



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

VOL. 32.37 Serving the communities of Belleville, Sumpter & Van Buren FREE

Thursday, September 10, 2026



PHOTO | BLAIR TEMPLE

Belleville cheerleaders and players line up before the Tigers home opener on Thursday, Sept. 3 against Howell. The Tigers fell to the Highlanders, 41-31, despite a second-half comeback. See Sports on page 9.

Petitions Approved for Recall of Van Buren Township Board

Sarah Rigg
 Managing Editor

Now that wording for a recall petition has been approved, the committee seeking recall of the entire Van Buren Township board of trustees is proceeding with collecting signatures.

Anti-data-center activists filed proposals for the recall in June. Targeted for recall are supervisor Kevin McNamara, clerk Leon Wright, treasurer Sharry Budd, and trustees Donald Boynton, William Frazier, Bryon Kelley, and Kevin Martin. William Frazier passed away on Aug. 22 and his seat was filled by appointment.

The recall committee pulled one proposal prior to a clarity hearing, but eventually, a

SEE RECALL ON PAGE 6

Van Buren Board Delays Decision on Proposed Battery Storage Project

Emily Flesch
 Independent Reporter

Following a closed session at the start of the Sept. 1 meeting of the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees, board members and attendees shared a moment of silence to honor the Aug. 22 passing of Trustee William Frazier. Supervisor Kevin McNamara remarked that Frazier’s “quiet dedication, kindness and genuine commitment to the community will be deeply missed.”

Following the tribute, the board continued to regular business, with a special land use request for Staghorn LLC’s proposed 200-megawatt Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) dominating much of the evening.

The Planning Commission recommended that the board deny the request, citing public health and safety concerns, particularly fire risks, as well as land-use compatibility and township development goals.

Public comment brought eight residents to the podium whose opinions on the project were divided. Supporters emphasized the economic benefits, such as \$37 million in property taxes over the project’s lifetime, as well as grid resiliency.

Those in opposition raised concerns about potential noise pollution, proximity to neighboring schools and farms, a lack of data surrounding lithium-ion industrial storage, and the risk of toxic fire plumes.

The board echoed the reservations

about toxic plumes and questioned the potential need for evacuation and HAZMAT teams, requesting to know exactly which chemical compounds were present that would necessitate them.

Fire safety expert Michael O’Brian explained that chemical testing is still ongoing, and they do not know the full off-gas profile at this time. He stated that there is “carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide and hydrogen, and then it’s a myriad of things after that.” O’Brian also noted that the industry is seeing a very low failure rate for the number of units installed.

Deputy Fire Chief Andrew Lenaghan clarified that the HAZMAT team would

SEE DELAYS ON PAGE 8

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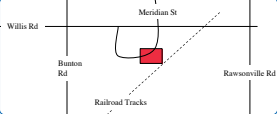
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PAGE THREE

Healing Garden Takes Root at Belleville Church



On August 16th after service, Boy Scout troop 231, which meets at Trinity Episcopal Church in Belleville, held a blessing of the new healing garden designed by David Mitchell as his Eagle project. David met with members of the congregation, planned, fundraised for and organized a garden consisting of five raised beds and two composting containers. Currently the raised beds are growing vegetables, herbs and flowers with the congregation adding more to the beds as needed. Rev Chip Dischinger conducted the blessing with members of David's family reading parts of the prayer. Congregation members joined in the blessing and enjoyed learning about how the garden was built by David, scouts, leaders of troop 231, and David's family and friends.

PHOTOS COURTESY | BOY SCOUT TROOP 231

OPINION

From the Editor

Belleville Area Churches Work Hard for Those in Need

In the Aug. 6 issue of The Belleville Area Independent, I wrote an article about food pantries run by three local churches: Belleville United Methodist, Faith Community, and Be Church.



Sarah Rigg
Managing Editor

The BUMC pantry is open Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Makana Foundation hosts a “pop-up” style pantry at Faith Community Church on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. And Be Church starts their food giveaway at 4 p.m. each Thursday.

I was so impressed with not just the work each church was doing around feeding their neighbors in need but also the fact that they coordinate with and help each other out, from joint fundraising to one organization donating a chest freezer to the other.

However, they are not the only churches in the greater Belleville area providing for their neighbors in need. Marilyn Wood, head of the pantry program at BUMC, sent us information about programs run by other area churches.

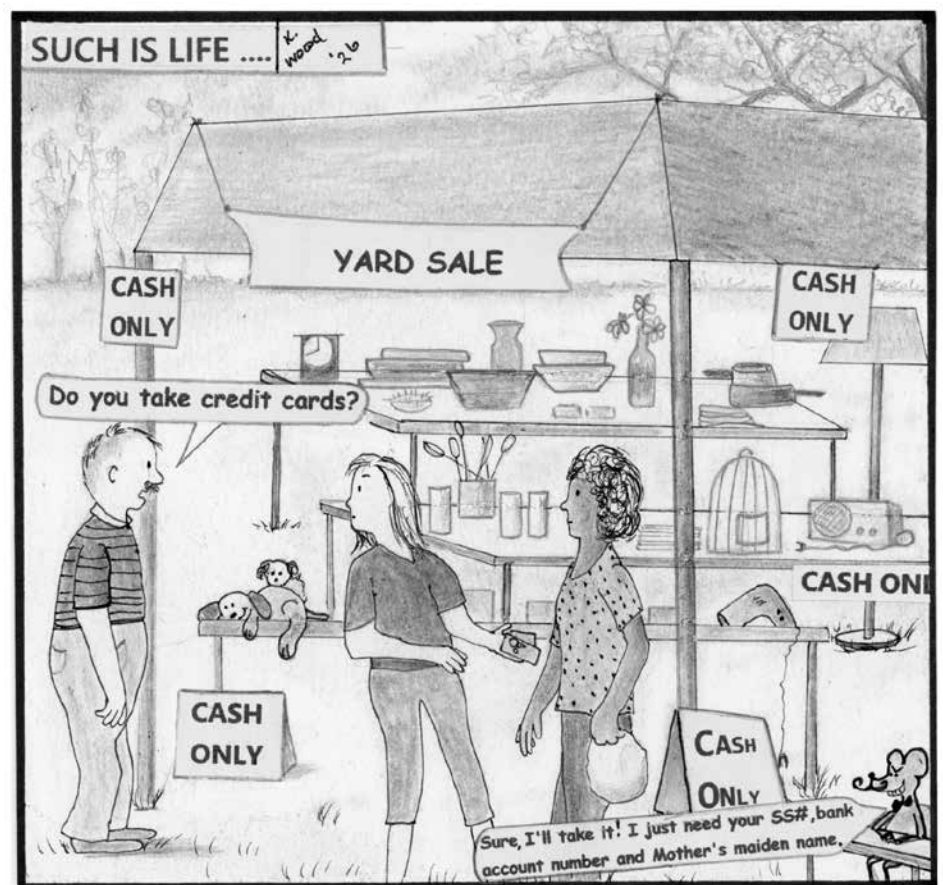
Trinity Episcopal Church at 11575 Belleville Rd. does Friday backpacks for students at Tyler and Rawsonville Schools. Contact Rev. Chip Dischinger at 699-3361 for more information. Wood tells us that the Friday Backpacks are distributed on Fridays so that students at these two elementary schools will have food for the weekend.

Messiah Lutheran Church, with Pastor Bill Hailes, meets on Wednesday evenings at Belleville Presbyterian Church on Belleville Rd. It has an Organic Community Garden that volunteers meet and work on Saturday mornings from 9-11 a.m. The church’s number is 734-740-4230.

Wood also said she’s not sure if it’s still running, but Open Arms Lutheran Church at 7865 Belleville Rd, 734-699-5000, helped with Friday backpacks as well.

Another church, Abundant Harvest Church, 51185 Willis Rd, has a 24/7 Bountiful Pantry and a Free Backpack Program. The backpack provides free school supplies and backpacks for children on Sundays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Contact Pastor Willie S. Foster III at 734-216-8954.

And finally, if you’d like to support the local food pantries, one easy way is to visit the Makana Foundation’s yard sale from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sept. 12 during the City Wide Yard Sale at 894 E. Huron River Dr. All proceeds support the Makana Foundation’s food pantry.



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

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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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A Rack Full of Thanks

Paul Spike made and donated this custom-built wooden newspaper rack to the Independent. We've been distributing papers at more locations over the last few weeks, so it is much appreciated. Many thanks to Mr. Spike.

PHOTO COURTESY | HARRY VAN GELDER

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.

Letters to the Editor

MORE LETTERS ON PAGE 12

Meijer Simply Give Double Day Sept. 12 Benefits Local Pantry

This Saturday, Sept. 12, is the second and final Meijer Simply Give Double Day in the Summer Simply Give Campaign at our local Belleville Meijer store. On this day, if one buys a \$10 Simply Give card, Meijer will match with \$20 for a total donation of \$30!

These Double Day donations fill many,

many bags with food. In the Spring Meijer Simply Give Campaign, the Emergency Food Closet received \$26,370. \$8,710 came from donation card sales; \$10,000 from Meijer Double Match donation; \$5,380 from Meijer Ladies Professional Golf Association; and \$2,280 from additional contributions.

Also on this day, there will be a HUGE garage sale in the parking lot of Belleville First United Methodist Church at 417 Charles St. from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. 100% of the proceeds will be donated to the Emergency Food Closet.

From January 1-August 31, a total of 2,146 bags of food and refrigerator items (meat, lunchmeat, dairy, and bread) have been distributed. Thank you for everyone’s continued support to help those experiencing food insecurity in our community.

Marilyn Wood-coordinator
Emergency Food Closet

Resident Receives ‘Cease and Desist’ Letter Over Volunteer Weed Removal

On August 12, I wrote a two-page report regarding the dangerous conditions in Sumpter township regarding the weeds which restrict visibility, particularly around driveways and intersections. I texted one of our illustrious trustees and let him know that he could pick up a copy of that report at township hall.

Well, he never contacted me, so fourteen days later, with hat in hand, I called his excellency to see what’s up. He was “put out” to say the least, and stated that there was no reason for discussion, that nothing had changed from the year before. I was dismissed.

Well, if indeed “nothing had changed” in a year, wouldn’t that in itself be an admission that he had not done one damn thing during that time to correct the problem? That is point number One.

Before I get to point number Two, let me say this. In the real world I never refused a request for a meeting, I did not allow any of my phone calls to be “screened”, and I would respond to both immediately. That is what is called “professional courtesy”.

And may I remind his eminence that when he was first elected to office I requested a meeting with him at that time, and he took over one year to respond. He did not know me from Adam back then, but allowed idle gossip to influence his thoughts and actions. (James 1:26)

Now, point number Two: In regard to his lordship’s claim that nothing had changed from the year before, that was certainly untrue. For one thing, the number of unpaid “jobs” I had done in the township, clearing weeds around street signs, guardrails, intersections, road shoulders and fire hydrants, etc. had increased to over two thousand jobs completed.

And may I remind his regency that while his solution for weed complaints was to call that failed system ROAD CREW, I had negotiated with Wayne County to actually change its policy and concentrate its efforts at the intersections first, where accidents are most likely to occur. Also, after a long discussion with the director of Wayne County’s ‘Adopt A Road’ program, I was assured that the county would be supportive if some of our residents volunteered to clear some of those obstructions in a safe manner.

The bottom line is that I’ve been working in the township for over six years now, just trying to make things a little better for everybody, and clearing the weeds was just one facet of that objective.

I appreciate the kindness and positive responses from many residents, from that gentleman on Karr Road who was supportive from the very beginning to that man in the pick-up truck with his mother, who somehow managed to track me down to drop off a couple bottles of water.

The response, however, from the township has been utter silence, and a “cease and desist” letter sent to me, which is not legally binding, from our, then, hundred dollar an hour attorney. And, now, most recently, this dismissal, which I have decided to accept.

I’m done.

My objective has never been for a slap on the back, which you see every other Tuesday at township hall, but to help people, in many different ways; which I will continue to do ... but just not here.

Randall Miller
Sumpter Township
734-358-2823

Guitarist Nathan Sweet Offers Free Concert in Harris Park Sept. 17

Many of you may remember me from Leo’s Coney Island on Tuesday nights. I am the blind guy with the cool hat. I am giving a free concert at Harris Park Thursday, Sept. 17 from 6-8 p.m.

There will be an ice cream truck. Bring your lawn chairs or blankets. I will be playing my guitar and singing your favorite songs. I hope you come and sing along with a few! It will be a great time.

Nathan Sweet
Belleville

Birthdays

Sept. 13 – Char Ralls
Sept. 14 – Tom Mitchell
Sept. 14 – Sarah Rigg
Sept. 16 – Thomas Millard

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

RECALL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

proposal by recall effort leader Jenn Smith was approved after appeal by the township’s attorney. A proposal by Van Buren Township resident Amber Martin was approved by the Wayne County Election Commission without challenge by the township.

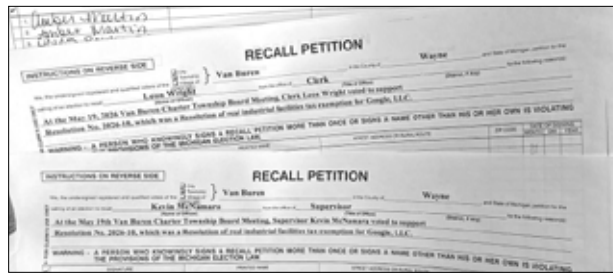
In a message to the Independent, Smith said that Martin’s petition language is strong, so they will set aside Smith’s petitions and circulate the ones with Martin’s recall language.

“I think Jenn and I did our recalls for different reasons,” Martin told the Independent. “I came straight from work on May 19th to the development/incentive approval meeting for the Data Center in order to be present for the vote where it was standing-room only because the union workers and developers were thumbing their noses at the township citizens by taking all the seats, meanwhile saying nothing.”

She also said that Supervisor McNamara “left me feeling like he will continue to do what he wants regardless of our opinions and future quality of life.”

McNamara wasn’t the only official to draw Martin’s criticism.

“Clerk Wright spoke to us as if we were ungrateful children. I understand what’s happening and the environmental impacts this could have on our area for turkey & deer hunters, fishermen, gardeners and large bird watchers



- often seen peering through the trees at the location of the proposed data center.”

Smith’s petition language focused on “the economic impacts, both good and bad, that should have been fully discussed with the community and decisions shouldn’t have been made behind closed doors by the board of trustees only,” Martin said.

Smith is also critical of the township’s Memorandum of Understanding for the \$15.4 million for a lakeside park and/or an investment in the improvement of the township’s recreational facilities or other public services.

“The Township is to be given an initial lump-sum payment of five million, five hundred thousand (\$5,500,000) dollars within 120 days of commencement of vertical construction, yet they’ve already spent over \$1,000,000 acquiring a house to knock down for a park that no one asked for except for Supervisor McNamara. None of this makes sense,” Martin said.

She also noted that Darrin Camilleri, currently a State Senator who will be on the ballot in November, requested an additional \$2 million through Senate Appropriation

spending for the park, with completion expected in summer of 2028.

“Not one cent is earmarked specifically for the people that live around the Data Center already experiencing disruptions from ‘upgrades’ along the North Service Drive and Haggerty by ITC and DTE along their daily drive,” Martin notes. “This Board has to go before they make even more disrupting decisions that will expand to the region.”

Martin said that the recall committee began collecting signatures Sept. 9 in advance of the Van Buren Township meeting planned for that night and in which trustees were expected to give final site plan approval for the data center. (The Independent will publish a recap of the Sept. 9 meeting in our next issue.) Petition circulation will continue through Nov. 8.

The committee is planning several “drive through” opportunities for folks to sign petitions from their car, as well as canvassers going door to door.

“I don’t think it’s too much to ask of the people that are elected officials to listen to us. They are supposed to represent our best interest and full stop when the people say no,” Martin said. “I want the next batch of representatives to actually represent us and be transparent.”

The recall committee is seeking residents who are interested in hosting a fall block party or bonfire to get the word out about the recall effort. Those looking for more information are invited to join the Facebook group Stop Data Center 48111 and reach out to Jenn Smith who often posts in the group.

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Obituaries

Virginia Mae Bolinskey

VIRGINIA MAE BOLINSKEY
(Jan. 24, 1944 - Aug. 27, 2026)

Virginia Mae Bolinskey, age 83, a former longtime resident of Belleville, Michigan, passed away on August 27, 2026. She lived in Roscommon, Michigan where she and her husband enjoyed the outdoors together for the past twenty years.

Born January 24, 1943 in Saline, Michigan, to the late Stanley and Ila Jean (Long) Mandelka. She spent most of her working career in the newspaper industry. She loved her pets, painting and gardening.

She is survived by her children from her first marriage: Donald Roullier III, Renee Roullier, Michael (Catalina) Roullier all of Belleville and Patrick Roullier of Chicago; as well as her stepson David Bolinskey of Romulus. She leaves behind eight grandchildren: Samantha, Alex, Danielle, Katherine, Ila, Michael, Tatiana and Alyssa.

She was preceded in death by Michael, her husband of 40 years and step-son Michael;

A private family gathering will be held at a later date. To sign online guestbook, visit www.cremationsocietymidmi.com.

DEANN SCHILLER

(July 14, 1938 - July 25, 2026)

Deann Schiller passed away on July 25, 2026, at Tierra Pines Center in Largo, Florida. She

was 88 years old. Deann was born on July 14, 1938, in Paw Paw, Michigan, to Irwin W. Stech and Lucille Hellwig. Deann graduated from Belleville High School in 1956. She is survived by her children, Deborah Zagula of Ypsilanti, Mich.; David Zagula and his wife, Donna, of Romulus, Mich.; and Michelle Schiller of Seminole, Fla. She was preceded in death by her husband, George "Lucky" Schiller. Her ashes will be laid to rest at Hillside Cemetery in Belleville.

GERALD D. WOODRUFF

(October 30, 1936 - August 31, 2026)

Gerald Dean Woodruff passed away August 31, 2026. He was born on October 30, 1936, in Ypsilanti, Mich., to Harold and Nellie (Hersch) Woodruff. Gerald is survived by his wife of 70 years, Cora; his children, Bill (Shawn),

Debbie, and Kevin; his grandchildren, April (Blair) Bashore, Danielle Woodruff, Anthony Woodruff, and Dominic Woodruff; and his great-grandchildren, Jason Harbach, Sam Harbach, and Kimberly Underwood. He was preceded in death by his parents, Harold and Nellie Woodruff; his brothers, Donald and Harold; and his sister, Esther.

Henry Kurczewski

HENRY KURCZEWSKI

(June 19, 1936 - September 3, 2026)

Henry John Kurczewski, age 90, a longtime resident of the Belleville area, passed away peacefully on Thursday, September 3, 2026, surrounded by his loving family.

Henry was born June 19, 1936, in Buffalo, NY, to Stanley and Harriet (Podkowinski) Kurczewski. He was preceded in death by his parents; his beloved wife of 53 years, Elizabeth "Betty" Flynn, in 2020; and his brother, Thaddeus "Ted" (Joanne) Kurczewski.

He is survived by his children, Michael (Susan) Kurczewski and Ian Kurczewski, both of Jackson, MI, and Amy (Edward) Koontz of Troy, MI; grandchildren Jason Sharp, Christopher Steele, Matthew Koontz, and Megan Koontz; great-grandchildren Spencer and Tessa; and his sister, Harriet "Kay" (George) Nasser of Chicago, IL, along with many nieces, nephews, cousins, neighbors, and friends.

Henry graduated from the University of Detroit and began his career as a teacher in the Detroit Public School system. He later served in the U.S. Army Reserves and went on to earn multiple master's degrees before becoming an administrator in the Detroit Public School system, where he eventually retired.

After retirement, Henry supported Betty in her business, Human Services Inc., later known as Quest, Inc., helping provide quality homes and care for adults with developmental disabilities. A natural "Mr. Fix-it," Henry loved solving problems and using his skills to help others. He also volunteered with World Medical Relief for 20 years, among many other organizations.

Henry was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and friend. He and Betty enjoyed summers on Russell Island in Algonac, traveling with family and friends, and sharing many adventures together. Henry loved learning and teaching others and was always eager to lend a helping hand. His faith was an important part of his life, and he was a devoted parishioner of St. Anthony Catholic Church in Belleville.

A visitation will be held Friday, September 11, 2026, from 4:30–7:00 p.m. at David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron Drive, Belleville, MI 48111, with military honors at 5:30 p.m.

A Funeral Mass will be celebrated Saturday, September 12, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at St. Anthony Catholic Church, 409 West Columbia Avenue, Belleville, MI 48111, with visitation one hour prior. Burial will follow at 1:00 p.m. at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Southfield, Michigan.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Henry's memory to World Medical Relief are appreciated. Envelopes will be available at the visitation.

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DELAYS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

only be brought in for air monitoring and that they would rely on plume modeling from the EPA to determine if evacuations or shelter-in-place are necessary.

Additionally, Staghorn's parent company (RWE Clean Energy) will be providing ongoing training to Van Buren firefighters as the project progresses and no construction will take place until the fire chief gives final safety approval.

Before the vote, external legal counsel for RWE Michael Vogt formally asked the board to deviate from the Planning Commission's recommendation and approve the request. He reminded the board that Public Act 233 allows large energy project developers to bypass local government

and take their application directly to the Michigan Public Service Commission, but RWE is committed to "collaborate and permit this project locally with the township." Vogt cited examples of this collaboration including RWE's willingness to decrease the decibel threshold by 10 decibels, quadruple its required setbacks from the road and add berms and vegetation.

Trustee Donald Boynton Jr. moved to follow the Planning Commission's recommendation and deny the special land use request, but the motion failed as it did not receive any support.

Treasurer Sherry Budd then motioned for the request to be sent back to the Planning Commission, which was seconded

by Clerk Leon Wright. Wright supported the motion, stating that he could not vote against it at that time as municipal engineers and the fire department had no issues with the project and he believed planners should conduct further study.

The board voted unanimously to send the request back to the Planning Commission.

In other business at the 174-minute meeting, the board:

- Approved job descriptions for four staff positions and executed personal service agreements for three of them: Elizabeth Renaud as Director of Projects and Grants, Tammy Dohring as Director of Operations, and Serrita Williams as Human Resource Generalist. The Director of

Marketing and Programming role remains vacant.

- Congratulated Deputy Township Supervisor Dan Selman on passing the Harvard Kennedy School Public Leadership Credential;
- Greenlit the Water and Sewer Department to purchase a Huber Sewer Combo SC1512 Sewer Cleaner in the amount of \$613,416.26;
- Enthusiastically approved the demolition and reconstruction of a 3,400-square-foot gasoline filling station at 11530 Belleville Road; and
- Received a request from local HOA President Mike Monroe for an ordinance to ban rifle hunting within the township, following Michigan DNR's elimination of restrictions limiting southern Michigan hunters to shotguns and short-range firearms. The board assured him they would be actively looking into it.



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PHOTOS | BLAIR TEMPLE

LEFT: Senior RB Trevor Falconer bursts through the line enroute to a 22-yard gain setting up the Tiger's first score. RIGHT: Senior RB Trenton Foley celebrates after his 3-yard TD run in the 1st quarter.

When it Rains, it Pours

Belleville rallies from 16-point halftime deficit before falling to Howell, 41-31

Stewart B. Gotts
Independent Reporter

Heavy rains and high winds blew through the area before the start of the Belleville Tigers' home opener.

Another storm followed as the Howell Highlanders rolled into Belleville and downed the Tigers 41-31 Thurs., Sept. 3.

After being slapped around in the first half, a reinvigorated Belleville team roared out of the locker room after halftime and did some slapping of its own before the furious rally fell short.

The Tigers controlled the third quarter, scoring twice to cut a 28-12 halftime deficit to 28-24 and put themselves in position to complete the comeback.

A 20-yard run by Trevor Falconer helped set up Belleville's first score of the half, when quarterback Kendall Franklin connected with Treshawn Seed on a 7-yard touchdown pass. The two-point conversion attempt failed.

Then came an electric 32-yard touchdown run by Falconer, cutting Howell's lead to 28-24 with 5:07 remaining in the third quarter. The Tigers again went for two, but the conversion

attempt was stopped short.

Howell got the ball back and drove to the Belleville 16-yard line as the third quarter came to a close.

The first play of the fourth quarter ended with a Howell fumble, which was recovered by Mardell Lewis Jr. and returned to the Tigers' 32-yard line.

Belleville couldn't capitalize on the turnover and punted the ball back to the Highlanders.

On the ensuing punt, Howell fumbled, and the Tigers recovered the ball. However, an interference penalty nullified the recovery and gave the ball back to Howell.

The Highlanders then needed just five plays and 1:26 to score, pushing their lead to 34-24. The extra point attempt was no good.

A Belleville fumble on the first play of its next possession gave the ball back to Howell.

The Highlanders needed just four plays to score their final touchdown, opening a 17-point lead with 6:40 remaining in the game.

But the Tigers refused to quit.

On the first play following the Howell kickoff, Davion Jackson took the handoff and rumbled 53 yards to the Highlanders'

7-yard line.

Two plays later, Falconer scored on a 4-yard run. Following the extra point, the Tigers had cut the deficit to 41-31 with 4:55 remaining.

Belleville attempted an onside kick, but Howell recovered.

The Highlanders were able to run out the clock and knock off the Tigers, 41-31.

The comeback attempt came after Howell dominated much of the first half.

The Highlanders took the opening kickoff and marched 80 yards in seven plays, capped by a 49-yard touchdown run by Burke Kish to take a 7-0 lead with 7:43 remaining in the first quarter.

The Tigers couldn't muster anything on their first possession and punted the ball back to Howell.

The Highlanders made the most of the opportunity, going 67 yards in nine plays. Kish scored again, this time on a 13-yard touchdown reception from Palmer Vandeven, giving Howell a 14-0 lead with 11:01 left in the second quarter.

Belleville took the ensuing kickoff and drove 80 yards in 10 plays, scoring on a 3-yard touchdown run by Trenton Foley to cut the lead to 14-6. The extra point attempt failed after a bad snap. A 22-yard run by Falconer helped set up the score.

It took the Highlanders just four plays to find the end zone again, pushing their lead to 21-6 with 4:11 remaining in the half on a 4-yard run by Kish.

The ensuing Howell kickoff was taken by Britton III, who raced down the sideline for what appeared to be a 96-yard kickoff return. However, two Tigers penalties on the play nullified the score.

Belleville quarterback Franklin was intercepted on the next play, setting up Howell's fourth touchdown of the half. Kish punched it in from the 4-yard line to give the Highlanders a 28-6 lead with 1:51 remaining until halftime.

A 22-yard kickoff return by Cameron Sims set up the Tigers at their own 47-yard line as they tried to cut into the deficit before halftime.

Eight plays later, Franklin connected with Geonte Morris for a 20-yard touchdown. The Tigers' two-point conversion attempt failed, leaving the score 28-12 at halftime.

Belleville (0-2) will remain at home for its next game Friday, Sept. 11, at 7 p.m. against longtime rival Dearborn Fordson.

A halftime tribute celebrating 100 years of the Belleville Marching Band is scheduled for the game.



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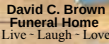
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ICE Targets Young Van Buren Refugees, One Youth Deported

Sarah Rigg
Managing Editor

In the Aug. 27 issue of The Belleville Area Independent, we ran a letter to the editor from Van Buren resident Michael Callahan, a retired circuit court judge. Callahan and his wife Susan have been fostering young men who are refugees from violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo and recently had a run-in with Immigrations Customs and Enforcement (ICE).

Callahan wrote: "On Sunday, August 2, 2026, my wife and I learned from a dispatcher at Van Buren Police Department that our public officers will not respond to a citizen's call if I.C.E. officers conduct an operation in the township.

"We are foster parents for unaccompanied young teens who had come from the Congo where they were tortured. The now young men, one of whom has become a U.S. citizen, and one who is on his way to citizenship have lived with us for seven years, have graduated high school, one from college, work full time, pay taxes, obey our laws and have complied with every requirement of the foster care system and with U.S. immigration."

Callahan says that security cameras on their house and neighbors' houses showed ICE vehicles surveilling the Callahan home beginning at 6 a.m.

Two of the boys were confronted by ICE that morning when they left the house in separate vehicles go to church.

The boys called their foster parents to tell them they were surrounded by ICE vehicles.

"Returning home, we ... went inside and told our older son to get his immigration papers so he could be ready in the event I.C.E. returned. Unlike the rest of his family, he does not have asylum, but he has protected status referred to as a withholding of removal," Callahan's letter continued.

"He was released by immigration and has lived as a working, tax-paying resident in the U.S. for seven years. He is a member of the teamsters, a church-goer, and importantly, a poster child for compliance with immigration. He has never had any run-ins with the law."

ICE agents speaking to Susan

Callahan claimed they were there to fit their foster son with an ankle tether until his next check-in with I.C.E.

She questioned why they needed eight, armed officers, dressed in tactical gear with magazines, pepper spray, heavy duty body armor and no body cameras to put an ankle monitor on a fully compliant refugee. She also asked to see a warrant. They had

The Independent followed up with the Callahan family to find out more, and found out they lost touch with the deported foster son. His withholding of removal status meant that he could not be deported back to the country where his family had been persecuted and tortured and where his parents were presumably killed. However, they later learned that he had been deported to the

who managed to avoid being taken away by ICE, has a green card and is in the process of becoming a citizen as well.

Elie told The Independent that he had always felt much safer in the U.S. than in the Democratic Republic of Congo, that is until the run-in with ICE.

He and his brothers were on the run starting when Elie was 16 because their father, who was

Angolan military, and the whole settlement was burned."

After Angola, the brothers flew to Brazil, and later made their way to the U.S. where they were stopped by ICE. The youngest two were still minors and that is how they ended up with the Callahans.

Before marrying Judge Callahan, Susan had three biological children and adopted several children from the U.S. Later, together, the couple started fostering unaccompanied minors when family separation of children from parents became part of the immigration policy during the first Trump administration.

Elie says he hopes that publicizing his family's case might change some hearts and minds about ICE action in Michigan.

"These things are really happening. We have heard people saying like oh it happened to us, but having it happening to us, live, it was traumatizing having to go through that," Elie said. "My brother works, and he pays his taxes. He's never got in trouble with the law."

Elie says the encounter with ICE has shaken him.

"It has changed my view a lot, especially when it comes to the law, because I feel like from the beginning, coming here, I've felt safer until that day. The way they stopped me and my younger brother, it felt like we were criminals," Elie said. "I feel like lucky because now I feel like oh I'm American, but at the same time, like really, if they can just pick people up and take them, then what guarantee do I have that I can safely be able to live life here without being dragged away or stopped?"

Susan Callahan says the only bright spot is the "global community of people who are willing to help," including those who helped Michael and Susan Callahan reconnect with their son who was deported.

She says she hopes the oldest son will reconnect with another brother who is still in Angola, living with friends of the family.

"I have a hope that he will get travel papers, go find Benny, and start a life with Benny," she said. "He's pretty resourceful."

Editors note: We reached out to VBTPD but did not receive a response by our deadline.



Michael Callahan, at right, with ICE agents.

“He is a member of the teamsters, a church-goer, and importantly, a poster child for compliance with immigration. He has never had any run-ins with the law.”

~ Michael Callahan

none.

Judge Callahan went outside at that time, and Susan Callahan called Van Buren Police.

The dispatcher placed her on hold to speak with a supervisor and returned to inform her that Van Buren PD would not respond to any presence of I.C.E.

Their son voluntarily complied with the ICE officers and rolled up his leg for an ankle monitor, but instead he was handcuffed and taken away.

country of Cameroon.

The boys have half-sisters living in France, and they were able to use family and friend connections to find the oldest brother who was deported and get him food and a phone so he could get in touch with the Callahans.

Another of the Callahan family's foster sons, Elie, is now 24, employed, married, and recently adopted a child with his wife. He's also a proud U.S. citizen as of May. His younger brother,

a critic of the DRC government, was targeted for torture. The boys watched the military inflict violence on their entire family.

"The military raped the older sisters and the mom, and beat the dad," Susan Callahan said. "Their dad sent the older sisters who had travel papers to France, and then moved the seven younger ones to Angola, and they were there for about nine months, and then they were attacked again by a combination of the DRC and

Letters to the Editor

Belleville Area Museum Updates Public on Lecture Series

Dear friends of the Belleville Area Museum:

Thank you to everyone who came out to Danielle Whitehead's lecture, "The Importance of Black Farmers in Wayne County." We were so excited to have a full house, with over fifty attendees, including local farmers and even county officials! Thank you to everyone who came out, we look forward to seeing more people at future events for her project.

This lecture was the beginning of Miss Whitehead's Black Gold, an archival and oral history project which seeks to recover and preserve the history of black farmers in Van Buren and Sumpter Townships for future generations.

If you are a black farmer in the tri-community or know the history of black farmers that have lived in the area, we would love to hear from you. If you are interested in helping with the project by giving an oral history or interviewing others, please respond to this email or call us at (734) 697-1944. For those who have already signed up, Danielle will be reaching out with more information at a later date.

Our next lecture will be on September 24th. The lecture will be given by another of our volunteers, Dave Booher on "Rawsonville: Making of a Ghost Town." Free pizza will be available at 5:30, and the lecture will begin at 6, as usual. If you are planning on attending, please RSVP by responding to this email to save a seat (see attached flyer for more information).

As always, if you have any historical inquiries for the museum, you are welcome to contact us at any time with your questions.

We hope everyone has a wonderful start to the school year.

Mary Utz

Belleville Area Museum Curator

Sumpter Resident Thanks PD for Event Traffic Management

Dear Chief Eric Luke and Officers:

Thank you for your outstanding support in managing traffic at the intersections during our Antique Tractor Poker Run. Your presence and professionalism helped keep everyone safe and allowed the event to run smoothly.

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Because Louie's herding instincts can kick in during high-energy play, he would do best with older children who are past the running-and-chasing stage. He can also be nervous in unfamiliar situations and needs a patient family willing to continue helping him build confidence.

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Aaron Baughman chats with a teacher.

PHOTO COURTESY | VBPS

AI in Education Explored During VBPS Professional Development Session

Emily Flesch
Independent Reporter

Van Buren Public Schools held an AI Professional Learning Day at Belleville High School on Aug. 27 for educators and administrators.

Facilitated by the Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals (MASSP), the day focused on integrating artificial intelligence technology into administrative duties and classroom activities.

Aaron Baughman, MASSP associate director of innovation and strategic partnerships, began the day with a keynote presentation emphasizing how AI can streamline educational tasks and provide more accessible opportunities for students in underrepresented and under-resourced areas.

Following the keynote, attendees were given the opportunity to select four “Learning Lab” workshops from a roster of 23 specialized options. Topics included “Turning AI Possibility Into Practice,” “Elementary Digital Literacy” and “AI in Special Education as an Equity Accelerator”, among others.

Going forward, the district will use SchoolAI and Gemini exclusively. Logging in with school credentials will give users access to customized, secure AI models, with all data being stored on servers located in the contiguous United States.

“A lot of people feel like AI is just an easy button and making people less willing to work, but it can be used to speed

[things] up,” said Baughman, explaining that educators can save, on average, at least eight to 10 hours a week by utilizing AI for administrative tasks, giving them “time back in the classroom with their kids or time with their families, or a little bit of both.”

Baughman reported that he receives mostly positive feedback from teachers and administrators.

Among attendees, reviews were mixed. A teacher who preferred to remain anonymous commented that they feel it is a “confusing example to set for the kids” at a time when students are being encouraged to build their own intellect and skills without reliance on AI.

David Turner, assistant principal at McBride Middle School, believes that while students absolutely need to know how to survive without AI, it would be a mistake to leave it out of the curriculum entirely. “If we don’t teach our kids to use it, then we set them up for failure, so I think there needs to be a balance,” he said, adding “we need to utilize it in a way that [helps] give them the skills they’re going to need with and without it.”

Baughman and MASSP will be returning to Van Buren Schools on at least three future dates, stating that this is a long-term process. They have built out the usage guidelines and made them available to students and parents, now they are implementing AI in the education process. The next step will be innovating processes and determining how to continue incorporating AI effectively and responsibly.

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9/17

GARAGE/YARD SALE

HUGE SALE – Something for everyone, 63 Beddell, Belleville. Thursday, September 10 - Sunday, September 13 from 8am-5pm.

9/10

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE – Harley Davidson apparel, lots of collectables. Saturday & Sunday, September 12 & 13. 9am-4pm. 13901 Farm St.

9/10

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9/10

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9/10

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9/10

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9/10

2nd ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE. St. Anthony Church. 409 W. Columbia, Belleville. Friday, September 11, 8am-4pm. & Saturday, September 12, 8am-2pm.

9/10

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9/17

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9/24

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9/10

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Musings



Janet Millard
Advertising Director

The Van Buren Community Players have two different performances for you this week. Tomorrow, Friday, Sept. 11, is a special free presentation commemorating 9-11 in the Black Box at the Township Community Center.

If you have been following Things to do, you have already purchased your tickets for The Sweet Delilah Swim Club scheduled for Sept. 12, 13 & September 18, 19 & 20 in the Black Box Theater. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. and 2 p.m. for the Sunday Matinee. You

may get lucky and find seating by going to: <http://vbtvbc.ludus.com> or in person at the Community Center Desk or call 734-699-8921,

So happy to see that Sumpter Fire Fighters brought back their famous Chicken Broil on Sept. 13. It will run from noon to 5 p.m. at the fire station on Sumpter & Kozma, so it's a great place for lunch after church for the whole family.

Belleville High School Tiger Drama has announced their fall play for Nov. 19 & 21. They are taking on Shakespeare's Much Ado About Nothing. Mark your calendars now!

Congratulations to Atchinson Ford for adding the 2025 President's Award to the many they have

received. Best wishes for another great year to Craig & Medina and their very solid team.

Our terrific Tigers have their first Friday game this week so it's time to get out my lucky tee for game day. I didn't wear it for the Howell game last week or the week before (I really don't feel football on a Thursday!) and look where it got us. Now we have to be on point – no more losses. We are home on the 11th and Dearborn Fordson is the foe to take down. Tap, Tap, Tap fellows!!

All you treasure hunters will be right in your element for the City-Wide Yard sale this weekend. Shop until you drop!!

Things to do in the Belleville Area

■ **Thursday, Sept. 10** – Classic movie night at the Belleville Area District Library, 6 p.m. Tonight: Stagecoach. Also, film discussion with John Monaghan.

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

■ **Friday, Sept. 11 & Saturday, Sept. 12** – Rummage sale, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., VFW Post 78 in Romulus, 39270 W. Huron Dr. Proceeds support parking lot replacement for the post. (Donations of gently-used items for the sale accepted Sept. 8 & 9 from 3-8 p.m.)

■ **Saturday, Sept. 12** – Willow Church in New Boston hosts a free gently used & clean clothing event to benefit anyone in the communities struggling to afford these items, 10 a.m.-2p.m. All are invited, no questions asked. Includes a free snack bar at the Willow Church Fellowship Hall. Clothing collection dates are 10 a.m. to noon each Sunday through Sept. 6. Anyone with questions may call 734-654-9020 or email farmerwilson@gmail.com.

■ **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.

■ **Sunday, Sept. 13** – Sumpter Fire Department and MAFF 343's Annual Chicken Broil from noon to 5 p.m. at the fire station. The menu includes a ½ chicken, corn on the cob, coleslaw, dinner roll and beverage for \$15 per dinner.

■ **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** – Open play Mahjong at the Crafted Beanery, check-in at 9 a.m., play at 10 a.m. \$5 admission includes entry into drawing for a door prize. Repeats Mondays Sept. 21 and 28.

■ **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.

■ **Thursday, Sept. 17** – Free concert by Nathan Sweet in Harris Park, 6-8 p.m. Bring lawn chairs and blankets and visit the ice cream truck while Nathan plays your favorite tunes on his guitar.

■ **Thursday, Sept. 17** – WCCCD hosts a free fall concert series on Thursday evenings from 6:30-8 p.m. at 9555 Haggerty Rd. Tonight: Steel Drum Band.

■ **Friday, Sept. 18** – Last Eagle Riders Steak Fry for 2026, \$22 per meal, 4 p.m. until gone, at the Fraternal Order of Eagles Van Buren Post 3996 on Beck Road. Includes a 50/50 raffle.

■ **Friday, Sept. 18** – Bowling Fundraiser Benefiting Michigan Against Atomic Waste, at Lodge Lanes. Check-in at 6 p.m., bowling at 6:30 p.m. \$25 per person, includes two games and shoes. Raffle baskets, 50/50 raffle, cash bar. Proceeds benefit Michigan Against Atomic Waste, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

■ **Saturday, Sept. 19** – Wings & Whiskey. An evening of whiskey tasting, education, and entertainment at the Michigan Flight Museum after hours. \$50.

■ **Sunday, Sept. 20** – Angel Food Catering's annual Craft Show, Corn & Cider Fest, noon-5 p.m. at 44850 N. Interstate 94 Service Dr. Food, vendors, free and ticketed events, including pony rides.

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

■ **Monday, Sept. 21** – Open play Mahjong at the Crafted Beanery, check-in at 9 a.m., play at 10 a.m. \$5 admission includes entry into drawing for a door prize. Repeats Monday, Sept. 28.

■ **Thursday, Sept. 24** – The Southwestern Wayne County Democratic Club hosts a Candidate Meet and Greet in the Sheldon/Otisville Room, Van Buren

SEE THINGS TO DO ON PAGE 19

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BELLEVILLE-AREA
INDEPENDENT

Belleville Area Business Briefs

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 Oct. 1 event takes place at **Union Home Mortgage-Whitney Beaubien**, 480 E. Huron River Dr. The Nov. 5 event takes place with the Lakeside Singers at Faith Community Church, 894 E. Huron River Dr. The Dec. 3 event is scheduled for Crafted Beanery & Gift Shop, 381 Main St.

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## Van Buren Township Public Notice

### CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES September 1, 2026

Supervisor McNamara called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room. Present: Supervisor McNamara, Treasurer Budd, Clerk Wright, Trustee Kelley, Trustee Boynton, and Trustee Martin. Others in attendance: Deputy Supervisor Selman, Recording Assistant Beaudry, Director of Municipal Services Akers, Deputy Police Chief Monte, HR Director Monia, Municipal Services Coordinator McWilliams, Deputy Fire Chief Lenaghan, HR Generalist Williams, Director of Projects and Grants Renaud and an audience of approximately 30.

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

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA:** Kelley moved, Wright seconded to approve the agenda. Motion Carried.

**CLOSED SESSION:** Budd moved, Wright seconded to go into closed session at 6:02 pm pursuant to MCL 15.268 subsection h: to consider material exempt from discussion or disclosure by state or federal statute. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: McNamara, Wright, Budd, Martin, Boynton, and Kelley. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

Budd moved, Martin seconded to reconvene the Board Meeting at 6:54 pm. Motion Carried.

**ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA:** Boynton moved, Kelley seconded to approve the Consent Agenda: Board Meeting Minutes of August 18, 2026, Prepaid List of August 18, 2026, Prepaid List of August 26, 2026, and Voucher List of September 1, 2026. Motion Carried.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** None

**CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS:** A moment of silence was held in memory of Trustee William Frazier and Deputy Supervisor Selman received the Harvard Kennedy School Public Leadership Credential.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** (Unfinished and New Business): Multiple members from the audience expressed opinions on the Battery Energy Storage System agenda item.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Boynton moved, Kelley seconded to approve the job descriptions for Director of Projects & Grants, Director of Marketing & Programming, and Director of Operations and Approval and Execution by Supervisor McNamara and Clerk Wright of the Promotional Personal Service Agreements. Motion Carried.

Boynton moved, Budd seconded to approve the Human Resource Generalist job description and Approval and Execution by Supervisor McNamara and Clerk Wright of the Personal Services Agreement for Serrita Williams. Motion Carried.

Boynton moved, Kelley seconded to approve the purchase of a Huber Sewer Combo SC1512 Sewer Cleaner from Jack Doheny in the amount of \$613,416.26 to be paid from account 592-536-971-000 Water Capital Outlay-Vehicle and Equipment FY2027. Motion Carried.

Boynton moved to approve the denial of a special land use request by Stag Horn, LLC to install a 200 MW Battery Energy Storage System, with supporting infrastructure on parcel 83-123-99-0001-003. With there being no second, the motion failed.

Budd moved, Wright seconded to send the special land use request by Stag Horn, LLC to install a 200 MW Battery Energy Storage System, with supporting infrastructure on parcel 83-123-99-0001-003 back to the Planning Commission for review. Motion Carried

Wright moved, Kelley seconded to approve a special land use application to demolish and reconstruct a 3,400 square foot gasoline filling station at 11530 Belleville Road. Motion Carried.

Wright moved, Boynton seconded to approve the second reading of Ordinance 08-18-26: an ordinance to amend the Township Zoning Ordinance related to height standards in the BROD zoning district. Roll Call Vote: Yeas: McNamara, Wright, Budd, Martin, Boynton, and Kelley. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

**REPORTS:** None.

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:** Members of the public spoke on election integrity, DNR firearm changes regarding deer hunting, ICE activity, and state rep candidacy. Wayne County Sheriff's Department Community Liaison Stephanie Richards announced 2 community events the sheriff's office will be participating in: the October 10th Domestic Violence Walk in Belleville and Sumpter's Trunk or Treat on October 28th.

**BOARD COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:** None.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Boynton moved, Kelley seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:53 p.m. Motion Carried.

Leon Wright, Township Clerk  
Kevin McNamara, Supervisor  
Posted: 9/1/26  
Published: 9/10/26

A new Van Buren Township **Chick-fil-A** location hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony Sept. 9. The Belleville Road location is owned by owner-operator Matthew Carpenter.

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A Hot Wheels Hot Deals scavenger hunt sponsored by the **Belleville Downtown Development Authority** (DDA) continues through Oct. 12. To participate, hunters can find clues on the **KSpringer Media Management** webpage at www.kspringermediamanagement.com (click on Hot Wheels and Deals at the top of the page). Using the provided clues, participants locate the hidden miniature car or automotive-themed item inside a Belleville business, take a photo with the item, and submit the photo on the same website. The person with the highest number of correct entries will win the grand prize Motor City Experience package. Other prizes include gift cards to Belleville businesses, gas cards, car care products, and more. The winner will be contacted directly via email and announced on Belleville DDA social media.

~~~~~

The **Van Buren Township DDA** will again host Scarecrows in the Park for 2026! Families, schools, businesses, organizations, clubs and individuals are invited to create a scarecrow to help decorate Harris Park this fall. There's no fee to enter. Scarecrows must be received by Oct. 1 and will be on display in Harris Park from Oct. 5–Nov. 2. Official rules and applications available at the Van Buren Township Hall, DDA building or their website, [vanburendda.com](http://vanburendda.com).

~~~~~

Atchinson Ford is collecting non-perishable food items to help feed local families, with a Detroit Lions giveaway included. Area residents may donate 10 non-perishable food items for a chance to win 4 tickets to the Lions Thanksgiving Day game, a parking pass AND a \$300 gift card! Every additional 10 items donated earn another chance to win. Donations are accepted at Atchinson Ford, 9800 Belleville Rd., through Sept. 30.

Van Buren Township Adoption Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN ORDINANCE 08-18-26 NOTICE OF ADOPTION

Notice is hereby given that on Tuesday, September 1, 2026 at the regular meeting of the Charter Township of Van Buren Board of Trustees, the second reading of the following proposed amendment to the Van Buren Township Zoning Ordinance 5-2-17(2) was approved and is hereby adopted:

ORDINANCE 08-18-26: Belleville Road Overlay District (BROD): Building Height and Setback Standards. Proposed amendments to the BROD to allow for additional building height and add section 6.309(C)(2)(J) which allows additional building height for hotels, senior housing, and hospitals to allow for alternative architectural variation for height bonuses for specific uses within the Belleville Road Overlay District. This amendment changes the following sections of the zoning ordinance: Article 6: Supplemental Zoning District Standard, Chapter 3: Belleville Road Overlay District, Section 6.309 Architectural and Site Design Standards.

A true copy of the proposed Ordinance may be viewed and inspected at the office of the Township Clerk located at 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, Michigan during recent business hours, Monday through Thursday, 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The adopted Zoning Ordinance amendment will be effective seven (7) days after the date of publication.

Adopted: September 01, 2026
Published: September 10, 2026
Effective: September 18, 2026

The Belleville Area Newspaper Foundation is seeking volunteers to fill spaces in the Foundation's Board of Directors.



In particular, we would welcome an attorney with interest and background in business, non-profit and community involvement.

Please email your letter of interest to harryvangelder673@gmail.com

Sumpter Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, August 30:
0434 Suspicious person, Sumpter Rd
1110 Civil matter, Harris Rd
1341 Orv complaint, Lohr Rd/Bemis Rd
1555 Civil matter, Creekside Dr
1611 Assist fire dept, Sully Dr
1724 Animal complaint, Sumpter Rd
1736 Follow-up investigation, Wear Rd
1836 Assist fire dept, Dunn Rd
1918 911 hangup, Creekside Dr
2006 Assist fire dept, Mulberry Dr
2012 Assist fire dept, Creekside Dr
2149 911 hangup, Bemis Rd
2320 Assist fire dept, Harris Rd
2334 911 hangup, Mulberry Dr

Monday, August 31:
0823 Damage to property report, Rawsonville Rd
0952 Follow-up investigation, Out of township
1117 Neighbor dispute, Thatcham Ln/Bohn Rd
1236 Civil matter, Harris Rd
1320 Alarm, Dunn Rd
1844 Orv complaint, Bemis Rd/Lohr Rd
1902 Juvenile matter, Bohn Rd
2000 911 hangup, Oregon St
2003 911 hangup, Creekside Dr
2028 Assist fire dept, Rawsonville Rd
2042 Civil matter, Washington St
2057 Damage to property report, Mulberry Dr/Martinsville Rd
2101 Suspicious person, Mulberry Dr

Tuesday, September 1:
0100 Suspicious vehicle, Sumpter Rd
0714 Family trouble, Greenmeadow Dr
0755 Harassment complaint, Rustic Ln
1123 Suspicious person, Harris Rd
1545 Civil matter, Haggerty Rd
1640 Welfare check, Clark Rd
1831 Follow-up investigation, Country Club Blvd
1843 Follow-up investigation, Out of township
1914 Damage to property report, Sherwood Rd
1920 Follow-up investigation, Clark Rd
2011 Follow-up investigation, Carleton West Rd
2018 Orv complaint, Martinsville Rd

Wednesday, September 2:
0541 Follow-up investigation, Sumpter Rd
0726 Suspicious vehicle, Bohn Rd
0824 Civil matter, Fenster Ave
0824 Assist fire dept, Wilmot Rd
0949 Mental health call, Magnolia Dr
1043 Animal complaint, Willow Rd
1209 Citizen assist, Clark Rd
1556 Mental health call, Clark Rd
1852 Assist fire dept, 3rd St
2017 Motorist assist, Judd Rd/Martinsville Rd
2125 Shots fired, Wear Rd
2204 Suspicious person, Sumpter Rd

Thursday, September 3:
0402 Assist fire dept, Rustic Ln
0626 Welfare check, Sully Dr
0808 Assist fire dept, Judd Rd
1025 Property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd/Rustic Ln
1027 Suspicious circumstance, Wear Rd/Haggerty Rd
1227 Follow-up investigation, Wear Rd/Martinsville Rd
1229 Suspicious vehicle, Willis Rd/California St
1251 Fraud complaint, Sherwood Rd
1328 Animal complaint, Martinsville Rd
1443 Retail fraud, Willis Rd
1525 Suspicious circumstance, Lohr Rd
1608 Assist fire dept, Willis Rd
1613 Alarm, Willow Rd
1741 911 hangup, Rustic Ln
1749 911 hangup, Mulberry
1752 Welfare check, Sumpter Rd
1843 Traffic complaint/hazard, Bohn Rd
1856 Assist fire dept, Texas St
1858 Assist other agency, Rawsonville Rd/Judd Rd
1936 Civil matter, Karr Rd
2009 Welfare check, 3rd St
2102 Suspicious circumstance, Harris Rd
2122 Assist fire dept, Willis Rd
2333 911 hangup, W Arizona St/California St
2334 Assist fire dept, Rawsonville Rd

Friday, September 4:
0017 Citizen assist, Sumpter Rd
0109 Assist fire dept, Washington St
1048 Suspicious vehicle, Bohn Rd
1215 Assist other agency, 3rd St
1526 Property damage accident, Bemis Rd/Sumpter Rd
1826 Welfare check, Magnolia Dr
2003 Assist fire dept, Sherwood Rd
2155 Welfare check, Harris Rd
2248 Juvenile matter, Knollwood Dr

Saturday, September 5:
0109 911 hangup, Hampshire Dr
0117 Suspicious circumstance, Willis Rd
0343 Welfare check, Mulberry Dr
0421 Welfare check, Carleton West Rd
0852 Family trouble, Wear Rd
0900 Civil matter, Clark Rd
0945 Welfare check, Rawsonville Rd/Bemis Rd
1006 Fraud complaint, Harris Rd
1059 Civil matter, Lohr Rd
1212 Alarm, Sumpter Rd
1759 911 hangup, Wear Rd
2005 Noise complaint, Hampshire Dr
2041 Traffic complaint/hazard, Rustic Ln
2052 Assist fire dept, Bemis Rd
2147 Noise complaint, New Mexico St
2242 Assist other agency, W Huron River Dr/Willow Rd
2301 Suspicious person, Rustic Ln
2322 Traffic complaint/hazard, Clark Rd/Judd Rd
2328 Assist fire dept, Rawsonville Rd/Willis Rd
2334 Suspicious circumstance, Judd Rd
2338 Assist fire dept, Wear Rd

These logs also contained 37 traffic stops, 13 misc. details, and 129 property checks.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Van Buren Twp. Police Dispatch Log

Due to the Labor Day holiday weekend, the Belleville and Van Buren dispatch logs were unavailble before press deadline. They will return next week.

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Upcoming Meetings

- **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.
- **Wednesday, Sept. 16** – Belleville DDA board meeting, 6 p.m.
- **Monday, Sept. 21** – Belleville City Council, 6:30 p.m.; also, the Sumpter Township regular Parks & Recreation meeting, 6 p.m.
- **Tuesday, Sept. 22** – Sumpter Township Board of Trustees, 6 p.m. Also, Van Buren DDA board meeting, 3 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.
- **Wednesday, Oct. 21** – Belleville DDA board meeting, 6 p.m.
- **Monday, Oct. 26** – Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m., BHS Commons.
- **Tuesday, Oct. 27** – Sumpter Township Board of Trustees, 6 p.m. Also, Van Buren DDA board meeting, 3 p.m.
- **Wednesday, Oct. 28** – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 5:30 p.m.
- **Monday, Nov. 2** – Belleville City Council, 6:30 p.m.
- **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, 2026** – Keystone Academy school board, 5 p.m.
- **Thursday, Feb. 11, 2026** – Keystone Academy school board, 5 p.m.
- **Thursday, March 11, 2026** – Keystone Academy school board, 5 p.m.
- **Thursday, April 8, 2026** – Keystone Academy school board, 5 p.m.
- **Thursday, May 13, 2026** – Keystone Academy school board, 5 p.m.
- **Thursday, June 10, 2026** – Keystone Academy school board, 5 p.m.



Things to do in the Belleville Area

- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16
- Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, 6-8 p.m.
- **Thursday, Sept. 24** – WCCCD hosts a free fall concert series on Thursday evenings from 6:30-8 p.m. at 9555 Haggerty Rd. Tonight: Lonesome Skeleton Band.
- **Thursday, Sept. 24** – Belleville Area Museum lecture, 6 p.m., free pizza at 5:30 p.m., 405 Main St. Tonight's topic is Rawsonville: The Making of a Ghost Town by Dave Booher.
- **Saturday, Sept. 26** – The Future of Comedy Show, 8 p.m., \$25. VFW Post 78 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, Sept. 28** – Open play Mahjong at the Crafted Beanery, check-in at 9 a.m., play at 10 a.m. \$5 admission includes entry into drawing for a door prize.
- **Saturday, Oct. 3** – Craft & Vendor Show, 10 a.m.- 8 p.m., VFW Post 78 in Romulus, 39270 W. Huron Dr. The first event of this kind at the VFW, featuring local artists & crafters. Limited spaces still available; email pmapourmeart@gmail.com by Sept. 9.
- **Saturday, Oct. 3** – Sumpter Township October Jam, starting at 4 p.m. at the Sumpter Community Center Pavilion. Featuring music, obstacle course, ax throwing, cornhole, bonfires, food trucks, and fireworks.
- **Monday, Oct. 5** – Farmers Market, 4-7:30 p.m., and Main Street Auto Show, 5-8 p.m. in downtown Belleville.
- Thursday, Oct. 8 – Classic movie night at the Belleville Area District Library, 6 p.m. Tonight: 3:10 To Yuma. Also, film discussion with John Monaghan.
- **Saturday, Oct. 10** – Van Buren Fire Department Pancake Breakfast, 9 a.m.-noon, Van Buren Fire Station 2. Meet a firefighter, participate in a raffle, eat pancakes and sausages, and celebrate the fire department's 75th anniversary. \$5 tickets include pancakes, sausage links, coffee, juice, or milk.
- **Monday, Oct. 12** – Farmers Market, 4-7:30 p.m., and Main Street Auto Show, 5-8 p.m. in downtown Belleville.
- **Wednesday, Oct. 14** – WCCCD hosts College night from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at 9555 Haggerty Rd. Get information on more than 40 colleges and universities, as well as the Armed Forces.
- **Thursday, Oct. 15** – Zion Well instructors host sunset yoga at the



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