audit letter of engagement;

- Approved the board analysis to be presented to Bay Mills Community College which is considering renewing the school's charter;

- Approved spending \$3,000 in board funds to help fund the Summer Learning Check-ins, where students get to go free to Rolling Hills in Ypsilanti when half-way done with the summer's lesson book and then BIG Best in Games in Ypsilanti is open to them after finishing the summer's lesson book;

- Tabled approval of board funds for the 2025 NHA Board Symposium in Grand Rapids on July 14-16 because some of the board members are unsure if they will be able to go. It is the NHA's celebration of its 30th anniversary. The cost is \$1,800 each with one night of lodging;

- Approved the minutes of a one-hour-20-minute special meeting on May 6 that was mainly held in closed-door session. After coming back into open-session, a motion was made to long-term suspend Student #659104 for the remainder of the 2024-25 school year for possession of a banned item at school. The board voted for suspension because fewer than 60 school days remain in the 2024-25 academic year

- Heard the *Independent* complain that the paper was not informed of the special May 6 meeting and there will be an ongoing FOIA filed with NHA for advisement of any special meetings in the future;

- Was informed of all the special food and activities being held May 5-9 which is school staff appreciation week;

- Heard Principal Jorvanna Drain announce that their scholastic book fair gave each student four free books they had selected. The students also enjoyed the annual carnival and silent dance party, where they danced to music in earphones. She also told of a new garden club launched after school at no charge where students planted a garden;

- Heard Principal Drain tell of the school raising \$357 to symbolically adopts a bobcat and coyote through the Howell

(continued on page 6)

Letters

I am now at Angela Hospice in Livonia

To the editor:

I have been at Mission Point Superior Woods the last three years. I am now in residence at Angela Hospice, 14100 Newburgh Rd., Livonia, MI 48154.

I wish to let my whereabouts be known to the churches I served in Belleville on Lower Huron. I forget the name. My friends are Larry and Dianne, Eally and Becky, Ron and Donna Chevert, Nancy, Helton, Tim, Doctor Gail Brennan, Sue, Charles, Accurate Dental, and Cornerstone Church, Willis Road, Pastor Dave.

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Keystone

(continued from page 3)

Nature Cetner. The money goes towards providing their care including x-rays, surgeries, antibiotics, housing and food. Stuffed animals that look like the two they adopted will be transferred from classroom to classroom to cement the relationship. No animals in the school, Drain said; and

- Learned Keystone now has 112 registered new students. There are only 37 available seats until it is fully enrolled. There are no seats available in Kindergarten, first, second, third, fifth, and sixth grades. For the 2026-27 school year, they will go back to spring open enrollment which be held from the first day of school until the last business day in February.

Upcoming Meetings

- Monday, June 2 – Belleville City Council, 6:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, June 3 – Van Buren Township Board of Trustees, 6 p.m., and workshop at 5 p.m. as needed
- Monday, June 9 – Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m., BHS Commons
- Tuesday, June 10 – Sumpter Township board meeting, 6 p.m. Also, Belleville Area District Library, 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, June 11 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 5:30 p.m.
- Thursday, June 12 – Keystone Academy School Board, 5 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township Planning Commission, 6 p.m.
- Monday, June 16 – Belleville City Council, 6:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, June 17 – Van Buren Township Board of Trustees, 6 p.m., and workshop at 5 p.m. as needed
- Wednesday, June 18 – City of Belleville Downtown Development Authority, 6 p.m., Belleville City Hall, 6 Main St.

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Obituaries



Thomas A. Johnstone, Jr.

THOMAS A. JOHNSTONE, Jr.

June 12, 1949 – May 8, 2025

Thomas Alexander Johnstone, Jr., a cherished member of the Belleville community, passed away peacefully on May 8, 2025, at the age of 75. Born on June 12, 1949, in Ypsilanti, Michigan, Thomas lived a life marked by dedication to his family, work, and passions.

Thomas retired as an inspector for General Motors, where he devoted many years of service. In his leisure time, he found joy in fishing and shared many happy moments bowling with his beloved fiancée, Phyllis Taylor. He was also a valued member of The Huron Senior Center in Waltz, Michigan, where he formed lasting friendships.

Thomas was preceded in death by his parents, Thomas and Bonnie Johnstone, and his brother-in-law, Edward Taylor. He leaves behind his loving fiancée of over 40 years, Phyllis Taylor; daughter, Jennifer Euchner; son, Tom Harris; 5 grandchildren, 1 great-grandchild; sisters, Jan (Bob) Patterson and Bonnie (Carl) Haney; sisters-in-law, Sharon (Darryl) Zilka, Theresa Taylor, and Judith (Paul Delmar) Taylor; brothers-in-law, James Taylor and Thomas (Dawn) Taylor. He is also survived by many nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends who will miss him dearly.

Service was held at St. Aloysius Church. Arrangements by Michigan Memorial Funeral Home and inurnment at Michigan Memorial Park.

In lieu of flowers, those who wish to honor Thomas's memory may make a donation to the COPD Foundation in his name.

Thomas will be remembered for his warmth, kindness, and the love he shared with all who knew him. His legacy will live on in the hearts of his family and friends.

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SUSAN LYNN DUFF

December 2, 1951 – May 22, 2025

Age 73 of Van Buren Township and Port Richey, FL. Survived by husband John Duff; children Arianna/Jennifer Woznak, John Bugg, Jeffrey Bugg; four grandchildren; three siblings. Funeral Mass at noon on Saturday, May 31, at St. Aloysius Catholic Church, Romulus. www.davidcbrownfh.com

Things to do in the Belleville area...

• **Thursday, May 29** – "Intro to AI" at 6 p.m. at the Belleville Area District Library. What is AI? How does it work? Can the average person even use it? Justin Villa from the Westland Public Library will show how to best utilize generative AI to make your life easier. (734) 699-3291. Register at belleville.libcal.com.

• **Friday, May 30** – Trivia Night at Van Buren Eagles, 9961 Beck Rd., Van Buren Township, at 7:30 p.m. with DJ Betty. Free to play. Put your knowledge to the test. Public welcome.

• **Saturday, May 31** – "Welcome Back Summer BBQ Under the Pavilion" from 4 to 7 p.m. (or until we run out) at the Romulus VFW Post 78, 39270 W. Huron River Dr., Romulus, (734) 941-3030. Ticket costs \$10 and includes two hot dogs and sides or hamburger and sides. Proceeds to benefit the Honor Guard.

• **Saturday, May 31** – Donuts and Discussion, open to the public, 10-11 a.m., Belleville Area District Library, 176 Fourth St., on the second floor, sponsored by Michigan Convention of States, a non-profit, non-partisan, grassroots organization. Discussion on America's future. All 50 states have now filed a COS resolution.

• **Saturday, May 31** – School Board secretary Darlene Loyer Gerick is holding a craft supply sale from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Belleville High School to earn funds for Tiger Village. Vendor tables are available. There also will be an all-day craft crop from 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. to work on scrapbooks, sewing, etc. Information: dgerick@vanburenschools.net

• **Monday, June 2** – Belleville Farmers Market on Mondays through Oct. 13, from 4 to 7 p.m., Fourth Street Place and Fourth Street Square. Also, Classic Car show every Monday starting today.

• **Wednesday, June 4** – Van Buren Township DDA concert, 7-9 p.m., Harris Park with Dave Fio.

• **Saturday, June 7** – Kids Fishing Derby from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Banotai Park on Sherwood Road in Sumpter Township. Sponsored by Sumpter Township Parks and Recreation.

• **Wednesday, June 11** – Van Buren Township DDA concert, 7-9 p.m., Harris Park with Surfzup Band.

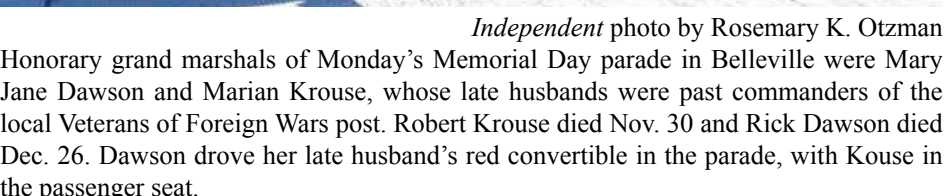
• **Thursday, June 12** – Lakeside Music in Belleville beings today at 7 p.m., with Thursday concerts all summer.

• **Friday, June 13** – Winner Winner Chicken Dinner from 5-7 p.m. at Pvt. James D. Donovan/Romulus Post 78, 39270 W. Huron River Dr., (734) 941-3030. Three pieces of broasted chicken, potatoes, green beans, cole slaw and rolls, \$15. All proceeds benefit the Honor Guard.

• **Wednesday, June 18** – Van Buren Township DDA concert, 7-9 p.m., Harris Park with Cruzin' Jupiter.

• **Thursday, June 19** – Third Thursday in the Ville is from 5 to 8 p.m. when popup crafters are in the Fourth Street Square and inside retail businesses in downtown Belleville. It's the Third Thursday of each month, from March through December.

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Honorary grand marshals of Monday's Memorial Day parade in Belleville were Mary Jane Dawson and Marian Krouse, whose late husbands were past commanders of the local Veterans of Foreign Wars post. Robert Krouse died Nov. 30 and Rick Dawson died Dec. 26. Dawson drove her late husband's red convertible in the parade, with Kouse in the passenger seat.

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VBT wins silver at 2025 Telly Awards for video on Community Impact

Van Buren Township is proud to announce that its Communications Department's produced video, "VBT: A Community Center's Impact," has been awarded a Silver Telly Award in the Non-Broadcast - General: Government Relations category.

The Telly Awards honor excellence in media across many genres, including commercial, advertising, public, and non-profit sectors. Each year, the competition receives over 13,000 entries from all 50 U.S. states and six continents.

Past winners include the most respected names in media and production, such as Volkswagen, NASA, Netflix, National Geographic, Comcast, and Microsoft.

This recognition is more than a celebration of great storytelling -- it's a heartfelt homage to our residents, whose voices inspired the creation of the VBC. The video was shared via social media this Spring. It spotlights the VBC staff that managed the project, as well as members and visitors of the VBC voicing their appreciation for the community space since its opening last June.

"This video is about the people who make Van Buren Township the place we're proud to call home," said Supervisor Kevin McNamara. "We're very happy that the Telly Awards recognized the story of

what happens when a community comes together."

"To be recognized among such a prestigious group is an honor—and a reflection of the passion and collaboration that drive everything we do at Van Buren Township," said Chloe Michaels, VBT Communications Specialist.

Watch the award-winning video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oak6GhSlkMo>

SNHU: President's List students from VBT, Belleville

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) announces the following students have been named to the Spring 2025 President's List. The spring terms run from January to May.

Honored are: Parometris Watkins of Van Buren Township, and Kelsey Vendlands, Hope Faith, and Kristin Simms, all of Belleville.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above for the reporting term are named to the President's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.



June 1 – Nathan Millard
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Independent photo by Rosemary K. Oztman

Members of Belleville High School's Navy Junior ROTC group marched in Monday's Memorial Day parade in Belleville.

Killeen Javorsky of VBT graduates from Albion College with honors

Van Buren Township student Killeen Javorsky recently graduated from Albion College with a degree in history and minors in ethnic studies and anthropology. This degree was granted *summa cum laude* with Albion College Honors.

The honor of *summa cum laude* recognizes a graduate with an overall GPA of 3.9 or higher.

Albion College Honors recognize seniors who have completed all requirements of the Prentiss M. Brown Honors Program, including a thesis project and overall GPA of 3.5 or better.

Javorsky is the child of Terrence Javorsky and Doreen O'Driscoll of Van Buren Township and is a graduate of Washtenaw International High School.

Albion College is a private liberal arts college of approximately 1,500 students in Albion, MI.

Bernard Harrison of VBT named to Albion College Dean's List

Van Buren Township student Bernard Harrison was named to Albion College's Dean's List for the Spring 2025 semester.

Albion College's Dean's List recognizes students who achieve a 3.5 or better GPA while taking four graded courses.

Harrison is majoring in political science with a minor in psychology and a concentration in the Gerald R. Ford Institute for Leadership in Public Policy and Service and is a member of the Prentiss M. Brown Honors Program.

Harrison is the child of Antonio and Simone Harrison of Van Buren Township and is a graduate of Belleville High School.

Albion College is a private liberal arts college of approximately 1,500 students located in Albion, MI.

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District Library board votes 6-1 to repay penal fines with payment plan

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Sharon Peters, chairperson of the Belleville Area District Library board, said she just wanted to pay off the \$122,733.64 the library received in error over the last ten years and be done with it.

She was the only no vote in the 6-1 vote at the May 13 board meeting on the motion to ask Wayne County to forego future penal fines in order to pay off what is owed.

Board member Dr. Maria Jackson-Smith at first decided to vote against the motion with Peters, but then changed her vote to join the majority.

In giving her report on the issue, library director Mary Jo Suchy said she is confident with the revised numbers. She said, after a county employee retired, the county started calculating what the court took in from traffic tickets and should have been using the

percentage set by the state.

Suchy said the Library of Michigan has been exploring processes and resources that can be put into place to assist in identifying any problems moving forward and the likelihood for future errors is low, now that we all know what to look for.

"Nobody wants this to happen again," director Suchy said, adding that the library has enough money to pay it all off at once.

Board member Joy Cichewicz maybe they should just pay it off.

Vice-chairperson Linda Priest was concerned it might make extra work for Suchy with a payment plan.

"It would be good to pay it off," Suchy said. "Then we won't have to worry about it any more."

Board member Dan Fleming said he was concerned errors would happen again and there should be something writing.

"We are in a position to pay it back," Suchy said. She said some of the libraries that ended up owing money can't pay it all at once and will pay it back over future years.

"There's no way to know if they will make mistakes in future years," Cichewicz said.

"Our attorney said if we fought it in court it would cost half of our total in attorney fees," Suchy said.

Peters noted the money they pay back will be redistributed to the libraries that were paid less than they should have been.

Suchy said an option was the payment plan where the library would have the amount owed taken out of future penal fines until it was paid. She said she would do whatever the board wanted to do.

The library usually received about \$36,000 a year in penal fines so it will take three to four years to pay it off.

Fleming said if there is litigation by another board and a change in the situation, that would make a difference.

"Do you want me to ask them to take it out of penal fines?" Suchy asked.

Fleming said that was just his opinion.

"I like the idea of getting it over with and not having this mess to worry about," Peters said, adding she sees some reluctance on the part of board members and they'll do whatever the board wants to do.

"If there's no interest, I'd say pay it on time," said treasurer Tanya Stoudemire.

"If we take time, does that make it longer for libraries they didn't pay enough to get their money?" asked Dr. Jackson-Smith.

No one knew how the county was going to handle that.

Peters said they need an answer since they have been give 30 days to either pay the amount or decide to take it out of future penal fines.

Treasurer Stoudemire made the motion to forego future penal fines in order to pay off what's owed and it passed 6-1.

"I'm sure we can change our minds later and say we want to pay it off," Peters said.

In other business at the one-hour-five-minute meeting on May 13, the board:

- Unanimously approved a change from the current carrier, The Standard, to Principal Financial Group for Short/Long Term Disability health insurance for the 4 full-time library employees. Suchy said the current plan through The Standard, which they had through their affiliation with MERS, has not been meeting their needs. She said there have been multiple SNAFUs, errors, decimal point errors, and sending things to the wrong place. She said the change will cut the cost per month for the insurance from the current \$720.01 to \$601.56 as of June 1. This will increase the coverage and the services, Suchy said;

- Heard Suchy report that the automatic bathroom door openers have been installed. She said they are keeping an eye on the bushes in the parking lot because some are brown and might need to be replaced;

- Learned the original computers are now five years old and they have money in the budget to replace them; and

- Discussed the recent visit of American Library Association President Cindy Hohl, who gave a talk at the library that was attended by many library colleagues from surrounding libraries. She gave an inspiring message, participated in a children's storytime, and received a tour of the library. Suchy thanked one of her librarians, Nakenya Lewis-Yarbrough, for inviting Hohl and planning the event. Belleville's library was the 33rd library she visited on her national tour.



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INDEPENDENT CLASSIFIED ADS

GARAGE/YARD SALE

MOVING SALE. Tools, household items and clothing. May 30 & 31, 9am-4pm and June 1, 9am-12. 2459 Rawsonville Rd. 5/29

GRAMMA & GRAMPA'S ESTATE SALE. Now thru June 1. 9am-5pm. 7170 Edwards Rd., Van Buren Township. More listed on Market Place. 5/29

MULTI FAMILY GARAGE SALE. May 30 & 31, 9am-5pm. 1539 Hamlin Street VBT. Some antiques, household, décor, toys and much more. 5/29

3 FAMILY SALE. May 29, 30 & 31, 9am-4pm, 175 Chaney Street. Household items, & small appliances. 5/29

BELLE POINTE ESTATES SUBDIVISION YARD/GARAGE SALE. Ecorse & Belleville Rd. June 5, 6 & 7, 8am-6pm. Appliances, household items, lawn furniture, clothing & fishing gear etc. 6/05

HUGE SUB WIDE GARAGE SALE AT "GREENBRIAR" June 5, 6 & 7, 9am-5pm Belleville and Van Born Rd. Furniture, clothes, electronics, home décor, tools, books, toys and much more. Rain or shine. 6/05

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FOOD GRADE BARRELS Plastic & metal. Inventory & pictures at www.mattsbarrels.com, call or text (734) 474-5981. Located in Willis. 7/03

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

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

"Reality leaves a lot to the imagination."
– John Lennon

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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 BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES -- May 20, 2025

Supervisor McNamara called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room. Present: Supervisor McNamara, Treasurer Budd, Clerk Wright, Trustee Boynton, Trustee Martin, Trustee Frazier and Trustee Kelley. Others in attendance: Deputy Supervisor Selman, Recording Assistant Beaudry, Director of Community Services Renaud, Deputy Director of Community Services Dohring, Director of IT Barbaza, Assessor Stamper, Director of Parks Locke, Director of Recreation Gerhart, Director of Water and Sewer Miner, DDA Director Coburn, Director of Municipal Services Akers and an audience of six.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE AGENDA: Supervisor McNamara outlined the items appearing on the agenda.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA: Frazier moved, Budd seconded to approve the agenda. Motion Carried.

ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA: Boynton moved, Wright seconded to approve the Consent Agenda: Board Meeting Minutes of May 6, 2025, Prepaid List of May 8, 2025, Prepaid List of May 15, 2025, Voucher List of May 20, 2025, and Approval of Resolution 2025-13: 2025 Tax Rate Request. Motion Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING: Budd moved, Kelley seconded to open the Public Hearing at 6:08 p.m. to receive comments on: the request to establish Industrial Development District #26 (IDD #26) and the request for Industrial Facilities Tax Exemption application for 12 years for FCA US, LLC. Motion Carried. Budd moved, Boynton seconded to close the public hearing at 6:10 p.m. Motion Carried.

C O R R E S P O N D E N C E / ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS:

A moment of silence was held in remembrance of Township community member Robert McKenna who passed away last Monday, and the Communications Dept. won a Telly Award for a video on the VBC.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Unfinished and New Business): None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Boynton moved, Budd seconded to approve Resolution 2025-10 to establish Industrial Development District #26. Motion Carried. Budd moved, Boynton seconded to approve Resolution 2025-11 to approve the Industrial Facilities Exemption application for 12 years for FCA US, LLC. Motion Carried.

Resolution 2025-09: to consolidate Van Buren Township's current 10 precincts to 7 precincts and to reduce the voting locations to Township Hall and Wayne County Community College. Motion Carried.

REPORTS: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: None.

BOARD COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: Supervisor McNamara reported that after a recent visit, Wayne County Executive Warren Evans complimented how nice Van Buren Township is and Clerk Wright congratulated the Communications Team on winning their Telly award.

ADJOURNMENT: Frazier moved; Budd seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:59 p.m. Motion Carried.

Leon Wright, Township Clerk
Date

Kevin McNamara, Supervisor
Published: May 29, 2025

INDEPENDENT CLASSIFIED ADS

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\$20/HOUR. 734-992-2205.

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Correction:

Proper title of program
is 'America in Bloom'

The proper name for the program the city of Belleville is involved in for landscaping advice is "America in Bloom." The program was referred to as "Blooming America" in error on page 8 of the May 15 *Independent*.

Rosemary K. Oztman, editor

"If you find yourself in a hole, stop digging."
— Will Rogers

Public Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE: Crown Castle is proposing to collocate antennas on a proposed new 45-ft wooden pole located at 9275 Haggerty Rd, Belleville, Wayne County, MI 48111 (42° 14' 04.85" N, 83° 26' 41.52" W). Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30-days from the date of this publication to: K. Eisele, Terracon, 930 Harvest Drive, Suite 460, Bluebell, PA 19422, 856-813-3267, or Kathy.eisele@terracon.com.

Publish: May 29, 2025

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Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

There were 299 dispatch calls reported by Van Buren Township police this week including the following.

Sunday, May 18:

0055 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
0100 – intrusion alarm, Forestdale Dr.
0122 – property damage accident, Haggerty Rd. / N. I-94 Service Dr.
0136 – disorderly, Denton Rd.
0239 – civil matter, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0302 – welfare check, Van Born/Hannan Rd.
0851 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Sawgrass Ct.
1010 – mental subject, rest area
1103 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1101 – assist other dept., Lake Point Blvd.
1215 – animal complaint, Belleville Rd.
1542 – intrusion alarm, Rawsonville Rd.
1716 – threat, N. Ponderosa Trl.
1817 – intrusion alarm, Hannan Rd.
1817 – 911 welfare check, Christina Ln.
1904 – threat, Parkside Dr.
2002 – disorderly, Michigan Ave.
2051 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Belleville Rd.
2110 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, S. I-275/Ecorse Rd.
2119 – 911 welfare check, Ecorse Rd.
2206 – welfare check, Denton Rd.
2301 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Rawsonville Rd.
2317 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Ecorse Rd.

Monday, May 19:

0110 – found property/child, Tyler Rd.
xxxx – repossession, Denton Rd.
0130 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Waverly maintenance
0130 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Edison Lake
0140 – warrant arrest, James L. Hart Pkwy.
0252 – traffic offense, Ecorse/Morton Taylor
xxxx – private property impound, Belleville Rd.
xxxx – repossession, Denton Rd.
xxxx – civil matter, Haggerty Rd./Ecorse Rd.
0934 – animal complaint, McBride
0948 – 911 welfare check, E. Huron River Dr.
1045 – animal complaint, Belleville Rd. / S. I-94 Service Dr.
1053 – motorist assist, Ecorse Rd./Haggerty Rd.
1243 – welfare check, N. Woodbury Dr.
1221 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Edwards Rd.
1311 – threat, McBride
1313 – unattended death, Oak Ln.
xxxx – civil matter, Maurice Dr.
1408 – vehicle lockout, N. Ponderosa Trl.
1425 – property damage accident, Martinsville Rd. / Riggs Rd.
xxxx – welfare check, Ayres Ave.
1843 – neighbor trouble, Endicott St.
1858 – civil matter, Parkwood Dr.
xxxx – larceny, Victoria St.
1300 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Belleville Rd./Sunrise Ln.
2251 – civil matter, Holly Ln.

Tuesday, May 20:

0708 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
0749 – intrusion alarm, Beck Rd.
0757 – threat, Stratford Dr.
xxxx – repossession, Kirkridge Park Dr.
0855 – property damage accident, Ecorse/Edwards
0905 – property damage accident, Haggerty Rd. / McBride Ave.
0947 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
1051 – civil matter, Van Born
1224 – road hazard, Belleville ramp
1252 – unattended death, Country Ln.
1325 – civil matter, Stratford Dr.
1620 – dumping complaint, Edison Lake
1536 – personal injury accident, Elwell Rd. / W. Huron River Dr.
1629 – abandoned auto, Bond Bluff Dr.
1938 – welfare check, Rawsonville Rd./Bemis Rd.
2004 – assist fire dept., Bak Rd.
2105 – motorist assist, Belleville Rd./E. I-94
2347 – warrant arrest, Eureka Rd.
2357 – civil matter, Belleville Rd.

Wednesday, May 21:

0015 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0746 – suicidal person, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0944 – trespassing, Rawsonville Rd.
1022 – threat, Rawsonville Rd.
1036 – assist other dept., Grove Rd./Snow Rd.
1114 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1212 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd. / Martz Rd.
1258 – disorderly, Edison Lake
1302 – welfare check, Bohn Rd.
1402 – welfare check, S. Bellridge Dr.
1423 – welfare check, Belleville Rd.
1450 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd. / Bemis Rd.
1447 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Outer Dr.
1511 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1511 – fight, Belleville Rd.
1518 – traffic offense, Belleville Rd.
1550 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Tyler Rd.
1549 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1804 – disorderly, Belleville Rd.
xxxx – parking complaint, Cobblestone Ct.
1810 – property damage accident, Michigan Ave. / Denton Rd.
1851 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Hampton Dr.
1903 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Beck Rd. / A St.
1949 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Belleville Rd.
1954 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Bristol/Chandler
2052 – welfare check, Bradley Dr.
2104 – disorderly, Belleville Rd.
xxxx – holdup alarm, Belleville Rd.
2146 – intrusion alarm, N. Cumberland Dr.
2306 – welfare check, Westlake Cir.
2318 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Haggerty Rd.
Thursday, May 22:
0132 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Martinsville Rd./Savage Rd.
0747 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Haggerty Rd.
0851 – hospice death, Haggerty Rd.
0915 – warrant arrest, Alva Dr.
1000 – civil matter, Union St.
1000 – traffic offense, Ecorse Rd.
xxxx – private property impound, Belleville Rd.
1019 – intrusion alarm, Winding Pond Dr.
1024 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1109 – intrusion alarm, Hanover Dr.
1058 – animal complaint, Westlake Cir.
1129 – welfare check, Denton Rd.
1243 – malicious destruction of property, Belleville Rd.
1307 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1318 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1402 – road hazard, Kirkridge Park Dr./Ecorse
1412 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1437 – property damage accident, Rawsonville
1537 – welfare check, Brandi Dr.
1617 – intrusion alarm, Ironwood Dr.
1617 – juvenile complaint, Quirk Rd.
1702 – abandoned auto, Belleville Rd.
1627 – personal injury accident, Rawsonville Rd. / W. Huron River Dr.
1715 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd. / Textile Rd.
1715 – domestic, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1729 – fight, Haggerty Rd.
1813 – family trouble, S. Woodbury Dr.
2014 – welfare check, Lenmoore Ave.
2051 – private property impound, Belleville Rd.
2110 – welfare check, North Service Dr.
2108 – disorderly, Haggerty Rd.
2128 – domestic, Ecorse Rd.
2210 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Hanover Dr.
2245 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Haggerty Rd.
2228 – juvenile complaint, Tyler Rd./Belleville
Friday, May 23:
0457 – intrusion alarm, Ecorse Rd.
xxxx – misc. complaint, N. I-94 Service Dr.
xxxx – misc. complaint, Van Born Rd.
0922 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
0940 – property damage accident, Huron River Dr.
xxxx – threat, Michigan Ave./Denton Rd.
1236 – road hazard, Belleville Rd. / S. I-94 Service

1345 – juvenile complaint, Wheeler St.
1454 – domestic, Ecorse Rd.
1621 – civil matter, Parkwood Dr.
1934 – fraud, Timberland Dr.
1939 – private property/property damage accident, Parkwood Dr.
2106 – civil matter, Belleville Rd.
2140 – mental subject, Beckley Rd.
2159 – animal complaint, Mott
2218 – property damage accident, Van Born Rd. / Sheldon Rd.
2319 – larceny, Chatsworth Dr.
Saturday, May 24:
0215 – road hazard, Ecorse Rd./Haggerty Rd.
0850 – malicious destruction of property, Jackson
1034 – road hazard, Beck/Ecorse
1055 – welfare check, Savage Rd./Wildbrook Dr.
1108 – misc. complaint, Tyler Rd.
1142 – civil matter, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1157 – 911 welfare check, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1234 – road hazard, Tyler Rd./Haggerty Rd.
1437 – welfare check, Union St.
1527 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1701 – assist fire dept., N. Ponderosa Trl.
1709 – vehicle lockout, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1835 – misc. complaint, Dewitt Rd.
2000 – traffic offense, Marina Cv./Denton Rd.
2136 – suicidal person, Van Born/Haggerty Rd.
2217 – vehicle lockout, Belleville Rd.
2326 – noise complaint, Wildflower Ct. / Wheatgrass Ln.

Also, on this log are 63 traffic stops, 3 of which are on the I-94 freeway. There also are 64 ordinance violations.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, May 18:

0809 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, N. Liberty St.
1018 – property damage accident, Main St.
1352 – harassment call, Second St.
1448 – misc. complaint, Denton Rd.
1722 – property check, Owen St.
1734 – property check, W. Columbia Ave.
2117 – fight, E. Columbia Ave.
2305 – property check, W. Columbia Ave.
2334 – threat, Carmell St.

Monday, May 19:

0007 – 911 welfare check, Carmell St.
1536 – family trouble, Clarence St.
1643 – vehicle lockout, Sumpter Rd.
1706 – civil matter, Edison Ave.
1742 – civil matter, N. Aberdeen Ct.
1959 – welfare check, N. Aberdeen Ct.
2018 – 911 welfare check, N. Aberdeen Ct.

Tuesday, May 20:

0311 – intrusion alarm, Main St.
0915 – personal injury accident, Owen St.
0940 – traffic offense, S. Edgemont Ave.
1501 – welfare check, High St.
1641 – ordinance violation – all 7300 MICR codes, Main St.

1641 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Carmell St.
1653 – juvenile complaint, Owen St.
1743 – repossession, Belle Villa Blvd.
1802 – family trouble, Carmell St.
2146 – juvenile complaint, W. Columbia Ave.
2146 – juvenile complaint, W. Columbia Ave.
2147 – juvenile complaint, W. Columbia Ave.
2211 – noise complaint, Menlo Park Dr.
2329 – juvenile complaint, S. Edgemont St.

Wednesday, May 21:

0016 – animal complaint, Belle Villa Blvd.
xxxx – repossession, Carmell St.
0900 – property check, Denton Rd.
1013 – disorderly, W. Davis St.
1913 – harassment call, Sumpter Rd.

Thursday, May 22:

0908 – private property impound, South St.
0926 – private property impound, South St.
1731 – animal complaint, W. Columbia Ave.
1541 – juvenile complaint, S. Edgemont Ave.

Friday, May 23: traffic stops only

Saturday, May 24: traffic stops only

There are 88 reports on this week's log and 50 of these are traffic stops.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, May 18:

0027 – traffic complaint/hazard, Country Club Blvd.
0435 – suspicious vehicle, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
0951 – family trouble, Rustic Ln.
1024 – follow-up investigation, Wyoming St.
1154 – family trouble, New Mexico St.
1354 – family trouble, Timberlane
1530 – family trouble, Arizona St.
1542 – traffic complaint/hazard, 48000 bl. Willow
1713 – animal complaint, Rawsonville/Willis
1826 – follow-up investigation, out of township
1936 – suspicious circumstance, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2029 – welfare check, Oakville Waltz/Martinsville
2033 – fire dept. assist, Montana St.
2116 – alarm, 50000 bl. willow Rd.
2135 – traffic complaint/hazard, Willow/Karr

Monday, May 19:

0311 – suspicious circumstance, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
0608 – animal complaint, 23000 bl. Karr Rd.
1426 – assist other agency, Colorado St.
1455 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1518 – citizen assist, Mulberry Dr.
1554 – assist other agency, out of township
2041 – neighbor dispute, 46000 bl. Willis Rd.
2100 – fire dept. assist, Mulberry Dr.
2123 – 911 hangup, Redwood Dr.

Tuesday, May 20:

0007 – noise complaint, 46000 bl. Willis Rd.
0105 – hospice death, 43000 bl. Willow Rd.
0336 – fire dept. assist, 46000 bl. Wear Rd.
0717 – family trouble, Rustic Ln.
0913 – fire dept. assist, 21000 bl. Clark Rd.
1146 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1449 – breaking & entering report, 29000 bl. Sherwood Rd.

1900 – 911 hangup, Oregon St.
1934 – assist other agency, Rawsonville/Bemis
1949 – detail/special unit, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2146 – welfare check, Utah St.
2153 – mental health check, 22000 bl. Bohn Rd.
2208 – civil matter, Pecan St.

Wednesday, May 21:

0300 – 911 hangup, Nevada St.
0639 – 911 hangup, Rustic Ln.
0828 – follow-up investigation, Rustic Ln.
0940 – suspicious circumstance, 27000 bl. Sherwood Rd.

1222 – welfare check, Nevada St.
1435 – 911 hangup, 48000 bl. Sully Dr.
1726 – assist other agency, 17000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1912 – 911 hangup, 28000 bl. Clark Rd.
1938 – felony warrant arrest, out of township
2017 – follow-up investigation, 51000 bl. Willow
2030 – follow-up investigation, 46000 bl. Bemis
2238 – family trouble, Birch Dr.

Thursday, May 22:

0257 – misdemeanor warrant arrest, Martinsville Rd. / Harris Rd.
0821 – follow-up investigation, Virginia St.
0854 – fire dept. assist, Edgewood Dr.
0940 – traffic flee & elude, Willow/Rawsonville
1027 – alarm, 21000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1028 – follow-up investigation, Colorado St.
1035 – breaking & entering report, 22000 bl. Carleton West Rd.
1132 – welfare check, 44000 bl. Paris Dr.
1229 – citizen assist, 44000 bl. Willis Rd.
1405 – welfare check, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1501 – suspicious circumstance, Colorado St.
1615 – welfare check, 25000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1807 – 911 hangup, 18000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1832 – follow-up investigation, 17000 bl. Sumpter

Friday, May 23:
0128 – fire dept. assist, 24000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
0132 – family trouble, Mulberry Dr.
0818 – citizen assist, 48000 bl. Judd Rd.
1425 – civil matter, Greenmeadow Dr.
1425 – 911 hangup, 24000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1538 – animal complaint, 18000 bl. Savage Rd.
1728 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1853 – fire dept. assist, 44000 bl. Clay Rd.
1857 – animal complaint, 47000 bl. Wear Rd.
1944 – neighbor dispute, Washington St.

Saturday, May 24:

0034 – noise complaint, Carriage Ln.
(Continued on page 15)

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BREAK-INS CAUGHT ON CAMERA



Belleville DDA

(continued from page 3)

on the final plan for the "warehouse." Volunteering to serve with the mayor were treasurer Richardson-Williams, Valerie Kelley-Bonner, and vice-chairman Chris Donley;

- Unanimously approved paying \$15,750 total for Fibar chips for the playscapes at Victory (\$9,675) and Village (\$6,075) parks. The city council already had approved the purchase from Midstates Recreation with the hopes the DDA would reimburse it since the DDA takes care of parks. Mayor Voigt made the DDA motion to approve the Fibar purchase, seconded by Richardson-Williams;

- Heard Jones say he got an asphalt quote to upgrade the basketball courts in Village Park for about \$27,478. They are too broken up for playing, having not been repaired since they were put in when the park was built 30 years ago. Richardson-Williams said there was money in the budget for park equipment and she wondered if they couldn't repair the basketball court at Victory Park while they were at it. Jones complained that he had a hard time getting that quote for Village Park. Mayor Voigt

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

(continued from page 14)

0250 – fire dept. assist, 46000 bl. Claxton Dr.
0259 – assist other agency, Willis/Rawsonville
0544 – fire dept. assist, 20000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
0622 – fire dept. assist, 40000 bl. Willis Rd.
1413 – fire dept. assist, 45000 bl. Judd Rd.
1417 – fire dept. assist, 43000 bl. Wear Rd.
1505 – suspicious vehicle, Sumpter/Clay
1627 – 911 hangup, 42000 bl. Judd Rd.
1713 – civil matter, 48000 bl. Sully Dr.
1742 – civil matter, 21000 bl. Clark Rd.
1839 – follow-up investigation, 47000 bl. Wear
1845 – shots fired, Carriage Ln.
1956 – misdemeanor warrant arrest, Oakville Waltz Rd./Sumpter Rd.
2026 – suspicious circumstance, Ohio St.
2140 – civil matter, Tamarack Dr./Mulberry Dr.
2144 – follow-up investigation, 47000 bl. Wear
2144 – civil matter, 26000 bl. Karr Rd.
2205 – suspicious circumstance, Washington St. / Vermont St.
2226 – family trouble, 44000 bl. Wear Rd.
Also on this week's log are 173 patrol checks, 75 traffic stops, and 13 misc. details.

told Jones to get a final proposal for the next meeting;

- Heard a report by Kathleen Springer on her work for the DDA on social media projects. Donley, who is chair of the Marketing and Community Engagement committee, told about the "Summer of Local Love" project being put together by Springer Media to encourage shopping at local businesses. It includes a Q code, having to like the DDA page, and tag two friends, with posting of pictures and a random drawing at the end for a prize each month. He said it starts in June and in July they'll start over again. He said he is working on another project to fill vacant business places, but it's not ready now;

- Heard Jones announce the new outdoor sculptures for the year will be put up in Belleville and Van Buren Township on May 27. He said Music Lakeside starts June 12 for its 16th year;

- Heard Dave Anderson, president of Victoria Commons Homeowner Association, present a list of things that needed doing at Village Park. He said there are dead trees in the park area and the city could plant the trees it wants to plant in that park. He asked about the doggy bags that were to be put on the paths and Jones said the city has them but the DPW hasn't put them out yet. Anderson said duck and geese traffic is still pretty low. He said 20-25 geese dropped by and then went away;

- Heard Donley explain the metal Wings sculpture being planned for Horizon Park to honor the life of Harper Mathis, who recently died at the age of 15. He said a blacksmith/artist in Sumpter Township said he could do the iron sculpture Donley wanted, but recommended heat-treated stainless steel instead, which doubled the cost to \$13,000. He said they got donations of \$9,000 for it online within 24 hours. It will be three or four months before the artist can begin and it will take six to eight weeks to create. "We'll have a dedication ceremony when it's ready," Donley said. He said the Mathis family lives on High Street in the city;

- Heard other members of the DDA offer condolences to the Mathis family, noting Harper had quite an impact on the community; and

- Heard mayor Voigt say this is the 16th season of Music Lakeside.

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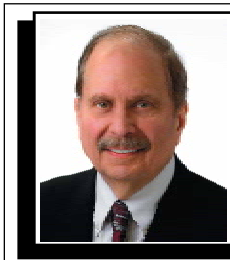
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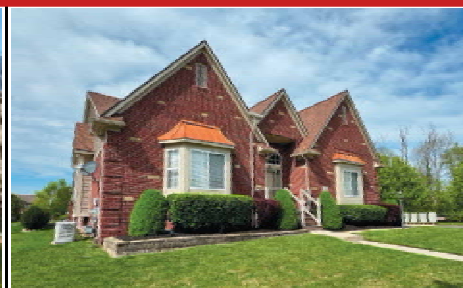
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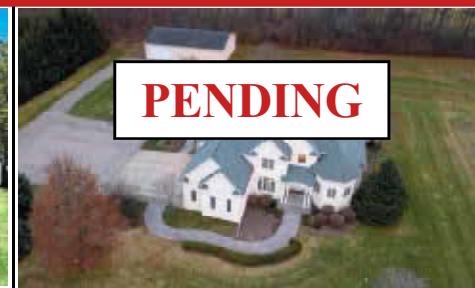


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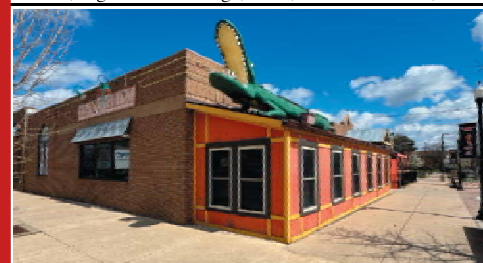
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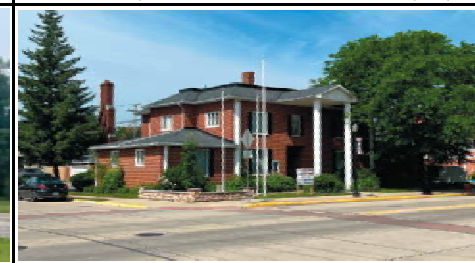
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