



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 32.3 Thursday, January 15, 2026

Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

FREE



Alma Hughes-Grubbs

District Library Board secretary Alma Hughes- Grubbs dies Jan. 7

(June 3, 1956 – January 7, 2026)

Alma Jean Hughes-Grubbs, an elected member of the Belleville Area District Library Board, died Jan. 7 after a battle with cancer.

Grubbs, 69, of Van Buren Township was re-elected to her third term on the board in 2024 and had been serving as the board's secretary.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, Jan. 23, at Triumph Church, 2760 E. Grand Blvd. Detroit, 48211. A Family Hour is scheduled from 10:30 a.m. until the time of service.

Grubbs had been a polygraph examiner and retired as sergeant from the Detroit Police Department. In 2006, after retiring, she started her own polygraph service.

Grubbs earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Wayne State University and a master of science in administration and human resources from Central Michigan University.

She belonged to the Retired Detroit Police and Fire Fighters Association, American Polygraph Association, and Triumph Church. When she had free time, she liked to golf.

She had lived in Van Buren Township for more than 20 years and said she saw the need for a new library and worked to get the millage passed. She called the library "the jewel of our community."

Belleville to review building plans for Johnny's

By Rosemary K. Oztman

Independent Editor

A site plan for remodeling of Johnny's on the Lake restaurant on High Street is expected to be on Feb. 12 agenda of the Belleville Planning Commission.

Interim city manager Steve Jones told the commission at its Jan. 8 meeting that Johnny's had a fire on its ramp a couple of months ago. Owners thought they would just rebuild, but they changed their minds and now want to remodel.

He said they plan multiple levels of seating. They will be building up, not out, and it will really change the look of Johnny's from the lake, he said.

Jones said it will be a three-tiered dining space on the water and, "It should be nice. It will be a place to hold events on the lake."

The fire reportedly had started on the dock and went up the ramp to the deck.

In other business at the 50-minute meeting on Jan. 8, the commission:

- Re-elected Jim Courage as commission chairman and Julie Kissel as vice-chairperson for 2026. Kissel is also city council representative to the commission. She chaired the Jan. 8 meeting because Courage was absent;

- Heard Kissel remind commissioners of the 5 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 29, meeting of the tri-community planning commissions in the Belleville High School Commons (cafeteria). Members of the planning commissions from Belleville, Sumpter, and Van Buren have agreed to meet together regularly to discuss mutual activities and plans. The meeting is open to the public;

- Was informed the 120-page City Master Plan, on which the planning commission has been working for months, has been approved for distribution by the city council. After review and comments for 63 days by residents, entities, nearby communities and others, it will be back on the commission agenda on March 12 for a public hearing and then recommendation to the city council for approval. Paper



Independent photo by James Oztman

Rather than rebuild the deck that was destroyed in a recent fire, Johnny's on the Lake has decided to remodel. The Belleville Planning Commission was told that at its next meeting on Feb. 12, it would be getting a site plan to consider for a three-tiered dining space on the lake.

copies are to be available for study at the Belleville Area District Library and city hall and also will be on the city website;

- Discussed other projects to work on now that their work on the Master Plan is almost complete. Kissel presented a draft copy of text and a map that explains in detail the boundaries of the three communities, since people often don't know where they really live with a 48111 address. It could be put in Van Buren Today magazine, the city newsletter, and other place, she said;

- Heard Jones report that work on North Liberty is due to begin the week of Jan. 19 and each resident involved will be personally notified with letters put on their doors. He said Scott Jones' property at Third and Main will be used to stage the work. They will work from Doane's Landing toward E. Huron River Dr. and

there will be directional boring. The main line will be laid and new lines put in to each house. It will take a couple of months until completion, if all goes well, Jones said. Then Al's Asphalt will come in and mill and cap the street. Jones said then, the public will have "a new water line and a nice, fresh street";

- Heard commissioner John Juriga ask about progress on the new water meters. Jones replied that they are down to the final 50-75 to replace and these are because there are special issues, like a broken stop box, stop boxes under cement, or can't locate the stop box. He said there was a problem at the high school, on Owen Street, and some businesses. He said the new water meters are functioning and residents can use the ion-App to see their water use in

(continued on page 11)



The Denton Road bridge has been closed by Wayne County for 1,201 days as of today.

(That's 3.29 years or 28,824 hours)

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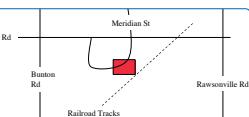
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SECOND FRONT PAGE



Independent photo by Rosemary K. Oztman

After Monday's election of 2026 officers for the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, the board paused for a photo. From left, in front, are secretary Darlene Loyer Gerick, president Amy Pearce, vice-president Dionne Falconer, and treasurer Calvin Hawkins. Standing, from left, are trustees Victor DeLibera, Wade Fields, and David Shall.

School Board re-elects Amy Pearce as president at Monday's meeting

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

At Monday's organizational meeting of the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, Amy Pearce was re-elected board president for 2026.

Also re-elected to their positions were vice-president Dionne Falconer, secretary Darlene Loyer Gerick, and treasurer Calvin Hawkins.

The board voted to establish regular meeting dates, time, and place; approved resolutions to establish depositories for school funds and to authorize investments for 2026; and to designate the superintendent's office to post board meeting notices under the Open Meetings Act.

It was noted that most of the meetings will be on the second and fourth Mondays at 7 p.m. The May 26 meeting is on a Tuesday and there will be just one meeting next December. Two workshops have been set for 6 p.m. at the administration building, one on Tuesday, Feb. 17, and one on Monday, March 16, mainly to discuss the structure of future workshops and to discuss schools of choice.

Board committee membership for 2026 is the same as what it was in 2025:

- Facilities – Calvin Hawkins, Darlene Loyer Gerick, Wade Fields;
- Finance – Amy Pearce, David Shall, Dionne Falconer;
- Health – David Shall, Dionne Falconer, Calvin Hawkins;
- Policy – Amy Pearce, Wade Fields, Vic DeLibera; and

- School Improvement – Darlene Loyer Gerick, Amy Pearce, Vic DeLibera.

Two members of the board are appointed to the Reinstatement Committee per month and the 2026 list is the same as in 2025.

Also, as part of the organizational meeting, the board members received several gifts to mark School Board Recognition Month, including a link to bring them swag from the Van Buren Public Schools, a folder from the district with a certificate identifying each member as a "Champion for Students," and certificates from the Michigan Association of School Boards and the Wayne RESA (Regional Education Service Agency).

The organizational meeting closed and the regular meeting continued.

In other business at Monday's 45-minute public meeting, the board:

- Approved spending \$2,751,126 for the Rawsonville Elementary School Classroom HVAC, Ceiling and Lighting Upgrade with money coming from the district's Sinking Fund. The board was told most of the units have exceeded their 25-year lifespan and are experiencing recurring mechanical issues. The work will start in April and run through the summer with completion in time for fall classes. Sealed bids were accepted in November for the project and it was discussed in detail at the Dec. 15 meeting;
- Accepted the retirement of Belleville High School Spanish teacher Allyson Newman after 31 years of service as of Feb. 28; and accepted the resignation of BHS teacher Brent Coeling as of Jan. 3 after less

than a year of service;

- Approved hiring Michele Kirkwood as a Tyler Elementary School teacher as of Jan. 5;

• Accepted the retirement of Diane Martila as a cook in food service after 22 years of service as of Jan. 1; the resignations of Cynthia Maschat as a school bus driver as of Dec. 15 after six years of service and the resignation of food service worker Wesley Ronquillo on Dec. 17 after less than a year of service. Also accepted was the termination of bus driver Daniel Vealey on Jan. 6 after 24 years of service;

- Approved the hiring of custodians Austin Blaska-Reyes and Collin Ward, both as of Jan. 5; secretaries Pamela Smith at Rawsonville Elementary as of Dec. 19 and Katherine Douglas at BHS as of Jan. 5; and paraprofessionals Lueberta Browne at Edgemont Elementary as of Jan. 5, Danielle Whigham at McBride Middle School as of Jan. 12 and James Belle at McBride as of Jan. 8, and Diaviana Gilliam at McBride as of Jan. 26;

• Heard director of student services Julien Frazier announce the Unified Basketball team's first home game was the next day and the Unified horticulture program is continuing into the second semester. He said a big event for the Unified program will be at 7 p.m., Feb. 17 and everyone is invited;

- Heard school superintendent Pete Kudlak announce that the district's Educational Foundation will hold a Disney Trivia Night on Feb. 20 in the BHS Commons, with

tickets at \$10 each and Kudlak in costume. He said there will be a raffle for a trip to Disneyland;

• Also heard Kudlak announce that Peyton Trammer, a senior on the track team, broke the state record in the 60-meter dash at 6.68 seconds. He said Peyton's feet hardly touch the ground. The girls' state champs basketball team was featured in a television show on Saturday, he said;

• Heard trustee Wade Fields announce he attended the Robotics kickoff on Saturday and the new competition will involve six-inch-diameter balls to be shot into hampers. He said the program calls to switch sides every 20 seconds on who can score;

• Heard president Pearce say that she and secretary Gerick will travel to Washington, D.C. for the National School Board Association meeting on advocacy issues on Feb. 1 and 2, with Feb. 3 as a day on the hill to meet with elected officials; and

• Went into closed-door session to "consider material exempt from discussion or disclosure by state or federal statute," Open Meeting Act Section 8(1)(h). After that meeting, the board adjourned without action.

It's Pothole Season

The Wayne County Department of Public Services said it can't fix potholes unless it knows where they are. Report Wayne County potholes to 1-888-ROAD-CREW.

OPINIONS

Editorial:

Library board will miss Alma Hughes-Grubbs

Alma Jean Hughes-Grubbs was so warm and loveable, you would never know she was a retired Detroit cop. At one point in her career, she ran the lie detector equipment and got people to tell their secrets.

Then she went into business with polygraphs after she retired.

Alma died Jan. 7 at the age of 69.

In her position as secretary of the Belleville Area District Library Board she was very exact in the way she took notes at the meetings and wouldn't take time to join those commenting until the end of the meeting when she could finally pause from her notes.

Those at the meetings usually got hugs from her before the meeting started and she always had a big smile, even when she was suffering with the treatments for her cancer. As the treatments progressed, she wore a mask to meetings, when she could come.

Nobody will be able to replace her.

Social media posts from those at the Detroit Police Department also tell of the smiles and love she gave fellow officers. They also will miss her, they say.

There's a big empty space where she used to be and we will not ever forget her.

When she was able, she traveled to Dubai and showed those of us at the library board meeting the pictures on her phone. It was an amazing place to be and she had a great time. She deserved that.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

SUCH IS LIFE... wood. 5



Some very surprised parents got a call from the Van Buren Public Schools on the afternoon of Jan. 6 to tell them to come pick up their students since the gravel roads were not safe for bus travel. The superintendent wrote a letter saying four buses "got stuck."

Another person agreed, telling me the side roads were "slick as ice."

The next morning, all the buses ran and school was held, much to everyone's relief.

Randy Miller paid 20 cents for a copy of Sumpter Township's new Township Attorney Retainer Agreement that was approved at the Dec. 9 township board meeting without information on how much it was going to cost the residents.

The agreement is between the township and Pentiuk, Couvreur & Kobiljak, P.C. of Wyandotte. The firm designates Randall A. Pentiuk and Robert ("Rob") Young as the principal attorneys responsible for township matters. Other attorneys and staff of the firm may assist as necessary to provide timely and efficient legal representation.

The agreement states the township shall compensate the firm for services for the 2026 fiscal year at a rate of \$160 per hour for all attorney services, "regardless of attorney seniority."

Beginning with the 2027 fiscal year and each year thereafter, the hourly rate shall automatically adjust on Jan. 1 of each year by the percentage change in the Consumer Price Index. It shall not decrease in the event of a negative CPI change.

What this means to the Sumpter taxpayers is that Rob Young no longer can do it all alone what he has done for almost 30 years and needs help. He said that at a meeting.

So, he seems to have joined a law firm and taxpayers are sure to see a rise in legal costs because more lawyers can bill them.

The township didn't go out for low bids for legal services and Young joined a law firm and brought Sumpter to them on a platter.

It would have been nice if someone would have explained all this before the board voted rather than have Randy have to spend 20 cents cash to get his question answered for the rest of the township after the fact.

Thank you, Randy.

We had no idea there had been a fire at Johnny's on the Lake until the Belleville Planning Commission meeting when Steve Jones said the restaurant will be coming to the planners at its next meeting with its remodeling plans after the fire. They decided not to repair, but to remodel, he said.

It's on the lake, so boaters probably knew about it. The new seating will have a lake view and a great view of the new bridge with all its lights at night.

Vesta Losen said she got a call from an old friend who had read the recent *Independent* item about the book Vesta wrote for her family detailing their evangelistic trip to Africa in 1973 as the Seven Singing Losen. Vesta said the lady and her husband knew the family back then. The lady told her that her husband is having Alzheimer issues now, but he perked right up when she read him the item about the Losen family trip.

He no longer can read and she said her husband asked her to read it to him again and he remembered details from back then and was very enthusiastic.

The lady wanted to share this with Vesta because his happy response made her so happy. It made Vesta happy, too.

Vesta is well-known in this community as being the wife of the late Pastor John Losen and for starting the first day care in the community at Bethany Church which expanded to teach Kindergarten as well. She and Tom Bowles won seats on the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education hoping to improve its educational offerings. When they were brushed aside by the superintendent and other board members, they were not deterred. They started Keystone Charter Academy.

At the time, JC Huisenga, founder of National Heritage Academies which runs the school, said Vesta put aside her livelihood at the day care to see to education for the students as they grew. Huisenga was at Keystone for its 20th anniversary a couple of years ago, still praising Vesta.

Vesta retired from her position as president of the Keystone school board almost two years ago. She is not eating chocolates on the couch, however, but lives a busy life still reaching out to help others in need.

www.bellevilleareaindependent.com
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The Belleville-Area Independent

Letters

Atchinson Ford fixed my problem immediately

To the editor:

On Jan. 8, I had an emergency problem with my car.

I pulled into Atchinson Ford. They found the problem and fixed it immediately.

Special thanks to Bryan and Ted. They treated me so special.

Even though my car was out of the warranty, they didn't charge me.

Sandi Fields
 Belleville

Message from Supt. Kudlak sent to parents

Tuesday, Jan. 6

Good evening, parents.

We found out that our dirt roads were ice covered when the high school runs got on them. We had at least four buses get stuck on the ice. With the temperatures in the upper 30s today, this was quite unexpected.

As you know, we had to cancel bus service for those of you that have stops on dirt roads. I know this was incredibly inconvenient for you and I apologize for this. The building and the transportation staff all did a fantastic job keeping your student safe in a confusing situation.

Again, I want to apologize for the late notice. We let you know as soon as possible. I will be out driving the roads in the morning to see if we are able to safely pick up students. If not, we will have to cancel school.

Thank you for your understanding.

Pete Kudlak, superintendent
 Van Buren Public Schools

Editor's note: Parents were advised they had to pick up their students at their schools in the late afternoon on Tuesday, which some were unable to do. School was in session as usual on Wednesday.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

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Food closet distributed 3,116 food bags in 2025

To the editor:

In 2025, the Emergency Food Closet housed at Belleville First United Methodist Church, 417 Charles St., distributed 3,116 bags of food and refrigerator items. 376 families were served and we had 190 new clients. 64% of those with referrals are age 60 and over. 764 more bags were passed out in 2025 than in 2024. \$80,048 was donated and spent on food thanks to the generosity of community residents, local churches and businesses, community groups, and our partnership with Meijer Simply Give.

In addition to monetary donations, many food and personal care donations were received. Without all this support, we could not do what we do to fight food insecurity within our community.

35 volunteers staff the food closet. The Emergency Food Closet is open every Tuesday and Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. If Van Buren Public Schools are closed due to inclement weather, then the food closet will also be closed.

Everyone receives food on his/her first visit. In order to continue to receive food, a referral is needed and one must be a resident of Van Buren or Sumpter townships or the city of Belleville. One can get a referral from a pastor, physician, health agency, school, social worker, or the Salvation Army. Once a referral is received, a client can come twice a month usually for a year.

If you would like to volunteer your time, make a food, personal care, or monetary donation, please call (734) 697-9288.

Thank you for your continued support!

Marilyn Wood, coordinator
 Emergency Food Closet



Jan. 11 – Tom Higgins

Jan. 16 – Kris Faull

Jan. 17 – John Gage, Leon Wright

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

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Obituaries



Elizabeth Slovik

ELIZABETH SLOVIK

October 8, 1955 – January 11, 2026
Elizabeth “Liz” Slovik, age 70, of Van Buren Township, MI, passed away on January 11, 2026, at her home. She was born on October 8, 1955, in Detroit, MI, to Edgar and Eleanor (Ingersoll) Evans. Liz was a real estate agent and loved to hustle in her business and in her life in general. She was the planner, organizer, and overall matriarch of her family. She truly held her family together and enjoyed every moment of it. A doting mother and grandmother, she adored her family. In her spare time, she loved to travel and really enjoyed shopping. A very independent and determined woman, she was full of life and energy. Liz stood firm and passionately in her beliefs. She will be dearly missed.

She is survived by her husband of 48 years, David Slovik of Van Buren Township, MI; her children Andrew (Lori Beason) Slovik of Belleville, MI, Annabell (Nicholas) Evans of New Boston, MI; her brother Denis (Carla) Evans of Chicago, IL; her grandchildren Cora, Mason, Kensley, Olivia, Cecilia, Amelia, Juliana, Athena and Bruce; as well as many nieces, nephews, friends and neighbors. She was preceded in death by her parents Eleanor and Edgar Evans and her brothers Mark and David.

A visitation has been planned for Saturday, January 17, 2026, from 3 p.m. until 7 p.m. and visitation Sunday, January 18, 2026, from 12 p.m. until the time of service of 2 p.m., which will be led by Sister Janet at the David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Drive, Belleville, MI 48111.

BHS at-home game

- Friday, Jan. 16 – Co-Ed Bowling vs. Dearborn at Lodge Lanes 3 p.m.
- Saturday, Jan. 17 -- Boys Varsity Swimming Tiger Invite 12 p.m.
- Tuesday, Jan. 20 -- Girls Basketball vs. Dearborn JV 5:30 p.m. and Varsity 7 p.m.; Boys Varsity Swim vs. Crestwood 6 p.m.

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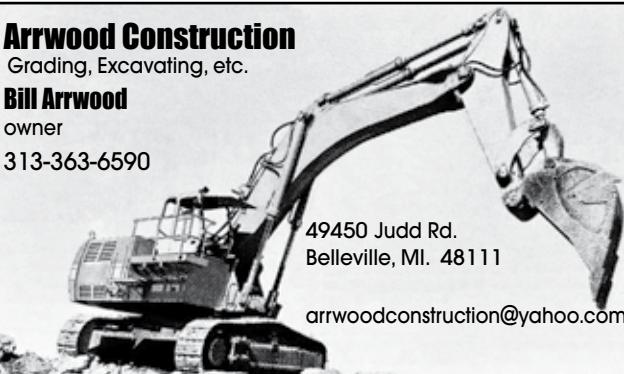
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Obituaries



George Elmer Speaks

GEORGE ELMER SPEAKS

August 1, 1939 – January 12, 2026

George Elmer Speaks, a beloved husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and a local legend passed away peacefully at his home in Belleville, MI, surrounded by his family. He was 86 years old.

George was born on August 1, 1939, in Belleville, MI. He attended Belleville Public Schools and went on to build a life rooted in hard work, creativity, and community.

He was preceded in death by the love of his life and wife of 59 years, Loretta Speaks, whom he missed dearly.

George is survived by his brother, Carl Glen Speaks; his eldest son George (Ahleli Martinez) Speaks II, and his children, Andrew (Sarah) Speaks, Adam (Sarah) Speaks, and George Alejandro Speaks, along with great-grandchildren, Jamie Speaks and Charlie Speaks; and his youngest son, Ken (Allison) Speaks, and their children, Jennifer (Will) Kidney, Staci (Chris) Hewitt, and Ken (Yilian) Speaks II, along with great-grandchildren, Maverick Smith, Andrew Doorlag, Allison Hewitt, Natalie Kidney, Parker Hewitt, and Brady Speaks. His family was his pride, and he loved watching it grow through the generations. George was a hard worker his entire life. He spent 27 years as a welder at General Motors Hydramatic, retiring in 2004. But his true passion was anything with an engine. In the 1970s, he owned Speaks Custom Cycles, where he built custom motorcycles that reflected his creativity and skill. In the 1980s, that passion shifted to street rods and George built numerous street rod race cars for people throughout the area—always willing to lend a hand, some advice, or a tool.

A true icon of the local car community, George was the president and co-founder of the Midnight Cruisers Car Club, which hosted numerous car shows at Van Buren Park and brought together generations of automotive enthusiasts. His passion, leadership, and generosity left a lasting mark on the community he loved.

George will be remembered for his kind heart,

steady presence, strong hands, and deep love for his family. His legacy lives on through the lives he touched, the community he helped build, and the many memories held close by those who loved him.

A celebration of George's life will be held on May 16, 2026 at his residence in Bellevue, MI. Arrangements entrusted to the Baxter Funeral & Cremation Service. (269) 788-9800. www.baxterfuneral.com

RUTH ANN KNOWLTON

December 24, 1955 – January 5, 2026

Age 70, of Jackson. Admissions clerk at Michigan Medicine for more than 35 years. Survived by husband Bruce Knowlton; children Shane Knowlton and Carrie Smith; siblings Paul Burg, David Burg, Marie Smith, and Roger Burg; and seven grandchildren. David C. Brown Funeral Home. www.davidcbrownfh.com

Upcoming Meetings

- Tuesday, Jan. 20 – Belleville City Council, 6:30 p.m. Also, Van Buren Township Board of Trustees, 6 p.m., with 5 p.m. work/study as needed.
- Monday, Jan. 2 – Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m., BHS Commons
- Wednesday, Jan. 28 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 5:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, Jan. 29 – Planning commissions from the city of Belleville, Van Buren Township, and Sumpter Township will meet together at 5 p.m. at Belleville High School. Open to the public.

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More Letters

St. Anthony celebrates Pete Pitzen's birthday

To the editor:

Today [Jan. 10] we gather to celebrate a truly remarkable milestone -- 90 years of Pete Pitzen.

Ninety years represents a lifetime of stories, lessons, love, and memories. It is a testament to a life well-lived and a journey marked by purpose, dedication, and heart. Pete has witnessed decades of change and history in the making, and through it all, he has remained a man of strength, integrity, and quiet wisdom.

Pete is not only admired for who he is, but deeply respected for what he has given. As a veteran, he proudly served his country, answering the call with courage and commitment. His service stands as a powerful example of sacrifice and love for this nation -- one that continues to inspire generations.

Many know Pete as the USA Flag Man -- a role he has embraced with pride and honor. Whether raising the flag, standing beside it, or ensuring it is treated with the respect it deserves, Pete has become a symbol of patriotism in our community. His dedication reminds us that freedom is never to be taken for granted and that honoring our flag is a way of honoring those who served before us.

To his family and friends, Pete has been a source of guidance, laughter, and unwavering support. His stories connect us to the past, his advice steadies us in the present, and his love continues to shape the future.

Today we celebrate more than 90 years --



we celebrate a legacy of service, devotion, and love. Pete's life reminds us that true greatness is found in humility, loyalty, and the impact we leave on others.

Pete, thank you for your service, your patriotism, and your unwavering presence in the lives of those who love you.

Happy 90th Birthday, Pete.

May today be filled with pride, gratitude, and the deep appreciation you so richly deserve.

Stacy VanAssche

Editor's Note: Pete Pitzen's birthday is Jan. 29.

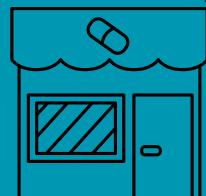
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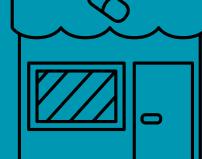


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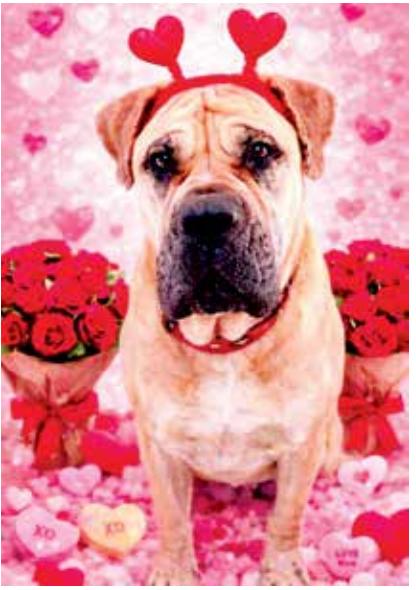
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**ORPHAN
OF THE
WEEK**
LEO



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Leo has what we lovingly call a few "no-no spots," areas on his body that have become sensitive over time and are best avoided. Respecting his boundaries is essential, and when that respect is given, Leo responds with quiet trust and deep loyalty. Once you earn his confidence, he is steadfast and devoted—this is a dog who will never turn on someone he trusts.

Despite his size and his record-breaking drool (truly impressive), Leo's nature is gentle and sweet. He's not looking for chaos or constant activity—he's looking for safety, consistency, and someone who understands that healing takes time. He would thrive in a calm, adult-only home with an experienced large-breed handler who can read his cues, honor his limits, and continue helping him rediscover joy at his own pace.

Leo may not be the right fit for every home—but for the right person, he has the potential to be an incredibly meaningful companion. If you believe in giving dogs the space and patience they deserve, Leo may just be waiting for you.

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Photo courtesy of Jim Foley

Estelle Wilson of Detroit, center, was honored Dec. 6 to celebrate her 80th birthday at a Southfield party with 50 guests. Attending her party were former Wayne County Meals on Wheels volunteers from Van Buren Township. From left are Jim Foley, Alicia Foley, Wilson, Gary Marshall, and Ron Poniatowski. They were among those who served under Wilson for many years in the Meals on Wheels program before she retired in June 2020 as Van Buren Township site manager. "She was the best boss and friend," said Marshall. "It was an honor working with her."

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**Things to do in the
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• **Saturday, Jan. 17** – The Van Buren Community Players present "Journey into Narnia the Musical" from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. for ages 6-11 years. Free creative youth class. Explore musical theater. Build performance confidence. Sing, dance, act. At Van Buren Community Center, 46425 Tyler Rd. Information: (734) 699-8921

• **Saturday, Jan. 17** – Trivia Night at the Pvt. James D. Donovan/Romulus VFW Post 78, 39270 W. Huron River Dr., Romulus, (734) 941-3030. Doors open at 6 p.m.; play starts at 7 p.m. Maximum six per team - \$10 each. Prizes based on participation. Bring your own snacks to share with your team.

• **Friday, Jan. 23** – Margaritas & Tacos, 5-7 p.m. at the Pvt. James D. Donovan/Romulus VFW Post 78, 39270 W. Huron River Dr., Romulus, (734) 941-3030. Proceeds to benefit the Building Fund.

• **Friday, Jan. 30 through Sunday, Feb. 1** – Downtown Plymouth hosts the 2026 Plymouth Ice Festival. More than 150 professionally carved sculptures by world-class sculptors will be on display in downtown Kellogg Park and on sidewalks throughout the downtown area. Demonstrations, warming stations, movies, entertainment, Bingo, family petting farm.

• **Wednesday, Feb. 4** – Chief meteorologist Joel Fritsma will tell all about the Michigan Storm Chasers at the Michigan Flight Museum, 47884 D Street, Willow Run Airport. The talk begins at 7:30 p.m., doors open at 6:30. (734) 483-4030. \$10 per person for non-members; museum members free with registration.

• **Saturday, Feb. 21** – The Van Buren Community Players present "Journey into Narnia the Musical" from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. for ages 12-17 years. Free creative youth class. Explore musical theater. Build performance confidence. Sing, dance, act. At Van Buren Community Center, 46425 Tyler Rd. Information: (734) 699-8921

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Prosecutor arraigns suspect in Nov. 3 deadly shooting at Parkwood Apts.

Carlos Isaiah Payne, 30, of Van Buren Township was video-arraigned in custody at 34th District Court on Jan. 8 on four felony counts surrounding the shooting death in Parkwood Apartments on Nov. 3, 2025.

Judge Lisa Martin set bond at \$200,000 / 10% and a probable cause conference on Jan. 20. The preliminary exam was set for Jan. 27.

Payne is charged with second-degree murder, two counts of interfering with a crime report/commit crime/threaten to kill/injure, and one charge of weapons/felony firearm.

The defendant had also been charged with intent to do great bodily harm less than murder/strangulation and domestic violence on June 6, 2025 in Van Buren Township. The preliminary exam on those charges was Sept. 3, 2025, but the complaining victim failed to appear and the charges were dismissed.

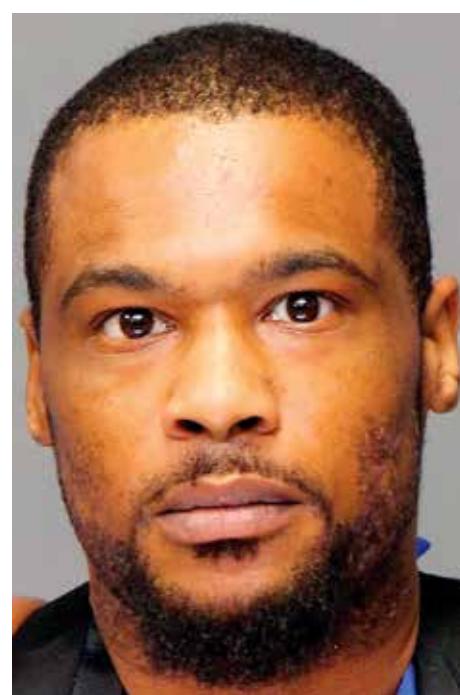
He then was arraigned Sept. 10 on the same charges of intent to do great bodily harm less than murder/strangulation and domestic violence on Sept. 8 in Van Buren Township. He waived his preliminary exam and was bound over to circuit court for an Oct. 8 arraignment on the information. On Nov. 12 he was in court on a tether violation. A jury trial is set for Jan. 14, 2026 in this case and he is being kept in custody at the Wayne County Jail.

Judge Martin ordered no contact with multiple parties in the murder case and the defendant is not to be released without a GPS tether. His appointed Neighborhood Defender Service defense attorney is Kerry Martin.

Police had explained what happened Nov. 3, 2025.

At about 2:18 a.m. on Monday, Nov. 3, the Van Buren Police Department was dispatched to the Parkwood Apartments for a reported shooting inside an apartment. Upon arrival, officers discovered a deceased 32-year-old male from Canton Township who had sustained multiple gunshot wounds.

There were several individuals inside the apartment at the time. Through investigation, detectives were able to identify both the suspect and the suspect's location. Late Monday evening, with assistance from the Western Wayne Special Operations Team, detectives executed a



Carlos Isaiah Payne

search warrant in Ypsilanti Township and took the suspect into custody.

The investigation was ongoing and there was no hurry since the defendant was wanted on other charges by the sheriff. On Dec. 30, the charges surrounding the murder were filed with the prosecutor's office.

Van Buren Township Deputy Police Chief Joshua Monte said the deceased and the suspect were known to each other.

Court Watching

Amanda Star Dixon, 50, of Van Buren Township is charged with assault with intent to murder, discharging a weapon in a building causing injury, assault with a dangerous weapon, three weapons charges, and domestic violence on Nov. 10 in Van Buren Township.

She was video-arraigned in custody on Nov. 13 and her probable cause conference set for Nov. 26. Her preliminary exam was set for Dec. 3. After she retained an attorney, her preliminary exam was reset for Jan. 27. Cash bond is \$50,000.

Van Buren Police say this was a domestic violence incident in a residence in the Hickory Woods neighborhood.

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Belleville Plan

(continued from page 1)

real time and backwards and this is very, very accurate;

• Heard Kissel report that a city clerk noticed that water was continuing to run at the fire hall and a toilet was discovered running. Kissel said they put in a new toilet and this one is ADA-compliant;

• Heard commissioner Raytheon Martin ask about activity at the Bayou Grill. Jones said he doesn't know for sure what is going on there, but on Facebook it seems they are looking for someone to operate it. Jones said the property owner hasn't contacted

the city, but is actively marketing it;

• Heard Jones report that the bank stabilization at Horizon Park will include some terracing and will start at the end of August or September, after Music in the Park is done for the season. Juriga asked if they will plant grass for Music in the Park this year. Jones said the city cut down a bad tree and it's hard to grow grass under a big tree. He said the Downtown Development Authority's geese mitigation program is working, so they probably will do that for another year;

• Learned the TAP (Transportation Alternatives Program) federal grant has been approved by SEMCOG for the city to improve areas on Main Street for pedestrians. Jones said a SEMCOG team was in town to study the downtown when there was a farmers market and car show and then the electricity went out and the team was able to see what that was like and put that in their survey;

• Heard Jones suggest the commission look at updating the city's sign ordinance. He said it was last updated five years ago and there is new technology to consider now. He said other cities and states use a platform in the parking lane for outdoor

seating for restaurants. "We know they are popular and that they work," Jones said;

• Learned the shopping center at the bridge now has all of its units filled. Juriga wanted to know if anyone was working to attract new businesses. Jones said anybody can do that and usually it's the property owners. He said a new bridal shop is in place at the Masonic Temple and another bridal shop is across the street in the shopping center. He said there is a staffing company where Bruders used to be and Crafted has remodeled so there is a lot of seating and it is heavily used on weekends. He said a haircut place opened in the other unit of the former antique shop and it has access from the rear parking lot. Also, Davenport Brothers is working on a new site plan for multi-family residential property between the Co-op and the veterinarian on Sumpter Road. Davenport's site plan was approved in 2023 and now it has lapsed. They are planning something different, Jones said;

• Heard Becky Hasen compliment the looks of the former hardware store now owned by the DDA. She especially liked the new murals and the holiday lights. She also asked about the empty CVS store and Jones said they have signs up but there is no movement. Hasen also said she does not get the city newsletter because it is sent out with the water bill she doesn't get a water bill. Jones said they hadn't thought of that and will put the newsletter online; and

• Heard Jones report that there was a water main valve that needed repair on Edison Street at West Columbia Avenue and you could see the water coming up. He said emergency repairs are being done that night by a DPW crew.

Musings

By Janet Millard
Independent
Advertising Director



The Wayne County Fair Association's Wild Game Dinner is on Saturday, Jan. 17. There may still be tickets available so better jump on their website today if you want to make sure you can get a seat or two: www.waynecountyfairgrounds.net

At 11 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 17, the Belleville Area District Library will have a Gardening Roundtable and registration is not required. I'm sure you will learn something new even if you are a seasoned planter.

Tickets are now on sale for the Van Buren Community Players next play – "The Senior Speed Date." There will be dinner, a show and plenty of laughs. Performances are scheduled for Feb. 14 at 6:30 p.m. and Feb. 15 at 1 p.m. in the Black Box Theatre at Van Buren Community Center. Only two shows, so get those tickets ordered. This should be a great outing for all members of your household and extended household.

The Jeremy D. Stovall Splurge Foundation is accepting new or gently used (clean) prom or formal dresses for their ninth-annual Prom Dress Giveaway. Do a little spring cleaning early to help this very worthy cause. For questions, please call Carmen (734) 325-6226 at Crafted Beanery and Gifts.

Attention all you future brides. Angel Food Catering on the North Service Drive will be having its annual Bridal Blueprint Wedding Show on Sunday, March 22, from noon to 4 p.m. This so close to home and if you haven't already booked your vendors, what a great opportunity for you. Now, for all you prospective wedding vendors, better contact Angel Food before all its spaces get filled!

Do you have an item for this column? Call Janet Millard at (734) 699-9020.

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WITH COUPON • LONNIE'S AUTO COUPON EXPIRES 1-31-26

LET'S GET READY FOR WINTER!
VEHICLE CHECK
Belts, Hoses, Etc.

50 South Street at 5-Points, Belleville • 734-325-7065

More Letters

Friends of Library to hold annual meeting

Dear Friends,

Mark your calendars: Jan. 31, 11 a.m.

The Friends of the Belleville Area District Library will be holding their annual Membership Meeting on Saturday, Jan. 31 at 11 a.m. The Friends will be honoring the many volunteers that have worked on the used-book sales over the years.

Members of the public are invited to attend.

Come and discover the many library programs that are made available by the proceeds of book sales and other fundraisers of the Friends. These projects include maintenance of the rooftop beehives, summer reading programs, jazz nights at the library, classic movie series, Memory Café, and outreach programs.

There will be a short business meeting to give annual reports and elect officers for 2026. The current officers and nominees for a second term of office are: Donna Gilkey-Lavin, president; Katerina Tyner, vice president; Cheryl Owen, secretary; and Manny Lavin, treasurer. Any additional nominations will be taken from the floor. Each attending member of the Friends will have one vote.

Coming Soon:

Spring classic movie series is on the second Thursday of the month, at 6 p.m., starting Feb 12.

Jazz night with Trio Escobar is Wednesday, March 25, at 7 p.m.

Monthly Memory Café is every third Wednesday of the month at 11 a.m.

Please join us!

Elaine Gutierrez, Friends of the Library

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.



INDEPENDENT CLASSIFIED ADS

AUCTION

PUBLIC AUCTION

NOTICE is hereby given that on January 31, 2026 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 items: household items, recreational items, appliances, furniture, and other miscellaneous items. T981, Chandler Cuts & Snow, LLC; F272 & J614, Stephen Kanton; O724, Robert West; O735, Derek Bryant; L501 & L500, Lisa Clark; M567, Jennifer Miller; and S942, Lagrant Rankin.

Publish: Jan. 15 and Jan. 22, 2026

FOR SALE

BATTERY POWERED chair, HD. Good condition, grey & black with charging system. Cash or trade. (734) 252-5185

01/29

FRENCHIES, YORKIES, TEDDY BEAR & Cockapoos. Vet checked, happy puppies, \$599 & up. View available pups at Petcitypets.com Ypsilanti. (734) 487-0800 Come see the difference.

01/22

WESTERN SNOWPLOW- 7 1/2'. \$500 OBO. (734) 417-3233

01/22

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

03/12

FENCE BOARDS 2 x 6 and 2 x 8, reasonable. (734) 461-1414 HAY, round bails (708) 646-7595

06/04

HELP WANTED

CDL DRIVER NEEDED

Immediate Position.
Local Driving, Home
Every Night.
**Kovalak Excavating
Company**
Call 734-645-0100

Local Excavating Company has a position for

**BACKHOE & ALL SMALL
EXCAVATING EQUIPMENT**
Prior Experience Necessary.

PLUS LABORER
**Kovalak Excavating
Company**
Call (734) 461-6838
or (734) 645-0100

WANTED

ADVANCED H & W PAYING CASH

**Buying Junk Cars &
Trucks. Free 7 Day
Pick Up. Call Today!**
(734) 223-5581
(517) 605-6388

D.K. JUNK CAR BUYERS PAY CASH

**We Work
Monday - Saturday.**
734-368-5088
734-545-5195

CASH PAID for sports cards & comic books. Prefer 50's, 60's, & 70's. Private collector, can come to you. (734) 697-3546

01/15/28

INDIVIDUAL with the ability to operate & move musical sound equipment. For details call Julie (720) 435-6212

01/29

WANTED - CARS, TRUCKS & VANS for seniors on low incomes. \$600 - \$6,000 paid for running, fixable vehicles. Call Kelly (248) 338-0852

01/15

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

04/02

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

TFN

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

TFN

VEHICLES FOR SALE

2007 FORD FREESTYLE WAGON. Very clean, no rust, private owner. (734) 695-0819

01/29

1993 LINCOLN TOWN CAR. Low miles, no rust, must see. (734) 695-0819

01/29

1999 LINCOLN CONTINENTAL. Tennessee owned, no rust, private owner. (734) 695-0819

01/29

SERVICES

A & L SERVICES

**Home Improvement &
Handyman Service**
Painting, Drywall, Carpentry,
Electrical, Plumbing,
Ceramic Tile, Kitchens & Bath.
**Serving Belleville Since
1995. Call Aaron Schultz
@ 734-740-0628**

BEYOND HOME IMPROVEMENT

Kitchens - Baths - Decks
Plumbing - Concrete
Doors - Windows - Siding
Gutters - Basements
Drywall - Painting - Hauling
Senior & Veteran Discounts
Call Pete - (734) 636-3741

VETERAN TEACHER available for tutoring. Reasonable rates. K-3. Call Kelly (734) 223-6543

02/05

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

02/05

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

01/15

LARRY'S HANDYMAN SERVICE. No job too small. Interior/exterior painting, wallpaper, plumbing, powerwashing & carpentry. (618) 267-7774

04/03

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.

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.


City of Belleville Public Notice

POLICE VEHICLE AUCTION
NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN BY THE UNDERSIGNED THAT ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2026 at 10AM, at J&T Towing, 287 Industrial Park Drive, Belleville, County of Wayne, Michigan, a public sale of the following vehicle(s) will be held:

2014 LINCOLN MKZ	VIN: 2LN6L2JK2ER827448
2001 MERCURY GRAND MARQUIS	VIN: 2MEFM74W31X693119
2014 FORD FUSION	VIN: 1FA6P0H73E5352612
2009 TOYOTA CAMRY	VIN: 4T4BE46K59R090313

**BELLEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT
6 MAIN STREET
BELLEVILLE, MICHIGAN 48111**

**BY KRISTY DOE
BELLVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT
RECORDS CLERK**

PUBLISH: JANUARY 15, 2026

Charter Township of Van Buren Downtown Development Authority Public Notice
**PUBLIC NOTICE
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)
LANDSCAPING MAINTENANCE SERVICES**

The Charter Township of Van Buren Downtown Development Authority (DDA) is seeking sealed Requests for Proposals (RFPs) from qualified firms to provide **Landscaping Maintenance Services** within the DDA District boundaries of the Township.

Specifications for this RFP may be downloaded from the Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority website at www.vanburennda.com, or obtained in person at the Downtown Development Authority offices, located at **10151 Belleville Road, Van Buren Charter Township, Michigan 48111**, between the hours of **9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday**.

Questions regarding this RFP should be directed to:

Merrie Coburn, Executive Director
Van Buren Township DDA
Phone: 734-699-8941
Email: mcoburn-dda@vbtmi.gov

Proposals must be received by the Van Buren Township DDA no later than **2:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 5, 2026**.

Proposals will be publicly opened at **2:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 5, 2026**, in the Van Buren Township DDA Building Conference Room.

Proposals must be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly labeled:

"LANDSCAPING MAINTENANCE SERVICES RFP"

and addressed to:

Downtown Development Authority
Charter Township of Van Buren
10151 Belleville Road
Van Buren Township, MI 48111

The Van Buren Township DDA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any informalities in the bidding process.

Publish: January 15, 2026 and January 22, 2026

Keystone Academy board reappoints Harsant, Dare to 3-year terms

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

At its regular meeting on Jan. 8, the Keystone Academy board of directors voted unanimously to reappoint Steven Harsant of Van Buren Township and Christina Dare of Sumpter Township to three-year board terms.

The action will be sent on to Bay Mills Community College for final action on the reappointments. Bay Mills is the authorizer for this charter school.

If the Bay Mills board approves the reappointments the two will be sworn into office at the beginnings of their new terms in June.

In other action at its 22-minute meeting, the board:

- Selected Alan C. Young as the auditing firm for 2025-26 and authorized the board president to execute the audit engagement letter;

- Learned the school staff was very appreciative of the \$100 Amazon gift card each received from the board for the holiday season;

- Heard principal Jorvonna Drain announce that six of the Keystone students placed first, second, or third in their grade-level categories for the Bay Mills Holiday Card Contest. Three students – Remy V., Parker S., and Brynn M. – earned first place and their artwork was featured on one of the holiday cards distributed by Bay Mills. Those three – along with Allan G., Scarlett D., and Star A -- received a gift

card in recognition of their creativity and achievement; and

- Learned the resource room teacher has returned from medical leave, a new library technology specialist has been hired, there remains a vacancy for social worker, and they will be hiring two new positions – academic specialist and paraprofessional.

Treasurer Charlene Derrick was absent and excused from the meeting.

Yonge, Gresham named to SNHU Fall 2025 President's List

MANCHESTER, NH -- Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) has named Christopher Yonge and Taishei Gresham, both of Van Buren Township, the Fall 2025 President's List. The fall term runs from September to December.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above for the reporting term are named to the President's List.

Dean's List

Three local students also have been named to the Fall 2025 SNHU Dean's List. They are Parometris Watkins of Van Buren Township, Hope Faith of Belleville, and Koty Brinson of Belleville.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.5 to 3.699 for the reporting term are named to the Dean's List.

Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.



City of Belleville Public Notice



CITY OF BELLEVILLE NOTICE OF CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP SESSION

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the City Council of the City of Belleville will hold a **Workshop Session** on **Thursday, January 22, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.**

Purpose:

To discuss next steps for the City Manager position.

Location:

Belleville City Hall
Council Chambers
6 Main Street
Belleville, Michigan 48111

This meeting is open to the public in accordance with the **Michigan Open Meetings Act, Public Act 267 of 1976, as amended.**

Posted: January 15, 2026

By: Briana Papin
City Clerk/Treasurer

Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

There were 377 dispatch calls reported by Van Buren Township police this week including the following.

Sunday, Jan. 4:

0004 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
0112 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
0120 – shooting, Tompkins St.
0316 – assist fire dept., S. I-94 Service Dr.
0633 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
0754 – assist other dept., Belleville Rd./E. I-94
0802 – motorist assist, Rawsonville/N. I-94 Service Dr.
1032 – intrusion alarm, Rawsonville Rd.
1101 – intrusion alarm, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1112 – vehicle lockout, Parkwood Dr.
1314 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, Tyler Rd./Andover Dr.
1408 – civil matter, Parkwood Dr.
1513 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1541 – family trouble, Hayes St.
1631 – malicious destruction of property, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1808 – domestic, Kirkridge Park Dr.
1844 – traffic offense, Riggs Rd./Martinsville Rd.
1845 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / S. I-94 Service Dr.
2120 – assist fire dept., Maple Dr.
2228 – property damage accident, Sheldon/Beverly
2307 – 911 welfare check, Sunset Pond Cir

Monday, Jan. 5:

0106 – welfare check, Parkwood Dr.
0627 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Pinewood Ln.
xxxx – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
0618 – family trouble, N. Ponderosa Trl.
0855 – civil matter, Pinewood Ln.
0906 – neighbor trouble, Haggerty Rd.
0921 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / N. I-94 Service Dr.
xxxx – repossession, W. Archwood Dr.
1033 – motorist assist, McBride Ave./Beck Rd.
1110 – intrusion alarm, Shagbark Ln.
1119 – civil matter, Christina Ln.
1146 – welfare check, Wildflower Ct.
1309 – civil matter, Paloma Dr.
xxxx – welfare check, Western St.
xxxx – property damage accident, Ecorse/Hannan
1452 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Pinewood Ln.
1451 – property damage accident, Ecorse/Denton
1453 – threat, Chinkapin Dr.
1503 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Old Rawsonville Rd.
1533 – domestic, E. Adams
1556 – disorderly, Belleville Rd.
1640 – welfare check, Belleville Rd.
1658 – all 4100 MICR codes/liquor, S. I-94 Service Dr.
xxxx – welfare check, Coolidge St.
1821 – parking complaint, Belleville Rd.
1807 – property damage accident, Haggerty Rd.
1822 – domestic, Hayes St.
2111 – domestic, Red Oak Dr.

Tuesday, Jan. 6:

0101 – threat, Maple Dr.
0659 – larceny from auto, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0733 – intrusion alarm, Tyler Rd.
0808 – larceny from auto, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0805 – larceny, Harbour Pointe Ct.
1033 – larceny from auto, Denton Rd.
xxxx – intrusion alarm, Morton Taylor Rd.
1032 – private property/property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1039 – welfare check, Elwell Rd.
1013 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1013 – assist fire dept., S. Prairieglass Ct.
1028 – family trouble, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1116 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1134 – malicious destruction of property, Bak Rd.
1142 – welfare check, Ecorse Rd./Haggerty Rd.
1144 – domestic, Westlake Cir.
1323 – property damage accident, Riggs Rd. / Martinsville Rd.
1339 – welfare check, Rawsonville Rd.
1403 – disorderly, Belleville Rd.
1513 – malicious destruction of property, Belleville Rd. / Westlake Cir.
1521 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Dalton Dr.

1527 – property damage accident, Hoeft Rd./Martz
1620 – domestic, W. Huron River Dr.
1844 – larceny from auto, Ecorse Rd.
2112 – warrant arrest, Michigan Ave.
2144 – assist fire dept., S. I-94 Service Dr.
2201 – disorderly, Western St.
2232 – neighbor trouble, Purple Sage Ct.
2254 – malicious destruction of property, S. I-94 Service Dr.

2308 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
2345 – property damage accident, McBride Ave.

Wednesday, Jan. 7:

0026 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
0243 – intrusion alarm, Van Born Rd.
0536 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Bog Rd.

0707 – intrusion alarm, Tyler Rd.
0701 – domestic, Tallgrass Ct.
0710 – property damage accident, W. I-94 / Haggerty Rd.

1011 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Sugarbush Ln.
1100 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Savage

1202 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1202 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1202 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.

1209 – welfare check, Maple Dr.
1235 – welfare check, Parkwood Dr.
xxxx – repossession, Riggs Rd.

1306 – civil matter, Red Oak Dr.
1334 – property check, Timberview Ct.
1625 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.

1629 – intrusion alarm, Preswick Ct.
1727 – missing person, Quirk Rd.
1906 – assist other dept., N. Alexander St.

1925 – larceny, Belleville Rd.
1938 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, Harmony Ln.

2100 – threat, Hannan Rd.
2134 – civil matter, Denton Rd.
2253 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.

2259 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Meadows Ct.
Thursday, Jan. 8:

0018 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
0051 – 911 welfare check, S. I-94 Service DR.

0237 – intrusion alarm, Ecorse Rd.
0727 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
0712 – intrusion alarm, Tyler Rd.

0843 – property damage accident, Michigan Ave. / Denton Rd.

1037 – assist citizen, Ecorse Rd./Denton Rd.
1346 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.

1429 – welfare check, Monroe Ct.
1413 – property damage accident, Belleville/Tyler
1600 – civil matter, S. Woodbury Dr.

1603 – vehicle lockout, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1613 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / N. I-94 Service Dr.

1630 – intrusion alarm, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1637 – property damage accident, Van Born Rd. / Hannan Rd.

xxxx – personal injury accident, Hannan Rd. / Van Born Rd.
1709 – family trouble, Marlowe Ave.

1914 – larceny, Parkwood Dr.
2211 – vehicle lockout, Belleville Rd.
xxxx – repossession, Hamilton St.

2248 – 911 welfare check, Oak Ln.
Friday, Jan. 9:

xxxx – repossession, Birch Dr.
0037 – property check, Ecorse Rd.

0049 – intrusion alarm, Tyler Rd.
xxxx – repossession, Birch Dr.

0243 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
0326 – welfare check, Oak Ln.

xxxx – repossession, Lighthouse Dr.
0713 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.

0713 – intrusion alarm, Tyler Rd.
0711 – property damage accident, Michigan Ave. / Rawsonville Rd.

0726 – fraud, Westlake Cir.
0805 – juvenile complaint, S. Woodbury Dr.

0910 – assist other dept., Ruthan Dr.
0950 – misc. complaint, Basswood Cir.

1004 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, E. Archwood Dr.
1136 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.

1136 – intrusion alarm, Beacon Trl.
1059 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.

1111 – fraud, Savage Rd.

1113 – family trouble, Republic Dr.

1146 – missing person, S. Woodbury Dr.

1145 – road hazard, Belleville Rd.

1228 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1308 – motorist assist, Haggerty Rd./Ecorse Rd.
1335 – assault & battery, Belleville Rd.
1405 – civil matter, Bog Rd.
1610 – larceny, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1700 – welfare check, Belleville Rd.
1716 – sexual assault Belleville Rd.
1817 – assist other dept., Maple Dr.

1816 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, Haggerty Rd./E. Huron River Dr.

1825 – civil matter, Rawsonville Rd.
1849 – threat, Bog Rd.
1911 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.

1945 – suicidal person, Van Buren St.
2039 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Michigan Ave.

2113 – private property/property damage accident, Tyler Rd.

2118 – welfare check, Parkwood Dr.
2222 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
2328 – civil matter, Sumpter Rd.

2342 – warrant arrest, Michigan Ave./I-275
2356 – noise complaint, Lake Villa Dr.
xxxx – welfare check, N. I-94 Service Dr. / Belleville Rd.

Saturday, Jan. 10:

0411 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
0945 – property damage accident, McKinley St.
0947 – motorist assist, S. I-94 Service Dr./Quirk

1102 – intrusion alarm, Haggerty Rd.
1146 – assist other dept., Rawsonville Rd.

1147 – domestic, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1447 – welfare check, Alba Ct.
1628 – welfare check, S. Timberview Dr.

1707 – welfare check, Victoria St.
1718 – missing person, Quirk Rd.

1825 – shooting, Tompkins St.
1849 – assist citizen, Van Born/Hannan
1943 – breaking & entering, Robson Rd.

2004 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Belleville Rd.

2112 – harassment call, Locust Dr.
2118 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.

2134 – larceny, Cobblestone Creek Dr.
2317 – threat, Kirkridge Park Dr.

Also, on this log are 186 traffic stops, 67 of which are on the I-94 freeway.

1953 – civil matter, N. Edgemont Ave.
2028 – misc. complaint, Wexford Ave.

Saturday, Jan. 10:

0245 – welfare check, Carmell St.
0328 – 911 welfare check, Carmell St.
1213 – follow up by officer, Victorian Ln.
1356 – civil matter, Main St.
1406 – found property/child, Sumpter Rd.
1537 – follow up by officer, Victorian Ln.
1724 – assist other dept., Fourth St.
2116 – parking complaint, E. Waterbury Ct.
2150 – intrusion alarm, W. Columbia Ave.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Jan. 4:

0013 – mental health call, Nevada St.
0448 – fire dept. assist, New Mexico St.
1235 – property damage accident, Willow Rd. / Clark Rd.

1400 – mental health call, Creekside Dr.
1629 – mental health call, 48000 bl. Willow

1739 – welfare check, Wayside Dr.

1831 – mental health call, Dakota Ct.

1914 – motorist assist, Rawsonville/Judd

2014 – suspicious vehicle, 24000 bl. Sumpter

Monday, Jan. 5:

0036 – welfare check, Birch Dr.

0047 – motorist assist, Oakville Waltz Rd. / Haggerty Rd.

0539 – family trouble, Birch Dr.

1027 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

1206 – follow-up investigation, out of township
1550 – motorist assist, Bemis Rd./Elwell Rd.

1620 – mental health call, 21000 bl. Clark Rd.

1638 – property damage report, 25000 bl. Karr
1847 – fire dept. assist, 45000 bl. Clay Rd.

2013 – civil matter, 44000 bl. Willis Rd.

2343 – 911 hangup, Arizona St.

Tuesday, Jan. 6:

0753 – suspicious circumstance, 46000 bl. Judd Rd.
1332 – fire dept. assist, 51000 bl. Wear Rd.

1720 – fire dept. assist, 48000 bl. Wear Rd.

1744 – citizen assist, 21000 bl. Clark Rd.

1801 – follow-up investigation, 44000 bl. Wear Rd.

1824 – property damage report, Sumpter Rd. / Arkona Rd.

1836 – property damage report, Sumpter Rd. / Willis Rd.

1856 – assist other agency, 41000 bl. Bemis

2100 – alarm, 8200 bl. Rawsonville Rd.

2215 – fire dept. assist, 23000 bl. Carleton West Rd.

2241 – family trouble, Brookview Dr.

2340 – family trouble, Rustic Ln.

Wednesday, Jan. 7:

0940 – welfare check, 20000 bl. Sherwood

1013 – 911 hangup, Rustic Ln.

1341 – welfare check, Carriage Ln.

1505 – larceny report, 19000 bl. Martinsville

1508 – animal complaint, Rustic Ln./Carriage Ln.

1525 – citizen assist, New Mexico St.

1958 – assist other agency, out of township

2108 – family trouble, Carriage Ln.

2342 – follow-up investigation, Carriage Ln.

Thursday, Jan. 8:

0813 – traffic complaint/hazard, Judd/Fenster

0928 – juvenile matter, Clark Rd.

1321 – welfare check, First St.

1558 – open burning, Carriage Ln.

1631 – larceny report, Utah

1733 – alarm, 22000 bl. Martinsville Rd.

1846 – citizen assist, Rawsonville Rd. / Oakville

Waltz Rd.

2101 – motorist assist, Willow Rd./Schrock

Friday, Jan. 9:

0127 – suspicious circumstance, Carriage Ln.

0822 – fire dept. assist, 4200 bl. Willis Rd.

1019 – welfare check, Willis/Rawsonville

1043 – traffic complaint/hazard, 5000 bl. Willis Rd.

1047 – fire dept. assist, 19000 bl. Sherwood

1106 – death investigation, Carriage Ln.

1131 – animal complaint, 51000 bl. Willis Rd.

1207 – animal complaint, 6700 bl. Oakville Waltz Rd.

1228 – welfare check, 20000 bl. Wilmot Rd.

1537 – fraud complaint, 23000 bl. Sumpter

(Continued on page 15)

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

(continued from page 14)

1540 – suspicious circumstance, 49000 bl. Willis Rd.

1619 – traffic complaint/hazard, 41000 bl. Willis Rd.

1717 – 911 hangup, Kansas St.

2040 – disorderly person, Delaware St.

2218 – noise complaint, Washington St.

2231 – suspicious person, Rawsonville/Judd

2255 – motorist assist, Oakville Waltz Rd. / Sumpter Rd.

2340 – fire dept. assist, 18000 bl. Savage Rd.

2353 – 911 hangup, Mulberry Dr.

Saturday, Jan. 10:

0110 – civil matter, Carriage Ln.

0305 – fire dept. assist, Texas St.

0517 – follow-up investigation, 18000 bl. Martinsville Rd.

0725 – assault, 18000 bl. Martinsville Rd.

1344 – assist other agency, 45000 bl. Willow

1706 – family trouble, Rustic Ln.

1716 – family trouble, Birch Ct.

1720 – fire dept. assist, 51000 bl. Willis Rd.

1844 – motorist assist, Arkona/Rawsonville

2032 – traffic complaint/hazard, Willis Rd. / California St.

2053 – fire dept. assist, Birch ct.

Also on this week's log were 180 patrol checks, 52 traffic stops and 10 misc. details.

**To build a better world,
start in your own community**

Romulus father with gun at school arraigned on seven counts

Shawntez Marshaun Gregory, 44, of Romulus was video-arraigned in police custody at 34th District Court on Jan. 8 on seven counts brought after he allegedly tried to enter Romulus Middle School on Jan. 6 and shot a weapon seven times.

In a news release on Jan. 8, Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy said at about 9:50 a.m., at Romulus Middle School located in the 37000 block of Wick Road, it is alleged that defendant Gregory was approximately a foot away from the building when he fired a handgun several times. He did not fire at the school building.

"The school was placed on lockdown and Romulus police officers were dispatched to the school for reports of an active shooter observed outside of the school. Upon their arrival, officers placed defendant Gregory under arrest. No one was injured in the shooting incident," she said.

"This case is every parent's nightmare. The defendant allegedly fired a gun several times in proximity to the school when he was denied entry to get his son. The immediate reporting of an active shooter by the school allowed the Romulus Police to quickly respond and apprehend the defendant. Luckily, no one was harmed,"

Worthy said.

Judge Lisa Martin denied bond and Gregory remains in the Wayne County Jail. She set a probable cause conference for 8:30 a.m. on Jan. 20 and an 11 a.m. preliminary exam for Jan. 27. Gregory waived the right to talk with an attorney.

Judge Martin ordered him to have no contact with the school, students, his child, ex-wife, or school officials.

He was arraigned on charges of:

- False report or threat of terrorism;
- Threat with intent to commit violence to school employees/students;
- Carrying a concealed weapon;
- Weapons – felony firearm;
- Weapons – felony firearm;
- Possessing weapon in weapons-free school zone; and
- Reckless use of firearm.

Reports said Gregory rang the doorbell, which visitors need to do to get entry to the school, but secretary Maria Scott who knew him from past incidents denied entry. She saw he had a gun and the secretary put the school on lockdown meanwhile calling Romulus Police, who arrived within minutes.

In addition to video from the school capturing the incident, he had been named in multiple trespassing complaints and allegedly had kidnapped his own child from the school.

A family member told channel 7 that when he wasn't taking his mental health

medications there were problems.

During his arraignment on Jan. 8, he refused to identify himself to the court before spewing invective at the judge.

He used multiple curse words, told the judge not to "waste my time no more" before telling her to "get a real job." He also plugged his ears and made faces at the camera before being dismissed.

Prior to leaving court, the judge arraigned him for a separate case in 2024.

That charge was malicious destruction of fire or police property on March 15, 2024 in Romulus. He failed to appear for his May 1, 2024 preliminary exam and a bench warrant was issued. Another preliminary exam was set for June 5, 2024 and at that time he fired his attorney and Chief Judge Brian Oakley referred him for a competency exam.

He failed to appear for a Nov. 26, 2025 court date and a bench warrant was issued. On Jan. 8, 2026 while he was in custody, he was arraigned on the bench warrant and scheduled for a probable cause conference on Jan. 20 and a preliminary examination on Jan. 27.

The warrant was recalled and his bond set at \$10,000/10%.

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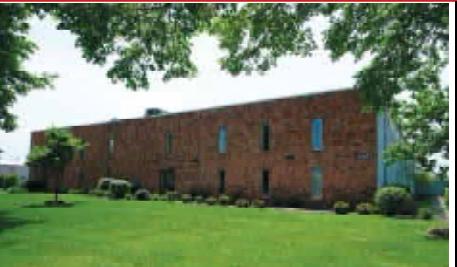
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