

Official Newspaper of Record for the City of Belleville & the Charter Township of Van Buren
152 Main Street • Suite 9 • Belleville, MI 48111 • 734.699.9020
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BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

VOL. 32.39

Serving the communities of Belleville, Sumpter & Van Buren

FREE

Thursday, September 24, 2026



Belleville DDA Names James Courtney as Executive Director

Emily Flesch

Independent Reporter

The Belleville Downtown Development Authority appointed James Courtney as its new Executive Director at its regular meeting on Sept. 16.

The part-time position pays \$35,000 annually with 20-30 expected hours per week and is contingent upon successful completion of a background check.

Courtney earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Central Michigan University and a master's degree in urban planning from Wayne State University. He founded real estate management firm 1701 Partners in 2021 after previously working for Ford Motor Company as a marketing manager and global dealer in community engagement.



Courtney

The board expressed hope that Courtney's experience building community relationships between businesses, residents and corporations will help to break down silos between different departments in Belleville.

In other business at the 45-minute meeting, the board:

- Discussed the pickleball courts that were recently vandalized and brainstormed strategies for keeping them safe in the future. City Manager Brady Peck said that the Department of Public Works is in the process of replacing the missing nets and looking into locking mechanisms;
- Approved accounts payable for Aug. 2026 totaling \$99,047.69 and Sept. 2026 totaling \$11,027.17;
- Announced that the Witches' Ball is scheduled for Oct. 16 with support from the Belleville-Area Chamber of Commerce;
- Heard Mayor Ken Voigt report that the ribbon cutting for the Denton Road Bridge will take place on Oct. 22 at 9:30 a.m.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m. Board members Valerie Kelley-Bonner and Mike Gatteri were absent and excused.

Jahr Appointed to Fill Empty Trustee Seat

Emily Flesch

Independent Reporter

The Van Buren Township Board of Trustees welcomed Jeffrey Jahr as its newest member at its Sept. 15 regular meeting.

Judge Lisa Martin swore Jahr in at the top of the meeting to fill the vacancy left by the passing of Trustee William Frazier. Jahr was subsequently appointed as the board's liaison to the Planning Commission.

A longtime resident, Jahr comes to the board with a wealth of experience working within the township, having served on the

Planning Commission, Environmental Commission and Zoning Board. He even cut grass for the Department of Public Works many years ago.

Members of the board are excited about the appointment. Trustee Byron Kelley commented that Jahr is "very familiar with township protocol" and "very well-trained." Treasurer Sherry Budd recalled serving on the board with Jahr's father and noted his grandfather's prior township involvement, remarking that he is "kind of following a tradition."

Jahr is very appreciative of the opportunity to serve his communi-

ty and thanked the board, adding, "I'm devoted to the community and hope I can serve well."

In other business at the 31-minute meeting, the board:

- Approved the reappointment of Medina Atchinson to the Planning Commission and Jill Yob to the Environmental Commission, with terms to expire on Oct. 1, 2029;
- Approved the reappointments of Michael Dotson, Peter Kudlak and Priya Nayak to the Local Development Finance Authority, with terms to expire Aug. 12,

SEE SEAT ON PAGE 5

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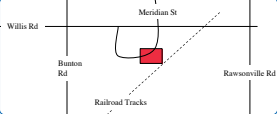
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PAGE THREE



Faith Community Center Unveils Community Garden

Faith Community Center of Belleville dedicated a community garden Sept. 13 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Volunteers, lead by Ray McGuire, Tom Shultz, Matt Dalley, and Jennifer Valentine-Leonard built the garden to honor all Veterans and Seniors. The church is expecting to receive a grant to expand the garden's features in spring of 2027.

Support for the garden came from Meijer, Sunbelt Rentals, The Garen's Choice, Temple's Tree Service, Menard's, AmeriCorps., and Belleville Faith Community Church.

For more information about the garden, email Fccenter48111@gmail.com.

Belleville Police Officers Honored for Saving Crash Victim's Life

Emily Flesch
Independent Reporter

The Belleville City Council recognized three outstanding members of the Belleville Police Department at their regular meeting on Sept. 21.

Chief Kristin Faull presented Officers Heather Holcomb and Michael Pearl, and Reserve Officer Nicole Battaglia with Life-Saving Awards for their quick and decisive action at the scene of a motor vehicle collision during the early morning hours on Aug. 2.

Arriving at the scene within 30 seconds, officers were able to utilize a signpost to gain access to the vehicle and stabilize the driver, who sustained severe neck injuries, but survived.

The mayor, council and city manager each thanked the officers individually. Mayor Pro Tem Kelly Bates commented, "it's amazing what you guys have to do every day and the improvisation that I'm sure we don't even know about."

In other business at the 31-minute meeting, the



PHOTO | EMILY FLESCH

council:

Approved the purchase of a Lifepak 35 monitor and defibrillator with a seven-year agreement at \$9,600 annually. Fire Chief John Thiede emphasized the city's responsibility to provide the best possible care to residents and Mayor Ken Voigt stated, "if it saves one life, it's worth the entire price;"

Appointed City Manager Brady Peck as the alternate representative to the Downriver Utility Wastewater Authority (DUWA);

Voted to approve the Lakefront Address Identification ordinance, following its second reading;

Heard a report that the Main Street/Liberty Street intersection is planned to open later in the week, subject to weather conditions;

Discussed upcoming Booville events, including Harvestfest on Oct. 10 and the Monster Mutt Walk on Oct. 16.

The meeting adjourned at 7:01 p.m. Councilmember Julie Kissel was absent and excused.

OPINION

From the Editor

The Denton Road Bridge and Other Things I Know

You may have noticed that The Independent has been keeping a running tally on the bottom of our front page about how long the Denton Road bridge has been closed by Wayne County. As



Sarah Rigg
Managing Editor

of last week's paper, it was 1,446 days or just shy of four years.

We're hoping to remove that feature after this week, because it looks like the bridge will soon

be open, maybe by the time this paper lands in readers' hands.

An interested reader gave our whole office a laugh when he visited just to tell us that the entire Mackinac Bridge, currently the third longest suspension bridge in the world, was built in less time than it has taken to rehabilitate the Denton Road bridge!

The Mackinac Bridge broke ground in May of 1954 and finished in 1958, taking 48 months and about 3,500 workers.

Reader Don Sherman has shared several pictures of the final concrete laying at the intersection of Main Street and Denton and said that, in his experience, concrete takes about a week to cure.

Belleville City Council recently announced that there would be an official ribbon-cutting for the bridge on Oct. 22.

~~~~~

In the last issue, we ran a Q&A with Sumpter Township Police Chief Eric

Luke about the police millage on the ballot in November. Our conversation was quite extensive, so I edited it for length. However, there is one topic I wish I'd left in, and it's this: Even if the township was to shutter the doors of its police department and contract for policing services with Wayne County, that would not be free. And Wayne County doesn't provide road patrol services to the communities it contracts with.

~~~~~

Here's a correction regarding the story we wrote about the Callahan family and their foster sons being detained by ICE. The foster boys were originally from the Democratic of Congo but had to flee to Angola due to persecution. I'd written that they had flown by airplane from Angola to Brazil, but I got that wrong.

Susan Callahan wrote us an email that said: The boys did not fly from Angola to Brazil – they were stowed in the hull of a 40-foot fishing boat that crossed the Atlantic and landed in Brazil. They don't want the reader to think they had resources that didn't exist and they would like the reader to understand the terrors that people go through to get out of countries where they are being persecuted.

~~~~~

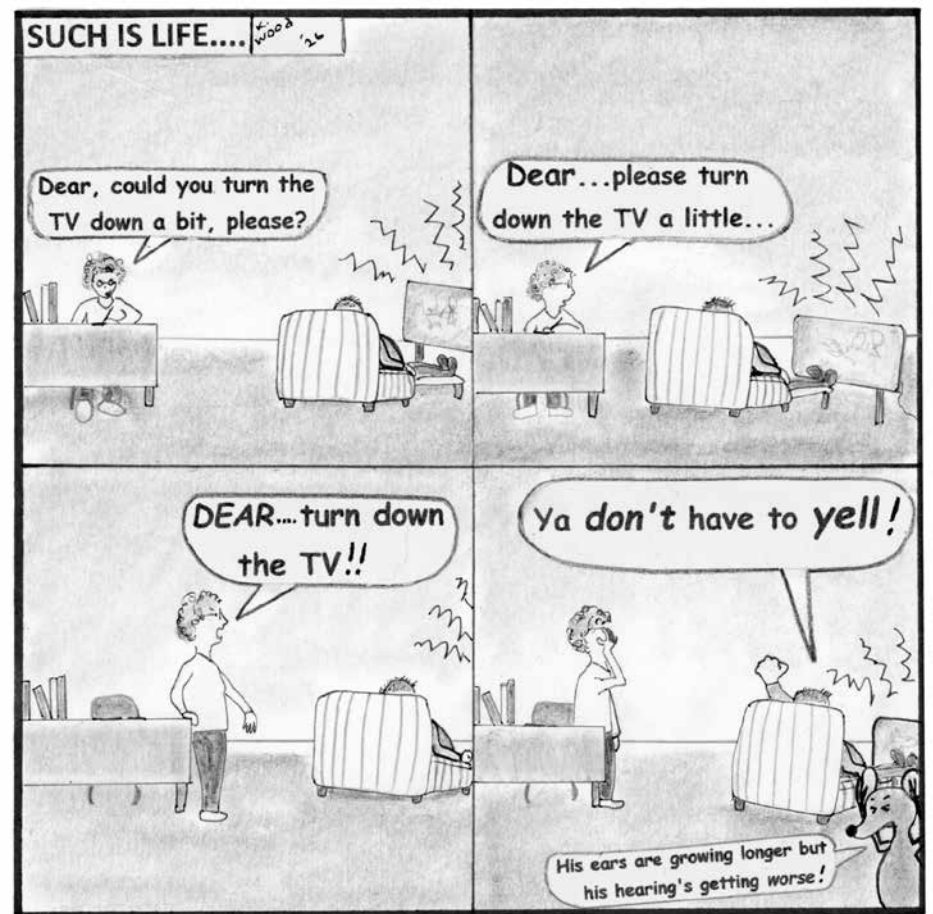
And finally, the Belleville Area News Foundation, the nonprofit that runs this newspaper, is seeking additional board members. They've gotten a few emails from interested parties, but not as many as we'd like. They would especially like to recruit an attorney for the board but they're also looking for "at large" members. If you're interested, see our ad in the paper and send BANF board present Harry Van Gelder an email with your resume and an expression of interest.

**We'd like to extend our gratitude to the Belleville Rotary Club and the Cozadd Foundation! Thanks to a generous grant, printing costs for The Belleville Area Independent are covered for the rest of 2026 and well into 2027.**

### 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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Deadline for news & ads (see below) is Noon of every Monday. Deadline for ads smaller than 1/2 page is Noon Monday, and all advertising 1/2 page or larger is Noon Friday, with the exception of certain holiday weeks. Classified. ad deadline is Noon of every Tuesday.

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Obituaries

MORE OBITUARIES ON PAGE 7



Barney Ban

**BARNEY BAN**  
(June 18, 1939 - September 19, 2026)

Barney Ban, age 87, a lifelong resident of Belleville, Mich., passed away late Saturday, September 19, 2026, at his home, after a brief illness, peacefully, under Angela Hospice care.

He was born June 18, 1939, in Wyandotte, Mich., son of Ignace “Barney” & Julia Ann (Varga) Ban. He graduated from Belleville High School class of 1957, where he found his love of music and played the saxophone. He proudly served his country for four years in the United States Air Force from 1958 to 1962 in Korea. He retired from Detroit City Airport after 30 years of loyal service as an Air Traffic Controller. He was a member of the VFW Post #4434 and PLAV #167 and enjoyed being a member of their Honor Guard Squad for over 20 years.

He loved the outdoors. Growing up on a farm, helping family and neighbors with crops, later his own vegetable garden. Bar-

ney was able to live in Alaska for five years where he rode his motorcycle in the mountains. He also enjoyed hunting and was even able to get a moose while in Alaska.

He also enjoyed politics. He was very active and involved in Sumpter and was proud to be a Trustee from 1994-2000. Most of all, Barney loved his family and his God. He was a member of St. Anthony Catholic Church, Belleville for numerous years. More recently, he enjoyed being a member of River of Life Church.

Barney is survived by his devoted wife of 55 years, Mary Ellen (Deming) Ban, son Matthew Ban, three grandchildren Austin, Arianna, and Seth Ban, a sister Helen Deming, also numerous nieces, nephews, extended family and lots of friends. Mr. Ban was preceded in death by his parents, a son David Ban, and his three older sisters: Rose Marie Banotai, Wilma Blandino, and Mildred Barnes.

Visitation will be 3-8 p.m. Thursday, September 24, 2026, with a 7 p.m. Scripture Service at David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville. Barney’s Funeral Service will be at 11 a.m. Friday, September 25, 2026, at River of Life Church, 16650 Sumpter Road. The family will welcome guests from 10-11 a.m.. Interment will follow at Michigan Memorial Park, Flat Rock, MI.

Memorial contributions may be made to River of Life Church, Angela Hospice, or VFW Post #4434 through the PLAV #167, and would be appreciated by the family.

Van Buren Township Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN  
BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Charter Township of Van Buren Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, October 13th, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.** The meeting will be held in person at Van Buren Township Hall, located at **46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, MI 48111**, in the Board Room.

**BZA Case:** #26-019 – 48356 West Huron River Drive (Parcel #83-080-01-0074-000), zoned R-1B.

**Applicant:** Scott Sepesi requests dimensional variances to align the recessed front entry with the front building line, and to extend a bedroom and deck into the rear yard and a garage into the front and side yards.

**Variances requested:**

- Sec. 4.102 Schedule of Regulations: Reduction of 30 ft. minimum front setback required by R-1B district.
- Sec. 4.102 Schedule of Regulations: Reduction of 35 ft. minimum rear setback required by R-1B district.
- Sec. 7.203(C)(1) Decks/Patios in Rear Yard: Reduction of 25 ft. minimum rear deck setback.
- Sec. 14.104 (A) Changing Nonconforming Uses and Structures:
  - o Horizontal expansion of a nonconforming structure (principal dwelling) into the required front yard and rear yard setback.
  - o Horizontal expansion of a nonconforming structure (deck) into the required rear yard setback.

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

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

Posted: September 21, 2026  
Published: September 24, 2026

Rep. Miller Promotes Bills to Keep Data Centers Accountable

Rep. Reggie Miller (D-Van Buren Township) recently introduced two bills –House Bills 6251 and 6252. Both are focused on giving communities information around the electrical use and heat impact of data centers.

The legislation requires data center developers to submit information a facility’s energy use, cooling technology and any impacts on local air and surface temperatures to the Michigan Public Service Commission before they can move forward with the construction or expansion of a data center.

Both bills have been referred to the House Government Operations Committee.

Van Buren Township Meeting Minutes

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES  
September 15, 2026

Treasurer Budd called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room. Present: Treasurer Budd, Trustee Kelley, Trustee Boynton, Newly Appointed Trustee Jeffery Jahr and Trustee Martin. Absent/Excused: Supervisor McNamara and Clerk Wright. Others in attendance: Deputy Supervisor Selman, Recording Assistant Beaudry, Director of Municipal Services Akers, Director of Public Services Luckett, DDA Director Coburn, Municipal Services Coordinator McWilliams and an audience of nine.

Kelley moved, Boynton seconded to appoint Jeffery Jahr to replace and finish the term of Trustee William Frazier. Motion Carried.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE AGENDA:** Treasurer Budd outlined the items appearing on the agenda.

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA:** Kelley moved, Boynton seconded to approve the amended agenda adding Consent Agenda Item #12: Approval of the appointment of Trustee Jeff Jahr as the Board Representative to the Planning Commission. Motion Carried.

**ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA:** Boynton moved, Kelley seconded to approve the Consent Agenda: Work Study Meeting Minutes of September 1, 2026, Board Meeting Minutes of September 1, 2026, Closed Session Meeting Minutes of September 1, 2026, Prepaid List of September 2, 2026, Prepaid List of September 9, 2026, Voucher List of September 15, 2026, Approval of a temporary easement on a portion of Township owned property located at 7981 Belleville Road, Fire Station #2 consisting of approximately 1,807 square feet for the Belleville Road Widening Project, Approval of Resolution 2026-21: Sale of township owned property at 585 W. Columbia, Van Buren Township, 48111 to Van Buren Public Schools, Approval of the reappointment of Medina Atchinson to the Planning Commission with a term to expire October 1, 2029, Approval of the reappointment of Jill Yob to the Environmental Commission with a term to expire October 1, 2029, Approval of the reappointments of Michael Dotson, Peter Kudlak, and Pryia Nayak to the LDFA with terms to expire August 12, 2030 and Approval of the appointment of Trustee Jeff Jahr as the Board Representative to the Planning Commission. Motion Carried.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** None

**CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS:** None.

**PUBLIC COMMENT (Unfinished and New Business):** None.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Kelley moved, Jahr seconded to approve the donation of 1.109 acres of Township owned property for a Highway Easement to Wayne County for the Belleville Road Widening Project. Motion Carried.

Kelley moved, Martin seconded to approve Resolution 2026-22: a resolution to participate in the University of Michigan Sustainable Towns Program. Motion Carried.

**REPORTS:** None.

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:** A resident spoke on vehicle activity near his home and his secretary of state visit.

**BOARD COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:** Members of the Board welcomed Trustee Jahr to the Board.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Boynton moved, Kelley seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m. Motion Carried.

Leon Wright, Township Clerk  
Kevin McNamara, Supervisor  
Published: 9/24/26

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# Obituaries

MORE OBITUARIES ON PAGE 9



Steven J. Beagan

**STEVEN J. BEAGAN**  
(October 29, 1965 - September 15, 2026)

Steven James Beagan, age 60, of Belleville, Michigan, passed away peacefully at home on Tuesday evening, September 15, 2026. Steve was born on October 29, 1965, in Detroit, Michigan, the son of David James and Alpha Janet (Mayle) Beagan. He graduated from Wayne Memorial High School in 1983 and went on to earn his bachelor's degree in engineering from Wayne State University. He built a long and successful career as an engineer, a profession he dedicated many years of his life to.

Steve loved the outdoors and especially enjoyed camping, golfing, and boating. As a member of the Belleville Yacht Club, he spent many happy days on and around the water. He also loved traveling, watching sports, and simply enjoying life with the people he loved. Steve will especially be remembered for his fun-loving and playful personality. He had a wonderfully silly side and was always ready to laugh, joke around, and have a good time. His smile and laughter were contagious, and he had a special way of making the people around him smile and laugh, too. Wherever Steve went, he brought fun with him, and those who knew him will remember the happiness, laughter, and countless good times he brought into their lives.

Steve was fortunate to have many wonderful friendships throughout his life, and he loved and cared deeply for his friends. Over the years, they shared countless good times, travels, adventures, laughter, and unforgettable memories together. His friendships meant a great deal to him, and the many experiences they shared were an important and treasured part of his life.

Above all else, Steve treasured his family. He was a devoted husband, father, brother, and grandfather. One of his greatest joys was being "Poppa" to his grandson, Mason. Steve was a playful and loving Poppa who was always ready to get down and play—whether they were playing games, throwing a ball, battling with lightsabers, swimming and playing in the pool, or heading out together for a boat ride. The special bond Steve and Mason shared brought him tremendous

happiness and created memories that will be treasured forever. Steve is survived by his loving wife of 32 years, Darcy M. (Eggers) Beagan; his daughters, Brittany (Zackary) Whitehouse and Sydney Beagan; and his beloved grandson, Mason Whitehouse, all of Belleville, Michigan. He is also survived by his brother, David (Dawn) Beagan of Sterling Heights, Michigan; his sister, Diane Beagan of Livonia, Michigan; and numerous extended family members and dear friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, David James and Alpha Janet Beagan. Funeral service will be Friday, September 25, 2026 at 3 p.m. at Bethany Bible Church, 810 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville. The Beagan family will greet guests from 2 p.m. till time of service at 3 p.m. There will be a dinner immediately following at the Belleville Yacht Club, 831 E. Huron River Dr.. Dignified cremation rites have been accorded. Arrangements have been entrusted to David C. Brown Funeral Home. For those wishing to honor Steve's memory, memorial contributions may be made to a local Goodfellows organization or to POET Animal Rescue and would be greatly appreciated.



William Shaw

**WILLIAM SHAW**  
(December 31, 1948 - September 9, 2026)

William "Bill" Robert Shaw, age 77, of Romulus, Mich., passed away Wednesday, September 9, 2026, at his home, under hospice care, surrounded by family. He was born on December 31, 1948, in Ohio. He was adopted by Floyd Leonard & Pauline Shaw. He attended Dearborn High School, class of 1966. He proudly served his country in the U.S. Marines during the Vietnam Conflict. He retired from the United States Postal Service after numerous years of loyal service as a postal worker. He was an avid Detroit Lions football fan.

Bill is survived by his cherished wife of 43 years, Mary Ruth (Brown) Shaw, three children: Craig Shaw of Chicago, Illinois, Tracy Shaw of Wilmington, North Carolina, and Michele Shaw of Inkster, MI; 6 grandchildren: Courtney, Shane, Jayden, Kennedy, Carter, and Landon; also, numerous nieces, nephews, extended family and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Visitation will be 1-4 p.m. Saturday, September 19, 2026, with a 4 p.m. Military Honors Service at David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville. VFW Post 4434 will preside. Dignified cremation rites will be accorded.

Memorial contributions may be made to Disabled Veterans at <https://help.dav.org/page/52572/donate/1?> and would be appreciated.

Thank you for keeping Bill and his family in your thoughts and prayers at this time

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BELLEVILLE-AREA  
**INDEPENDENT**

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

# Sumpter planners Finalize Wetland Bank Ordinance

**Sarah Rigg**  
Managing Editor

The Sumpter Township planning commission on Sept. 10 finalized the wording of a proposed Wetland Bank ordinance. The ordinance will be passed on to the township trustees at one of their next meetings for approval.

The Sumpter Township planning commission has been considering the Wetland Bank Ordinance for several months, with discussions about the matter taking place in both the June and July meetings of the commission.

A wetland bank, sometimes called a mitigation bank, is a wetland area managed to offset ecological damage caused by a development project somewhere

else. When the habitats are restored, the bank generates "credits" that developers or farmers can purchase to fulfill legal compensatory mitigation requirements.

While they were drafting the ordinance, the township placed a moratorium on the banks so that the planning commission can formalize that process.

In the July meeting, Sumpter Township trustee Matthew Oddy noted that Sumpter Township has the highest concentration of wetlands of any municipality in Wayne County, and nobody can "create a wetland on wetlands," so that means turning "prime property" into wetlands and reducing the available tax base in the community.

The final wording of the ordinance

limits who can purchase credits in the Sumpter wetlands to developers working in the township. That means that, in the future, developers from outside of Sumpter Township will not be able to buy credits in the Sumpter Township wetland bank, taking away land that could be developed from the township's tax rolls.

In other news from the Sept. 10 meeting of the Sumpter Township planning commission, members weighed the importance of their ordinances around ponds versus the importance of a local farmer's "right to farm."

Todd Waller, who is the supervisor of August Township, owns property in several communities including his own

and one at 27300 Sherwood Road in Sumpter.

Waller received a stop work request when he began digging an irrigation pond on that site. He came to the Sept. 10 meeting of the planners to request permission to remove 25,000 yards of material to facilitate the construction of an irrigation pond.

Waller argued that the current stop-work order violates his right to farm under the Right to Farm Act, as he cannot irrigate his crops without removing the excavated material.

The township planners deferred any action to a future meeting, seeking to consult with the township attorney on the legal issues involved in the conflict.

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Attorney & Counselor At Law

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BELLEVILLE-AREA  
INDEPENDENT

# Van Buren Twp PD Clarify Stance on Incidents With ICE

*Editor's note: The Independent published a letter in our Aug. 27 issue about a local retired judge's experience with ICE agents. We reached out to the Van Buren Township Police Department, asking their stance on citizen calls about encounters with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and received this reply from Deputy Chief Joshua Monte. Monte also included a page from the Van Buren Police Department's LE Policy Manual that addresses immigration-related violations.*

The Judge's letter raised some valid concerns that also may be shared by others in the Township. Some of these concerns are similar to those that Chief Wright and I had last year, specifically regarding our agency's role and respon-

sibilities under state and federal statutes when it comes to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) operations in Van Buren Township.

For a little background context; we provide our officers with quarterly constitutional law training through a specialized police attorney with expertise in constitutional law. The Chief and I also meet with our constitutional law attorney every other month to review relevant appellate and Supreme Court decisions that may affect our police operations, as well as best practices that align with our accreditation standards. Any changes to departmental policies and procedures are made in accordance with applicable statutes, appellate or Supreme Court decisions, and state

accreditation standards. We police our community consistent with those standards.

I have attached our Immigration Policy, which was updated last year based on the experiences of other law enforcement agencies across the country, as well as the recommendations and review of our police attorney.

When it comes to Immigration and Customs Enforcement, ICE is a legitimate federal law enforcement agency with a specific and limited enforcement mission. Its focus is on immigration enforcement pursuant to civil immigration laws, statutes, and federal policies. In contrast, local and state law enforcement agencies primarily enforce criminal laws.

One of the biggest distinctions is that ICE may detain individuals under civil immigration authority through mechanisms such as immigration detainers. Local and state law enforcement, when acting under criminal statutes, generally require probable cause based on an alleged criminal offense or a warrant issued by a judge.

Van Buren Township Police Department does not have the authority to conduct federal immigration operations, nor do we have the authority to interfere with those operations. These differences in legal authority and jurisdiction create

distinctly different policies, procedures, and training requirements for ICE and the Van Buren Township Police Department. Conversely, ICE does not have the authority to interfere with our operations during the course of a criminal investigation.

Our officers are not trained in civil immigration law and are not familiar with ICE's specific policies and procedures. As a result, intervention in civil immigration enforcement matters could lead to less than desirable outcomes because our officers may not have the necessary expertise or familiarity with the applicable civil immigration laws, ICE policies, or federal procedures.

Disagreements or confrontations really should not occur on the street whenever they can be avoided, as they can unnecessarily escalate an incident. When disagreements arise, there are multiple avenues for resolving them, including administrative processes, civil proceedings, or, criminal court proceedings.

Our responsibility is to ensure that our officers understand and operate within the scope of their legal authority, departmental policies, and training, while continuing to provide professional and constitutional policing services to the community.

## Van Buren Township Police Dept. Vehicle Auction

On September 29th 2026, the Van Buren Township Police Department will conduct a public auction of impounded and abandoned vehicles. The auction will begin at 10:30am, at **J&T Towing** and Storage, 287 Industrial Dr. Belleville MI, County of Wayne, where the following will be offered for sale to the highest bidder.

|      |            |    |                   |          |
|------|------------|----|-------------------|----------|
| 2007 | FORD       | 4D | 2FMDK36C87BB36315 | 26-10431 |
| 2005 | CHEVROLET  | 4D | 1G1ND52FX5M194182 | 26-11104 |
| 2012 | MITSUBISHI | 4D | 4A32B3FF5CE025299 | 26-11158 |
| 1997 | CHEVROLET  | VA | 1GCGG25W6V1058232 | 26-10563 |
| 2010 | MERCURY    | 4D | 4M2CN8B7XAKJ21836 | 26-9806  |
| 2011 | MEITIAN    | CY | LXKDCBK05BM000856 | 26-9371  |
| 2012 | CHEVROLET  | SW | 2GNALPEK0C6166634 | 26-9376  |
|      |            |    |                   |          |
| 2011 | CHEVROLET  | VA | 1GB0G4BG3B1102200 | 26-9587  |
| 2013 | NISSAN     | 4D | 1N4AL3AP7DC212140 | 26-10761 |

At 11:30am, the auction will move to **Great Lakes Towing** and storage, 42350 Van Born Rd. Belleville MI, County of Wayne, where the following vehicles, are offered for sale to the highest bidder.

|      |            |    |                   |           |
|------|------------|----|-------------------|-----------|
| 2020 | JEEP       | SW | 3C4NJCBB8LT136032 | 26-9084   |
| 2008 | JEEP       | SW | 1J8GR48K18C139333 | 26-11082  |
| 2009 | FORD       | 4D | 3FAHP07Z79R213386 | 26-11106  |
| 2004 | HONDA      | 2D | 1HGCM71664A017142 | 26-11425  |
| 2017 | KIA        | 4D | 3KPFK4A73HE089041 | 26-10555  |
| 1979 | CHEVROLET  | 2D | 1Q87L9N623000     | 26-10852B |
| 1981 | OLDSMOBILE | 4D | 1G3AR69A2BM465352 | 26-108521 |
| 2007 | INFINITI   | SW | 5N3AA08C47N801305 | 26-11174B |
| 2015 | HYUNDAI    | 4D | 5NPE34AF7FH238902 | 26-11174A |
| 2004 | FORD       | PU | 1FTNX20L54ED65290 | 26-9838B  |
| 2014 | FORD       | SW | 1FMCU0F78EUA98826 | 26-9928   |
| 2008 | CADILLAC   | 4D | 1G6KD57948U176801 | 26-9288   |
| 2014 | CHRYSLER   | 4D | 1C3CCBAB3EN231327 | 26-8788B  |
| 2002 | JEEP       | 4D | 1J4GL48K52W270886 | 26-8877   |
| 2009 | NISSAN     | 4D | 1N4AL21E49C195541 | 26-8370   |
| 2008 | MAZDA      | 4D | 1YVHP80C785M36649 | 26-8784   |
| 2017 | LINCOLN    | 4D | 3LN6L5F99HR610412 | 26-8567B  |
| 2017 | FORD       | SW | 1FMCU0GD6HUC92957 | 26-9930   |
| 2023 | CHEVROLET  | 4D | 1G1ZD5ST9PF61298  | 26-11134  |
| 2005 | TOYOTA     | 4D | 4T1BE32KX5U979743 | 26-11263  |
| 2017 | FORD       | 4D | 1FADP3K2XHL204026 | 26-11271  |
| 2008 | CHEVROLET  | 4D | 1G1ZK57748F223242 | 26-11755  |
| 2016 | FORD       | 4D | 3FADP4BJ7GM170220 | 26-11755  |
| 2016 | GMC        | SW | 2GKALMEKXG6334314 | 26-11264  |
| 2014 | INFINITI   | SW | 5N1AL0MM7EC513496 | 26-8709   |
| 2009 | TOYOTA     | SW | JTKDE167490284008 | 26-9349   |

All vehicles are sold in "as is condition." Bidding on all impounded vehicles will start at the amount due for towing and storage. Vehicles may be deleted from this list at any time prior to the start of the auction.

Leon Wright MMC, CMMC., Van Buren Township Clerk,  
Published: On or before September 24th, 2026

## Obituaries

### LYNANN M. COWARD (October 17, 1952 - September 10, 2026)

Lynann Napier-Coward, age 73, of New Boston, Mich., passed away September 10, 2026. She was born on October 17, 1952 in San Francisco to Billy and Beverly (Day) Napier.

She is survived by her children, Kimberly (Luke George) Harris of Calif., Thomas Wright of Portland, Ore., Moniqua Jackson

of Romulus, Mich., Pauline Jackson of Belleville, Chawnte Coward of Taylor, Jeffery Coward Jr. of Westland, and Angelo Coward of Redford, as well as siblings and grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, stepfather, and brother Michael Napier.

Visitation at David C. Brown Funeral Home on Saturday, September 26, 2026, at noon, service at 2 p.m.

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# EGLE Seeks Tighter Controls on French Landing Hydro Dam

The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) just wrapped up a public comment period for a draft Clean Water Act certification for the French Landing hydroelectric dam on the Huron River in Belleville Sept. 14.

The dam is jointly licensed by Van Buren Township and STS Hydropower,

a subsidiary of Eagle Creek Renewable Energy.

The state’s proposed certification asks for periodic testing of lake sediment and fish for contaminants like PCBs and PFAS. It would also require the licensees to maintain run-of-river operations, install public-facing water level gauges and fund a U.S. Geological

Survey-quality monitoring station.

Van Buren Township and STS are seeking a new federal license to operate the 1.65-megawatt dam, which was built in 1925 by DTE Energy and creates Belleville Lake. When filled, the reservoir submerged and erased the village of Rawsonville.

The powerhouse was decommissioned

in 1962 but then donated to the township. The dam and powerhouse were designated as a Michigan State Historic Site on February 18, 1982. It was refurbished and put back into service in 1988. The powerhouse currently has a capacity of 1.7 megawatts.

The dam’s existing federal license expires April 30, 2027.

Van Buren Township Public Notice

NOTICE OF REGISTRATION FOR  
THE GENERAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2026  
IN THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN, MICHIGAN 48111

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that any qualified electors of the Charter Township of Van Buren in the State of Michigan who are not already registered, may register to vote at the office of the Township Clerk; the office of the County Clerk; a Secretary of State branch office, or other designated State agency. Registration can be completed online at [mi.gov/vote](https://mi.gov/vote) or forms can be obtained at [mi.gov/vote](https://mi.gov/vote) and mailed to the Township Clerk

The last day to register in any manner other than in-person with the local Clerk is Monday, October 19, 2026.

After this date, anyone who qualifies as an elector may register to vote in person with proof of residency (MCL 68.492) at the Charter Township of Van Buren Clerk’s Office, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, MI 48111 at the following day and times:

- Regular business hours: Monday through Thursday from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Additional Early Voting Hours: Saturday, October 24 through Monday, November 2 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Election Day, Tuesday, November 3, 2026 from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Qualifications for Registration:

- Applicants are at least 18 years of age
- Resident with the Charter Township of Van Buren for at least 30 days prior to the date of the election.
- Citizen of the United States

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that the residents in the Charter Township of Van Buren, Wayne County Michigan will be voting on the following as presented and listed below:

**State:** Governor/Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General  
**Congressional:** Unites States Senator, United States Representative in Congress 6th District,  
**Legislative:** State Senator 4th District, Representative in State Legislature 31st District,  
**State Boards:** Member of the State Board of Education (2 positions), Regent of the University of Michigan (2 positions), Trustee of Michigan State University (2 positions), Governor of Wayne State University (2 positions)  
**County:** County Executive  
**Judicial:** Justice of Supreme Court (2 positions), Judge of Court of Appeals 1st District Incumbent (3 positions), Judge of Court of Appeals 1st District Incumbent (partial term ending 01/01/2031 (1 position), Judge of 3rd Circuit Court Incumbent (16 positions), Judge of 3rd Circuit Court Incumbent (partial term ending 01/01/2031 (1 position), Judge of 3rd Circuit Court - Non-Incumbent (1 position), Judge of Probate Court Non-Incumbent (3 positions), Judge of 34th District Court -Incumbent (1 position)  
**Community College:** Wayne County Community College District 9 (1 position)  
Local School Board Members: Van Buren Public School District (3 positions)  
**District Library Board:** Belleville Area District Library (4 positions)  
**State Proposals:** Proposal 2026-1: A proposal to convene a constitutional convention for the purpose of drafting a general revision of the state constitution. Shall a convention of elected delegates be convened in 2027 to draft a general revision of the State Constitution for presentation to the state’s voters for their approval or rejection?  
**Proposal 2026-2:** A proposed initiated law to prohibit campaign contributions from certain regulated utilities and government contractors and apply campaign finance laws and regulations to additional types of political communications. The proposal would:  
• Prohibit regulated electric and gas utilities, contractors with over \$250,000 annually in government contracts, and people and organizations with substantial connections to these utilities/contractors from making direct or indirect campaign contributions to those who run for or hold offices

that impact them.

- Expand laws regulating spending on political communications, including those requiring disclosing donor information, to apply to communications clearly identifying candidates or ballot questions, even if they do not expressly advocate voting for/against them.
- Expressly apply the law requiring disclosure of who paid for political communications to internet political communications.

Should this proposal be adopted?

**Authority Proposals: Wayne County/Wayne County Zoological Authority Proposal:**

Renewal of Wayne County Zoological Authority Millage in Support of the Detroit Zoo

In 2008 and 2016, pursuant to Public Act 49 of 2008, Wayne County voters renewed a 10-year property tax millage to fund zoological services through the Wayne County Zoological Authority, supporting animal care for more than 2,000 animals and 200 species, educational and senior programs, and facility maintenance at the Detroit Zoo. To continue providing these services, the Authority seeks to renew and restore the millage to the original voter-approved rate of 0.10 mill (10 cents per \$1,000 of taxable value). This proposal would renew the millage at 0.0982 mill and restore the remaining 0.0018 mill that was reduced due to required rollback, for a total authorized rate of 0.10 mill on taxable real and personal property for ten (10) years. If approved, the millage rate would be unchanged from those approved by voters in 2008 and 2016. Funds will be disbursed to the Authority and transferred to the Detroit Zoo as permitted by law. All funds are subject to annual independent audits. It is estimated that \$6,145,462 will be collected in the first year.

Ballot Question: Do you approve the renewal and restoration of the levy of 0.10 mill on all taxable property in Wayne County for a period of ten (10) years, from 2028 through 2037?

**Wayne County/Southeast Michigan Public Historical Museum Authority Proposal:**

Southeast Michigan Public Historical Museum Authority Millage Proposal

The Southeast Michigan Public Historical Museum Authority (“Authority”) is a joint authority established by Wayne and Oakland Counties (“Counties”) pursuant to Michigan Public Act 321 of the Public Acts of 2000, as amended, and was formed to support the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, Detroit Historical Museum, Dossin Great Lakes Museum, and other public historical museums located in Wayne and Oakland Counties (“Historical Museums”) that provide historical museum services for students, residents and visitors of the Counties. The law allows the Authority to seek authorization from the electors in each of the Counties to levy a tax of 0.2 mill (20 cents per \$1,000 of taxable value) on taxable property to provide revenue for Historical Museums. It is estimated that if approved and levied on taxable property located within Wayne County, this new millage would generate approximately \$12,219,200 in 2026. In addition to supporting the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, Detroit Historical Museum, and Dossin Great Lakes Museum, 15% of revenues received by the Authority from taxable property in Wayne County, after Authority administrative expenses, will be disbursed to the County of Wayne for the purposes of supporting Historical Museums in Wayne County. Shall a 0.2 mill tax on all taxable property located within Wayne County be imposed by the Authority for a period of ten (10) years, being years 2026 through 2035, inclusive, to provide historical museum services for the benefit of the residents of the Counties?

Full text of the ballot proposition may be obtained at the Van Buren Township Clerk’s office located at 46425 Tyler Rd, Van Buren Township, Michigan 48111, by contacting the Clerk’s office at 734-699-8909 or by visiting [mvlc.sos.state.mi.us](https://mvlc.sos.state.mi.us) where a sample ballot can be viewed.

Persons with special needs as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact the Clerk’s Office.

Posted: September 17, 2026  
Published: September 24, 2026

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## Orlando Griggs

Boyd also says that, “Over the years, I found out that it takes love to win people over and not push away those who are seeking God.”



On Sept. 27, 2026, Pastor Boyd will be celebrating 20 years with other C.O.G.I.C. leaders, family, and friends, and he welcomes others to come and join him as he has had a good time serving the Lord. Sunday service starts at 11 a.m.

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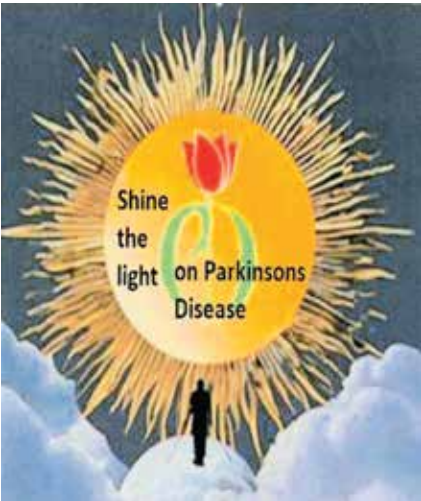
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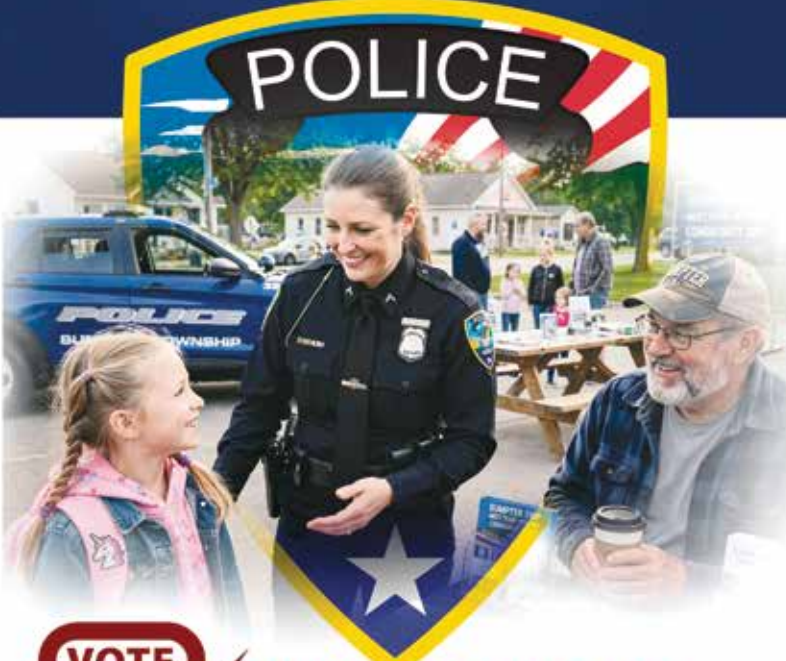
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MONSTER MUTT  
WALK APPLICATION  
Saturday, October 17, 2026

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Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

1st Dog's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Breed \_\_\_\_\_ Size \_\_\_\_\_

2nd Dog's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Breed \_\_\_\_\_ Size \_\_\_\_\_

3rd Dog's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Breed \_\_\_\_\_ Size \_\_\_\_\_

During the month of October the City of Belleville becomes "BooVille". The Belleville Central Business Community is partnering with Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue (FMAR) to host a **Costumed Monster Mutt Walk** from 12 Noon to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 17, 2026. The Walk will begin and end at 4th Street Place.

The first 40 dogs registered will receive goodie bags; however, registrations will also be taken the day of the event between 12:00 pm and 12:30 p.m. 1st, 2nd and 3rd place award medals in four categories: Scariest, Cutest, Best Mutt, and Family category (family must dress also). In fact, it would be fun for everyone to wear a costume.

The registration fee is \$10/dog plus a can of dog or cat food. Applications may be emailed or snail mailed, with your check made out to Belleville CBC, to my attention at: Belleville Central Business Community, 152 Main Street, Suite 2, Belleville, MI 48111. Payment will also be accepted by Venmo: @BellevilleCBC. If you decide to drop off your application with payment at the Professional Building, please bring the dog or cat food donation with you to the event plus the fee if you haven't advance registered.

Monster Mutt Walk Rules  
(1) All dogs must be leashed and current on vaccinations;  
(2) No aggressive dogs  
(3) Owners must clean-up after their dogs (bags will be provided).  
(4) No dogs can be left unattended. Owners must keep their dogs in sight & under control at all times  
(5) Owners are responsible for their dog's actions.

This event is sponsored by Belleville DDA, I Love Doggos Photography, Belleville Rotary Club & KSpringer Media Management.  
For any questions or concerns, I prefer you contact me via my email: jfayemillard@att.net, however, you may also call/text me at (734) 558-5368 after 3:30 p.m.

Janet Millard, Event Coordinator, Belleville Central Business Community

LOCAL SPORTS

Pounding Rocks

Belleville dominates Salem 34-9 behind a powerful rushing attack

The Belleville Tigers football team traveled to Canton on Friday, Sept. 18, and made the trip well worth it. Belleville dominated the Salem Rocks, cruising to a 34-9 victory in a crossover game behind a strong rushing attack, big plays and a defense that kept Salem out of the end zone until late in the game.

The Tigers wasted little time getting on the scoreboard. After forcing Salem into a three-and-out on its opening possession, Belleville drove 37 yards in five plays, with five consecutive runs moving the ball down to the Rocks' 8-yard line.

Quarterback Kendall Franklin then connected with Charles Britton III in the back of the end zone for a touchdown. The extra point was good, giving Belleville a 7-0 lead.

After both teams struggled to move the ball on their next possessions, Salem put together a seven-play drive. The Tigers' defense stiffened, however, forcing a turnover on downs.

Belleville capitalized immediately. On just the third play of the ensuing possession, Cameron Sims found the end zone on a 1-yard touchdown run. Sims set up his own score with a 36-yard run on the previous play, extending the Tigers' lead to 14-0.

Following another Salem three-and-out, Belleville put together a 10-play drive that ended with another Frank-



Stewart B. Gotts  
Independent Reporter



Senior running back Trevor Falconer scored on a 35-yard run to score Belleville's final touchdown in a 34-9 drubbing of Salem in a Kensington Lakes crossover game.

FILE PHOTO | BLAIR TEMPLE

lin-to-Britton III touchdown connection, this time on a 40-yard pass. The score marked the duo's second touchdown of the game and pushed the Tigers ahead 21-0.

Salem showed some fight late in the first half, taking possession with four minutes remaining and putting together a 10-play drive. The Rocks settled for a field goal, sending the game into halftime with Belleville leading 21-3.

The Tigers continued their offensive attack after the break. On a four-play drive, Treshawn Seed broke free for a 31-yard touchdown run to extend the lead to 27-3. The extra point was missed. A 52-yard run by Trenton Foley set up the score.

Belleville added its final touchdown with 7:57 remaining in the game when Trevor Falconer rumbled 35 yards into the end zone, increasing the Tigers' advantage to 34-3.

Salem scored a late touchdown, but a missed extra point left the final score at 34-9.

With the victory, Belleville improves to 2-2 overall and 1-0 in division play.

The Tigers return to Canton on Friday, Sept. 25, to take on the Canton Chiefs. Kickoff is scheduled for 7 p.m.

Lady Tigers Fall to North Farmington After 4 Straight Wins



PHOTOS COURTESY | KATIE LORIA, BELLEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

Belleville Varsity Girls Volleyball saw their 4-game winning streak snapped on Thurs., Sept 17 against North Farmington. The loss drops the team to 4-3 (1-0 in the conference). LEFT: The team comes together after the game against North Farmington RIGHT: Senior Braelynn Foley spikes the ball.

# Letters to the Editor

## Chief Luke Offers Clear Answers on Millage Questions

### To the editor:

I really enjoyed our sit-down interview and appreciated the opportunity to discuss the Sumpter Township Police Department and the police protection millage question on the November 3rd ballot.

I'm writing to follow up on your recent article about our conversation. Looking back, I realize I wasn't as clear as I needed to be in some answers during our discussion, and a few key facts were lost in the final print. Because this issue is critical to our community, I wanted to clarify what I meant and set the record straight for your readers.

First, you asked: "Don't some com-

munities get by with just coverage from the county sheriff, without having a local police department?" The answer is no, not in Wayne County. Unlike neighboring Macomb, Oakland, and Washtenaw County Sheriff's Offices, the Wayne County Sheriff's Office does not contract with local cities and townships for primary 24/7 police services.

Second, on your question: "You mentioned that you thought the reason for the failure of the millage this summer was tax fatigue and not that the people don't trust the police department."

Yes, as I spoke about earlier in our conversation, I've heard the phrase "tax fatigue" from many people. The bottom line is this: normal property taxes do not fund local services in Sumpter Township, such as police and fire. Only a voter-approved millage keeps revenue from your tax bill in the township for these vital services, and 100% of that money remains

in the township for use solely for the services designated under the millage.

To answer the second part of that question, no, I do not believe this was a vote of no confidence in the police department, as we have always had strong support from our residents.

We are honored to have earned the community's trust through the professionalism, quality of work, and dedication of our officers.

You asked: "Has the police department looked at doing some cost-cutting?"

Yes, we continuously evaluate our operations to find cost savings. At the end of the day, though, many operating costs are largely out of our control. Take body-worn cameras, for instance. In 2013, we were proud to be one of the first, if not the first, departments in Southeast Michigan to implement body-worn cameras. This now-standard required equipment has seen drastic price

increases for both the equipment itself and data storage costs.

Unlike personal cloud storage you or I would use from, say, Google, police video — both body-worn and patrol unit dash cameras — must have a very high level of encryption and robust audit-trail capabilities to be admissible in court. Between the equipment and the data storage, it costs us over \$30,000 a year. That's just one of many examples where the cost is fixed, with no opportunity to cut costs.

Lastly, your question regarding our staffing numbers: "You mentioned that you really need 18 officers but have been running the department for some time with 17. What effect does that have?" We are budgeted for a department of 18, which, based on our call volume, population, and other factors, is the right size to provide the proper level of service to the

SEE ANSWERS ON PAGE 16

## 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 & resume to:  
[harryvangelder673@gmail.com](mailto:harryvangelder673@gmail.com)



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**VAN BUREN**  
CHARTER TOWNSHIP

**NOTICE OF MEETING OF THE ELECTION COMMISSION**  
**TO BE HELD**  
  
**Monday, October 12, 2026**  
**4:00 PM**  
  
**Van Buren Township Hall**  
**46425 Tyler Road**  
**Van Buren Township, MI 48111**

**For the purpose of conducting the Public Accuracy Test, Appointing Election Inspectors, and Appointing a Receiving Board for the November 3, 2026, General Election**

In compliance with State Election Law 168 Section 798, a Public Accuracy Test will be conducted on Monday, October 12, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. in the Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, Michigan. The Public Accuracy Test is conducted to demonstrate the program and computer that will be used to tabulate the results of the election, counts the votes in the manner prescribed by law for the November General Election on November 3, 2026. Said meeting is open to the public and any concerned citizens may attend. The Charter Township of Van Buren will provide, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, reasonable accommodations with advance notice to the Clerk's Office, 734.699.8909.



# Chinese Exchange Student Reminisces About Belleville Ties

Reader David Booher is also a volunteer at the Belleville Area Museum. He sent us a message that read:

I had a cool experience last Saturday (9/5/26) while working at the Belleville museum. Yee Ling Lau and his family, residents of Hong Kong, China, walked in and he told me of his connection to Belleville as a 17-year- old exchange student. This was his first trip back to our area since he graduated from BHS in 1987.

I brought out his BHS yearbook for them to look at, and it brought back many memories of his time here and of his Belleville classmates. Yee Ling still carries his Belleville ID card with him in his wallet! His wife and daughter were amazed how young he looked as they browsed through that 1987 yearbook!



Yee Lin has lost contact with his host family, the Rowe's. There may be some of the Rowe family still in the area, so maybe this would help them re-connect. If the Rowe family or his classmates wanted to contact Yee Lin, they can get his email address from me at the museum. Museum Curator Mary Utz has his email as well.



**VAN BUREN**  
CHARTER TOWNSHIP

**Board of Trustees**  
**Notice of Public Hearing**

The Charter Township will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday October 6, 2026 during its regularly scheduled Board of Trustees meeting at 6:00 p.m. to receive public comment on:

- The 2026 Amended and 2027 Proposed General Fund Budget
- The 2026 Amended and 2027 Proposed Water/Sewer Fund Budget
- The 2026 Amended and 2027 Proposed Special Revenue Funds Budgets

1. Downtown Development Authority (DDA)
2. Local Development Finance Authority (LDFA) Fund
3. LDFA Aerotropolis Fund
4. Landfill Fund
5. Belleville Area Museum
6. E-9-1-1 Service Fund
7. State Forfeiture Fund
8. Long Term Debt Fund
9. Capital Improvement Fund

The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.

Copies of the Amended, Proposed and Special Revenue Funds will be available at the Clerk's Office 46425 Tyler Rd., Van Buren Township, MI 48111 one week prior to the public hearing and is available on the Township website [vanburen-mi.org](http://vanburen-mi.org).

In Compliance with the American with Disabilities Act, reasonable accommodations will be made with advance notice to the Clerk's Office 46425 Tyler Rd., Van Buren Twp., MI 48111 (734) 699-8909

Posted: 9/15/2026  
Published: 9/24/26

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## ANSWERS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

community. We have been at 17 for about a year and a half, with an officer off on medical leave who has now retired.

Being down one position creates ongoing issues with proper shift coverage, affects run response times, and increases overtime. Not "every once in a while," but consistently. We had been working to fill that position, but have now put it on hold, awaiting the voters' decision on November 3.

In the end, the issue we face boils down to this: the police department is

funded by two sources, the millage and landfill royalties. The township has no other revenue sources to accomplish this. Unfortunately, the township has historically also relied on landfill royalties to fund other township services, but over the past few years, rising costs across the board and declining landfill royalties have left the police department using almost 100% of those royalties to cover its budget. We're at a breaking point where an increase is needed, hence the 5-mill request on the November 3rd ballot.

Again, I want to stress this point: The increased police budget is not due to negligent overspending by the police department, but rather to the rising costs

of everything it takes to provide the level of service our residents have come to expect and deserve.

Thank you for the opportunity to clarify our sit-down interview. In my 32 years of service to Sumpter Township, there has not been an issue of this magnitude affecting our community's future. Clear, concise information for our residents remains paramount, and I appreciate the opportunity to provide it.

**Eric Luke**  
Director of Public Safety/Chief of  
Police Sumpter  
Township

MORE LETTERS ON PAGE 17

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Letters to the Editor

Auditions Scheduled for ‘Yes, Virginia, There Is a Santa Claus’

**To the editor:**  
Van Buren Community Players are proud to announce auditions for Yes, Virginia, There Is a Santa Claus. No experience is necessary. The auditions will be open to adults and youth.  
Yes, Virginia, There Is a Santa Claus is a heartwarming holiday play inspired by the true story of 8-year-old Virginia O’Hanlin, who wrote a letter to the New York Sun asking if Santa is real.  
Please enter through the Van Buren Community Center entrance on the east side of the building at 46425 Tyler Rd, Van Buren Township, MI 48111.  
There will be two nights of auditions – Monday, September 28 and Tuesday, September 29, from 7-9 p.m. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m.. Attendees can arrive beginning at 6:30 p.m. to sign in and complete the audition form. Auditions will begin promptly at 7 p.m.  
Both nights will have the same audition process. Attendance either night is acceptable. There will not be callbacks.  
The reading audition cuts, audition form and rehearsal schedule are on the Facebook event [www.facebook.com/VB-CPlayers/](http://www.facebook.com/VB-CPlayers/) or at auditions.  
Please send any questions to director Jen Cousino at [vanburencommunityplayers@gmail.com](mailto:vanburencommunityplayers@gmail.com).  
Rehearsals are generally held on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday (with some exceptions) at the Van Buren Township Community Center Theatre from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.. Performances are Dec. 4, 6

and 11–13.  
Yes, Virginia, There Is a Santa Claus is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Dramatic Play Service.  
For more information on this show and all upcoming shows, please visit [www.vanburencommunityplayers.com](http://www.vanburencommunityplayers.com), email [vanburencommunityplayers@gmail.com](mailto:vanburencommunityplayers@gmail.com) or call 734-796-7900.  
**Laura Kitzman**  
*President,*  
*Van Buren Community Players*

Recall Committee Hosts Drive-Thru Petition Signing

**To the Editor,**  
Last Monday we had a successful impromptu signature collection for the petition to recall the VBT board of trustees at the weekly car show and have decided volunteers will be there until the end of the shows, weather permitting, from 5-7 p.m..  
Those that may want to sign the petition please look for the ladies in the “recall the board” aprons. Can’t miss us.  
Reminder that there will be a drive thru petition collection experience on Sunday, September 27th at 50300 Bogg Rd, Van Buren Twp from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Please expect to drive from Hoeft Road towards Rawsonville to be on the same side as the house. If there’s rain, it will be the following Saturday at the same time.  
Check the Facebook group for updates and events: Stop Data Center 48111  
**Alix S. Colón Zayas, MA**  
*VBT recall committee member*

Sumpter Must Unite and Pass Police Millage in November

**To the editor:**  
The citizens of Sumpter Township need to step up and approve the millage for our township’s police department in this November’s election. Being primarily a rural township, we can ill afford to depend on other outside agencies to come to the rescue when police services are needed.  
And speaking of the rural area, what’s with all the outside lighting happening around here. Most every newly-constructed home, as well as a lot of others, have all these under eaves and other preposterous lighting accents. It must be a new trend.  
If you wanted to live with the outside lit up at night, you should have stayed in Taylor or whatever other city you came from where streetlights are abundant. Our here at night, it’s supposed to be dark.  
Also, to respond to the Belleville former judge who’s been ranting about ICE

and his abused foster son from the Congo, of all places. There must have been some monetary perk for you to foster abused children from Africa because I can’t figure out why you had to go all the way to African to find abused children. Sadly, there are too many right there in your own country who would benefit from your love, caring, and generosity. And the best part, all without any immigration concerns.  
Also, do you know how ridiculous you sound when you say things like you’re concerned for your safety when interacting with federal law enforcement officers?  
Coming from a judge, it makes statements like that even more ridiculous. Only illegals, convicts, and criminals are fearful of law enforcement.  
United we stand, divided we fall.  
Sumpter residents; vote yes to approve the police millage  
**Donna Stewart**  
*Lifelong Sumpter residents*

*Editor’s note: Michael and Susan Calahan also have eight children who were adopted from the Detroit area.*

Birthdays

- Sept. 23 – Megan Holmes  
Sept. 24 – Darcy Beagan  
Sept. 25 – Karen Marsh  
Sept. 25 – Kathy A. Adams  
Sept. 25 – Liz Bowman  
Sept. 26 – Tricia Seays  
Sept. 26 – Wayne Walters  
Sept. 27 – Jessica Jones  
Sept. 27 – Kathryn Kuehn
- Sept. 27 – Becky Ross  
Sept. 30 – Nia Robinson

**ANNIVERSARIES**  
Sept. 15 – Yvonne & Ron Slone, 50 years

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

# CHURCH DIRECTORY

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## Musings



**Janet Millard**  
Advertising Director

The lecture series at the Belleville Area Museum on Thursday should have a full house. Dave Booer will lead the lecture on Rawsonville: Making of a Ghost Town from 6 to 7 p.m.. Don't forget there's free pizza at 5:30 p.m. if you make a reservation.

~~~~~  
Area food pantries have decid-

ed to have a Community Pantry Cook-off fundraiser on Saturday, September 26 at noon.

It will be at Faith Community Center – 894 E. Huron River Drive, and this Chopped-style fundraiser will have judges plus a people's choice award. Entry by donation.

~~~~~  
Good turnout and great fun for all who attended the bowling fundraiser for Michigan Against Atomic Waste last week. Their next fundraiser is on October 4, 1 p.m. at the BYC. Designer Purse

Bingo is a new one for me. Tickets in advance are \$40 and \$50 at the door.

~~~~~  
Our BHS Tiger Varsity went to Salem High School last Friday and made them wish they had stayed in the locker room! The final score was Belleville 34 to Salem 9. This Friday we are in Canton again but against Canton High School. I hope my lucky T-shirt brings another win. Canton is going to see us ROAR!

Things to do in the Belleville Area

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

■ **Friday, Sept. 25** – Movie on the Plaza, activities at 7 p.m., movie at dusk, Van Buren Township community center plaza. Free. Featured movie TBA.

■ **Friday, Sept. 25, Saturday, Sept. 26, and Sunday, Sept. 27** – St. Aloysius Church White Elephant Garage Sale, 37200 Neville St., Romulus. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, noon-4 p.m. Sunday. Household items, toys, and more. 734-941-5056.

■ **Saturday, Sept. 26** – Free Health and Wellness Event at the Belleville District Library with Dr. Rob and Alice Nia, 3-5 p.m. Learn simple and natural ways to support your health and get your questions answered.

■ **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.

■ **Saturday, Sept. 26** – Community Pantry Cookoff from noon-4 p.m., at the Faith Community Center, 894 E. Huron River Dr. Co-hosted by The Makana Foundation and Wordhouse Community Foundation. Four local community pantries will go head-to-head in a fun Chopped-style cooking challenge to raise awareness and funds for food insecurity. Local business owners will serve as our guest judges, and we'll also have raffles, a 50/50, food and drinks, and a People's Choice Award.

■ **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.

■ **Monday, Sept. 28 & Tuesday, Sept. 29** – Auditions for "Yes, Virginia, There Is a Santa Claus" with the Van Buren Community Players.

Doors open at 6:30, auditions from 7-9 p.m. each night at the VBT Community Center. www.vanburencommunityplayers.com.

■ **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.

■ **Sunday, Oct. 5** – Michigan Against Atomic Waste Designer Purse Bingo fundraiser at 1 p.m. at the BYC. Tickets in advance are \$40 and \$50 at the door.

■ **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 Michigan Flight Museum's Roush Aeronautics Center, 7-8 p.m., \$35 per person. Repeats Nov. 19.

■ **Oct. 16-18** – The Belleville Area Council for the Arts hosts the 17th Annual Community Art Show at the BYC. Free admission. Artists of all ages can enter up to 3 pieces of art, designed within the last 2 years. Cash prizes will be awarded in 6 categories. The new category this year will be: Seeing America 250 Years, with a \$250 first prize. Entries due by Sept. 25. Applications are available at the Belleville Library, Sumpter Media Center or on-line at www.bacaart.org.

IMPORT AND DOMESTIC



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BELLEVILLE-AREA
INDEPENDENT

INDEPENDENT CLASSIFIED ADS

GARAGE/YARD SALE

INVICTA CASES – Harmony Lane, Dan misplaced #, call (248) 379-3824 10/08

HOARDERS HOARD – SEMI-TRUCK SALE. New & gently used vintage items. Glass, crafts, clothes, 100 + pairs of shoes. 4 seasons. Something for everyone and every room. Come by and let's make a deal! 17500 Sumpter, Thursday – Sunday, September 24 – 27, 9am – 4pm. 9/24

YARD SALE – HALLOWEEN & CHRISTMAS decorations, like new totes, medical lift, glassware & other miscellaneous things. September 25 & 26, Friday & Saturday 10am – 7pm 9/24

1184 GEORGINA DRIVE, Ypsilanti. Saturday & Sunday, 9am-5pm. Buy, sell or trade. Estate sales welcome. 9/24

FOR SALE

KING SIZE BED with box spring and mattress cover. \$90 (313) 995-8349 10/08

AIR-TIGHT WOOD STOVE with blower, works good \$100. (734) 564-8018 10/08

TROPHY WINNER 1959 Cushman eagle and 60s step thru partial restoration. \$5,000 OBO. 10/08

4 – JACK POSTS, 6' 9" – 7'1" (248) 379-3824 10/08

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention, to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

Notice to Advertisers:

The *Belleville-Area Independent* will not be liable for failure to publish an ad as requested or for more than one incorrect insertion of an advertisement. In the event of any error or omission in printing or publication of an advertisement, you must notify us within five days of publication or on the date of insertion, if an ad is scheduled as part of a package, so there is time to correct subsequent publications. The *Independent's* liability shall be limited to an adjustment for the cost of the space occupied by the error with a maximum liability being cancellation of the cost of the first incorrect advertisement or republication of the corrected advertisement. Under no circumstances shall the *Independent* be liable for consequential damages of any kind.

Notice to Advertisers – private gun sales:

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

MERCURY OUTBOARD MOTORS – 7.5 & 9.8, both motors \$500, OBO. (734) 740-0317. 10/01

JAZZY POWER CHAIR – ELITE ES. It comes with 2 batteries & cord. Brand new. \$1,000 (734) 672-2318 09/24

WHIRLPOOL FRIDGE – auto defrost, very clean & ready to use \$100. FLORAL COUCH, beige, burgundy & green, very clean \$100. (734) 697-0788 9/24

FOOD GRADE BARRELS Plastic & metal. Inventory & pictures at www.mattsbarrels.com call or text (734) 474-5981. Located in Willis. 11/14

FENCE BOARDS 2X6 and 2X4, reasonable. (734) 461-1414. HAY, round bales. (708) 646-7595. 11/19

VEHICLE FOR SALE

94 FORD RANGER approx. 88,000 miles. Needs transmission. Must see, \$4,000 OBO (313) 995-8349 10/08

1988 FORD F-350 DUALY, Crew-cab. Texas body. \$3,000 OBO. (734) 740-0317 10/01

FOR RENT

FURNISHED ROOM FOR RENT – Wifi available, includes utilities, washer, and dryer available, also kitchen privileges. \$600/month plus \$500 deposit. (734) 649-1710 Ann. 9/24

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INDIVIDUAL WITH THE ABILITY TO move and operate musical sound equipment and drive around to gigs. Details call, Julie (313) 435-2644 or Tyrone (734) 325-2644 10/04

CAREGIVER LOOKING for new clients. Hours open for discussion. 17 years' experience & references. (734) 740-5532 or vstal-naker42@gmail.com 9/24

WANTED TO BUY – Standing timber. Sawmill office. (517) 254-4463 12/10

WANTED – MEN'S CLOTHES, any size for the homeless in Detroit. Drop off at 601 E, Huron River Drive. (734) 697-5600. TFN

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

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MARY KAY CONSULTANT in Belleville. Lots of sales, load up on Holiday gifts. Call for free glamour session. One gift for a call, two gifts for glamour session. Call Dorothy (734) 697-0788. 10/08

EXPERIENCED CLEANING OFFERED – Weekly/bi-weekly, move-in/out. Office or Residential. Please call Rachel (734) 363-0839 10/08

RANDY'S HANDYMAN SERVICE. Specializing in walk-in showers, power washing, painting, grass cutting, mobile homes & other repairs. (734) 306-8909. 9/24

DEPENDABLE LAWN SERVICE. Commercial & residential lawn cutting, aerating, mulch, shrub trimming, spring & storm clean-up. De-thatching, sod & seeding. (734) 587-2410 or (734) 693-4712. 9/24

INTERIOR / EXTERIOR MAINTENANCE. Painting, roof leaks, cleaning & gutter repairs, landscape maintenance, and power washing. (734) 796-3628. 9/24

A-1 QUALITY MOBILE HOME SERVICE. Licensed over 50 years. Seniors, Veterans, 1st Responders & Educators 10% off. (734) 397-2615. 12/31

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Belleville Area Business Briefs

A new **Chick-fil-A** location at 10150 Belleville Rd. hosted a ribbon-cutting with local officials and business leaders Sept. 9 and hosted its grand opening Sept. 10. Regular hours are 6:30 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

The **Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce**, in partnership with Health-Markets, 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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**Genisys Credit Union** celebrated its 90th anniversary with help from the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce earlier this month at their Van Buren Township location at 10444 Belleville Rd. The Belleville-area location opened in 2021. Genisys has more than two dozen branches across Michigan and three in Minnesota.

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Moody Brews Coffee House, 519 Main St., recently held a soft launch of an after-hours Night Owl Lounge. The concept is coffee by day, and a 21-and-over cocktail lounge at night. Official opening is scheduled for early October.

PHOTO | ELENA MANALP

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, September 13:
0359 Assist fire dept, Menlo Park Dr
1209 Domestic, Carmell St
1549 Welfare check, High St
1820 Parking complaint, N Liberty St/5th St
2026 Welfare check, Main St/E Huron River Dr
2050 Noise complaint, N Liberty St/ Main St
2133 Suspicious person/veh/circumstance, Sumpter Rd
2218 Parking complaint, Sumpter Rd

Monday, September 14:
1009 Civil matter, E Huron River Dr
1504 Leaving the scene property damage accident, Huron River Dr/W Columbia Ave
1637 Assist fire dept, Carmell St

Tuesday, September 15:
0241 Suspicious person/veh/circumstance, Belle Villa Blvd/Estrada Dr
0624 Alarm intrusion, Main St
0706 Assist fire dept, Sumpter Rd
1040 Disorderly, E Columbia Ave
1406 Follow up by officer, Wear Rd
1642 Warrant arrest, Belleville/Michigan
2104 Assist fire dept, Harbour Pointe Dr
2338 Suspicious person/veh/circumstance, Loza Ln

Wednesday, September 16:
0352 Suspicious person/veh/circumstance, West Columbia
1339 Disorderly, S Industrial Park Dr
2019 911 welfare check, Main St (missing time stamp) Suspicious person/veh/circumstance, Main St

Thursday, September 17:
0703 Vehicle lockout, W Columbia Ave
1251 Vehicle lockout, W Columbia Ave
1441 Vehicle lockout, Main St

2021 Property damage accident, Main St/E Huron River Dr

Friday, September 18:
(missing time stamp) Repossession, Anaheim St
0837 Abandoned auto, E Huron River Dr
1041 Malicious destruction, E Huron River Dr
1114 Civil matter, Sumpter Rd
1156 Alarm intrusion, E Huron River Dr
1205 Hospice death, Menlo Park Dr
1509 Assist citizen, Sumpter Rd
1604 Civil matter, Owen St
1707 Sexual assault, Charles St
2016 Suspicious person/veh/circumstance, Harbour Pointe Dr
2047 Assist fire dept, W Columbia Ave
2114 Civil matter, Henry St

Saturday, September 19:
0346 Suspicious person/veh/circumstance, W Columbia Ave
0506 Suspicious person/veh/circumstance, E Davis St/South St
0838 Assist fire dept, E Thornhill Ct
0905 Assist citizen, W Columbia Ave
0938 Civil matter, Potter Dr
1313 Assist fire dept, Henry St
1405 Road hazard, High St/Main St
1513 Civil matter, Breakwater Ct
1725 Suspicious person/veh/circumstance, High St
1858 Suspicious person/veh/circumstance, Henry St
2046 Suspicious person/veh/circumstance, Savage Rd

Monday, September 14:
0251 Alarm intrusion, Alva Dr
0402 Alarm intrusion, Belleville Rd
0410 Property damage accident, Belleville Rd/W I-94 Belleville Ramp
0501 Fight, Elwell Rd
0858 Retail fraud, Belleville Rd
1000 Civil matter, E Huron River Dr
1111 Threat, Tompkins St
1134 911 welfare check, Dewitt Rd
1235 Bank detail-VB only, Belleville
1326 Welfare check, W Huron River Dr
1408 Suspicious person/veh/circumstance, Beckley Rd
1444 Fraud, Chaney Ave

These logs also contained 64 traffic stops, 7 property checks, and 3 misc. complaints.

Van Buren Twp. Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, September 13:
0136 911 welfare check, Village Green Ln

1611 Road hazard, S I-94 Service Dr/Ryznar Dr
1623 Property damage accident, Belleville Rd
1814 Civil matter, S I-94 Service Dr
1842 Neighbor troub, Milton Dr
2001 Domestic, Van Buren St
2105 Domestic, Lighthouse Dr
2339 Domestic, N Timberview Dr
2340 Suspicious person/veh/circumstance, Watersedge

Tuesday, September 15:
0852 Property damage accident, Haggerty Rd
0930 Ordinance violation, Gilmore St
1014 Fraud, Belleville Rd
1022 Lost property/child, Haggerty Rd
1126 Parking complaint, Village Green Ln
1223 Welfare check, Belleville Rd
1417 Ordinance violation, Tompkins St
1437 Bank detail-VB only, Belleville
1457 Disorderly, Kennedy Ct
1517 Welfare check, N I-94 Service Drive
1517 Property damage accident, Belleville
1532 Property damage accident, S I-94 Service Dr
1648 Personal injury accident, Hannan Rd/S I-94 Service Dr
1650 Trespassing, America
1703 Harassment call, America
1728 Assist other dept, Sumpter Rd (missing time stamp) Vehicle lockout, Quirk Rd/Ayres Ave
1737 Juvenile compl, Quirk Rd
1842 Trespassing, N I-94 Service Dr
1910 Neighbor troub, Lindsey Dr
1956 Property damage accident, Belleville Rd/Ecorse Rd
2000 Welfare check, Belleville Rd
2006 Disorderly, S Ponderosa Trl
2131 Domestic, Lenmoore Ave
2144 Assist fire dept, Harmony Ln
2207 Suspicious person/veh/circumstance, Belleville Rd
2256 Welfare check, Edison Lk
2341 911 welfare check, Wildbrook Dr/

Brookside Dr
2352 Family trouble, S Ponderosa Trl

Wednesday, September 16:
0041 Suspicious person/veh/circum-
stance, Edison Lake Rd
0635 Alarm intrusion, Tyler Rd
0717 Suspicious person/veh/circum-
stance, Ecorse/I-275
0741 Parking complaint, Florence Ln
0827 Alarm intrusion, Belleville Rd
0838 Property damage accident, Michi-
gan Ave/Denton Rd
1005 Welfare check, Haggerty Rd/Ecorse
Rd
1028 Domestic, W Archwood Dr
1044 Family trouble, Kennedy Ct
1138 Animal complaint, Belleville Rd/
Ecorse Rd
1159 Malicious destruction, Village
Green Ln
1257 Civil matter, E Huron River Dr
1321 Ordinance violation, Castell Blvd
1343 Disorderly, Quirk Rd
(missing time stamp) Disorderly, Jackson
St/Tyler Rd
1412 Property damage accident, Hag-
gerty Rd/Riggs Rd
1517 Suspicious person/veh/circum-
stance, Kahla Dr/Marina Dr
1533 Trespassing, Martinsville Rd
1535 Bank detail-VB only, Belleville
1643 Civil matter, Red Oak Dr
1727 Lost property/child, Belleville
1851 Disorderly, Tyler Rd
1902 Civil matter, Belleville

1930 Welfare check, Country Ln
1933 Welfare check, Kirkridge Park Dr
2240 Road hazard, W Huron River Dr/
Fairview Ct

Thursday, September 17:
0144 Welfare check, Rawsonville
0207 Background investigation, Tyler Rd
(missing time stamp) Repossession,
Denton Rd
0535 Alarm intrusion, Rawsonville Rd
0550 Alarm intrusion, Forestdale Dr
0703 Animal complaint, Bog Rd
0849 Ordinance violation, Edison Lake
Rd
0852 Property damage accident, Ecorse
Rd
0956 Welfare check, S I-94 Service Dr
1253 Pp pda, Belleville Rd
1306 Bank detail-VB only, Belleville
1308 Family trouble, Bak Rd
1413 Civil matter, Ecorse Rd
1440 Larceny, Amanda Dr
1540 Family trouble, Farm Rd
1617 Suspicious person/veh/circum-
stance, Tyler Rd/Charter Club Dr
1631 Suspicious person/veh/circum-
stance, Belleville/Yost
1659 Welfare check, Ormond Dr
1818 Welfare check, Lenmoore Ave
1823 Suspicious person/veh/circum-
stance, Martinsville Rd
1902 Leaving the scene property damage
accident, Quirk Rd/N I-94 Service Dr
1947 Motorist assist, Belleville Rd/
Ecorse Rd

2023 Road hazard, W Us12/Michigan
Ave
2109 Shooting, S I-94 Service Dr
2311 Assault & battery, Lake Villa Dr
(missing time stamp) Repossession,
Fairbanks St
(missing time stamp) Assist other dept,
Tyler Rd

Friday, September 18:
0230 Disorderly, Belleville Rd
(missing time stamp) Repossession, S
I-94 Service Dr
0240 Alarm intrusion, Martinsville Rd
0437 Assist other dept, Ecorse/I-275
0458 Suspicious person/veh/circum-
stance, Sadie Ln
0516 Property damage accident, Michi-
gan Ave/Denton Rd
1034 Threat, Jackson Ln
1127 Domestic, Briarcliff Dr
1135 Fraud, Martinsville Rd
1148 Harassment call, Oak Ln
1152 Retail fraud, Belleville Rd
1153 Assist other dept, Haggerty Rd
1353 Property damage accident, Ecorse
I-275 Ramp N/N I-275
1409 Disorderly, Ecorse Rd
1430 Retail fraud, Belleville Rd
1503 Disorderly, Belleville Rd
1507 Larceny from auto, Milton Dr
1519 Alarm intrusion, Florence Ln
1520 Parking complaint, Marina Dr
(missing time stamp) Alarm intrusion,
Pebblebrook Dr
1534 Property damage accident, Michi-
gan Ave/Denton Rd
1547 Parking complaint, Pebblebrook Dr
1610 Juvenile compl, McBride
1842 Larceny, S Ponderosa Trl
1903 Juvenile compl, Quirk Rd
1933 Civil matter, E Huron River Dr
2008 Disorderly, Belleville Rd
2011 Sexual assault, S I-94 Service Dr
2034 Assist fire dept, Briarcliff Dr
2049 Neighbor troub, Bog Rd
2112 Suspicious person/veh/circum-
stance, Wildflower Ct
(missing time stamp) Suspicious person/
veh/circumstance, E Huron River Dr

Saturday, September 19:
0045 Mental subj, Elwell Rd
0107 Assist other dept, Th/Beverly
0139 Domestic, Morton Taylor Rd
(missing time stamp) Alarm intrusion,
Winding Pond Dr
0148 Welfare check, S Adams
0305 Suspicious person/veh/circum-
stance, Wildflower Ct
0313 Domestic, Parkwood Dr
0323 Noise complaint, Lake Villa Dr
0330 Noise complaint, S Adams
0637 Suspicious person/veh/circum-
stance, S Ponderosa Trl
1016 Family trouble, Tompkins St
(missing time stamp) Private property
impound, S Ponderosa Trl
1146 Suicidal person, Haggerty Rd
1222 Alarm intrusion, Belleville Rd
1235 Suspicious person/veh/circum-
stance, Ecorse Rd
1436 Leaving the scene property damage

accident, Ecorse/I-275
1605 Assist fire dept, Greenbriar Dr
1619 Missing person, Belleville
1630 Property damage accident, Michi-
gan Ave/Denton Rd
1649 B&E, Rose Blvd
1908 Suspicious person/veh/circum-
stance, Tyler Rd
1939 Suspicious person/veh/circum-
stance, S I-94 Service Drive
2038 Retail fraud, Belleville Rd
2130 Property damage accident, Bel-
leville

*These logs also contained 56 traffic stops,
1 property check, and 2 misc. complaints.*

Sunday, September 13:
0457 Fd assist, 46000 Judd Rd
1105 Suspicious person, Arkona Rd/
Clark Rd
1130 Civil matter, 22000 Bohn Rd
1356 Juvenile matter, Oregon St
1441 Citizen assist, 24000 Sherwood Rd
1452 Fd assist, Creekside Dr
1550 911 hangup, Delaware St
1814 Traffic complaint/hazard, Judd Rd/
Martinsville Rd
1949 Suspicious vehicle, 50000 Willow
Rd
2008 Civil matter, 21000 Sumpter Rd
2010 Suspicious circumstance, 19000
Lohr Rd
2035 Noise complaint, 20000 Wilmot Rd
2211 Animal complaint, Nevada St

Sumpter Police
Dispatch Log

Monday, September 14:
0138 Suspicious vehicle, 24000 Sherwood
Rd
0848 Civil matter, 41000 Willis Rd
0956 Alarm, 4900 Oakville Waltz Rd
1055 Civil matter, Mulberry Dr
1514 Animal complaint, 22000 Karr Rd
1557 Property damage accident, Bemis
Rd/Sumpter Rd
1935 Welfare check, Mulberry Dr
1937 Assault, New Mexico St
2038 Civil matter, 18000 Martinsville Rd
2343 Welfare check, California St

Tuesday, September 15:
0129 Assist other agency, Nevada St
0319 Follow up investigation, Nevada St
0937 Fd assist, 17000 Savage Rd
1019 Alarm, 48000 Judd Rd
1311 Mental health call, 11000 Rawson-
ville Rd
1338 Fd assist, 21000 Sherwood Rd
1602 Personal injury accident, Rawson-
ville Rd/Wear Rd
1653 Welfare check, California St
1706 Mental health call, 19000 Clark Rd
1726 Welfare check, Country Club Blvd
1829 Assist other agency, 12000 Rawson-
ville Rd
1859 Suspicious circumstance, Carriage
Ln/Country Club Blvd

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22



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Sumpter Police Dispatch Log

1958 Juvenile matter, Rustic Ln
2049 Fd assist, Creekside Dr

Wednesday, September 16:
0058 Traffic complaint/hazard, 17000 Savage Rd
0406 Civil matter, Oregon St
0729 Civil matter, Rustic Ln
0751 Citizen assist, 23000 Sumpter Rd
0852 Civil matter, Mulberry Dr
0931 Property damage accident, Sumpter Rd/Oakville Waltz Rd
0935 911 hangup, Delaware St
1018 Assist other agency, 48000 Sherwood Ct
1130 Civil matter, 20000 Martinsville Rd
1356 Alarm, 48000 Judd Rd
1715 Welfare check, 13000 Rawsonville Rd
1721 Fd assist, Edgewood Dr
1723 Damage to property report, Green-meadow
1805 Alarm, 23000 Sumpter Rd
1834 Property damage accident, Willis Rd/Sherwood Rd
1850 Family trouble, Edgewood Dr
2142 911 hangup, Washington
2330 911 hangup, Washington St

Thursday, September 17:
0543 911 hangup, 18000 Westcott Dr
0544 Assist fd, Rustic Ln

0607 Civil matter, Walnut St
0708 Fd assist, Magnolia Dr
1123 Alarm, 43000 Arkona Rd
1203 Citizen assist, 23000 Sumpter Rd
1205 Civil matter, Redwood Dr
1704 Welfare check, Oregon St
1809 911 hangup, 42000 Deborah Ct
1930 Citizen assist, Sumpter Rd/Judd Rd
2105 Welfare check, Rustic Ln
2211 Shots fired, 23000 Elwell Rd
2348 Fd assist, 21000 Sumpter Rd

Friday, September 18:
0004 Civil matter, 17000 Sumpter Rd
0115 Harassment complaint, Washington

AUCTION NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that on OCTOBER 10, 2026 at 12:00 pm FULL HOUSE SELF STORAGE at 7886 Belleville Rd. Belleville, MI. 48111 is holding a public auction. Unit(s) may or may not include the following items: Household items, recreational items, appliances, furniture and other miscellaneous items. H359 JAMES LAYDEN, L516 N817 P756 SUNSHINE INC., F272 J614 STEPHEN KANTOS, T981 CHANDLER CUTS AND SNOW LLC., L507 BETTY MALKOWSKI, E214 AYISHA BHAVNANI, L500 L501 LISA CLARK, L531 SIMONE MACK, I410 SCOTT WALKER, E216 I418 DEVONA JOHNSON, G458 JAZMENE LONG, G478 KESHA GIBSON, N813 HEATHER MALFITANO, I401 MARY JENKINS



Trinity Episcopal Church
11575 Belleville Road
Belleville, MI 48111

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Wednesday Eucharist at 5:45pm

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MAGA

MAKE ARROGANT ABDUL GO AWAY AND HASAN PIKER!

Have Abdul explain Mohamed's shariah hierarchy, especially The ABEED.

Paid for by: Freedom Speech - Veteran - Advocate.
Financing the Belleville Area since 1972. Charles E. Tackett II

Vendors Welcome

Belleville Farmers Market

4th Street Square and 4th Street Place
Mondays 4 - 7:30 PM
June thru October 12th

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Join us for the Monday Night Main Street Cruise Classic Car Show
June thru October 26th 5-8pm





ORPHAN OF THE WEEK

MAX



MEET MAX!

For the first six years of his life, Max knew very little of the world beyond his own backyard.

For the last year and a half, the wonderful people at CHAINED Inc. in Detroit have been helping Max and his family. When his owner ultimately made the decision to surrender him, Max came into our care to begin an entirely new chapter.

And when we say new, we mean NEW. Living indoors, walking into buildings, meeting unfamiliar people, going new places-so many everyday experiences are completely new to Max. Understandably, he's still figuring out what to make of it all.

What Max needs most is someone calm, patient, and willing to let him set the pace. He doesn't need someone determined to show him everything he's been missing all at once. He needs someone who will help him discover that the world is safe, one experience at a time.

And Max will absolutely let you know when he's had enough. ?? If he decides he doesn't want to go any farther, this approximately 100-pound gentleman has perfected what we lovingly call "the pancake." Down he goes, and suddenly you're negotiating with 100 pounds of completely motionless dog. With Max, patience will get you much further than pushing him before he's ready.

Underneath that uncertainty, we're already seeing a wonderfully sweet boy who is beginning to build relationships, trust his new people, and show us more of himself every day.

Max is looking for someone who understands that progress may take time and that sometimes the biggest victory might simply be him choosing to take one more step than he did yesterday.

For six years, Max's world was very small.

Now he finally gets the chance to discover how big-and how good-it can be.

Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue
51299 Arkona Road
Belleville, MI 48111
734.461.9458
www.friendsofmichigan.org



Four Years Later, the Finish Line!

Reader Don Sherman took these shots of concrete being poured at the corner of Denton and Main Streets. The Denton Road bridge has been closed for nearly four years. The concrete at the intersection may take a few more days to cure but the bridge may be open to traffic by the end of September. The city will host a ribbon cutting to celebrate the opening on Oct. 22.



Van Buren Township Police Arrests Man in Shooting Death

According to a statement from the Van Buren Township Police Department, officers responded to a call just after 9 p.m. on Sept. 17 at a home on the 48500 block of the S. I-94 Service Drive in Waverly Apartments in reference to reports of a shooting. Upon officers' arrival, officers observed a female subject laying in the hallway with an apparent gunshot wound to her chest. The Van Buren Town-



Manns

ship Fire Department and Huron Valley Ambulance treated the victim at the scene and transported her to Trinity Hospital – Ann Arbor where she was later pronounced deceased. The shooting victim was a 28-year-old female from Van Buren Township identified as Frances Beatty. The Van Buren Township Investigations Division was called to the scene to coordinate and conduct the on-scene investigation and collect physical evidence. As a result of the preliminary investigation. Van Buren Township Officers took a 31-year-old male into custody at the scene.

The investigation was forwarded to the Wayne County Prosecutor which resulted in the charges against Damarco Darnell Manns. Those charges are Homicide Murder – Second Degree Murder, Weapons Firearms – Discharge in or at a building causing death, and two counts of Weapons – Felony Firearm. On Monday, Sept. 21, Manns was arraigned at the 34th District Court in front of Judge Lisa Martin where he was remanded to the Wayne County Jail on the listed charges.

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 & resume to:
harryvangelder673@gmail.com



Metroparks Art Challenge Ends Sept. 30

Time is running out for local artists who would like to participate in a competition to design a new sticker for the Metroparks. From Sept. 1–30, artists of all ages and skill levels have been encouraged to create an original illustration inspired by adventure in the Metroparks. The winning design will be turned into a sticker. Whether it's hiking, biking, paddling, exploring nature or your own favorite way to enjoy the parks, the Metroparks want visitors to envision

what adventure means to you and create something that will look great in sticker form. Never designed a sticker before? No worries! If your artwork is chosen, the Metroparks will take care of turning it into a sticker. Just make sure your artwork is clean and crisp so it can be printed clearly. Use any traditional or digital illustration medium to bring your Metroparks adventure to life. For more information, visit www.metroparks.com/art.



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26347 SHERWOOD, SUMPTER TOWNSHIP

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



PENDING

7150 SHELTON, VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP

Affordable Country home on almost an acre just off paved road. 2 Bedrooms, One Bath, Large Could stand some updating. Find a Big yard and Huge Deck. \$160,000



29515 CHARLES, ROMULUS

IT'S LOADED WITH 4 BEDROOMS, 2 Baths, 1,647 Square Feet, Fireplace, Deck and More. On 1/2 Acre with Huge Garage. 1996 Construction Just \$174,000



48620 WEAR, SUMPTER TOWNSHIP

BEAUTY WORTH CELEBRATING 3 Bedrooms, 2 Baths (One New) 1,690 Sq Ft on 1.3 Acres. Deck and Large Pole Barn room for a workshop and more. Extra Clean \$289,900



46026 TRASKOS, SUMPTER TOWNSHIP

LARGER 1,357 SQUARE FOOT RANCH 3 Bedrooms, 1 Bath, Hardwood Floors, Newer Furnace and Water Heater, Vinyl Windows, Deck, Porch and Huge Garage \$259,900



43373 ALVA, VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP

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



730 FOX AVENUE, YPSILANTI TOWNSHIP

3 Bedrooms, Laundry area, Newer Central Air, High Energy Efficient Furnace, Instant Hot Water, Newer Roof and Brand New Carpet. Large Lot and Garage. \$179,000



12900 HAGGERTY VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP

FOR LEASE Upscaled office building with 2 spaces. 13x24 and 9x22 with access from front waiting room leading to large bathroom and hallway to offices. \$1,250 Month

84 ACRES OAKVILLE WALTZ ASH TOWNSHIP - MONROE COUNTY. 1268 FRONTAGE ZONED LIGHT INDUSTRIAL AND RESIDENTIAL. NEAR I-275 Great Investment \$795,000

989 KINGS HWY, Two Lots, Lincoln Park Corner Lot 100x110 Plus Garage \$100,000
GROVER, ROMULUS 6 LOTS TO BE SOLD AS A PACKAGE 210X133 \$89,000

GRANT & WAHRMAN 4 ACRES LT INDUSTRIAL NEAR METRO AIRPORT \$250,000
WILLIS & MARTINSVILLE 1.64 AC PAVED RD WATER & SEWER AT STREET \$65,000

VACANT HAGGERTY ROAD near Wear 12 Acres in a private location with City Water at the Street Buy your dream property \$170,000
VAC BOHN, SUMPTER TP 1 Acre \$35,000

*** BELLEVILLE LAKEFRONT *** 2405 RAWSONVILLE 99X328 .74 AC \$99,900
NORTHLINE ROMULUS 1.1 ACRES 208 FT FRONTAGE LT INDUSTRIAL ZON \$49,900

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