



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 32.33 Thursday, August 6, 2026 Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren FREE



PHOTO COURTESY | JEN CLAFTON

Bus Stop

Magic Bus brought the sounds and spirit of the Woodstock era to Music Lakeside on Thursday, July 30, and the crowd was loving every minute. With perfect weather and plenty of good vibes, this fan was definitely feeling the peace and love. See more photos on Page 3.

Son's appointment draws objections from trustees and residents Nepotism Takes Center Stage

Sarah Rigg
Managing Editor

Nepotism was a hot topic at the July 28 meeting of the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees as the matter of Supervisor Timothy Bowman appointing his son T.J. Bowman as his deputy supervisor came before the trustees again.

The trustees began the meeting as usual but then went into a workshop session not indicated on the printed agenda and spent the majority of the meeting in that workshop before returning to regular session to approve the agenda.

A workshop session allows a board to discuss agenda items and alter them or even delete them from the official agenda without having to commit to voting yes or no on an item after the discussion.

During the workshop session, Treasurer Bart Patterson questioned the propriety of appointing a relative

to a paid position and wondered if the party should recuse himself from the vote in that case. The township's attorney, Robert P. Young, gave an opinion that conflict of interest didn't apply unless the person voting on a proposal would directly profit from its passing. Young's opinion was that it

been without a township manager and finance director for nearly two months, and we've known about it for three months. We've been without dedicated payroll employees since the beginning of the year. Critical positions remain unfilled while this proposal is moving forward," Patterson said.

“I remember when you were first running, you ran on draining the swamp. Get rid of nepotism ...”

Bart Patterson, *treasurer*

was legal for Supervisor Bowman to appoint his son.

“My take on this is that I oppose the agenda item for multitude of reasons,” Patterson said. “I don't have anything against Mr. Bowman's son at all, but primarily because I believe the township has far more urgent priorities that should be addressed first. We've

At the previous trustee meeting, trustees wanted to clarify T.J. Bowman's responsibilities and clarified that a deputy supervisor is only supposed to be involved in “statutory” activities mandated by law like passing budgets and signing

SEE HOT TOPIC ON PAGE 6

Sumpter Skips Special July 29 Tri-Community Planning Session

Emily Flesch
Independent Reporter

The City of Belleville and townships of Van Buren and Sumpter were scheduled to hold a joint planning meeting on July 29 in the Belleville High School cafeteria. Five planning commission members from Belleville and six from Van Buren were in attendance. No representatives from Sumpter Township attended the meeting.

Brian Cullin was appointed chairperson of the meeting and opened the floor for public comment. One citizen asked about the Van Buren Township Master Plan and if there was a specific plan for the south end of the township.

Director of Municipal Services Ron Akers stated that the 2022 Sumpter Road Corridor Plan remains the township's most recent major planning effort. Those documents are available online.

Akers also added that while a 2027 review of the master plan is scheduled per state regulations, the township is looking to update it early, due in part to a \$50,000 grant from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation and suggested that work is likely to begin in October or November.

BELLEVILLE UPDATES:
Belleville Council member and
SEE PLANNING ON PAGE 10

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PAGE THREE

(Formally known as the Second Front Page)



Peace, Love & Magic Bus



PHOTOS | BLAIR TEMPLE



On a perfect summer evening, friends, families and music lovers gathered to sing, dance, smile and soak up the sounds of an era that still knows how to make people feel good ...except for 'lil Maggie (above right), she's more of a Jamie MacDonald fan.

OPINION

From the Editor

Thanks to Our Hundreds of Free Proofreaders

One of the parts of my job I enjoy least is having to make corrections, but it's absolutely necessary for transparency and for keeping the public's trust.



Sarah Rigg
Managing Editor

Last week, we ran two corrections, though there were a few other issues that people called or emailed to tell us about like some wonkiness with the Things to Do in

Belleville piece. The most embarrassing one was misprinting (twice) the salary

proposed for the Sumpter Township deputy supervisor, making it look like Supervisor Timothy Bowman wanted to give his son 10 times the amount he actually requested.

We bungled the date of Taste of Belleville as well in the July 23 issue. We're reprinting the Taste of Belleville story later in this issue with the correct date, so keep an eye open for that!

The upside I see in having to set up a corrections policy is that our readers really, really care about their paper, and they're reading it from the front cover to the back page.

Never feel that you are being a bother if you spot an error and report it. It's my job to be as accurate as possible, but when I make a misstep, it needs to be corrected visibly.

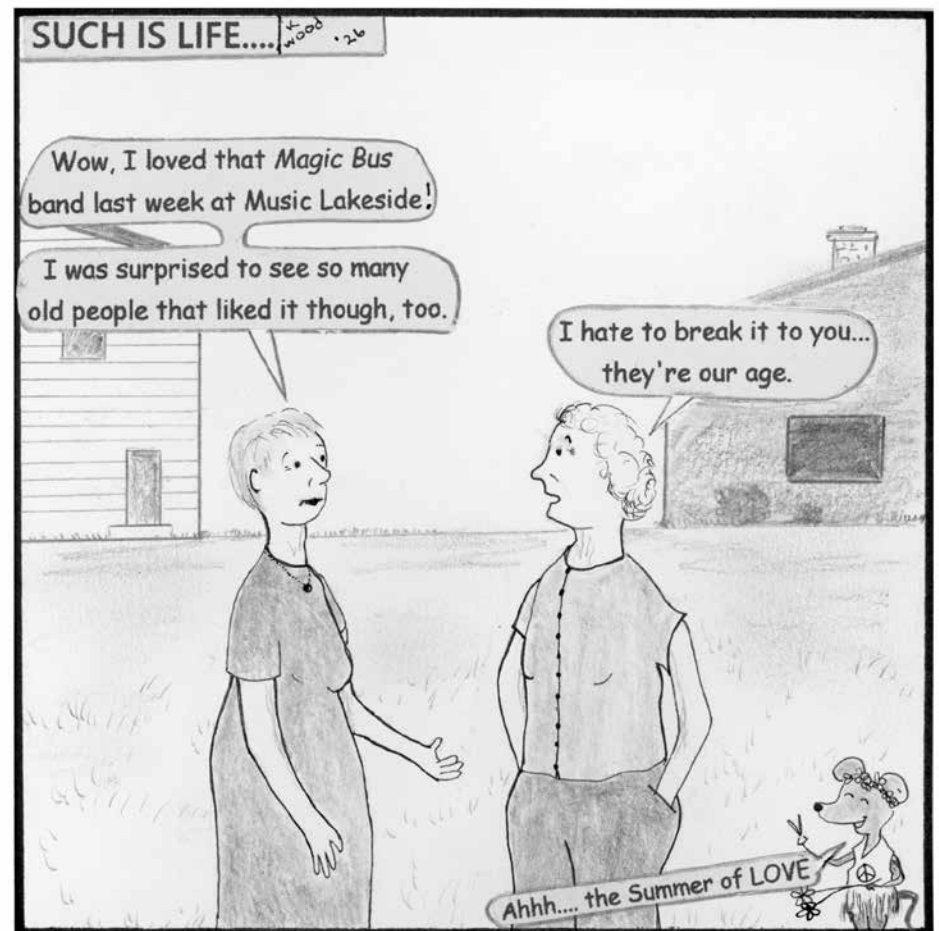
We now have established a formal corrections process, and you'll see any corrections appearing here on page 4 under

my column if there are any to print.

We also have formal policy for letters to the editor now that we'll print each week on the editorial page. We welcome letters, especially on local topics, though we encourage you to stick to one topic and keep it concise. Also, as part of our new policy: we don't print anonymous letters.

So, as the headline of this op-ed says, thank you to our readers. It feels like there are a few hundred of you combing through our ads and articles with a fine-toothed comb, but I welcome the scrutiny.

Thanks for reading and for keeping us on the straight and narrow when it comes to printing the facts.



Letters to the Editor

Community Offered Great Support to Missoula Theatre

To the editor:

On behalf of the committee for Missoula Children's Theatre, I am writing to express our sincerest thanks to our community for its generous support of this successful children's summer-theater program. This program was a community-wide venture.

In truth, we needed substantial funds to bring in Missoula, and many benefactors stepped right up. We especially thank Wayne County Commissioner (Dist. 11) Allen R. Wilson for his help in obtaining a grant from Wayne County for the Belleville Area Council for the Arts. We acknowledge the Holiday Inn Express in Van Buren for donating the week's housing for the Missoula directors, especially Raquel Rubalcado and Linda Halford. We would also like to recognize Kevin McNamara for

his assistance in obtaining that housing. We thank Meijer for its generous donation.

We are grateful to the Van Buren School District for the use of McBride Middle School for the week. (Thank you, Superintendent Kudlak and Debbie McWilliams, for all your support.) We profusely thank the McBride custodial staff for accommodating us at every turn. We were under your feet all week and you did so much to help us.

Last, but not least, we give a BIG THANK YOU to Judith Weed, our marvelous pianist. She came and went without much fanfare but was the most important person there. After all, what is a musical without music?

Our young cast enjoyed Hungry Howie's pizza after the Monday auditions. Thank you, Patrick Hubbs, for the great price and delivery.

We thank all the parents, grandparents, and guardians who adjusted their schedules to the Missoula schedule. Not one child missed any practice, rehearsal, or

SEE SUPPORT ON PAGE 9

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

At the **Belleville Area Independent**, we welcome letters to the editor on almost any topic, but especially anything local. Feel free to email **editor@bellevilleareanews.org**. We also accept written letters by postal mail at **152 Main St. Suite 9**.

Please try to keep letters short and to the point, preferably no more than 600-700 words. The editor reserves the right to trim longer letters in such a way that the edit doesn't distort the sender's original meaning. We do not publish anonymous letters.



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- Educate the public and improve sharing local information in the Belleville, MI area community through a free newspaper;
- Promote civic engagement and knowledge among the citizens of the Belleville, MI area;

- Support local schools, churches, and non-profit institutions by raising awareness of their activities in the local community; and
- Provide a newspaper of record for local municipal bodies.

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Letters to the Editor

Support Senate Bill 292 Relief for Seniors

CBC Highlights Local Food During Taste of Belleville Aug. 20

To the editor:

As a 75-year-old Michigan senior living on a fixed income, I am writing to encourage fellow seniors to learn about Senate Bill 292, introduced by Michigan State Senator Michele Hoyenga.

Senate Bill 292 would exempt the principal residence of eligible homeowners age 70 and older from property taxes. The bill was introduced in May 2025 and remains under consideration in Lansing in the Michigan legislature.

Many seniors spent decades working, raising families, paying taxes, and contributing to their communities. Yet today, rising property taxes are creating financial strain for people whose incomes do not increase along with the cost of living. For some, property taxes have become one of the largest expenses they face each year.

I have paid property taxes for more than 50 years. I am not asking for special treatment. I am simply asking that Michigan recognize the contributions seniors have already made and help ensure that older residents can remain in the homes they worked a lifetime to own.

Whether you support this bill or not, I encourage seniors to learn about it and contact their state senator and state representative to share their views. Legislators need to hear directly from the people affected by these decisions.

Too often, seniors believe their voices do not matter. They do. A phone call, letter, or email can make a difference.

Michigan should be a place where seniors can age in their homes with dignity, security, and peace of mind.

To the editor:

The Belleville Central Business Community is looking forward to a delightful Taste of Belleville on Thursday, Aug. 20 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Horizon Park on High Street. In addition to the City of Belleville presenting sponsors for the Taste are Alicia McGovern-Edward Jones, Jack Demmer Ford, The Butcher Shop, State Representative Reggie Miller, Laundry Day Wash & Fold, and KSpringer Media Management.

Music will begin at 6 p.m. with Unlimited DJ in Horizon Park, and The Belleville Area Council of the Arts will be hosting their Music Lakeside with DTour Band taking the stage from 7 to 9 p.m. on High Street.

At 6:30 p.m., the Belleville Rotary will release the ducks for their annual Lucky Ducky Race fundraiser. Tickets may still be available that evening so stop by the table where the big duck will be residing.

Participating in the Taste this year are: Angel Food Catering, Applebee's, Baan Phad Thai, Belleville Area Kiwanis Club, Belleville Community Chorus, Belleville Seventh Day Adventist Church, Benito's Pizza, Beth's Custom Cakes, Blush Bloom Bakery, the BHS Robotics Team, Confections Factory, Hungry Howie Pizza, Jet's Pizza, Johnny's On the Lake, Kona Ice, Rachael Lynn's Catering, Rusted Crow, The Butcher Shop, Van Buren Public Schools, and free Face Painting.

The menu will be published in this newspaper on Thursday, Aug. 20, and, as always, we look forward to catching up with friends, meeting some new ones, having delicious food, and listening to great music.

Marilyn Bara
Augusta Township

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HOT TOPIC

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

contracts.

Patterson noted that Supervisor Bowman’s list of proposed duties for his deputy would include items like answering phones and managing buildings, and other duties that are already covered by other township employees.

Bowman said he would reword the list of duties, remove the item from the official agenda, and then appoint his son when they returned to the regular session.

“Then at the next board meeting, we’ll discuss his pay,” Bowman said.

Shortly before the trustees returned to the regular session, trustee Tim Rush asked everyone to look at the Rotary flag displayed in the township chambers and to remember the four-way test of what to ask yourself before you speak: Is it the truth? Is it fair to all concerned? Will it build goodwill and better friendships? Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

Bowman then immediately appointed T.J. Bowman as his deputy as soon as the workshop was over and the trustees returned to the regular session.

“I remember when you were first running, you ran on draining the swamp. Get rid of nepotism,” Patterson said. “I’m talking about what your words were. There’s too much nepotism, we’ve got too many family members being appointed family members.”

Bowman pointed out that Clerk Don LaPorte’s daughter works for the township and other township employees are related to each other.

Patterson pressed Bowman on whether his stance on nepotism had changed.

“I’m asking you, has your opinion changed since you were running for office?” Patterson asked.

“If you want to put it like that, it’s changed,” Bowman said.

Nepotism was also on the mind of two residents who spoke during the public comment period.

Kristen McCray said she’d created a poll to ask the community if they “felt it was appropriate for elected officials to appoint family members for other paid positions in their city or township” and said the result was “a resounding no.”

“Just because something may be legal does not mean it is the right thing to do,” she said. She noted that an action could comply with the law but still violate a broader sense of justice.

“True integrity requires looking beyond

Bowman would apologize to the community and the other trustees for his behavior at the July 14 meeting.

A second community member, Bob Guttman, also spoke on nepotism and said it didn’t have anything to do with the character of the supervisor’s son but rather that he objected on principle.

“I don’t know whether the young man we’re talking about is a Rhodes Scholar or a gamer in somebody’s basement, but in the political environment, in the government environment, in the business world, when you hire family, it’s just causing problem. It’s causing consternation here today,”

Senior Alliance’s multi-year plan serving 1 million residents, including 250,000 older adults. He indicated that only 11 people from the Sumpter area are taking advantage of the home delivery service Meals on Wheels. Machiaski confirmed that the rate was low and that they needed to do a better job of getting the word out to the public about the availability of this service;

Approved the appointment of Tony Caldwell to the planning commission with a term expiring in November of 2027;

Approved an addendum to the township’s water and service contract with the Great Lakes Water Authority;



Clerk Don LaPorte, Supervisor Timothy Bowman, Treasurer Bart Patterson.

PHOTO | SARAH RIGG

what is merely permitted and asking what is responsible and morally sound. Mr. Supervisor, your tantrum and disruptive behavior at the last board meeting undermines the trust residents have with Sumter Township officials,” she continued, referring to the fact that Supervisor Bowman threw down his agenda and pen and walked out of the last trustee meeting halfway through after they failed to approve the deputy supervisor appointment.

At that point in McCray’s remarks, Bowman attempted to cut her off, but she cited the Open Meetings Act and said she was going to finish. She said she hoped

Guttman said. “That’s where it starts, and it just continues. It’s not the right thing to do. If it were up to me, if I were king, there’d be a law against it.”

In other news from the July 28 meeting, the trustees:

Accepted Trustee Tim Rush’s Parks & Recreation Report, a Water & Sewer Report from Department of Public Works Director Ron Tabor, and a Treasurer’s Report from Patterson.

Heard a presentation from Jason Machiaski, CEO of the Senior Alliance, the region’s agency on aging. He presented the

Approved the purchase of two super back alloys, 16-inch battery-powered PPV fans for the fire department at a cost of \$12,078.96.

Approved purchasing three used tablets at a cost of \$2,958.43 total for all three, intended for building inspectors to use. The tablets will remain in the township offices and cannot be used by the inspectors in other municipalities.

Approved a collective bargaining agreement with Sumpter Township Command Officers Association of Michigan through 2030.

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

performance. We would like to express gratitude to Kathleen Holmes, who lent a hand wherever it was needed.

We give thanks to the Independent, Sarah Rigg and Janet Millard, for its full and generous coverage of this event. Thank you for the stories, the announcements, notices, and the pictures. The picture of the children on the front page of the July 23, 2026 issue was especially beautiful. (Thank you to Elena Manalp, an excellent photographer and a local treasure.)

We are looking forward to bringing Missoula back again in 2027 and hoping for

the return of the wonderful cast from this year’s production. (Hint: bring friends!) Finally, thank you to the Belleville Area Council for the Arts (BACA). The Missoula committee is part of BACA and could not have done this without them. Please know that membership in the BACA is open to all. We meet on the second Wednesday of each month (usually at the library) at 7 p.m.

Committee for Missoula Children’s Theatre
Harry Van Gelder (chair)
Barbara Rogalle Miller
Cheryl Harshaw
Cheri Van Gelder
Reggie Ion

Obituaries



Donald Priest

DONALD PRIEST
(May 24, 1935 - July 8, 2026)

Donald Priest was born in Flat Rock, Michigan on May 24, 1935 to William and Ada Priest. He met his wife Marjory at Albion College, and they were married June 15, 1957. Don was a teacher and then a principal in the Albion School District until 1970 when the family moved to Belleville. Don was the principal at West Willow and then Tyler Elementary in the Van Buren Schol District, until his retirement. In the 1960’s, Don donated a kidney to his sister Barb at U of M hospital, which lasted for 30 years before she needed another transplant. He ran a number of marathons over the years including the Detroit International Marathon and the Boston Marathon. Don was also a member of the Belleville First United Methodist Church for many years.

Don and Marj built a new home on Pickerel Lake in Springvale Township in Northern Michigan in 1989 and moved there permanently in 2005. He and Marj traveled extensively around the U.S. with their travel trailer, and enjoyed trips to Australia, Egypt, Europe, England, Hawaii, and Alaska. Don and Marj were married for over 67 years before she passed away in December 2024.

Don enjoyed spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren and great-grandchildren at Pickerel Lake including

fishing, boating, family campfires, and giving rides on his Kubota tractor. He was a loving, caring father, grandfather, and Papa (great-grandfather) to his family.

Don is survived by daughter Julie (Mike) Skelton, son Mark (Carrie) Priest, grandchildren Jennifer (Dave) Daigneau, Scott (Megan) Skelton, Connor (Natalie) Priest, and Danielle Priest, and great-grandchildren Ayla and Adelyn Daigneau, Mason and Lucy Skelton, and Penelope Priest.

According to his wishes, dignified creation rites have been completed. A memorial service is planned for Saturday, Sept. 5, 2026 at Petoskey Methodist Church, with a luncheon to follow. Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Michigan.

BILLY RADER
(Aug. 27, 1966-July 29, 2026)

Billy Joe Rader of Romulus, Mich. passed away on July 29. He was born Aug. 27, 1966, in Highland Park, Mich. to Robert and Ruby (Hollandsworth) Rader. He is survived by his wife, Stacy Rader, his children, Amber (Billy Badenhop) Pruitt of Wyandotte, Zachary (Paige Gruza) Riehl of Sumpter Twp., and Billy Rader Jr. of Romulus, several grandchildren, and many nieces, nephews, cousins, neighbors and friends. He was preceded in death by parents. Cremation rites have been accorded with the David C. Brown Funeral Home.

EVA HUBBARD
(Nov. 25, 1959 -- Aug. 1, 2026)

Eva Hubbard, age 66, of Belleville, Mich., passed away Aug. 1, 2026. She was born Nov. 25, 1959, in Garden City, Mich., to Clint and Irene (Wheeler) Lewallen. She is survived by her husband of 50 years, David Hubbard of Belleville, Mich., her children, Rebbecca (Levon) Hines of Georgia, David (Carly) Hubbard of Lincoln Park, Mich., Warren Hubbard of Belleville, Mich., her siblings, Nora (Jerry) Perry of West Virginia, Audrey (Terry) Hall of St. Helen, Mich., and Lisa Lewallen of St. Helen, Mich., her grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents and her sister, Pam. A visitation will take place at the David C. Brown Funeral Home.

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JENNIFER CAMILLERI



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PHOTO | SARAH RIGG

Van Buren Township DDA Discusses Changes for Harris Park

Sarah Rigg
Managing Editor

Changes planned for Harris Park, 10511 Belleville Rd., were a chief topic at the Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority (DDA) meeting July 28.

Merrie Coburn, Executive Director of the VBT DDA, said that biweekly meetings with civil engineering firm Giffels Webster are going well, and a workshop in September will be held to review renderings and seek input from trustees. The plan includes updating signage in the park.

The DDA board also discussed the potential acquisition of the historic Harris family home for \$700,000, considering various uses and due diligence on the price for the home and any expected renovations.

The property the house sits on is zoned C for Commercial but can only support about nine parking spaces. It also has a shared driveway with the DDA's building, making it unfit for any kind of business with a drive-through window.

The refresh of Harris Park is included in the township's current five-year parks and recreation master plan, which is available online at vbtmi.gov/community/parks_recreation. The township recently invited the community to comment on the parks and recreation plan online at www.surveymonkey.com/r/92DYTNR.

In other news from the Van Buren Township DDA, members:

Received updates on MDOT's National

Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) application for Belleville Road. The application is under final review, with construction expected in spring 2027.

Heard that the Tyler Road Pathway is in the final design phase, aiming for a spring 2027 start. The resurfacing of Tyler Road is ongoing, with minimal traffic disruptions. Updates about road construction detours and closings are prominently displayed on the front page of the DDA's website, vanburendda.com.

Approved a \$10,735.81 proposal for camera upgrades at the DDA building.

Approved the 2026 budget amendment, highlighting a strong fund balance of \$6.8 million.

Discussed the effect of the Belleville Road area of the township losing its designation as an opportunity zone. This affects housing and job opportunities in the area.

Heard that the DDA's new website design mockup is complete, and the site map is being migrated from the old site to the new one. The DDA website will include required documents like minutes, audits, budgets, contracts, and other necessary information.

Heard that Genesis Credit Union will celebrate its 90th anniversary celebration on September 14th and the chamber's membership appreciation event on September 24th.

Heard that blood drive sponsored by the senior center action board is set for noon-6 p.m. Aug. 12 at the senior center.

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Belleville Area Churches Feeding the Hungry Seeing Increased Need



Sarah Rigg
Managing Editor

Belleville area churches that have food distribution programs are seeing an increased need for these services.

The Belleville United Methodist Church has been running a food pantry since 1983, serving Belleville, Sumpter Township and Van Buren Township. Over the years, it has expanded from its tiny early beginnings to a much larger program filling multiple rooms in the church.

Currently headed by church member Marilyn Wood, the pantry distributed 250 bags of groceries and toiletries in July alone.

“The need continues to grow and those who seem to be hurting the most are our seniors – they were 64% of our clients in 2025. They’re living on small incomes - social security and often no pensions. The homeless numbers have also increased. We have served more the first six months of 2026 than all of 2025,” Wood says.

Major funding for the food pantry comes from Meijer’s Simply Give program, which matches local donations dollar for dollar. The closet also receives support from a foundation and local donations.

When Meijer has “double days,” it’s great for the food pantry because if the food pantry can raise \$5,000, Meijer will contribute double that, for a grand total raised of \$15,000. That’s a great help, but Wood notes that she’d



PHOTO | SARAH RIGG

SEE CHURCHES ON PAGE 15 Be Church

PLANNING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Planning Commission Vice Chair Julie Kissel reported on Belleville’s projects, beginning by introducing new City Manager Brady Peck. Both thanked Van Buren Public Schools Superintendent Peter Kudlak for coordinating use of the school cafeteria for the meeting, as Belleville City Hall was unavailable due to early voting.

Huron River Watershed Council: The council now has two members from the city of Belleville, Gerald Keeder III (primary) and Jim Courage (alternate). Keeder attended his first meeting a few weeks ago and said it was a very informative process with a lot of representation from multiple municipalities supporting each other in improving water quality and overall experience.

Master Plan & Ordinances: Belleville’s master plan is completed and available online. The city is in the process of updating and digitizing all city ordinances. Priority items include a new Lakefront Ordinance to improve address navigation, sign ordinances and uniform signage along the Iron Belle Trail across Belleville and Van Buren.

Downtown Business Development: An offer has been heard in closed session for the former Pro Hardware at 428 Main St., with a counteroffer expected. Atwater

Street Tacos (occupying the former Bayou location) is facing delays, though the repainted gator “looks great.”

Former City Hall: Efforts continue to clear the city hall building at 6 Main St. Kissel expressed hope that the liquidation would be finished by year-end, but Peck estimated eight to 12 months, as the city will be issuing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the site. The city would prefer a mix of residential and commercial development on the corner parcel.

Liberty Intersection Construction: Construction on the intersection will begin Aug. 3, primarily removing and replacing concrete, with no water mains or utility work. Completion is projected in four to six weeks, but the city acknowledges that if the weather does not cooperate, it could be six to eight weeks.

VAN BUREN UPDATES: Executive Director of the Van Buren DDA Merrie Coburn provided updates on infrastructure and local business:

Belleville Road Project: The reconstruction project is facing permitting delays and will most likely begin in spring 2027, concurrently with the Tyler Road pathway project. Public open houses will be held to discuss detours and other details.

Pedestrian Upgrades: A Safe Streets Now Transportation Alternatives Program grant will allow the township to upgrade pedestrian crosswalks with audio-enabled signals, updated crosswalks and ADA-

compliant ramps.

Business Resources: The township has entered a three-year partnership with TechTown, a Detroit-based small business incubator, which will provide free business coaching, technical assistance and funding guidance to local business owners.

Community-Input Request: The Parks and Recreation department will be updating their master plan later in the year and is holding two public-input sessions on Aug. 12 and Aug. 19 at 6 p.m. at the community center.

Director Akers outlined major developments, construction progress, and zoning issues.

Commercial Construction: Chick-fil-A and Sheetz are actively moving forward, though no opening date has been announced. Meanwhile, the Stellantis project is ahead of schedule and is targeting a temporary Certificate of Occupancy in March 2027.

Public hearings are scheduled for Aug. 12 to discuss the Ashley Capital Crossroads North Building 10 as well as the demolition and rebuilding of the Shell station at I-94.

Ongoing Major Developments: The Google data center has received preliminary site plan approval, with final site plan approval tentatively set for Aug. 26, pending EGLE wetland permits.

Pepper Pike Capital, developers of the Waverly subdivision proposed for the former Harbour Club Golf Course property, withdrew their high-density request and

have submitted a conditional zoning request for 92 single-family homes.

~~~~~

The township had community engagement, environmental, market demand, and feasibility studies as well as conceptual renderings performed by Giffels Webster on the 181-acre parcel at Belleville and Tyler roads. A joint study session between the Board of Trustees, Planning Commission, and DDA will be held on Sept. 1 to review conceptual renderings and community input.

**Ordinance Updates:** Commissioners are revisiting hotel height regulations after updates were not in alignment with corporate brand architecture. They will also be amending their child care zoning definitions to match current LARA language.

**Enterprise Zone Approval:** Director Akers announced that Van Buren received MEDC and state approval for an Aerotropolis Enterprise Zone covering everything north of the freeway. This zone will capture 11.3 mills (over \$2 million annually) for new industrial development north of I-94 and must be spent only on public infrastructure.

~~~~~

There were no updates provided by Sumpter Township. The next joint planning meeting will take place at Belleville City Hall at 5:30 p.m. on Jan. 21.



ORPHAN
OF THE
WEEK

ALICE



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Alice loves spending time outdoors and has a playful spirit, although she hasn't quite discovered the magic of toys yet. We'd much rather imagine her future filled with adventures, long walks, backyard zoomies, hiking trails, and relaxing evenings with a frozen peanut butter Frisbee to happily lick clean.

She's doing well on a leash and enjoys her walks, though she may pull a bit when she spots someone she knows and can't wait to say hello. Alice will likely need a little continued guidance with potty training, but she's already made great progress since arriving at FMAR.

Alice has shown curiosity toward cats, but we aren't sure how she'd do living with one. She hasn't been formally introduced to other dogs yet, though she perks up with interest whenever she sees or hears one from afar. Because of her enthusiastic, jumpy greetings, we recommend a home with children 12 years and older.

It's clear that Alice has spent much of her life raising puppies. The scars she carries and the signs of multiple litters tell a story we may never fully know, but they don't define her. What defines Alice is her resilience, her joyful heart, and her unwavering excitement for every new day.

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Some Area Residents Will See
Water and Sewer Rate Increases

At a recent Ypsilanti Township trustees meeting, Luther “Luke” Blackburn, the executive director of the Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority (YCUA), said water rates will go up 5.75% and sewer rates will increase by 2%. Blackburn says the increase averages out to about \$3.21 more each month for the average person’s bill.

YCUA provides water services for Ypsilanti and Ypsilanti Township and several other townships in Washtenaw County. YCUA also serves portions of Van Buren and Canton townships and provides sewer service only in Sumpter Township. YCUA provides water to about 150,000 people and offers sewer services to about 330,000 in total.

The authority purchases its water from the Great Lakes Water Authority, which draws from the Detroit River, and the GLWA recently increased its rates by about 5%.

Blackburn says some of the additional money coming in will be used to address wastewater stations in need of repair, some of which are more than 50 years old.

Taste of Belleville Returns Aug. 20,
Annual Bridge Walk Canceled

Sarah Rigg
Managing Editor

During the Belleville Central Business Community (CBC) meeting in July, members heard a report from Belleville Police Chief and interim city manager Kristin Faull that ongoing road construction near the Belleville bridge will mean the annual bridge walk that typically takes place during the Taste of Belleville festival has to be canceled this year.

Faull said that construction at the intersection of Denton and Main is expected to continue through early September, making it too hazardous to allow the bridge walk this year.

In 2026, Taste of Belleville coincides with Third Thursdays celebrations and takes place from 6-8 p.m. Aug. 20 in Belleville’s Horizon Park.

The event will include tastings from dozens of local food businesses, a Rubber Ducky Race at 6:30 p.m., and lakeside music.

More information is available at bellevillecentralbusinesscommunity.com/taste-of-belleville.

Editor’s note: This story originally ran in our July 23 issue with the wrong date. It is corrected in this updated story.

Birthdays

BELATED BIRTHDAYS:
Aug. 2 – Tina Pyzik

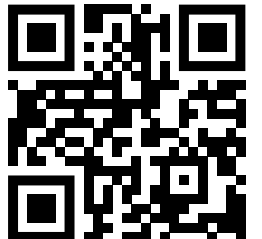
UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS:
Aug. 7 – Gary Marshall
Aug. 7 –Genevieve Johnson

Sincere apologies if any birthdays were missed during the transition. Please let our office manager know, and she will see that they get in next week’s edition.

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

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Townhall Spotlights 'Moving Together' Transportation Plan

Lucian Van Fleet

Special to the Independent

On July 28, the Canton Public Library hosted "Moving Together: Western Wayne County Transit Strategy Town Hall." This town hall focused on presenting and sourcing feedback on possible public transit changes in Van Buren, among other communities near Belleville.

The meeting kicked off with Supervisor Anne Marie Graham-Hudak of Canton Township introducing herself as well as the five women at the front of the room. Seated at the folding tables were the three panelists, Canton Treasurer and Trustee Dian Slavens, Canton Planner Erin Schlutow, and Project Manager Adrianna Jordan. Ammara Ansari and Tania Ganguly, two moderators and Canton Trustees, probed the panelists with thought-provoking questions before the presentation of findings.

Graham-Hudak went on to explain the purpose of the town hall: to present possible changes to public transit infrastructure that could be made if the Wayne County Transit Authority (WCTA) millage on the Aug. 4 ballot passes. It was mentioned multiple times that this meeting was not about whether voters



should vote for the millage or not, but rather to present changes that could be made if the millage did pass.

Through a series of questions from Ansari and Ganguly, the panelists explained how, over the past several months, they have been learning the current public transit system across a consortium of seven neighboring communities. These communities are: Northville, Northville Township, Plymouth, Plymouth Township, Canton, Westland, and Van Buren.

Transitioning into a presentation, Schlutow and Jordan took turns showcasing their findings. They explained how, in the beginning, they started with data-gathering from the locals

to find out what people wanted and needed. This was essential in creating an interconnected system that works for everyone, especially those who are elderly and physically or cognitively disabled.

Erin Schlutow presented the data from a community transit survey, revealing the reasons why people do not use public transit. About 23% said it increases travel time, 39% said the stops were inaccessible, 40% said non-catered geography, and 42% said they weren't aware of public transit, routes, or stops.

In response, Adrianna Jordan presented multiple proposed changes, including new routes, new stops on existing routes, extending current routes to hit key

It was stressed again that these proposals were simply ideas in need of feedback, not concrete plans.

spots previously left untapped, as well as a new and improved bus stop design. Jordan noted that the finer details aren't worked out yet. The millage still needs to be voted on and would need input from SMART, the public transportation partner in this project.

SMART is, as their website says, "Southeast Michigan's only regional public transportation provider, offering convenient, reliable and safe transportation for Macomb, Oakland and Wayne Counties."

It was stressed again that these proposals were simply ideas in need of feedback, not concrete plans. Jordan spoke of interconnecting seven major communities — sketching a picture of safe, fast, and easy travel that will bridge the gap between Ann Arbor and Detroit.

Some suggested future transit destinations include Ford Road, Haggerty Road, Michigan Avenue, Meijer, Ikea, DTW, and the downtowns of Plymouth, Northville, and Ann Arbor to

name a few.

"We're still gathering some information here on what the community members want and what could best serve them," Erin Schlutow said, "We've done a lot of public engagement, a lot of discussions with our consortium members ... We're still in the drafting and finalizing phase, but we're really proud of the work that we've done and a lot of the routes and mobility strategies that we've got."

The mayor of Northville, Brian Turnbull, was also in attendance to show his support for the plan, as was a SMART representative named Jordan. A representative from Wayne County has been asked to attend and answer questions about the millage but did not show.

Throughout the town hall, the planning team emphasized it is asking for specific, actionable feedback from the community. This feedback is necessary before any recommendations that have been made can be finalized.

Anyone with questions or suggestions, you can contact Erin Schlutow at erin.schlutow@cantonmi.gov or 734-394-5179. A recording of the town hall presentation is also available on the Canton Community Productions YouTube channel.

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Bible Study 10:00 Worship 11:30
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Sunday | Adult Bible Fellowship & Children's Sunday School 9:45am | Morning Worship 11am
Wednesday | Kids & Teens 6:45pm | Bible In Action 7pm
Visit bethanybiblechurch.com for more info



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Join us this Friday
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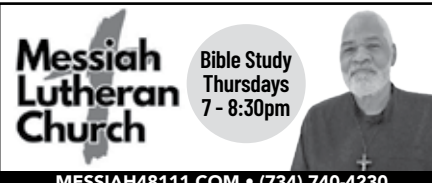
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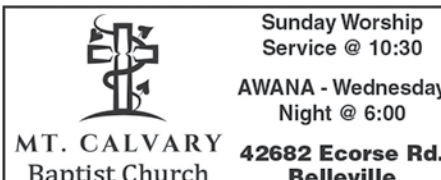


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6020 Denton Road
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www.faithchurchdenton.org
Sunday Worship at 9:30am. Bible Study & refreshments after Worship.



Sunday Worship Service @ 10:30
AWANA - Wednesday Night @ 6:00
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Belleville

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Sunday Bible Study 10am
Worship Service 11am
Wednesday Bible Study 7pm
(734) 606-5525

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

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16650 Sumpter Rd., Belleville, MI 48111
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Wednesday Adult, Youth & Children @ 7 p.m.
Visit rol-ag.com (734) 699-6700

ST. ANTHONY CATHOLIC CHURCH

409 W. Columbia Avenue (734) 697-1211
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TFN

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08/06

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08/06

WHITE VINYL WINDOW BLINDS. 2" depth. 3 @ 45x60 & 2 @ 29x60. \$10 each. (734) 274-1110

08/06

1995 20' HURRICANE FUN DECK BOAT & TRAILER-reliable engine & clean interior. Well maintained inboard Volvo Penta 5.0-liter marine engine. Pontoon style deck seating, upholstery is in great shape with no rips or tears. Tons of storage, snap in removable carpet for easy cleaning. Bimini top is in good condition and it has a new custom-made snap-on mooring cover. Eagle Spirit heavy-duty trailer. \$7,500 (734) 699-3023

08/06

FOOD GRADE BARRELS Plastic & metal. Inventory & pictures at www.

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

FOR SALE

mattsbarrels.com, call or text (734) 474-5981. Located in Willis.

08/27

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11/19

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08/20

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08/13

2008 GMC ENVOY. Loaded & very clean. Needs air conditioning attention. 171,000 miles, good driver. \$4,095 (734) 695-0819

08/13

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08-06

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08/06

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08/20

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08/20

HELP WANTED

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT position is open at Denton Faith United Methodist Church, 6020 Denton Rd., Van Buren Township. Applicant must have computer skills. Knowledge of Microsoft Word, Excel, and Power Point. Some church experience needed for specific church software. 8 Hours/week (2 days, 4 hours/day). Contact the church (734) 483-2276 or email faithchurch69@gmail.com

08/06

BARTENDERS NEEDED. Van Buren Eagles 9961. Private club experience helpful. Call Barry (734) 218-2349

08/13

HELP WANTED

CERTIFIED MECHANIC-Pay based on experience. Mon-Fri, 8 a.m.-6 p.m. No weekends. Apply in person, Lonnie's Auto Repair. See Derrek

08/20

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**734-368-5088
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08/27

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

09/17

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

TFN

WANTED – SMALL CONTAINERS of shampoo, toothpaste, etc. to take to home-

WANTED

less in Detroit. Drop off at Bladéz's. 601 E. Huron River Dr. (734) 697-5600

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08/13

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CHURCHES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

already spent \$50,000 on the pantry from January through late July, so there’s still a great need for donations.

“We’ve had 250 bags go out just in July,” Wood says. “And we’re only open Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.,” she ay

The program also runs on volunteers, with about 37 regulars who come for one or more days to help distribute bags of groceries and hygiene items on distribu-tion days or to pack and do other behind-the-scenes duties on other days.

Steve Lazere has been volunteering with BUMC’s pantry for about five years, shortly after moving to Belleville.

“I’m a retired social worker, and want to give back to the community,” he says. “I was going to the library one day, and I saw that they had this food closet and they needed volunteers. There was a sign-up, so I got in contact in Marilyn, and I guess the rest is history The church does great work, and so I’m glad to be a part of that.”

Regular bags for distribution include a variety of food including both fresh and packaged items and personal care products. They also pack special kits for homeless people who might be unable to cook and need ready-to-eat options like granola bars.

Woods notes that the program also accepts garden overages and donations from local farmers so they can continue to provide fresh produce to clients.

Anyone wishing to donate food items should do so between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 417 Charles St.

~~~~~

The Tuesday and Thursday food dis-tribution at Faith Community Church is much newer than the one at BUMC.

As The Independent reported in March, the Belleville Area Chamber of Com-merce held a grand-opening, ribbon-cut-ting March 2 for the non-profit Makana Foundation’s community pantry at its new location at Belleville Faith Community Church.

Malia Germain created the foundation to further the work her family was already doing unofficially. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Germain and her family deliv-ered groceries to homebound seniors and veterans, and then started a drive-through grocery giveaway at their house that fed 100 families at its peak.

“The church saw how much we were growing and they offered us a space,” Germain says.

On July 30, Germain and her volunteers tried a “pop-up” style giveaway at the pavilion behind the church, offering trays bursting with tomatoes, fruit, peppers, and other produce.

“Normally on Thursdays, we would just pack produce boxes, and they would



Faith Community Church



Belleville First United Methodist Church



Belleville First United Methodist Church volunteers

PHOTOS | SARAH RIGG

come inside of the church, they sign up and we give them the box. But we wanted to try something different and give people a choice. We thought we’d see how it works, and it’s going great,” Germain said.

She says about 150 people are served on Thursdays, and her last Tuesday distribu-tion attracted over 200. Thursdays are pri-marily focused on produce, while Tuesday boxes include meat and bread.

The Faith Community distributions rely on a statewide food rescue program

and donations from community members. Anyone who would like to volunteer or donate to the nonprofit Makana Founda-tion can find more information at the-makanafoundation.org.

~~~~~

Be Church at 494 W Columbia Ave. also hosts a grocery giveaway starting a 4 p.m. on Thursdays until food runs out. Cars begin lining the side of the road as early as 2 p.m. on those days.

Mickey Wordhouse directs the weekly program and said she is excited about



a collaborative fundraiser coming up that invites local food programs to join together. There will be an Iron Chef style competition to see what kind of meals someone can make with the food that comes in the weekly boxes.

Wordhouse says the program started about two years ago. They typically plan for about 120 families but served 180 during the last distribution in July.

Much of their food comes from food rescue organizations like Forgotten Harvest and Gleaners. Local organiza-tions also donate money and resources, including the local chapter of the Masons, DeBuck’s Family Farm, and Made in the Mitten.

Wordhouse hopes to expand into home delivery next for seniors and veterans.

“We have two ladies who walk over here from the senior center every single Thursday with their wagons and pick up stuff,” she says. “I’m trying to work with Forgotten Harvest to find a way to service them.”

More information about Be Church’s food pantry program is available at www.bechurchfood.com.

~~~~~

Each of these pantries fills a slightly different need, but they are also careful to work together, whether it’s a fundraiser that benefits them all or trading resources.

For instance, the Makana Foundation lost a deep freezer during some power outages, and Be Church donated a chest freezer to them. Another example: the BUMC food closet not only hands out bags of food but also a list of other area resources that names the other food pan-tries and emergency resources in the area.

When these food programs aren’t operating, residents can access emergency food at the Little Free Food Pantry on Charles Street across from the library.

# Musings



**Janet Millard**  
Advertising Director

Milton's Pharmacy on Main Street is having a backpack giveaway on Saturday, Aug. 8 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This is the first one I have seen but there will probably be more as we get closer to school starting.

~~~~~

See the Letter to the Editor in today's

paper from the Belleville Central Business Community with the list of participants for the annual Taste of Belleville scheduled for Aug. 20.

~~~~~

The construction on the Liberty/Denton Road intersection is set to start on the 3rd and should be in full swing by the time you get this newspaper. I'm thinking I'll be coming into town from Huron River Drive for the next month. However, I really like Shell gas so I'll have to fill up there at some point. So, everyone just know it will

be painful for a while. There's not much we can do about it, so just chill!!

~~~~~

When you do a fundraiser getting 50% of the cost of the items you are selling is pretty good, but FMAR is getting 100% of the sales of the fall Mum fundraiser this year. Sales have started and run through Sept. 9 with pickup of the Mums from FMAR on Sept. 17 & 19. Place orders with dianecomerford@aol.com or www.friendsofmichigan.org/store There is a small fee when you use the website.

~~~~~

Van Buren Township's Mid-Week Music at Harris Park on Wednesday, Aug. 12 will be Bon Jovi & Poison Tribute Band. Now that is my kind of music.

~~~~~

Music Lakeside will have The Santana Project entertaining the crowd on Thursday. The food truck this week is Ricki's Tacos. Right now it looks like it will be another beautiful night Lakeside!

Things to do in the Belleville Area

■ Thursday, Aug. 6 – Music Lakeside in Horizon Park, downtown Belleville, 7 p.m. Free concert on the lake. If it rains, it's in the Methodist Church. Tonight it's "Stay Tuned."

■ Saturday, Aug. 8 – Steak Dinner, 5-7 p.m. VFW Post 82 in Romulus, 39270 W. Huron Dr. \$22. Proceeds support building fund.

■ Monday, Aug. 10 – Farmers Market, 4-7:30 p.m., and Main Street Auto Show, 5-8 p.m. in downtown Belleville.

■ Wednesday, Aug. 12 – Mid-Week Music at Harris Park 7-9 p.m. Bring your lawn chairs or blankets and enjoy this free outdoor concert with JOVI & Poison Tribute Bands. Free bingo at 6 p.m.

■ Thursday, Aug. 13 – Music Lakeside in Horizon Park, downtown Belleville, 7 p.m. Free concert on the lake. If it rains, it's in the Methodist Church. Tonight it's "The Kreellers."

■ Saturday, Aug. 15 – Join in for an Antique Tractor Poker Run to earn money for local chapter of Future Farmers of America and suicide awareness. Starts at Gotz Farm, 657 Labo Rd., Carleton, goes to JMI Dundee, 607 Main St., Dundee; then Maybee Farmers Co-op Holly, 7751 Blue Bush Rd., Maybee, to the Traskos farm at 44077 Willis Rd., Sumpter Township and then back to the Gotz Farm. Live music, food vendors, raffle prizes. Tractors need to run 13 mph. For information call (517) 403-5355 or email trolleyman@tc3net.com. Also, see: www.semichiganpokerrun.com.

■ Monday, Aug. 17 – Farmers Market, 4-7:30 p.m., and Main Street Auto Show, 5-8 p.m. in downtown Belleville.

■ Wednesday, Aug. 19 – Harris Park Birthday, 5-7 p.m. Bring your lawn chairs or blankets and enjoy this free outdoor concert with Packin' Heat. Free bingo at 6 p.m.

■ Thursday, Aug. 20 – Music Lakeside in Horizon Park, downtown Belleville, 7 p.m. Free concert on the lake. If it rains, it's in the Methodist Church. Tonight it's "DTour Band." Also, Taste of Belleville night.

■ Monday, Aug. 24 – Farmers Market, 4-7:30 p.m., and Main Street Auto Show, 5-8 p.m. in downtown Belleville.

■ Wednesday, Aug. 26 – Harris Park Birthday, 5-7 p.m. Bring your lawn chairs or blankets and enjoy this free outdoor concert with Flue Cocktail & the Renegades Band.

■ Tuesday, Aug. 28 – Taco & Margarita Night, 5-7 p.m. VFW Post 82 in Romulus, 39270 W. Huron Dr. Proceeds support building fund.

■ Monday, Aug. 31 – Farmers Market, 4-7:30 p.m.,

and Main Street Auto Show, 5-8 p.m. in downtown Belleville.

■ Friday, Sept. 11 – 110 Stories with the Van Buren Community Players, 7:30 p.m., at the VBT Black Box Theater.

■ Friday, Sept. 11 & Saturday, Sept. 12 – Rummage sale, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., VFW Post 82 in Romulus, 39270 W. Huron Dr. Proceeds support parking lot replacement for the post.

■ Saturday, Sept. 12, Sunday, Sept. 13, Friday, Sept. 18, Saturday, Sept. 19, and Sunday, Sept. 20 – The Sweet Delilah Swim Club with the Van Buren Community Players, 7:30 p.m. evening performance, 2 p.m. matinee, at the VBT Black Box Theater.

■ Monday, Sept. 14 – The Belleville Lakeside Singers start their Monday night practices for their concert on Sunday, Dec. 6. Weekly Sept. 14-Nov. 30, 7-9 p.m. at Faith Community Church, 894 E. Huron River Drive, Belleville.

■ Monday, Sept. 14 – Farmers Market, 4-7:30 p.m., and Main Street Auto Show, 5-8 p.m. in downtown Belleville.

■ Thursday, Sept. 17 – Zion Well instructors host sunset yoga at the Michigan Flight Museum's Roush Aeronautics Center, 7-8 p.m., \$35 per person. Repeats Oct. 15 and Nov. 19.

■ Monday, Sept. 21 – Farmers Market, 4-7:30 p.m., and Main Street Auto Show, 5-8 p.m. in downtown Belleville.

■ Wednesday, Sept. 26 – The Future of Comedy Show, 8 p.m., \$25. VFW Post 82 in Romulus, 39270 W. Huron Dr. Proceeds support building fund.

■ Monday, Sept. 28 – Farmers Market, 4-7:30 p.m., and Main Street Auto Show, 5-8 p.m. in downtown Belleville.

■ Monday, Oct. 5 – Farmers Market, 4-7:30 p.m., and Main Street Auto Show, 5-8 p.m. in downtown Belleville.

■ Monday, Oct. 12 – Farmers Market, 4-7:30 p.m., and Main Street Auto Show, 5-8 p.m. in downtown Belleville.

■ Monday, Oct. 19 – Main Street Auto Show in downtown Belleville, 5-8 p.m.

■ Monday, Oct. 26 – Main Street Auto Show in downtown Belleville, 5-8 p.m.

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Business Briefs for Belleville Area

Planet Fitness locations across Michigan, including the Planet Fitness on Belleville Road in Van Buren Township, are accepting donations of school supplies for kids through tomorrow, Aug. 7. All donations will remain in the local communities where they are collected and will benefit Boys & Girls Clubs, local schools, and nonprofit organizations serving children and families in need. Most needed items include backpacks, markers, crayons, pencils, pencil boxes, supply boxes, folders, notebooks, headphones, Ziploc bags, tissues, and hand sanitizer.

~~~~~  
**The Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce**, in partnership with HealthMarkets, hosts a monthly networking session from 8-9 a.m. on the first Thursday of each month at different locations each time. The events are free and include light refreshments. Today's event takes place at HealthMarkets, 186



Main St. The Sept. 3 networking event takes place at the Sumpter Media Center, 23465 Sumpter Rd.

**Debuck's Family Farm's** Sunflower Festival began June 30 and runs through Aug. 16. Entry to the festival includes the chance to take photos with acres of blooming sunflowers, U-pick sunflower bouquets, family-friendly attractions including a new Mega Slide, wagon rides, and more. Find tickets and more information at [debucksfamilyfarm.com/sunflower-festival](http://debucksfamilyfarm.com/sunflower-festival).

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The Hair Station on Belleville Road handed out free barbecue lunches to all as part of its annual Customer Appreciation Day Aug. 3, starting at noon and running through the afternoon until food ran out. The public was welcome to eat on site or use takeaway containers for offerings that included hamburgers, hot dogs, chicken, sides, desserts, and more.

Upcoming Meetings

- Monday, Aug. 10 – Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m., administration building
- Tuesday, Aug. 11 – Sumpter Township Board of Trustees, 6 p.m. Also, Belleville Area District Library Board, 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, Aug. 12 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 5:30 p.m.
- Thursday, Aug. 13 - Keystone Academy school board, 5 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township Planning Commission at 6 p.m. Also, Belleville Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- Monday, Aug. 17 – Belleville City Council, 6:30 p.m. Also, Van Buren Township Board of Trustees daylong budget review meeting
- Tuesday, Aug. 18 –Van Buren Township Board of Trustees, 6 p.m., with 5 p.m. work/study as needed
- Monday, Aug. 24 – Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m., administration building
- Tuesday, Aug. 25 – Sumpter Township Board of Trustees, 6 p.m.
- Wednesday, Aug. 26 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 5:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, Sept. 1 – Buren Township Board of Trustees daylong budget review meeting
- Tuesday, Sept. 8 – Sumpter Township Board of Trustees, 6 p.m. Also, Belleville City Council, 6:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, Sept. 9 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 5:30 p.m.
- n Thursday, Sept. 10 - Keystone Academy school board, 5 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township Planning Commission, 6 p.m.

- Also, Belleville Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- Monday, Sept. 14 – Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m., BHS Commons
 - Tuesday, Sept. 15 – Van Buren Township Board of Trustees, 6 p.m., with 5 p.m. work/study as needed
 - Monday, Sept. 21 – Belleville City Council, 6:30 p.m.
 - Tuesday, Sept. 22 – Sumpter Township Board of Trustees, 6 p.m.
 - Wednesday, Sept. 23 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 5:30 p.m.
 - Monday, Sept. 28 – Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m., BHS Commons
 - Monday, Oct. 5 – Belleville City Council, 6:30 p.m.
 - Tuesday, Oct. 6 – Van Buren Township Board of Trustees, 6 p.m., with 5 p.m. work/study as needed
 - Thursday, Oct. 8 - Keystone Academy school board, 5 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township Planning Commission, 6 p.m. Also, Belleville Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
 - Monday, Oct. 12 – Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m., BHS Commons
 - Tuesday, Oct. 13 – Sumpter Township Board of Trustees, 6 p.m. Also, Belleville Area District Library Board, 7:30 p.m.
 - Wednesday, Oct. 14 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 5:30 p.m.
 - Monday, Oct. 19 – Belleville City Council, 6:30 p.m.
 - Tuesday, Oct. 20 – Van Buren Township Board of Trustees, 6 p.m., with

- 5 p.m. work/study as needed
- Monday, Oct. 26 – Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m., BHS Commons
 - Tuesday, Oct. 27 – Sumpter Township Board of Trustees, 6 p.m.
 - Wednesday, Oct. 28 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 5:30 p.m.
 - Monday, Nov. 2 – Belleville City Council, 6:30 p.m.
 - Tuesday, Nov. 3 – Van Buren Township meeting canceled due to election.
 - Wednesday, Nov. 4 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 5:30 p.m.
 - Monday, Nov. 9 – Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m., BHS Commons
 - Tuesday, Nov. 10 – Sumpter Township Board of Trustees, 6 p.m. Also, Belleville Area District Library Board, 7:30 p.m.
 - Thursday, Nov. 12 - Keystone Academy school board, 5 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township Planning Commission, 6 p.m. Also, Belleville Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
 - Monday, Nov. 16 – Belleville City Council, 6:30 p.m.
 - Tuesday, Nov. 17 – Van Buren Township Board of Trustees, 6 p.m., with 5 p.m. work/study as needed
 - Wednesday, Nov. 18 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 5:30 p.m.
 - Monday, Nov. 23 – Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m., BHS Commons
 - Tuesday, Nov. 24 – Sumpter Township Board of Trustees, 6 p.m.
 - Tuesday, Dec. 1 – Van Buren Township

- Board of Trustees, 6 p.m., with 5 p.m. work/study as needed
- Monday, Dec. 7 – Belleville City Council, 6:30 p.m.
 - Tuesday, Dec. 8 – Sumpter Township Board of Trustees, 6 p.m. Also, Belleville Area District Library Board, 7:30 p.m.
 - Wednesday, Dec. 9 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 5:30 p.m.
 - Thursday, Dec. 10 - Keystone Academy school board, 5 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township Planning Commission, 6 p.m. Also, Belleville Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
 - Monday, Dec. 14 – Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m., BHS Commons
 - Tuesday, Dec. 15 – Van Buren Township Board of Trustees, 6 p.m., with 5 p.m. work/study as needed
 - Wednesday, Dec. 16 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 5:30 p.m.
 - Monday, Dec. 21 – Belleville City Council, 6:30 p.m.
 - Thursday, Jan. 14 – Keystone Academy school board, 5 p.m.
 - Thursday, Feb. 11 – Keystone Academy school board, 5 p.m.
 - Thursday, March 11 – Keystone Academy school board, 5 p.m.
 - Thursday, April 8 – Keystone Academy school board, 5 p.m.
 - Thursday, May 13 – Keystone Academy school board, 5 p.m.
 - Thursday, June 10 – Keystone Academy school board, 5 p.m.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, July 26:
1252 Assist other dept, E Huron River Dr
1635 Property damage accident, Main St
1909 Disorderly, Main St
1931 Domestic, N Liberty St
2135 Suspicious person/veh/circumstance, Menlo Park Dr
2328 Welfare check, Main St

Monday, July 27:
1529 Traffic offense, W Columbia Ave/Edison Ave
1931 Alarm intrusion, Owen St
2014 Welfare check, Carmell St
2027 Civil matter, Edison Ave

Tuesday, July 28:
1415 Suspicious person/veh/circumstance, Main St
1446 Fraud, N Liberty St
1953 Malicious destruction, E Huron River Dr
2122 Welfare check, Loza Ln

Wednesday, July 29:
0223 Suspicious person/veh/circumstance, Village Park
0739 Mental subj, San Carlos St
1300 Suspicious person/veh/circumstance, Potter Dr
1318 Fraud, Victorian Ln
1452 Mental subj, Carmell St
1527 Suspicious person/veh/circumstance, Anaheim St
1551 Suspicious person/veh/circumstance, S Industrial Park Dr
1621 Disorderly, W Columbia Ave

Thursday, July 30:
0144 Parking complaint, E Waterbury Ct
0930 Traffic offense, Sumpter Rd/Montague Ave
1701 Found property/child, Charles St
1832 Leaving the scene property damage accident, Main St/Roys St
2121 Juvenile Complaint, N Aberdeen Ct
2222 Leaving the scene property damage accident, N Liberty St/5th St

Friday, July 31:
1055 Property damage accident, 2nd St/Church St
1158 Domestic, N Liberty St
1729 Missing person, Carmell St
1742 Property damage accident, E Huron River Dr/Main St
1828 Suspicious person/veh/circumstance, High St
2007 Parking complaint, E Columbia Ave
2126 Suspicious person/veh/circumstance, High St

Saturday, August 1 (partial):
1451 Welfare check, Sumpter Rd
1605 Family trouble, Harbour Pointe Dr
2347 Welfare check, Henry St

These logs also contained 56 traffic stops, 4 property checks, and 2 misc. complaints.

Van Buren Twp. Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, July 26:
0107 Suspicious person/veh/circumstance, Belleville Rd
0130 Suspicious person/veh/circumstance, Belleville Rd
0133 Larceny from auto, Haggerty Rd/Tyler Rd
0242 Larceny from auto, Chandler Dr
0335 Larceny from auto, Van Buren St
0340 911 welfare check, N Cumberland Dr
0355 Domestic, N Timberview Dr
0600 Disorderly, Belleville Rd
0755 Traffic offense, Belleville Rd
0952 Alarm intrusion, Harmony Ln
1027 Mental subj, Denton Rd
1137 Personal injury accident, Haggerty Rd/Van Born
1213 Trespassing, N I-94 Service Dr
1214 Suspicious person/veh/circumstance, Belleville
1322 Mental subj, Anna Dr
1349 Assist fire dept, Ecorse Rd
1442 Alarm intrusion, Tyler Rd
1447 Traffic offense, S I-94 Service Dr
1544 Shooting, Denton Rd
1659 Domestic, Meadows Cir
1727 Alarm intrusion, Coca Cola Dr
1857 Suspicious person/veh/circumstance, Belleville Rd
(missing time stamp) Repossession, Denton Rd
1908 Unattended death, Cobblestone Creek Dr
1947 Assist other dept, N Liberty
2030 Welfare check, Hannan Rd/Huron River Dr
2111 Threat, Pine Dr
2240 Welfare check, Belleville
2248 Domestic, Locust Dr
2358 Domestic, Maple Dr

Monday, July 27:
0052 Suspicious person/veh/circumstance, Ecorse Rd
(missing time stamp) Repossession, Haggerty Rd
0344 Alarm intrusion, Haggerty Rd
0415 Alarm intrusion, Ecorse Rd
(missing time stamp) Repossession, Spencer Ave
0807 Alarm intrusion, Rawsonville Rd
0824 Welfare check, Ash Dr
0857 Ordinance violation, Ecorse Rd
0914 Bank detail-VB only, Belleville Bank
0919 Ordinance violation, Ecorse Rd
1115 Ordinance violation, Belleville Rd
1219 Fraud, Bak Rd
(missing time stamp) Repossession, Van Born
1242 Prisoner transport, Th District Court
1330 Suspicious person/veh/circumstance, Belleville
1349 Alarm intrusion, Belleville Rd
1453 Property damage accident, Haggerty Rd/Alden Ave
1459 Welfare check, Belleville
1510 Assist other dept, Denton Rd

1516 Disorderly, Quirk Rd
1545 Road hazard, Rawsonville Rd/W Huron River Dr
1634 Civil matter, Parkwood Dr
1827 Suspicious person/veh/circumstance, Florence Ln
(missing time stamp) Private property impound, Denton Rd
1856 Shooting, Parkside Dr
(missing time stamp) Private property impound, Beckley Rd
(missing time stamp) Private property impound, Beckley Rd
(missing time stamp) Private property impound, Beckley Rd
2154 Warrant arrest, Rawsonville Rd/Bemis Rd
2242 Assault & battery, Huron River Dr

Tuesday, July 28:
0146 Assist other dept, Hannan Rd/Ecorse Rd
0444 Alarm intrusion, Van Born
0537 Mental subj, Chinkapin Dr
0616 Suspicious person/veh/circumstance, Martz Rd/Lohr Rd
0703 Disorderly, E Adams
0746 Civil matter, Winchester St
0818 Retail fraud, Belleville
0933 Vehicle lockout, Belleville Rd
1037 Suspicious person/veh/circumstance, Greenbriar Dr
1049 Welfare check, Belleville Rd
1121 Bank detail-VB only, Belleville Bank
1151 Welfare check, Jackson St
1222 Fraud, Belleville Rd
1222 Fraud, Belleville Rd
1313 Fraud, Stamford Rd
1316 Welfare check, Ecorse Rd
1330 Property damage accident, Ecorse Rd/Denton Rd
1342 Property damage accident, Belleville Rd/N I-94 Service Dr
(missing time stamp) Property damage accident, N I-94 Service Dr/Belleville Rd
1642 Road hazard, Michigan/Michigan Ave
1730 Juvenile compl, Jackson St
1815 Mental subj, Berkdale Dr
1843 Suspicious person/veh/circumstance, Parkwood Dr
1859 Alarm intrusion, Sheldon Rd
2127 Assist other dept, Loza
2138 Disorderly, Belleville Rd
2359 Animal complaint, Bentley Dr

Wednesday, July 29:
0120 Alarm intrusion, Haggerty Rd
0437 Suspicious person/veh/circumstance, Pinewood Ln
0737 Abandoned auto, Van Buren St
0801 Family trouble, Village Green Ln
0835 Fraud, Rawsonville Rd
(missing time stamp) Repossession, Lighthouse Dr
0940 Disorderly, United States Post Office
0947 Alarm intrusion, Rawsonville Rd
0947 Ordinance violation, Ecorse Rd
1010 Retail fraud, Belleville Rd
1033 Bank detail-VB only, Belleville Bank
1110 Fraud, Belleville Rd

1207 Fraud, Belleville Rd
1309 Alarm intrusion, Belleville Rd
1344 Assist fire dept, Andover Dr
1348 Ordinance violation, Western St
1358 Fraud, S I-94 Service Dr
1411 Motorist assist, Haggerty Rd
1503 Welfare check, Maple Dr
1547 Juvenile compl, Locust Dr
1713 Family trouble, S I-94 Service Dr
1750 Welfare check, Rawsonville Rd
1905 Alarm intrusion, Rolan Meadows Dr
1942 Motorist assist, Ecorse Rd/Belleville Rd
2001 Property damage accident, Belleville Rd/N I-94 Service Dr
2039 Alarm intrusion, S I-94 Service Dr
2046 Property damage accident, Lake Villa Dr
2146 Noise complaint, Rose Blvd
2226 Welfare check, Purple Sage Ct
2235 Alarm intrusion, Belleville Rd
2245 Warrant arrest, S Campbell
2300 Suspicious person/veh/circumstance, Savage Rd/Colonial Rd
2335 Suspicious person/veh/circumstance, Rawsonville Rd

Thursday, July 30:
0102 Suspicious person/veh/circumstance, Tyler Rd
0140 Juvenile compl, S Ponderosa Trl
0620 Property damage accident, S I-94 Service Drive
0620 Unauthorized driving away of automobile, Oak Ln
0706 Larceny from auto, W Archwood Dr
0822 Assault & battery, Ecorse Rd
0831 Bank detail-VB only, Belleville Bank
0940 Noise complaint, E Adams
0942 Welfare check, S Bellridge Dr
0942 Civil matter, Montague Ave
1112 Welfare check, Parkwood Dr
1140 Property damage accident, Ecorse Rd/Beck Rd
1149 Malicious destruction, Rawsonville Rd/Bog Rd
1215 Mental subj, Parkwood Dr
1327 Welfare check, Maurice Dr
1355 Traffic offense, Lauren Ct
(missing time stamp) Repossession, Lighthouse Dr
1453 Ordinance violation, Robbe Rd/Haggerty Rd
1522 Property damage accident, Haggerty Rd/Tyler Rd
1913 Welfare check, Quirk Rd
1926 Suspicious person/veh/circumstance, Denton Rd

Friday, July 31:
0343 Alarm intrusion, N I-94 Service Dr
0705 Background investigation, Tyler Rd
1048 Lost property/child, N I-94 Service Dr
1102 Retail fraud, Belleville Rd
1152 Animal complaint, N I-94 Service Dr/Belleville Rd
1251 Retail fraud, Belleville Rd
1253 Trespassing, Belleville Rd
1354 Disorderly, Lohr
(missing time stamp) Private property impound, Westlake Cir

1513 Property damage accident, Belleville Rd
(missing time stamp) Welfare check, W Huron River Dr
1701 Domestic, Belleville Rd
1718 Civil matter, Arthur St
1900 Fraud, Haggerty Rd
1944 Welfare check, Jackson St
1955 Hospice death, Parkwood Dr
2012 Suicidal person, Hoeft Rd
2130 911 welfare check, Denton Rd/Beckley Rd
2135 Assist other dept, E Main St
2149 Welfare check, N I-94 Service Dr
2222 Alarm intrusion, Belleville Rd
2253 Welfare check, Belleville Rd

Saturday, Aug. 1 (partial):
0036 911 welfare check, Richard Run Dr
0100 Welfare check, S I-94 Service Drive
0236 911 welfare check, N I-94 Service Dr
0709 Property damage accident, Tyler Rd
0827 Suspicious person/veh/circumstance, Chandler Dr
0928 Family trouble, Bradley Dr
0943 Alarm intrusion, Rawsonville Rd
0952 Neighbor trouble, Country Ln
1100 Alarm intrusion, North Shore Dr
1145 Fraud, Denton Rd
1212 Welfare check, Savage Rd/Martinsville Rd
1223 911 welfare check, Andover Dr
1241 Suspicious person/veh/circumstance, Bog Rd/Rawsonville Rd
1422 Welfare check, Belleville/Quirk Rd
1423 Vehicle lockout, Victoria St

1451 Property damage accident, Tyler Rd/Belleville Rd
1507 Malicious destruction, Beckley Rd
1626 Property damage accident, Denton Rd/Ecorse Rd
1802 Property damage accident, Denton Rd
1840 Leaving the scene property damage accident, N I-94 Service Dr
1905 Noise complaint, Village Green Ln
1933 Missing person, Quirk Rd
1933 Vehicle lockout, Parkwood Dr
2011 Hospice death, S I-94 Service Dr
2032 Suspicious person/veh/circumstance, Rolan Meadows Dr
2110 Welfare check, Maple Dr
2253 911 welfare check, Westlake Cir
2350 Property damage accident, Tyler Rd/Haggerty Rd

These logs also contained 132 traffic stops, 1 property check, and 3 misc. details.

Sumpter Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, July 26:
0237 Welfare check, Mulberry Dr
0602 Mental health call, Colorado St
1349 Neighbor dispute, Knollwood Dr
1640 Orv complaint, Claxton Dr
1705 Assist fire dept, Clark Rd
1752 911 hangup, Executive Dr
2004 Family trouble, Knollwood Dr
2027 911 hangup, Executive Dr

2114 Family trouble, Rustic Ln
2140 Assist fire dept, Pecan St
Monday, July 27:
0137 Flee & elude police, Rawsonville Rd/Willis Rd
0744 911 hangup, Willis Rd
0948 911 hangup, Arkona Rd
1208 Animal complaint, Sumpter Rd
1218 911 hangup, Judd Rd
1510 Suspicious circumstance, Rawsonville Rd
1653 Suspicious person, Sherwood Rd
1713 Civil matter, Judd Rd
1902 Alarm, Sumpter Rd
2032 911 hangup, Washington
2313 911 hangup, Crandell Ave

Tuesday, July 28:
1337 Welfare check, Rawsonville Rd
1400 Citizen assist, Elwell Rd
1523 Death investigation, Rustic Ln
1918 Welfare check, Rustic Ln
2119 Noise complaint, New Mexico St

Wednesday, July 29:
0239 Suspicious person, Wayside Dr
1030 Follow-up investigation, Creekside Dr
1249 Civil matter, Rawsonville Rd
1359 Assist fire dept, Oakville Waltz Rd
1544 Assist fire dept, Rawsonville Rd
1611 Civil matter, Sumpter Rd
1624 Suspicious circumstance, Willis Rd
1716 Assault, Haggerty Rd
1725 Family trouble, Willis Rd
1738 Welfare check, Mulberry Dr

1838 Family trouble, Willis Rd
1905 Alarm, Sumpter Rd
2215 Assist other agency, Harris Rd
2223 Property damage accident, Willis Rd
2243 Follow-up investigation, Sumpter Rd
2244 Suspicious circumstance, Birch Dr

Thursday, July 30:
0003 911 hangup, Elwell Rd
0018 Assist fire dept, Knollwood Dr
0120 Follow-up investigation, Willis Rd
0229 Suspicious circumstance, Knollwood Dr
0823 Suspicious person, Willis Rd
1006 Civil matter, Harris Rd
1405 Civil matter, Washington St
1411 911 hangup, Carleton West Rd
1426 Neighbor dispute, Knollwood Dr
1438 Welfare check, Dunn Rd
1546 Animal bite, Washington St
1631 911 hangup, Carriage Ln
1930 Citizen assist, Nevada St
1953 Neighbor dispute, Magnolia Dr
2040 911 hangup, Timber Park Ct
2205 Civil matter, Mulberry Dr
2323 Welfare check, Arizona St

Friday, July 31:
0105 Family trouble, Oregon St
0733 Follow-up investigation, Out of township
1141 Assist fire dept, Sherwood Rd
1221 Property damage accident, Virginia St
1424 911 hangup, Sumpter Rd
1516 Suspicious circumstance, Rustic Ln

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PHOTOS | BLAIR TEMPLE

Crash Ends Beneath Balcony

On the evening of Saturday, Aug. 1, about 7 p.m., a vehicle traveling west on the I-94 Service Drive left the roadway, struck the Diamondback sign, and continued into an apartment at the Waverly Apartments, where it became lodged beneath a balcony. There was only one vehicle involved. Van Buren Township Deputy Chief Joshua Monte said that, based on the investigation, it appears the driver experienced a medical emergency while driving, causing them to lose control of the vehicle. The driver, who was the sole occupant of the vehicle, was transported to the hospital by Huron Valley Ambulance. According to Monte, no one else was injured.



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1163 SQUARE FOOT BRICK RANCH with 3 bedrooms plus dining area. Many Updates include Central Air, Vinyl Windows, Flooring, Deck, Gutters and Driveway. 209,000



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