



# BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 29.52 Thursday, December 28, 2023 Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren **F R E E**

## Court Watching:

### Judge dismisses charge against speeder with 56 fentanyl in borrowed car

By Rosemary K. Otzman  
 Independent Editor

After a preliminary examination at 34<sup>th</sup> District Court on Dec. 6, Judge Lisa Martin dismissed the charge of controlled substance – deliver/manufacture (narcotic or cocaine) more than 50 grams against Christian Devon Harris, 22, of Van Buren Township.

A companion misdemeanor charge of driving while license suspended was set to go on the Belleville pretrial docket on Dec. 20.

The charges were from a traffic stop at midnight on May 2, 2021 near the corner of North Liberty and Third Street in the city of Belleville.

In the preliminary exam on Dec. 6, Belleville Police Officer Chad Adam testified that he was patrolling with his partner Ashley Rosenhall and he clocked a driver on radar going 45 mph in a 30 mph speed zone. The driver turned left disregarding a stop sign, Officer Adam said.

He said he put on his overhead lights and pulled the car over. He said he asked the driver for identification and the driver did not produce a driver's license, which he said is an arrestable misdemeanor.

Adam testified he asked the driver to step out of the car and the driver was acting pretty nervous. The driver was detained for having no driver's license and also a warrant was out for his arrest for driving while license suspended.

Adam said while he was placing the driver in the back of the squad car, his partner started an inventory search of the car which was going to be impounded. She opened the center arm rest and pointed out to Adam what she found, leaving it in place.

He said there was an amber prescription

(continued on page 11)



Department of Defense Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Missouri Area 7 Chairman George E. Bukaty (left), ESGR Missouri Chair Tom Krahenbuhl (right) and Kansas National Guardsman and VFW Member Service advisor Mario Orelus (second from left) presented the Patriot Award to VFW Director of Member Services David Prohaska (second from right) during a special ceremony at VFW National Headquarters in Kansas City, Missouri, on Dec. 19, 2023. "I am a platoon sergeant in the Kansas National Guard, and my military career and this added responsibility requires many training weekends but working for the VFW, I have never had an issue with work when it comes to taking leave like so many other soldiers have," said Mario Orelus, a Kansas National Guardsman and VFW Member Service advisor who has been employed at the VFW National Headquarters for nearly 5 years. "I nominated my director, David, for the Patriot award because he's always there to support me, especially the last few months while getting ready for a new mission. It is an honor for me to present this award to him and to the VFW to say thank you for all of their continued support."

## Prohaska receives Dept. of Defense Patriot Award

The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) is proud to announce VFW Director of Member Services David Prohaska, was awarded the Patriot Award on Dec. 19 by the Department of Defense's Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) department during a special presentation at VFW National Headquarters in Kansas City, Missouri.

Prohaska is a graduate of Belleville High School and son of Ed and Jennie Prohaska.

The Patriot Award, which recognizes bosses or supervisors for the support they

have provided directly to a nominating service member or their family, reflects the efforts made to support citizen warriors through a wide range of measures including flexible schedules, time off prior to and after deployment, caring for families and granting leaves of absence if needed.

Prohaska's award was presented by Department of Defense ESGR Missouri Area 7 Chairman George E. Bukaty and Chair Tom Krahenbuhl.

An Air Force veteran of the Gulf War, Prohaska has been an employee at VFW

National Headquarters for more than 18 years. He was appointed director of Member Services in May 2019.

He is responsible for ensuring the highest level of service operations for the VFW Member Service Center. Prohaska has transformed the Member Service Center by implementing NICE inContact, an omnichannel contact center solution, resulting in prioritized skills-based routing, increased productivity flows and response rates to member/non-member requests.

(continued on page 8)

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# SECOND FRONT PAGE

## Belleville approves VC3 internet service provider in special meeting

By Rosemary K. Otzman  
Independent Editor

On Dec. 18, the Belleville City Council heard detailed presentations from three bidders for internet service provider to the city: VC3, R Associates Inc. (RAI), and Vector Tech.

A vote on the IT provider was originally scheduled for the Jan. 2 regular council meeting, but instead a special meeting was held Dec. 21 and the council unanimously selected VC3's regular proposal.

Cost is \$42,400 for everything for the first year including onboarding, monthly, and one-time fees. Annual fees are \$36,690. Large-scale, multi-day projects are not included and will be billed at \$160 an hour. This would be like moving to a new building.

Annual fee for Vector was \$32,807.

In a memo, City Manager Jason Smith said the consensus was that the two local companies, VC3 and Vector, would be the two most logical options. RAI is based in Texas.

City Manager Smith recommended VC3, explaining he has worked with them in other communities for a few years prior to this arrival in Belleville.

He said both VC3 and Vector gave strong presentations and had positive reference checks.

"The decision the council should make will come down to service delivery and cost," Smith wrote in the memo. "In my opinion, VC3 again provides the most bang for our buck. While they are the more expensive option, their service delivery and experience with government entities moves them to the front of the pack."

Smith figured the per-user cost. He said the city has 25 users and the difference in cost between VC3 and Vector is minimal.

Vector comes in at \$32.86 per user per month. VC3's regular rate is \$37.24 per user per month.

At the special meeting, Smith said while VC3 is the most expensive, they deal exclusively with governments and are certified on the police department. He said from a security perspective VC3 goes over and above to shut things down before they happen.

Councilman Jeremiah Beebe asked if the wiring in city hall is enough for what the internet providers wants to do and Smith said he doesn't know. He said the cable in the building is chaotic.

Councilwoman Julie Kissel asked if the city can negotiate more work if they see it is needed and Smith said Randy, the president of VC3, is very easy to work with.

Councilman Beebe asked where the

money will come from and Smith said it could come from the city's fund balance initially and then be reimbursed from the other department's fund balances with agreed upon percentages.

Mayor Ken Voigt said the department funds are currently paying for internet service and the city knows that ratio. He said financial consultant Kelly of Plante Moran is very good with that.

Smith said the city's IT person, Jeff Wiseman, is retiring at the end of January and he will help the city identify what wires go to what.

He said that VC3 told him if they have a contract tomorrow, they can get things in motion.

Mayor Voigt said the VC3 president told them they could get the city equipment it needs at cost plus 5%. The VC3 president also spoke about the federal grants available and that his company will help with grant writing.

Mayor Pro Tem Kelly Bates said VC3 is super professional and is likely to be a partner with the Michigan Municipal League.

Mayor Voigt said the city manager already know the rep and Beebe said that's a plus.

Councilman Randy Priest gave his comments and not, "They were all pretty reputable."

"I don't think you can go wrong with any of them," said Mayor Voigt, adding VC3 is working with governments and the MML thing is a big deal. They also are highly familiar with CLEMIS and LEIN. He said they are Smith's recommended firm because of his experience with them.

The vote was unanimous and Smith said they will start in January and it will be a three to four week process with regular updates.

Mayor Voigt recommended training for all employees on the plan. He commented on the "fishing" tests where employees are sent scam emails and if they click on them they get a notice that they failed the test and have to get training.

During the presentations on Dec. 18, the IT professionals agreed that most of the problems come from employees clicking on the scam emails.

A focus came on the city's computer system when the server crashed last summer and left city records in disarray. Consultants looking into the system found that city records could be accessed from the parking lot since the cybersecurity was so bad.

It finally was decided that the city needed to hire a firm to manage the system and bring it up to highest standards.



From left are: Jordyn Mason, Peyton Hicks, MACUL board president Amy Dirlam (behind on left), Rider Lieser, and Nicole Gandolfo.

## Tyler Elementary students in Lansing to demonstrate technology

Students from Tyler Elementary School in Van Buren Township were among the nearly 30 different schools in Michigan selected to bring cutting-edge and innovative technology demonstrations from their classrooms to lawmakers at the state Capitol building.

The 22<sup>nd</sup> annual AT&T/MACUL Student Technology Showcase took place Dec. 6 at the new Heritage Hall visitor's center.

Presented by the Michigan Association for Computer Users in Learning (MACUL), and underwritten by AT&T, the 2023 Student Technology Showcase featured demonstrations from students.

"The 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Student Technology Showcase highlighted some of the most talented students in Michigan," said Mark Smith, MACUL executive director. "Everyone at the Capitol was impressed at how the students are incorporating technology in their learning."

Students displayed a wide variety of technology projects that blended science, mathematics, social studies and language arts with the latest digital tools. Their work featured app development, artificial intelligence demonstrations, coding, robotics, web design, and many other technology demonstrations.

State Sen. Erika Geiss and Rep. Pauline Wendzel were recognized with "Excellence in Education" awards at the showcase for their commitment to connecting students with innovative technologies, and their dedication to improving the Michigan educational system.

MACUL is an organization dedicated to bringing educators from all levels together to share their knowledge and concerns regarding educational uses of computers and technology. For more information on the Showcase, visit [www.macul.org](http://www.macul.org) or call 517-882-1403.

## Sumpter Twp. board accepts new FMAR agreement for \$41,000

By Rosemary K. Otzman  
Independent Editor

At its regular meeting on Nov. 28, the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees was informed that Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue has proposed a contract rate that was lower than the \$230,000 it first wanted and the new agreement would be on the Dec. 12 agenda.

FMAR is a no-kill, dog and cat rescue that is located on Arkona Road in Sumpter and has been taking care of the township's strays.

On Nov. 28, Township Manager Anthony Burdick informed the board during its

workshop that the township was approached by FMAR about four to five weeks earlier. FMAR said it would cancel the current contract it has for taking care of Sumpter strays in 90 days. The new contract would be \$230,000 a year.

Burdick said FMAR said they couldn't support the program for Sumpter strays without that amount.

He said now, however, FMAR has reconsidered and says it can settle for \$1,000 a month and \$500 per dog if there are more than a total of 40 dogs.

Burdick said \$41,000 a year is a lot better

(continued on page 6)



# O P I N I O N S

## Editorial

### We're starting our 30<sup>th</sup> year of service to this community

On Jan. 5, 1995, the *Belleville-Area Independent* published its first paper and has continued every Thursday since then. On Jan. 5, 2024 we mark completion of the 29<sup>th</sup> year of service and the start of our 30<sup>th</sup> year.

We've seen a lot over the years and shared most of it with our readers. Some readers we talk to now say they have been reading the *Independent* their whole lives and they remember their parents showing them where to pick it up at the Red Apple restaurant or various gas stations.

The weekly newspaper was formed by about a dozen local residents who thought *The View* newspaper in town was biased in its stories. I was the only one they knew who had experience with newspapers. I had just moved back here from Colorado where I was Sunday editor at a daily paper. My mother had fallen and my dad had died, so she was living alone. I came back to take care of her, which I did for 12 years. She was one of the 12 original investors in the *Independent*, along with my brother and his wife.

My mother, brother, and sister-in-law have all passed on, but here we are still publishing local news. The investors wanted people to know what was going on whether they could pay for a paper or not, so the paper always has been free.

Thank you for supporting the *Independent* over the years and sharing your stories and pictures. We hope to keep you informed for many years to come.

## EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

We've been told the elevator at Belleville First United Methodist Church is no longer safe to use and it is too old to fix. It would cost \$100,000 to replace it.

Since the Emergency Food Pantry is located in the basement and the food is stored there, this creates a problem. Every Tuesday and Wednesday families come to pick up their free food and pantry workers have to get the food up to them in the parking lot by using a dumb waiter. You know how that works -- all by muscle.

Can someone come up with a solution?

\*\*\*

All those pictures in last week's paper of Belleville Mayor Ken Voigt with his left arm in a sling brought questions. He said he had a shoulder replacement. He said he also had ¾" tumors in the shoulder, but they were all benign. He said his lidocaine for pain ran out after four days so he was really hurting at the Dec. 18 city council meeting, which was the fourth day after surgery.

Mayor Voigt said he thinks his problem with his shoulder stems back to when he was a Belleville police officer and they were doing training on take-downs. The officer who took him down, overdid it and Voigt's shoulder was injured.

He said he may be looking at back surgery as well in the future because of some numbness he is feeling.

\*\*\*

We are sad to hear of the passing of longtime former Sumpter Police Chief Clinton Brown, who was chief when our paper started 30 years ago and continued as chief until his retirement. Chief Brown was very proud of his grandson who was a star basketball player for Belleville High School and then Michigan State.

\*\*\*

Our advertising manager Janet Millard



is out of the hospital after her bout with pneumonia and will be back on the job as soon as her doctor says it's OK.

Meanwhile, Jeannie Wilder volunteered to deliver the 12 bundles of newspapers Janet would deliver on Wednesdays. We appreciate the help.

\*\*\*

Andy at the party store at the corner of East Huron River Drive and Haggerty Road thanked us for writing about the road situation at that corner. He and his family have upgraded the building, paved the parking lot, put in an underground detention pond and water-cleaning equipment and the new gas pumps will be installed soon beneath the new canopy.

They've invested a lot of money and followed Wayne County's rules for the wastewater which is to go into the county pipe under Haggerty, where it will go into the county system. The problem is, the first rain after the hookup flooded the new parking lot.

The county sent out a plumber, but he couldn't poke through the obstruction under the road and wrote a written report that the county pipe had collapsed and while water could flow around it, the soil would get washed away and the road would collapse. He gave Andy a copy of the report and the report number and a phone number to call for updates.

Andy said his general contractor told him to keep on calling until the county fixes the pipe and so he has, but the lady that

answered got rude, and now his calls are not even picked up. They see his caller ID, we guess.

But after reading about the impending collapse of that road, many of Andy's customers are calling the county, too. He called County Commissioner Haidous, too, and expects to hear back from him after the commissioner's Christmas vacation.

A lot of us drivers use that intersection and a collapsed roadway there would be a big problem.

\*\*\*

We've been told that coolant (antifreeze) is very slippery when spilled on asphalt for those walking or driving. At the last meeting of the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees, a report said that coolant had leaked through the backup generator for the sewage lift station at the corner of Willis and Rawsonville roads, into the parking lot of the restaurant there.

When electric outages cut off the power to the lift station there, the backup generator kicks in, allowing the sewage to continue to travel to the Washtenaw County destination. It's been turned off and a backup generator on a trailer is brought in as needed. The generator on the trailer was almost hit by a car on Thanksgiving night. The board voted to get the backup generator fixed.

\*\*\*



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**BELLEVILLE - AREA**

# INDEPENDENT

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## Things to do in the Belleville area...

• **Sunday, Dec. 31** – The Van Buren Eagles, 9961 Beck Rd., invite the public to its New Year's Eve Party. Tickets are \$40 per person and are available at the Eagles and online at [www.foe3996.com](http://www.foe3996.com). Party includes catered buffet dinner, social hour, live music by Saddle Rock, and pizza at midnight.

• **Sunday, Dec. 31** – Kentuckians of Michigan, 28391 Bredow Rd., Romulus, presents New Year's Eve Party with Detroit Derringer. Ticket cost to be announced. Food available. Public welcome. Information: (734) 787-1137.

• **Wednesday, Jan. 10** – Teen Library Vibes from 2:45 to 3:45 p.m. at the Belleville Area District Library. There is a new activity on the second Wednesday of each month. In January it is "Candy Vibes" where they will be making candy sushi. It looks like sushi but is colorful and all candy. Come to the library after school, make sushi, eat candy, hang out.

• **Wednesday, Jan. 10** – Phil Hale Jazz Night at 7 p.m. at the Belleville Area District Library. Bringing the Jazz Club to the community. Enjoy soulful sounds and light refreshments. Presented by the library and the Jazz Foundation of America.

## Birthdays

Dec. 18 – Gary Missant

Dec. 28 – Mandy Maier

Dec. 31 – Jack Maier, Journy Long

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## CBP intercepts 110 lbs. of ketamine in baggage at Metro Airport

U.S. Customs and Border Protection's (CBP) Office of Field Operations intercepted 110 pounds of ketamine in a traveler's baggage at Detroit Metropolitan Airport on Dec. 13, according to a CBP news release on Dec. 20.

A citizen of the United Kingdom arrived on a flight from France and was selected for a secondary inspection. An x-ray scan and physical search of two large suitcases, which the man claimed were given to him by a family member, revealed plastic bags filled with large white crystals.

Field tests identified the substance as ketamine. At \$90 per gram, this ketamine load has a street value of over \$4 million.

CBP officers seized the ketamine and refused admission to the traveler. He was returned to France.

"Our drug interdiction mission is vital to protecting our nation and our communities from the dangers of illicit substances," said Acting Port Director John Ammons.

Ketamine is a Schedule III controlled substance, and while accepted for medical use for short-term sedation and anesthesia, it is abused for its dissociative sensations and hallucinogenic effects. The anesthetic drug has also been associated with sexual assault.

Travelers are encouraged to learn more about current regulations before attempting to bring certain items into the United States to avoid penalties, seizures, and even arrest.

## Upcoming Meetings

• **Tuesday, Jan. 2** – Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.

• **Tuesday, Jan. 9** – Belleville Area District Library board, 7:30 p.m.

• **Wednesday, Jan. 10** – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 5:30 p.m.

• **Thursday, Jan. 11** – Keystone Academy school board, 5 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township Planning Commission, 6 p.m., to hold public hearing for proposed self-serve car wash at 17440 Sumpter Rd. and site plan review of project. Also, Belleville Planning Commission at 7 p.m., with a public hearing at 7:30 p.m. on an ordinance change for seasonal boat storage.

• **Tuesday, Jan. 16** – Van Buren Township regular meeting at 6 p.m. Also, Van Buren Public Schools organizational meeting, 7 p.m., BHS Commons. Also, Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.



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# Obituaries



Woodrow Louis Tabor

## WOODROW LOUIS TABOR

(May 27, 1968 – December 19, 2023)

Woodrow Louis Tabor, age 55, died at his home, on Tuesday, December 19, 2023. He was born to James and Carolyn (Hunter) Tabor in Chicago, Illinois on May 27, 1968.

Mr. Tabor graduated from Princeton High School, West Virginia. He loved the outdoors: fishing, riding ATVs and 4-wheeling. He also loved loud music, and cars, and was especially fond of the 1967 Mercury Comet and 1970 Travel Queen.

Woodrow leaves behind his children: Amber (Trevor) Fountain of Belleville, MI, Joesph (Missy) Tabor of Belleville, MI, Kimberly (Jimmy) Tabor of Ypsilanti, MI; grandchildren: Leighanne, TeeJay, Hailie, Jordynn, Ava, James, Jaxson, Woodrow, Emma, and one on the way who will be named Oden; siblings Laura (Jeff) Rishel of Saline, MI, Krista (Anthony) Andrews of Temperance, MI, and Michelle (Tracy) Norton of Clinton, MI; his former wife of 26 years Loretta Thorsby; good friends Mark Garrison, Don Pulver, Sam and Corey Lawson; also his beloved dog "Frank".

He was preceded in death by his parents and one grandchild, JJ, in November 2019.

A visitation has been scheduled for Friday, December 29, 2023, from 11 AM to 1 PM., with a Funeral Service at 1 PM at the David C. Brown Funeral Home 460 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI 48111. A Cremation has been planned and burial of cremated remains will take place at Highland Cemetery in Ypsilanti, MI. [www.davidcbrownfh.com](http://www.davidcbrownfh.com)

## Sumpter Twp.

(continued from page 3)

than \$230,000. He said the board was asked to approve a contract with Brownstown Township at its last meeting because of the new price from FMAR.

He said Brownstown was Plan B and would cost just under \$75,000 for that contract. He said the FMAR contract would be on the Dec. 12 board agenda for consideration.

"It's a new and interesting world out there, folks," Burdick said.

Public Safety Director/Police Chief Eric Luke said he reached out to Romulus and found their price was about the same as 10 years ago and was too much. He said he didn't want officers running to other jurisdictions with dogs because he feels that is not a good use of the officers' time.

They have considered reopening the former dog pound, but it would have to be recertified and they would have to hire someone to run it or try to get volunteers.

(continued on page 12)

IMPORT AND DOMESTIC



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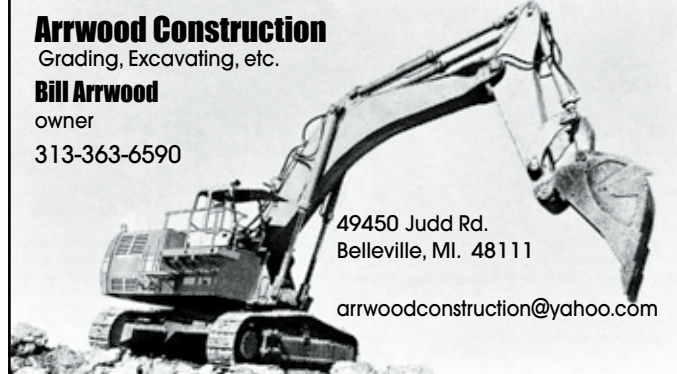
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## Obituaries



Betty Jean Hrabosky

### BETTY JEAN HRABOSKY

(May 3, 1938 – December 19, 2023)

Betty Jean Hrabosky, age 85, longtime resident of Belleville, MI, passed away Tuesday, December 19, 2023. She was born May 3, 1938, in Detroit, MI. Betty was a woman of faith and an active member of Faith Assembly Church, Belleville. She also enjoyed and was very active in TOPS, Belleville. She loved animals, cooking, baking, and being with family. She was always in a good mood, smiling, and was a friend to all.

Mrs. Hrabosky is survived by 7 children: David Hrabosky, John Hrabosky, Jim Hrabosky, all of Belleville, Paul Hrabosky of Nashville, Tennessee, Mary Dobbins of Whitmore Lake, MI, Robin (Bob) Freysinger of Rives Junction, MI, Judy (Richard) Kasperski of Paw Paw, MI; 11 grandchildren: Erin (Chris) Crocker, Megan Ibbetson, William Kasperski, Brianne Sanders, Ryan (Samantha) Kasperski, Matthew Hrabosky, Chelsea Kasperski, Samantha Kasperski, Jacob (Angel) Kasperski, Amber Kasperski, and Caitlin Lamb; numerous great-grandchildren; also many nieces, nephews, extended family and friends. She was preceded in death by her husband Matthew Hrabosky on November 15, 2014; two daughters Cynthia Jean Kasperski and Susan Hrabosky; also, a granddaughter, Jenna Marie Kasperski.

Visitation was December 26, 2023 and Funeral Service was December 27, 2023 at David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI (734) 697-4500. Son-in-law and Rev. Robert Freysinger officiated. Interment followed in Knollwood Memorial Park, Canton, MI.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association and would be appreciated. [www.davidcbrownfh.com](http://www.davidcbrownfh.com)

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[www.duzakcremation.com](http://www.duzakcremation.com)Ronald Fredrick  
Sampson

### RONALD FREDRICK SAMPSON

(October 18, 1939 – December 17, 2023)

Ronald Fredrick Sampson, age 84, long-time Belleville-area resident, passed away Sunday, December 17, 2023, at his daughter's home in Pennsylvania. He was born October 18, 1939, in Detroit, MI, son of Melvin & Dorothy (McKee) Sampson. He received his associate degree from Washtenaw County Community College. Ronald married the love of his life Patricia on July 16, 1960 and was married for 63 Years. He coached Little League in Detroit for a few years. He worked for General Motors for 30 loyal years before retiring. He enjoyed traveling the United States with his wife Patricia for a couple of years. Ron was a very hard worker who enjoyed keeping busy. He then worked for Ford Motor Company after 15 years, as a pipefitter as well, before retiring a second time. He was a Mason at the Belleville Temple and a devoted member of St. Anthony Catholic Church, Belleville.

Ron is survived by five children: Elizabeth Schermerhorn of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Colleen Sampson, Mike (Beth) Sampson, Dennis Sampson, all of Belleville, MI, and Sean (Kelly) Sampson of Livonia, MI; grandchildren: Kyle, Connor, and Carson Sampson, Tiffany Jones, Matthew, Brian, Keighan, Preston, Zoey, Amiyah, Trinity, and Eric Sampson, Melissa Martin, Angie Wolfe, Laurie Schermerhorn, Lyndsey Mercer, and Heide Dunn; 15 great-grandchildren, also numerous nieces and nephews, extended family and many friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, wife Patricia Carole (Proimos) Sampson on May 13, 2023, a sister Patrica Lukerralli, also two brothers Merle and Micky Sampson.

Visitation was Tuesday, December 26, 2023, at St. Anthony Catholic Church, 409 W. Columbia Ave., Belleville, MI 48111. Funeral Mass began at 12:30 PM. Father Bryan Shackett served as Celebrant. Interment followed in Knollwood Memorial Park, Canton, MI. Memorial contributions, in Ron's name, may be made to a Hospice of the donor's choice and would be appreciated.

Arrangements by David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville. [www.davidcbrownfh.com](http://www.davidcbrownfh.com)



Clinton Brown, Jr.

### CHIEF CLINTON BROWN, JR. (ret.)

(End of Watch: December 18, 2023)

Former Sumpter Township Chief of Police Clinton Brown, Jr. died Monday, December 18, 2023. Chief Brown's 33-year law enforcement career culminated with serving the township as chief for 20 years, from 1978 until his retirement in 1997. He then came out of retirement to serve as chief again from 2003 to 2004.

More information will be published when available.



# Obituaries



## JOHN DEAN SHERMAN

(May 22, 1963 – December 20, 2023)

The family of John Dean Sherman, of Ypsilanti, is saddened to announce his home-going on Wednesday, December 20, 2023. John was born on May 22, 1963 to the late James and Rita Sherman in Waukesha, Wisconsin. On April 23, 1982, he married the love of his life, Donna, in their hometown of Buckley, Michigan.

John enlisted in the Marine Corps and served as a devoted veteran between 1982 and 1994, participating in Somalia combat, Operation Desert Storm and other heightened-conflict zones during his tour. Following his military service, John served as a Corrections Officer for the Federal Correctional Institution, Milan, between 1994 and 2015. During his time in the military, John accepted the Lord Jesus Christ into his heart, in 1983, and lived his life as a follower and servant of the Christian faith.

John is survived by a proud legacy through his beautiful family: Beloved husband of Donna Sherman; married for 41 years. Loving father of Robert (Stacy Averill), Ashley, and Alyssa (Joshua Smashey). Proud grandfather of Emily, Sage, Seth, Abigail, Melanie, Madelyn and Andrew. Proud pet-parent of fur-baby, Jax. Brother of the late Ken Sherman and sister, Lynette DeWeese. John leaves behind nieces Elizabeth (Brandon Greer), Faith, Brittney, Hope and nephew Daniel, along with grandniece Cheyenne and grandnephew Aiden.

John was dedicated to his Southeast Michigan community and his extended church family. As a member of River of Life Assembly of God Church since 2004, John was active as a Deacon, Evangelist, Facilities Manager, Security Lead, and Lay Pastor. He served faithfully, worked hard, absolutely loved Christian Rock, and found enjoyment in gathering with people from all walks of life, to share the gospel with them. John was an avid hunter and fisherman; he thrived on good quiet conversation and could make a friend anywhere he went.

John will be sincerely missed by his family and many friends. Funeral Service was held at River of Life Assembly of God Church, 16650 Sumpter Rd., Belleville, MI. 48111 on Wednesday, December 27 at 1:00 PM. Arrangements by David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville. [www.davidcbrownfh.com](http://www.davidcbrownfh.com)



Betty R. Tyler

## BETTY R. TYLER

(March 8, 1931 – December 18, 2023)

Betty R. Tyler, age 92, died on December 18 at home with her family by her side. Born to Roy and Margaret (Gourley) Greene in Detroit, MI on March 8, 1931. Betty worked at Lincoln Consolidated Schools as a Baker for 25 years. Betty loved traveling with her husband and going on casino trips. She was a member of the VFW and liked to golf and bowl but most of all Betty loved her family.

Betty leaves behind her children, Debrha Tyler of Ypsilanti, MI, Margaret (John) Tyler Ypsilanti, MI, and Gerald (Jane) Tyler of Tecumseh, MI. Grandchildren: Gerald (Catherine) Tyler III, Jonathan Tyler, Heather (Devan) Delcourt, Nick (Hannah) Dillon, SarahAnn Goodwin, Rachel (Logan) Johns, Deborah (Tim Cochran) Goodwin, John Goodwin III. Grandchildren: Jaiden, Caleigh, Ethan, Liam, Hudson, Mila, Tallulah, Lincoln, and one baby on the way. Betty is preceded in death by her parents, husband Gerald Tyler in 2020, sisters Margaret Cox and Delores Fraley, and brother Billy Greene.

A cremation has been planned for Betty with a memorial service to be scheduled in the future. Arrangements by David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville. [www.davidcbrownfh.com](http://www.davidcbrownfh.com)

## DOD award

(continued from page 1)

Focused on continual improvement, he also implemented a quality management solution; evaluated business applications; assessed internal processes; improving quality assurance and output.

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as he is."

Prohaska's previous roles within the VFW include director of Administrative Operations, deputy director of Administrative Operations, deputy director of the VFW Foundation, assistant director of Administrative Operations, and assistant director of Membership.

A Bronze Legacy Life member of VFW Post 4434 in Belleville, Prohaska was an All-American District and All-State Post Commander. He has served in numerous leadership roles at the Post, District and Department levels, as well as on many national committees.

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Eighth-grade students from Jessica Radcliff's Tiger Time class at McBride Middle School hand-delivered ornaments they made for staff at Van Buren Township Hall and the police department on Dec. 21. Students dressed in festive apparel and were escorted by School Resource Officer Ryan Bidwell. They walked from McBride to the township hall to spread holiday cheer.

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Photo courtesy of Marilyn Wood Pam Fleming and Craig Bird delivered 14 boxes of food from the Van Buren Township/Belleville Goodfellows to the Emergency Food Closet housed at Belleville First United Methodist Church, 417 Charles St. On the same day, Dec. 19, Belleville First United Methodist Church Pastor Greg Buchner made two trips to Autokiniton Plant 2 at 6201 Haggerty Rd. Autokiniton employees had held a food drive and donated two van loads of food to the food closet. Church volunteers date-checked, sorted, and stored all the donated food. Many families will be helped during this difficult time of year, said food closet coordinator Marilyn Wood.



Photo courtesy of Elena Manalp, Van Buren Township Communications Dept. Wolfie, the dog of Al and Rebecca Church, was chosen by an overwhelming online vote as the Top Dog in the Santa Paws event. Twenty-seven dogs came in to have their pictures taken with Santa at the Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority offices at Harris Park on Dec. 9. Wolfie and his family visited the DDA offices on Thursday to pick up the basket of goodies he won.

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## Court watching

(continued from page 1)

vial with no name on it with what turned out to be 56 fentanyl pills inside. A recent lab report was produced from the Michigan State Police identifying the pills.

He described the blue, round pills as having an "M" in a block on one side and the number "30" on the other side. Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Mohamed Mohamed asked him why he suspected what the pills were and he started to explain a police bulletin he saw from Evansville, IN. At this point, defense attorney Kerry Martin objected to the quote from a bulletin as hearsay evidence. Judge Martin sustained the objection.

Officer Adam said when they first encountered the pill bottle, he advised his partner where his Narcan was and she told him where her Narcan was in case they were accidentally exposed to fentanyl and needed an antidote.

He also testified that once they got the driver identified as Harris back to the jail, they found he had \$2,700 in cash in one pants pocket and a scale in his other pocket.

Under cross examination, Adam also testified that Harris was not the registered owner of the car. The car was run through the Law Enforcement Information Network

(LEIN) to find the owner.

Defense attorney Martin said the car was owned by Rajoun Dell II and he was not present with his car. Martin repeated the name a second time.

Attorney Martin said his client had been hanging out with friends and drove his friend's car to the store to get "juice." Martin said the pills in the center console could have belonged to someone else.

Martin said his client wasn't nervous about the police finding anything in the car. Adam said he didn't note Harris being nervous initially, but he appeared nervous as the questions progressed.

He said he Mirandized Harris and then asked him about it. Adam said Harris said he didn't know anything about the pills.

Martin pointed out that you don't have to weigh pills on a scale. You just count them out. And, there were no small baggies, no one was overdosing or using drugs, and there was no confidential informant, he said.

Martin said it was not his client's car, he was hanging out and then went to get juice. He said there is no evidence to prove the intent of distribution.

"All we have is Mr. Harris driving a car that's not his that happens to have pills in it," Martin said.

Prosecutor Mohamed asked Judge Martin to bind Harris over to circuit court for trial. He said Harris had a large sum of money and scales and 56 pills of fentanyl, "Which is a very dangerous drug to the community."

He said there were drugs in this vehicle and he doesn't need to go into its danger to the community.

Martin argued that Judge Martin should not bind Harris over. He said driving 45 in a 30 or DWLS has no bearing on the drugs charge.

"They weren't using drugs themselves and weren't possessing," Martin said, of Harris and his front seat passenger who was not identified in the testimony. Martin said he does not wish to go into the dangers of fentanyl. Harris was driving his buddy's car, Martin said.

Martin said two and a half years ago was during the pandemic and there were stimulus checks sent to a lot of people. He said many of his clients at that time had cash.

Judge Martin announced she would not bind Harris over on the felony charge, which

(continued on page 13)



## Dos Pesos Mexican Restaurant

**JANUARY SPECIALS** DINE-IN ONLY

**MONDAY - \$6 Margaritas**

**TUESDAY - \$3 Corn Tacos, \$3.25 Flour Tacos**

**WEDNESDAY - \$11 Wet Burrito**

**FRIDAY - Fajitas for 2**

**Hours: M-F, 11 a.m. - 7:45 p.m. • Sat. - Noon to 7:45 p.m.**

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Janet Deaton  
Certified Dog Trainer

janet@dogsbyjanet.com (734) 604-1720

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# Sumpter Twp.

(continued from page 6)

And, then you have to decide what to do with the dogs at the end.

"It's a new day," Luke said. "You no longer can give a person \$50 to take care of a dog." He said FMAR was the best route for the township to go.

Township attorney Rob Young said Brownstown was backup for several years. He asked how often Sumpter had to use Brownstown and Director Luke said it was very rarely used. Luke said it was Plan B for overflow to FMAR.

"We just didn't use the agreement with Brownstown, so we let it expire," Luke said. He said there are usually 50 to 60 dogs a year.

Burdick said he and Director Luke and Finance Director Scott Holtz talked of some options, including having a liaison on the FMAR board to see how FMAR was looking going forward.

He said it doesn't assure the township that it won't be in the same situation eight months down the road. Burdick said these days the types of breeds they are picking up are the types nobody wants to adopt.

At a previous meeting he said the bully dogs are most prevalent.

At the Dec. 12 board meeting, the board approved an amended agreement with FMAR for Jan. 1, 2024 through Dec. 31, 2025 for about \$41,000 annually.

Burdick said the current agreement that is being superceded is \$2,500 a year and the initial proposal to continue the agreement at \$230,000 was basically a "Hail Mary" proposal. He said it was like a contract maintenance fee because they keep the dogs in perpetuity because they are no-kill.

Trustee Matthew Oddy said they need to check to see if there is enough "bite" in the township ordinance to properly assess fees to owners who lose their dogs and the dogs are taken to FMAR for care. He said the township has to make sure they have an ordinance in place to help pay for this 20-fold increase in the yearly cost.

## BONECUTTERS

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# INDEPENDENT CLASSIFIED ADS

## AUCTION

### PUBLIC AUCTION

**NOTICE** is hereby given that on JANUARY 06, 2024 at 12:00 P.M., 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: household items, recreational items, appliances, furniture, misc. M567 & I427, Jennifer Miller; Q905, Tasha Davis; B58, Gary Kaufman; Q902, Mary Gendron; 0711, Gerald Merriweather; G458, Jazmene Long; S949, Timothy Markowski; B55, Corey Barnett; K657, Shunya Cleveland; L500 & L501, Lisa Clark; E216 & I418, Devona Johnson; T981, Chandler Cuts and Snow LLC.

Publish: December 21, 2023 and December 28, 2023

## FOR SALE

REMINGTON SENDERO 300 Win. Mag. with scope. Lots of expensive ammo. \$1000. (734) 740-0277

12/28

## ESTATE SALE

ESTATE SALE. Jan. 6, 7 & 8. Furniture, glassware & tools. 6274 Jefferson in Presidential Estates. (734) 626-6838

01/04

## CONDO FOR SALE

LAKEFRONT BAYSHORE CONDO. 1800 sq ft., includes dock and various updates. \$245,000. Further details call Rodney (734)320-2205. No Realtors please. Open houses Fri. 4:30-6:30 p.m., Sat. & Sun. 1-3 p.m. 48391 Bayshore Dr.

12/28

## MANUFACTURED HOMES FOR SALE

MANUFACTURED HOME in Presidential Estates. 1800 sq. ft. All new hardwood floors. 3-year-old roof. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 car garage. \$120,000. (734) 626-6838

01/11

## LAND FOR SALE

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01/11

## LOST

OVERSIZED WALLET. Lost week of Dec. 18, between N. Harris Rd. & Geddes Rd. Lost from traveling auto. \$100 reward. (734) 695-0819

12/28

"Fear is the path to the dark side.  
Fear leads to anger. Anger leads to hate.  
Hate leads to suffering."

— Yoda

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01/11

### 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.



## SERVICES

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04/04

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01/11

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01/04

### Notice to Advertisers:

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



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## Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

### CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES DECEMBER 19, 2023

Treasurer Budd called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room. Zoom Meeting ID for public participation: 894 2765 4392. Present: Treasurer Budd, Clerk Wright, Trustee Boynton, Trustee Martin, and Trustee Kelley. Absent/Excused: Supervisor McNamara and Trustee Frazier Others in attendance: Recording Assistant Baudry, Director of Community Services Renaud, Communications Specialist Japowicz, Director of Planning and Economic Development Power, Director of Water and Sewer Lawrence, DDA Director Coburn, Director of Parks Locke and an audience of seven.

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

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

**ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA:** Wright moved, Boynton seconded to approve the Consent Agenda: Board Meeting Minutes of November 21, 2023, Prepaid List of November 30, 2023, Prepaid List of December 7, 2023, Prepaid List of December 14, 2023, Voucher List of December 5, 2023, Voucher List of December 19, 2023, Approval of the 2024 Board of Trustees Meeting Schedule and 2024 Township Holiday Schedule, Approval of the Washtenaw Area Mutual Aid Council Interlocal Agreement and Approval of the reappointment of Jill Yob to the Environmental Commission with a term to expire on October 1, 2026. Motion Carried.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** None.

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

Township Hall is closed from December 25<sup>th</sup> until January 3<sup>rd</sup> in observance of the holiday season, the Treasury department will be open on Thursday, December 28<sup>th</sup> from 10 am until 2 pm to receive winter tax payments, in 2024 the Township will conduct at least three elections on February 27<sup>th</sup>, August 6<sup>th</sup> and November 5<sup>th</sup>, the Clerk explained the difference between Early Voting and Absentee Voting, and DDA Director Coburn presented an informational meeting in accordance with PA of 2018.

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

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Boynton moved, Kelley seconded to approve Fishbeck to provide Engineering services for water main installation of an 8-inch water main on Belleville Road between Jeanette and Sunrise in the amount not to exceed \$147,800 from the Water Engineering Fund 592-536-820-000. Motion Carried.

Boynton moved, Wright seconded to approve Fishbeck to provide a Reliability Study and General Plan for Van Buren Township's water system in the amount of \$34,500 to be paid from the Water Fund 592-536-820-000. Motion Carried.

Martin moved, Boynton seconded to approve Fishbeck to provide Engineering services for the North Shore and Beckly Road Pump Station replacements for Van Buren Township's sanitary system in FY 2024 in the amount of \$68,900 to be paid from the Sewer Engineering Fees Fund 592-537-820-000. Motion Carried.

Wright moved, Kelley seconded to approve the Petition and Resolution 2023-36 for the abandonment of a portion of the Bell Creek Drain on a portion of the properties located at 6100, 6110, 6290, and 6480 Haggerty (tax parcel number 83-005-01-0006-000) as provided in Chapter 17 of Public Act 40 of 1956, as amended. Motion Carried.

**REPORTS:** None.

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:** A resident asked if a new Township Hall was being built to which the board informed him that the Township is not building a new Township Hall.

**BOARD COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:** The Board wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, Treasurer Budd reminded residents again the Township will be open on Thursday, December 28 from 10 am until 2 pm to receive winter tax payments and Trustee Boynton and Trustee Kelley thanked the Board for their support during their first year in office.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Boynton moved; Wright seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:41 p.m. Motion Carried.

Leon Wright, Township Clerk

Kevin McNamara, Supervisor

Published: December 28, 2023

## Court watching

(continued from page 11)

she dismissed.

During the exam Martin pointed out that the charges against Harris were originally filed July 26, 2023 and then dismissed by Judge Tina Brooks Green on Oct. 4 for "lack of evidence." Defense attorney Martin said there was no body or dash camera evidence. But Prosecutor Mohamed said it was dismissed because the MSP lab was busy and didn't get to the pills in time for the court session.

The charges were refiled on Oct. 5, went on LEIN on Oct. 6, and Harris was before an out-county judge on Oct. 7. There was no record of his arraignment and so he was arraigned before his preliminary exam on Dec. 6.

Prosecutor Mohamed entered the MSP lab report into the record at the very beginning of the exam, noting that the 56 tablets were tested and found to be fentanyl.

### Background

Harris was video-arraigned Aug. 9 while in custody on three bench warrants from Belleville and Van Buren Township of driving while license suspended in 2020 and additional 2021 charges of DWLS and

delivering / manufacturing of narcotics or cocaine more than 50 grams in Van Buren Township.

A probable cause conference was set for Aug. 23 on the 2020 drugs and DWLS charges. Bond of \$50,000/10% was posted by a bail bondsman. His preliminary exam was set for Oct. 4. At that time charges were dismissed and the cases closed.

The two other DWLS charges had September pretrials and personal bonds of \$3,000 each. He failed to appear for either one and bench warrants were issued.

On Oct. 18 he was present in person for his probable cause conference on charges of delivering and manufacturing drugs and DWLS on May 2, 2021 in the city of Belleville, that were originally dismissed and refiled the same day, his attorney said. His attorney Kerry Martin said he did not have the minimum of discovery and asked for it by Oct. 24 or he will ask for the charges to be dismissed. The prosecutor said the Belleville Police Chief will provide the discovery.

Judge Martin adjourned the probable cause conference until Oct. 25 and at that time the preliminary exam was set for Dec. 6. Judge Martin reminded the defendant he also had hearings for Nov. 2 and 16.



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## City of Belleville Public Notice

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF BELLEVILLE PLANNING COMMISSION

### PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CITY OF BELLEVILLE ZONING ORDINANCE

Notice is hereby given that the City of Belleville's Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing to receive comments on proposed amendments to the City of Belleville's Zoning Ordinance regarding Seasonal Boat Storage.

The Planning Commission will conduct its public hearing on January 11, 2024 at 7:30 PM, during the regular City of Belleville Planning Commission meeting, at the Municipal Council Chambers located at 6 Main Street, Belleville, Michigan.

Copies of the proposed Amendment will be available for inspection by the public at the Office of the City Clerk, 6 Main Street, Belleville, Michigan. Written comments will be received until the hearing record is closed on January 11, 2024. Written comments should be sent to the City of Belleville's City Manager, Jason Smith, at 6 Main St, Belleville, MI, 48111.

Briana Hootman  
Clerk/Treasurer

Publish: 12/28/2023, 01/04/2024



## Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

*There were 173 dispatch calls reported by Van Buren Township police last week including the following.*

### Sunday, Dec. 17:

xxxx – intrusion alarm, Red Oak Dr.  
0028 – family trouble, Van Buren St.  
0309 – traffic stop, Rawsonville Rd./Huron River  
0340 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, W. Huron River Dr./Edgedale Dr.  
0351 – abandoned auto, N. I-94 Service Dr. / Belleville Rd.  
xxxx – intrusion alarm, Village Green Ln.  
0507 – assist fire dept., Village Green Ln.  
0632 – 911 welfare check, Bellridge/Bellridge Blvd.  
1138 – personal injury accident, S. I-94 Service  
1221 – neighbor trouble, Hannan Rd.  
1252 – fraud, Martz Rd.  
1253 – follow-up by officer, Oak Blvd.  
1351 – vehicle lockout, Meadows Cir.  
1352 – motorist assist, EB I-94/Belleville Rd.  
1357 – warrant arrest, E. Jefferson  
1626 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, W. Archwood Dr.  
1655 – civil matter, S. Ponderosa Trl.  
1733 – disorderly, Belleville Rd.  
2223 – 911 welfare check, Stamford Rd.  
2337 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.

### Monday, Dec. 18:

0129 – trespassing, Elwell Rd.  
0715 – vehicle lockout, Alden Ave.  
0729 – private property/property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd.  
1126 – civil matter, Parkwood Dr.  
1303 – fraud, Chloe Ct.  
1418 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Van Born/Hannan Rd.  
1617 – fraud, Haggerty Rd.  
1707 – vehicle lockout, Belleville Rd.  
1726 – property damage accident, EB Michigan Ave./bypass  
1850 – intrusion alarm, Ironwood Dr.  
1940 – civil matter, Parkwood Dr.  
2026 – intrusion alarm, Haggerty Rd.  
2028 – private property/property damage accident, Belleville Rd.  
2054 – animal complaint, Savage Rd./Martinsville  
2109 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Barnwell Dr.  
2144 – civil matter, N. I-94 Service Dr.  
2358 – disorderly, Belleville Rd.

### Tuesday, Dec. 19:

0045 – welfare check, S. I-94 Service Dr.  
0252 – 911 welfare check, Lake Villa Dr.  
0349 – 911 welfare check, Lake Villa Dr.  
0414 – animal complaint, Zachary St.  
0546 – property damage accident, Ecorse Rd. / Belleville Rd.  
0605 – hospice death, Lenmoore Ave.  
0746 – private property/property damage accident, Belleville Rd.  
0837 – breaking & entering, Parkwood Dr.  
0936 – welfare check, Lake Villa Dr.  
1009 – welfare check, S. Ponderosa Trl.  
1024 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, Haggerty Rd./Ecorse Rd.  
1207 – misc. complaint, S. Grove Rd.  
1340 – civil matter, Denton Rd.  
1441 – civil matter, Beckley Rd.  
1628 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, N. I-94 Service Dr./Quirk Rd.  
1726 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Morton Taylor Rd./Van Born Rd.  
1838 – animal complaint, Hannan Rd.  
1742 – vehicle lockout, Belleville Rd.  
2008 – breaking & entering, Sumpter Rd.

### Wednesday, Dec. 20:

0154 – intrusion alarm, Camden Rd.  
0303 – intrusion alarm, E. Huron River Dr.  
xxxx – repossession, Anna Dr.  
0821 – animal complaint, Denton Rd.  
0904 – welfare check, E. Huron River Dr.  
0931 – larceny from auto, S. I-94 Service Dr.  
0926 – disorderly, Parkwood Dr.  
1047 – animal complaint, Van Buren St.  
1048 – property damage accident, Haggerty Rd. / Ecorse Rd.  
1335 – fraud, Belleville Rd.  
1213 – property damage accident, Michigan Ave. / Denton Rd.  
xxxx – repossession, Westlake Cir.

1310 – animal complaint, Estate Dr./Brandi Dr.  
1350 – animal complaint, S. I-94 Service Dr.  
1436 – welfare check, W. Adams  
1442 – domestic, Greenbriar Dr.  
1609 – assist fire dept., Lindsey Dr.  
1628 – civil matter, Jackson St.  
1648 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.  
1832 – intrusion alarm, Gilmore St.  
1848 – intrusion alarm, Birch Dr.  
1832 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Bayshore Dr.  
1938 – vehicle lockout, Belleville Rd.  
1956 – fraud, Belleville Rd.  
2116 – neighbor trouble, Westlake Cir.  
2213 – civil matter, Parkwood Dr.  
2238 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, E. Archwood Dr.  
2329 – domestic, Pond Ridge Dr.

### Thursday, Dec. 21:

0007 – assist other dept., Buchanan St.  
0043 – breaking & entering, S. I-94 Service Dr.  
0454 – noise complaint, Victoria St.  
xxxx – repossession, Parkwood Dr.  
0901 – ordinance violation – all 7300 MICR codes, Haggerty Rd.  
1011 – motorist assist, Rawsonville Rd./Martz Rd.  
1018 – suicidal person, Ecorse Rd.  
1152 – personal injury accident, E. I-94/Haggerty  
xxxx – 911 welfare check, Belleville Rd.  
xxxx – intrusion alarm, S. I-94 Service Dr.  
1551 – welfare check, Hardwood Dr.  
1553 – welfare check, Michigan Ave.  
1659 – fraud, Harbor Ln.  
1934 – vehicle lockout, Belleville Rd.  
2012 – assist other dept., Prairie Ct.  
2029 – parking complaint, Solitude Ln.  
xxxx – intrusion alarm, Brookview Dr.  
2044 – assist other dept., Vernon St.  
2254 – unauthorized driving away of auto, S. I-94 Service Dr.  
2328 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Colonial Rd.

### Friday, Dec. 22:

0005 – domestic, Gilmore St.  
0316 – malicious destruction of property, Brandi  
0505 – assist fire dept., Denton Rd.  
0716 – missing person, Frederick Ct.  
0644 – mental subject, Basswood Cir.  
0801 – larceny from auto, Village Green Ln.  
0837 – misc. complaint, McBride Ave.  
1007 – property check, Ecorse Rd.  
1034 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, S. Bellridge Dr.  
1045 – larceny from auto, Lake Villa Dr.  
1118 – property damage accident, Michigan Ave. / Denton Rd.  
1120 – intrusion alarm, Gilmore St.  
1252 – private property/property damage accident, Belleville Rd.  
1338 – 911 welfare check, Jackson St.  
1346 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Ecorse Rd. / Beck Rd.  
xxxx – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Arcadia Ct.  
1424 – animal complaint, E. Huron River Dr.  
1427 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Haggerty Rd.  
1454 – civil matter, N. Ponderosa Trl.  
1528 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.  
1528 – threat, Water's Edge Ln.  
1606 – juvenile complaint, Denton Rd.  
1702 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.  
1645 – private property/property damage accident, Belleville Rd.  
1645 – suicidal person, Oak Ln.  
1722 – harassment call, Hannan Rd.  
1940 – traffic offense, EB Michigan Ave./bypass  
1942 – domestic, Park Estates Dr.  
2024 – welfare check, Holly Ln.  
2050 – intrusion alarm, Country Ln.  
2123 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Fret Rd.

2224 – assist fire dept., Belleville Rd.  
2315 – welfare check, Belleville Rd.  
2314 – road hazard, Belleville Rd./Ecorse Rd.  
2352 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, Haggerty Rd./N. I-94 Service Dr.

### Saturday, Dec. 23:

0102 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Colonial Rd.  
0221 – assist other dept., W I-94/Haggerty Rd.  
0622 – disorderly, Water's Edge Ln.  
0838 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.  
0851 – civil matter, Parkwood Dr.  
0917 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.

1040 – noise complaint, Rawsonville Rd./Michigan Ave.  
1326 – civil matter, N. I-94 Service Dr.  
1915 – property damage accident. S. I-94 Service Dr. / Beckley Rd.  
1921 – traffic offense, W. I-94/Belleville Rd.  
xxxx – property damage accident, Beck Rd.  
2045 – welfare check, Denton Rd.  
2105 – larceny, Belleville Rd.  
2135 – 911 welfare check, Haggerty Rd.  
2236 – welfare check, Savage Rd.  
2324 – assist citizen, Tyler Rd./Walden Blvd.  
Also on this week's log are 16 traffic stops, four of which were on the I-94 freeway.

## Belleville Police Dispatch Log

### Sunday, Dec. 17:

0115 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, N. Liberty St./Fifth St.  
1020 – found property/child, Belleville Rd./Denton  
1117 – traffic stop, Main St./Denton Rd.  
1301 – property damage accident, South St.  
1608 – property damage accident, N. Liberty/Main  
1755 – traffic stop, E. Huron River Dr./N. Biggs  
1908 – welfare check, W. Columbia Ave.  
2101 – traffic stop, South St.  
2131 – traffic stop, South St./E. Wabash St.  
2229 – assist other dept., Henry St.

### Monday, Dec. 18:

0009 – warrant arrest, Michigan Ave.  
xxxx – repossession, N. Aberdeen Ct.  
1317 – property damage accident, Madelon St./E. Columbia Ave.  
1749 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Clarence St.

### Tuesday, Dec. 19:

0049 – intrusion alarm, Owen St.  
0539 – traffic stop, E. Huron River Dr./Wexford  
0600 – traffic stop, E. Huron River Dr./Loza Ln.  
1628 – civil matter, Main St.  
1807 – civil matter, Main St.  
2046 – traffic stop, South St./E. Wabash Ave.

### Wednesday, Dec. 20:

0435 – hospice death, Church St.  
0849 – juvenile complaint, W. Columbia Ave.  
1317 – juvenile complaint, W. Columbia Ave.  
xxxx – domestic, N. Liberty St.  
2023 – traffic stop, Main St.

### Thursday, Dec. 21:

0827 – juvenile complaint, W. Columbia Ave.  
1410 – assist other dept., Belle Villa  
1451 – traffic stop, Ormond Dr./W. Huron River  
1506 – traffic stop, E. Columbia Ave.  
1520 – traffic stop, Savage Rd.  
1840 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, W. Columbia Ave.

2129 – traffic stop, E. Huron River Dr./S. Liberty

### Friday, Dec. 22:

1026 – disorderly, W. Columbia Ave.  
1027 – juvenile complaint, W. Columbia Ave.  
1251 – neighbor trouble, Sumpter Rd.  
2124 – domestic, Victorian Ln.  
2213 – disorderly, Main St.

### Saturday, Dec. 23:

1451 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Carmell St.  
2125 – traffic stop, N. Liberty St./First St.  
There were 13 traffic stops on this week's log.

## Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

### Sunday, Dec. 17:

0133 – fire dept. assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
0547 – suspicious circumstance, 21000 bl. Sherwood Rd.  
0845 – fire dept. assist, 17000 bl. Odyssey Dr.  
0951 – suspicious circumstance, Rustic Ln.  
1030 – civil matter, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
1052 – assist other agency, 43000 bl. Willow Rd.  
1437 – fire dept. assist, Rustic Ln.  
1509 – animal complaint, 26000 bl. Martinsville  
suspicious  
1532 – 911 hang up, Rustic Ln.  
1731 – assist other agency, Oregon St.  
2028 – traffic complaint/hazard, Ln.  
2327 – welfare check, 19000 bl. Sharon Ct.

### Monday, Dec. 18:

0143 – fire dept. assist, Birch Dr.  
0523 – suspicious circumstance, Montana  
0720 – follow-up investigation, out of township  
0740 – suspicious vehicle, Indiana St.  
1011 – suspicious circumstance, 45000 bl. Harris  
1112 – suspicious vehicle, 18000 bl. Elwell Rd.  
1227 – follow-up investigation, 23000 bl. Sumpter  
1231 – traffic complaint/hazard, Arizona St.  
1310 – welfare check, 19000 bl. Crandell Ct.  
1524 – suspicious person, 44000 bl. Willis Rd.  
1544 – animal complaint, Elwell/Oakville Waltz  
1802 – welfare check, California/New Mexico  
2255 – shots fired, Oakville Waltz/Martinsville

### Tuesday, Dec. 19:

0008 – traffic complaint/hazard, Oakville Waltz Rd./Rawsonville Rd.  
0135 – 911 hang up, 39000 bl. Willis Rd.  
0438 – alarm, 8300 bl. Rawsonville Rd.  
0634 – juvenile matter, Arizona St.  
0650 – malicious destruction of property, Rustic Ln.  
0719 – prisoner transport, out of township  
1041 – fire dept. assist, 25000 bl. Elwell Rd.  
1118 – assault, Rustic Ln.  
1412 – follow-up investigation, 19000 bl. Crandell Ct.

1552 – civil matter, 13000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.  
1746 – death investigation, Ohio  
1949 – suspicious circumstance, 42000 bl. Willis  
2144 – property damage accident, Willow/Sumpter  
2156 – fire dept. assist, Rustic Ln.

### Wednesday, Dec. 20:

0354 – 911 hang up, 20000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
0601 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, 17000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
0607 – 911 hang up, 48000 bl. Bemis Rd.  
0900 – civil matter, Arizona St.  
0907 – fire dept. assist, Carriage Ln.  
0922 – 911 hang up, 45000 bl. Willow Rd.  
1135 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
1241 – animal complaint, 45000 bl. Willow Rd.  
1343 – 911 hang up, 40000 bl. Harris Rd.  
1347 – follow-up investigation, Sumpter/Dunn  
1720 – fire dept. assist, 47000 bl. Arkona Rd.  
1728 – personal injury accident, Rawsonville Rd. / Bemis Rd.

1853 – animal complaint, Sumpter Rd./Kozma Rd.  
1931 – fire dept. assist, 47000 bl. Wear Rd.  
2000 – disorderly person, Washington  
2101 – follow-up investigation, 23000 bl. Sumpter  
2211 – family trouble, 45000 bl. Paris Dr.  
2243 – family trouble, Tulip

### Thursday, Dec. 21:

0354 – operating while intoxicated arrest, Sumpter Rd./Judd Rd.  
0439 – civil matter, Creekside Dr.  
0632 – property damage accident, Savage/Clark  
0905 – follow-up investigation, Sumpter/Bemis  
0915 – fire dept. assist, Stonecrest Dr.  
1033 – family trouble, 41000 bl. Judd Rd.  
1138 – animal complaint, Arizona St.  
1357 – suspicious circumstance, 50000 bl. Willis  
1443 – fraud complaint, 46000 bl. Weimer Dr.  
1502 – citizen assist, 44000 bl. Dunn Rd.  
1512 – fire dept. assist, Oregon St.  
1728 – fire dept. assist, 19000 bl. Sharon Ct.  
1857 – follow-up investigation, Sumpter Rd.  
1859 – fire dept. assist, 48000 bl. Wear Rd.  
1952 – 911 hang up, 24000 bl. Haggerty Rd.  
2149 – 911 hang up, 43000 bl. Judd Rd.

### Friday, Dec. 22:

0511 – harassment complaint, Washington  
0822 – suspicious person, Nevada  
0918 – animal complaint, 44000 bl. Harris Rd.  
1231 – citizen assist, 25000 bl. Clark Rd.  
1603 – civil matter, 39000 bl. Judd Rd.  
1801 – fire dept. assist, Rustic Ln.  
2235 – fire dept. assist, Country Club Blvd.  
2244 – felony warrant arrest, Willis/Rawsonville

### Saturday, Dec. 23:

0146 – suspicious person, Rawsonville/Willis  
0419 – fire dept. assist, Stonecrest Dr.  
0734 – fire dept. assist, 19000 bl. Lohr Rd.  
0942 – 911 hang up, 46000 bl. Wear Rd.  
1044 – civil matter, 23000 bl. Karr Rd.  
1244 – suspicious circumstance, 46000 bl. Willis  
1536 – fire dept. assist, 44000 bl. Judd Rd.  
1814 – animal complaint, 47000 bl. Bemis Rd.  
1823 – assist other agency, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
1939 – shots fired, 45000 bl. Willis Rd.  
2158 – noise complaint, Virginia  
2233 – civil matter, 43000 bl. Willow Rd.  
2345 – welfare check, 46000 bl. Willis Rd.

Also on this week's log are 199 patrol checks, 71 traffic stops, and eight misc. details.





**VAN BUREN**  
CHARTER TOWNSHIP

## Denton Road Bridge Aesthetic SURVEY

As the design phase of the Denton Road Bridge replacement progresses, Van Buren Township is seeking public input in selecting the aesthetic for the bridge. Take the survey below to choose your favorite aesthetic design.

**We want to hear from YOU!**

Scan the QR code to pick your favorite aesthetic for the Denton Road Bridge.



Howard Puchalsky, an artist from Van Buren Township, recently carved and painted an eagle sculpture and presented it to the Van Buren Police Department on Dec. 21. Van Buren Township Police Chief Jason Wright, at left, accepted the gift and said the craftsmanship is absolutely amazing.

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Cynthia and John Weipert of Van Buren Township took a cruise to the Southern Caribbean in November. Here, they are reading their *Independent* in St. Maarten.

You, too, are invited to submit a photo of you reading the *Independent* in an exotic location. Please include the name and address of the person you wish to get the free subscription when it is printed. Include your phone number if you want us to let you know just before goes in the paper. A person may use this offer to get a total of two free subscriptions – and no more.

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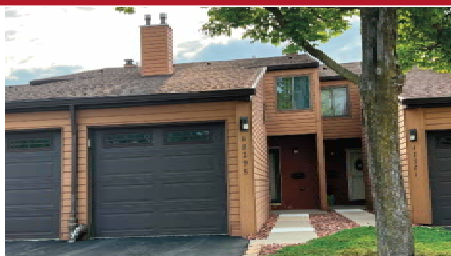
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48295 BAYSHORE, VAN BUREN TWP

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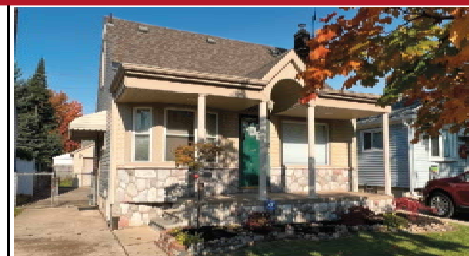
21900 BOHN, SUMPTER TWP

**THREE BEDROOM** 2 1/2 Bath Ranch featuring Hardwood Floors, 3 Seasons Sunroom plus walkout to Huge Deck. Newer Metal Roof, 2 1/2 Car Garage \$279,900



45910 PURPLE SAGE, VAN BUREN TWP

**IMMACULATE** First floor condo with 2 bedrooms and 2 full baths. Some Newer Carpet & Wood flooring, newer refrigerator. Living area, doorwall leading to deck \$159,900



18275 HARMAN., MELVINDALE

**STORYBOOK LOOK!** Beautiful 3 Bedroom home with Hardwood floors everywhere, Full Basement, 4 Seasons room, Large Yard and big Garage plus More. \$164,900



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3136 MILDRED, WAYNE

**IMPRESSIVE BRICK RANCH** 3 Bedrooms, 2 1/2 Baths, Living Room w Fireplace, Family Room, Kitchen with Corian, Full Basement, 2 1/2 Car Garage & more. \$225,000



27900 ROMINE, HURON TOWNSHIP

**BRICK AND VINYL COUNTRY RANCH** Featuring 3 bedrooms, Huge family room, hardwood floors. 1 1/2 car garage PLUS 40x30 Pole Barn. A Clean Dream. \$240,000



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42482 N CUMBERLAND, VAN BUREN

**CUSTOM** 4 Bedroom Colonial, 1st Flr Mstr, Quartz Counters in Kitchen & Baths. Open Living - Dining, Family Rm Full Basement 96% Furnace, Garage w/EV Circuit \$405,000



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**BELLEVILLE 3 RESIDENTIAL LOTS ONE PRICE.** TOTALING .41 ACRES WITH CITY WATER AND SEWER AT STREET ACROSS FROM BELLEVILLE LAKE NOW \$49,000

**3 ACRES - COMMERCIAL CORNER AT SUMPTER AND WILLOW** NOW \$150,000

**GRANT & WAHRMAN 4 ACRES LT IND BY METRO AIRPORT \$250,000**

**SUMPTER RD EXETER TWP 8 AC \$80,000**

**VACANT JUDD SUMPTER 2.1 AC \$45,000**

**VACANT JUDD 8.7 AC. PAVED RD \$85,000**

**HAGGERTY 1.5 AC VAN BUREN \$70,000**

**WILLIS RD 1 AC SEWER & WATER \$60,000**

**HURON TWP VAC CLARK .74 AC \$40,000**

**HURON TWP VAC ASH .87 ACRES \$55,000**

**WILLIS & MARTINSVILLE 1.64 AC \$65,000**

**COLF ROAD EXETER TWP 10 AC \$100,000**

**50540 BOG RD ONE HALF ACRE \$55,000**

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**SUMPTER TWP CLARK 17+ AC \$199,500**

**BROWNSTOWN 27102 DEBIASI \$85,000**

**VACANT MARIO ANN ROMULUS \$38,000**

**6551 BUNTON, YPSILANTI TWP 427 X 1019 10 ACRES PAVED STREET NOW \$200,000**

**19+ ACRES BREST RD, TAYLOR RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT PROPERTY - PAVED STREET NEAR INKSTER ROAD. \$550,000**

**VACANT LOUISA "DREAM LOT" \$55,000**



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