



# BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 27.1 Thursday, January 7, 2021

Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

FREE

## Mayor Conley explains marijuana sales will bring new shops to town

By Rosemary K. Otzman  
 Independent Editor

At the regular meeting of the Belleville Downtown Development Authority on Dec. 16, via Zoom, Mayor Kerreen Conley explained that the ordinance passed by voters will bring new shops to the city.

She explained that “lobbyists” came to town – and then changed their description to “petitioners.” They managed to put a ballot proposal to allow marijuana businesses on the Nov. 4 ballot and voters passed it two to one, she said.

“It’s a pretty big impact on the community,” Conley said, noting the city has to determine where facilities would be located and how they would be located.

“Zoning is the only thing we have control of,” she said, noting the planning commission will hold a public hearing via Zoom at 5 p.m., Monday, Dec. 28, to recommend an overlay zoning district for the marijuana industry.

She said a medical marijuana district was originally located in the city’s Industrial-2 zoning and was not used. Conley said for the marijuana industry the I-2 zoning is expanded.

“There will be additional businesses in town next year,” Conley said.

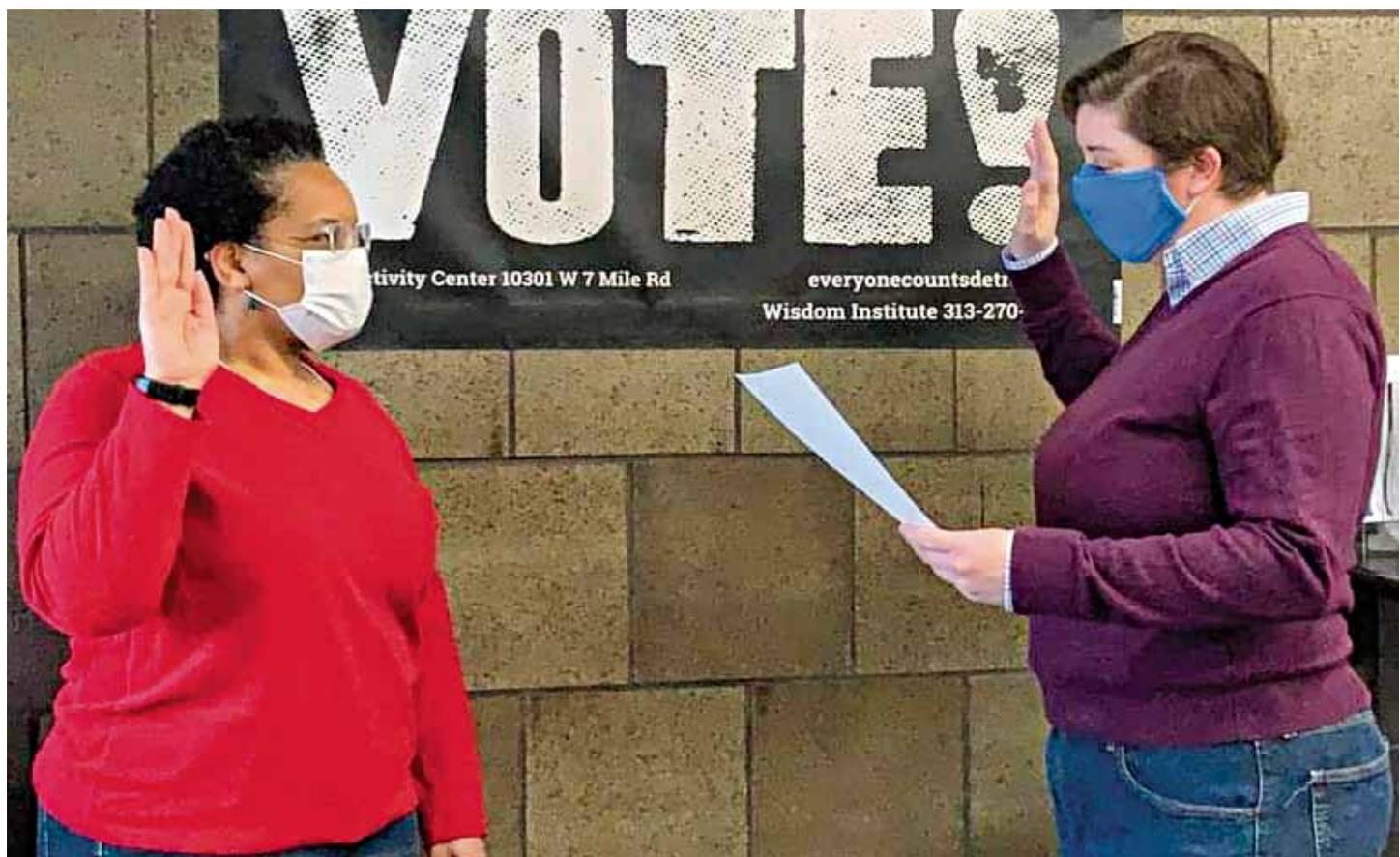
“If we don’t do what we’re supposed to under the new ordinance, rather than charge a \$5,000 fee [to marijuana businesses each year], we could only charge \$100 a year otherwise,” she said.

The overlay district that the planning commission recommends after its public hearing Dec. 28 will then move to the city council for action that same evening.

“There’s plenty of movement going on around the community,” Conley said of the marijuana industry. “It’s a charter amendment that we can’t change easily.”

Mayor Conley said the ordinance allows up to 23 businesses and, “Twenty-three facilities is a lot.”

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Lisa Robinson Martin, left, of Van Buren Township, was sworn in as 34<sup>th</sup> District Court Judge on Dec. 19 by attorney Andrea Enright. Judge Martin said she has postponed having an investiture ceremony until gathering restrictions are relaxed. She began her duties on Jan. 1. Judge Martin replaces Judge David Parrott who was not successful in his reelection bid.

## VBT planners OK preliminary, final site plans for Meijer project

By Rosemary K. Otzman  
 Independent Editor

At its regular meeting Dec. 9, the Van Buren Township Planning Commission approved the preliminary and final site plans for Meijer, Inc., which wants to start immediately to build an addition for shoppers to use when picking up orders.

The 1,680-square-foot addition would be on the south end of the roughly 200,952-square-foot Meijer store at 9701 Belleville Road.

The purpose of the addition is to provide an area to stage and store materials in order to assist with Meijer’s digital online ordering with curbside pickup service.

The project will involve the addition of pedestrian improvements and additional

open lawn, as well as the addition, along with the removal of one tree and minor paving demolition and replacement.

The commission adopted the site plans along with the recommended conditions of approval from the township’s principal planner, engineer, and chief fire inspector, to be addressed prior to the submittal of a *for-construction* plan set.

Director of Planning and Economic Development Dan Power said this *for-construction* plan would include satisfying engineering conditions related to site investigation and demonstrating that there will be no impacts to water or sanitary utilities or stormwater facilities that will necessitate a more-extensive review by the township engineer or the Wayne County Department of Public Services.

The representatives from Meijer, Craig Armstrong and Grant Reynolds, said Meijer is reacting to COVID with curbside pickup at its stores for those ordering groceries online and some prescriptions.

They said this will be at the south portion of the site for a new exterior door where vehicles are staged. They will come from the south to the north to keep traffic from the main store area. The area is slightly to the east so it doesn’t interfere with the grease collection area.

They said the future remodeling of Meijer may occur in 2022 and this area would be remodeled as well at that time.

“We’d like this as soon as possible because we have an accelerated time plan,” said Armstrong, architect of record for the project.

“Many businesses had to adapt quickly to COVID,” said Power. “Meijer is part of that trend. We want to support their efforts.”

He said some things the township can approve administratively, but the planning commission is required to approve additions of more than 1,000 square feet. Power said it was appropriate to approve

(continued on page 12)

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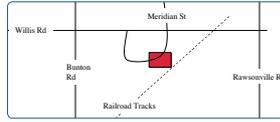
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# SECOND FRONT PAGE

## Court Watching:

# Third defendant arraigned in Egypt Covington murder

By Rosemary K. Otzman  
Independent Editor

A third defendant was arraigned on Dec. 31 at 34<sup>th</sup> District Court in the 2017 shooting death of Egypt Covington in Van Buren Township.

Shandon R. Groom, 28, of Toledo, has been charged with homicide/felony murder and home invasion first degree on June 22, 2017 in Van Buren Township.

During the probable cause conference on Dec. 30 for the second defendant in the murder case, Shane Lamar Evans, 31, of Sumpter Township, Judge Tina Brooks Green said it was her understanding there was a third defendant in the case.

She said they had tried to arraign the third defendant on Dec. 30, but there were difficulties at the jail where he was being held and the arraignment allegedly was to be Dec. 31.

Judge Green said the first co-defendant, Timothy Eugene Moore, 34, of Ohio, has a live exam set for Feb. 22-23 and she would like to get all three cases together.

She said the new defendant, who was yet to be named at the time, any will get a probable cause conference date of Jan. 13 at 11 a.m. before Judge Lisa Martin. Judge Green said she would like to adjourn Evans to the same date.

She said she would talk to Judge Martin about the protective order issued on the discovery, which is voluminous.

Judge Green had ordered the suppression of the investigation report, the felony warrant, and the witness list for Moore and will do so for Evans, as well, along with the new defendant.

Judge Green said she is looking at adjourning the probable cause conferences to Feb. 10 or 17 for everybody to meet up to see where the COVID rules stand. She said she is not sure they will be able to have the live exam on Feb. 22 and 23, as planned.

Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Victoria Shackelford said it will be beneficial to have all three defendants and their three attorneys in place at the same time.

Judge Green adjourned Evans' probable cause conference for two weeks, to Jan. 13, and she commented that she didn't know if Moore's attorney Kristina Joseph needs to be there.

Then, on Feb. 17 all three will be together by Zoom at 11 a.m. because they are all in custody without bond.

Prosecutor Shackelford said some of the evidence is too much to put on evidence.com, so defense attorney Watt is mailing her a hard drive to put it on.



Timothy Eugene Moore

Judge Green said she made a finding of "good cause" for waiving the 14-day rule to hold a preliminary exam because they couldn't do anything live.

First, she said, defense attorney Watt doesn't have time to go through the voluminous evidence, plus the COVID, plus, there's a third defendant now. That is "good cause," she said.

At a previous court session for Moore, Prosecutor Shackelford said there were 4,000 to 5,000 pages of discovery in that case and she expected to call 10 witnesses during the two-day preliminary exam that had been set for Feb. 22-23.

Michigan State Police Detective / Sergeant James Plummer is the officer in charge of the cases.

### Adam Kenneth Sierota

Adam Kenneth Sierota, 35, of Van Buren Township, was before Judge Green on Dec. 30 for his probable cause conference on charges of assaulting / resisting / obstructing a police officer and domestic violence on Dec. 16 in Van Buren Township.

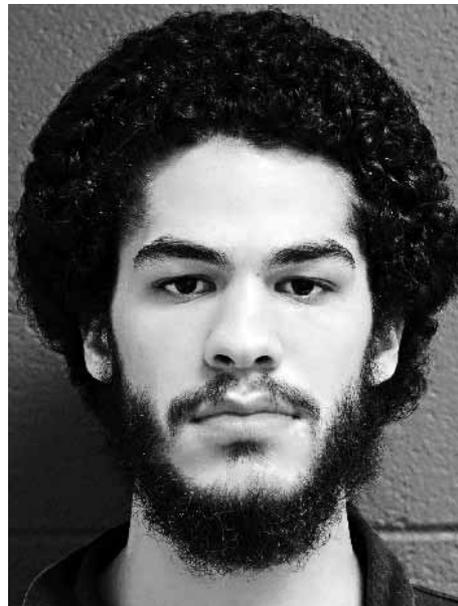
A remote pretrial was set for Feb. 5 at 10:30 a.m. before Judge Green.

His court-appointed defense attorney was Richard W. Glanda and he was free on \$5,000 personal bond with a stipulation he must have no contact with the alleged victim or his home address.

Sierota also has a domestic violence case from Nov. 19 at the same address that has an upcoming remote pre-trial by Zoom before Judge Green also on Feb. 5. Personal bond of \$1,000 was set in this case, also with a no contact stipulation for no contact with the alleged victim or Sierota's home address.

### Chelsey Alison Suggs

Chelsey Alison Suggs, 33, of Taylor is



Shane Lamar Evans

facing charges of possession of analogues and operating while intoxicated/impaired with a controlled substance-2<sup>nd</sup> offense on Feb. 16 in the City of Belleville.

Judge Oakley adjourned her Zoom probable cause conference to Nov. 25. At that time the preliminary exam was waived and Suggs was bound over to circuit court for a Dec. 9 arraignment on the information. A pre-trial session was set for Jan. 22 before Circuit Court Judge Mariam Bazzi. Defense attorney is Edward Holmberg and Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor was Lori Mireles-Smith. Suggs is free on \$2,000 personal bond.

### Scott Cleveland Turner

Scott Cleveland Turner, 40, of Van Buren Township, is facing a charge of retail fraud-1<sup>st</sup> degree on March 18 in Van Buren Township. He is free on \$10,000 personal bond.

On Nov. 4, Judge Oakley adjourned his probable cause conference to Nov. 18 due to an issue with discovery. On Nov. 18 defense attorney Henry Schneider of the Neighborhood Defender Service said he now had full discovery. They waived the preliminary exam and the case was bound over to circuit court for a Dec. 2 arraignment on the information.

### Jason Robert Waarala

Jason Robert Waarala, 46, of Van Buren Township is facing two counts of assault with a dangerous weapon (felonious assault) on Oct. 7 in Van Buren Township.

Judge Oakley adjourned his Nov. 4 probable cause conference until Dec. 2 due to issues with the defense attorney getting discovery. On Dec. 2, defense attorney Stephen Adams said his client wished an in-person preliminary exam. Judge Oakley said that would be set after Jan. 1. Waarala is free on \$5,000 personal bond.



Shandon R. Groom

Adams said he would like a plea deal on the charges from the new Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Jane Gillis and Gillis said she would look into it.

### Ronald Joseph Webb

Ronald Joseph Webb, 56, of Van Buren Township, faces charges of home invasion-1<sup>st</sup> degree and assault with intent to do great bodily harm less than murder on July 10 in Van Buren Township.

On Nov. 4, Judge Oakley adjourned his probable cause conference to Nov. 18 because of problems with the defense getting discovery. On Nov. 18, defense attorney Robert Burton-Harris of the Neighborhood Defense Service said he had the discovery and they would like an in-person preliminary exam. Judge Oakley said it will be scheduled after Jan. 1.

### Kaprice Daney Parker

Kaprice Daney Parker, 37, of Westland, faces a charge of breaking and entering a vehicle with damage to vehicle on Aug. 10, 2019 in Van Buren Township. She is free on \$2,500 personal bond.

Parker's probable cause conference was scheduled for Nov. 25. At that time the conference was adjourned to Dec. 9 because defense attorney Claude M. Chapman said he has yet to get any discovery. Judge Green said she would adjourn the conference to Dec. 9 and would entertain a motion to dismiss the charges then if there is no discovery. The newly assigned Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor is Jane Gillis and Judge Green said she wanted to give her a chance to get the discovery to Chapman.

On Dec. 9, Chapman again said he didn't receive any discovery and renewed a motion to dismiss the charges without prejudice.

(continued on page 11)

# O P I N I O N S

## Editorial

### New year sure to bring changes in Belleville, Sumpter

Area residents are waiting to see what happens next in the tri-community area since big changes have to be coming in the City of Belleville with its new marijuana businesses to be approved soon, as well as in Sumpter Township where the first Republican supervisor in anyone's recent memory is sworn in and seated.

One man told us said he sees lots of law suits coming in Belleville from the people who think a little space on the other side of the tracks is not enough for their marijuana businesses. He said the law suits will cost the city a lot of money and the city probably will have to approve more sites for the businesses after all.

He said the city should have resisted the petition in court from those seeking an ordinance change and all this may have been avoided. Now it looks like Belleville is going to be known region-wide for being the home of marijuana shops.

In Sumpter, the three Democrat incumbents – and one Republican -- that were reelected are digging in their heels to resist their new supervisor. With what looks like a 4-3 power vote, Supervisor Bowman will have a tough time supervising.

Meanwhile, VBT keeps moving forward with development of its tax base and plans for a new rec. center. All they have to do is get rid of this darn COVID-19 pandemic so residents can take a breath of fresh air and live their lives without fear.

### EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

On Monday a *Detroit Free Press* article dealt with the information that tons of Canadian trash are coming to our local landfills because the tipping fees are so low in Wayne County – 16 cents per cubic yard, or 48 cents per ton. The fee hasn't changed since 2006.

The tipping fee is the only thing the county can change, since the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 1992 that Michigan's and St. Clair County's attempts to restrict imported Canadian garbage discriminated against interstate commerce, in violation of the Commerce Clause of the U.S. Constitution.

The tipping fees charged to trucks entering a landfill to dump off waste go to local governments to fund what is supposed to be various solid waste-related programs, the article said.

We have three big, operating landfills in the 48111 area: Carleton Farms in Sumpter Township, Woodland Meadows in Van Buren Township, and the hazardous waste landfill at Wayne Disposal/US Ecology in Van Buren Township. Carleton Farms and Woodland Meadows are Type 2 landfills that accept household waste. Wayne Disposal is in a separate category for toxic waste.

The *Free Press* said Carleton Farms in Sumpter Township is the county's largest landfill, and it also is one of the largest in the state. More than half of the waste disposed of there comes from Canada.

The article points out the 206-acre Woodland Meadows in VBT was approved expanded by 146 acres by the township board in 2018, increasing the landfill's remaining capacity from seven years to nearly 40 years. The agreement also cut off free trash pickup for residents.

\*\*\*



On Tuesday, Fox 2 Detroit published a story about a Van Buren Township couple and their child who were injured when a woman driver in the southbound lane of Belleville Road, between Michigan Avenue and Van Born crossed over into the northbound traffic and hit their vehicle.

This was on Christmas Day. The at-fault driver died in the crash and, according to the Fox 2 report, police suspect alcohol was a factor.

Mariah Miller and Devin Hayes are out of the hospital now, but their 22-month-old son Dominic is in Children's Hospital of Detroit in a halo brace. His parents said he suffered a back injury that will take a long time to heal -- and then there's physical therapy which takes a while.

Friends and family are raising money to help the couple with medical bills and other expenses. There's a gofundme page for Baby Dominic.

\*\*\*

Every year Diane Madigan, who moved to Knoxville, Tennessee, several years ago, sends an amaryllis bulb and planter to our office. It blooms around the holidays and presently Diane's flowers are giving us many, many blooms which are filling our souls with wonder.

This is a special bulb that generally sends out a dozen or more blooms on two or three stocks. This year's color is pink and it is gorgeous.

Bob Mytych, our handy-man advertising director, always puts up a rubber band

connected to a nail in the wall (that we leave in place all year long) just to keep the plant from toppling over. It did one year, over a week end, and we had to save the gorgeous plant and put the soil back in the pot where it belonged. We learned our lesson and Bob does his work each year without having to be reminded.

Thank you, Diane – and Carl, too, for the lovely gift we so enjoy. Diane helped us cover the area when she and Carl were living in Van Buren Township. Now, she usually helps to prepare our annual report on salaries for all the local public bodies, except the court which says it doesn't have to tell us the salaries.

\*\*\*

Last week I was watching a session from 34<sup>th</sup> District Court. This one was an arraignment of an assault case by Zoom from the Van Buren Township police station. It happened at Walmart and before the magistrate appeared the suspect was telling the VBT officer all about what happened when he found out his girlfriend was cheating on him. He was going to ask her to marry him and the rings were in his pocket. They had no idea their conversation was going out worldwide, recorded and available by You Tube.



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**Letters**

**Thanks for your trust, support over the years**

Dec. 24, 2020  
 To the Great Residents of the Tri-Community Area:  
 Season's greetings and happy holidays to you all! For over the 34 years I have called the Belleville Area my home. As my judicial career comes to a close, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the honor of being allowed to serve our community as one of your 34th District Court judges. It has truly been my pleasure and a genuine privilege to have worked with all of you and our other government officials toward making the tri-communities an even better place to live -- you deserve nothing less! During my 18 years on the bench, as well as through my work with numerous civic and community organizations, I have been committed to this goal.



Although I am retiring from government service, my deep admiration and respect for our community and its people means that I am not retiring from public life. If there is anything I can do to continue contributing to the Belleville Area's betterment, please do not hesitate to call on me. Thank you once again for your trust and support over the years.  
 Sincerely,  
 David M. Parrott  
 District Judge

**Belleville/Van Buren Goodfellows thank all**

To the editor:  
 On Saturday, Dec. 19, 2020 the Belleville/Van Buren Goodfellows had the pleasure of distributing half hams, gift cards, and plenty of very special Christmas toys to 70 families with a total of 186 children.

This year, due to Covid-19 pandemic restrictions, we challenged ourselves and carried out a "Drive-Up" distribution. All items were brought out to the registered families and loaded while they waited in their vehicles. This type of distribution was a learning experience for all of our Goodfellows volunteers.

We want to thank all of the families and greatly appreciate their patience and understanding in our endeavor to keep everyone safe.

The Goodfellows would like to give a huge "THANK YOU" to all of the local area businesses, organizations and community residents for their very generous donations and to Van Buren Township for the use of old fire station #2 for our distribution site.

Without all of you, this entire program would not be possible.

A special "THANKS" goes out to all of the volunteers who stepped up and eagerly and cheerfully donated their time and labor shopping for, sorting, pre-bagging and labeling toys, and working on a chilly distribution day.

All of this dedicated teamwork and generous donations allowed this year's program to run successfully and once again helped to fulfill the Goodfellows promise of "No Child Without a Christmas."

The Goodfellows wish everyone a very "Merry Christmas" and the happiest and safest holiday season and give a very special "THANK YOU" to the entire community for your continued support.

Pam Fleming, coordinator  
 Belleville/Van Buren Goodfellows



- Jan. 5 – Orman Reynolds
- Jan. 10 – Kathy Mular
- Jan. 11 – Medina Atchinson, Beverly Berc
- Jan. 12 – Stephanie Smith
- Jan. 13 – Kathi Patton

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To the editor:  
 KonMari Method Organizing Program via Zoom, Jan. 14, 7 p.m.

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Her talk will be given using Zoom, a virtual/video meeting service. It will require set up on your computer or device. Please visit this link for <https://zoom.us/>

Set up is generally quick and easy, but please plan to arrive a little early to the event if you have not set up the software ahead of time.

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 Adult Services Librarian  
 Belleville Area District Library

# Obituaries



Patrick Alan Davis

## PATRICK ALAN DAVIS

Patrick Alan Davis, age 52, of Van Buren Township, passed away Friday, January 1, 2021 at his home. He was born in Wayne, MI, son of Ronald Alan & Julia Ann (Nowak) Davis. He graduated from Belleville High School, class of 1986. He enjoyed fishing and deer hunting. He owned and operated Wild West Jewelry and mainly sold on-line. He enjoyed ballistics and worked closely with Van Buren Township Police. His passion was shooting, therefore he recycled the shells into jewelry after shooting and analyzing them. He was a resource and friend to many and will be deeply missed.

Pat is survived by his wife of 25 years, Jami Lee (Woodsley) Davis, daughter Courteney Davis, mother Julia Davis, twin brother Michael Davis, Sr., nephew Michael Davis, Jr., all of Van Buren Township, MI; niece Tiffany Trojanowski of Florida; great-nieces and nephew: Kayla Davis, Jayden Davis and Kylie Trajanowski; also numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and friends. He was preceded in death by his father Ronald A. Davis on April 7, 2013.

Dignified cremation rites have been accorded. Arrangements were by David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville, MI.

A Memorial Celebration of Pat's life is being planned. It will be in May or June of 2021 and will be announced prior to the Memorial. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations to the American Heart Association would be appreciated. [www.davidcbrownfh.com](http://www.davidcbrownfh.com)

## COVID-19 death total in 48111 rises twp to 49, positive tests at 1,840

The number of people who have died from COVID-19 in the 48111 zip code area rose by two in the last week to 49 as of Monday, Jan. 4.

The positive tests for COVID-19 in 48111 were 1,840 on Monday, Jan. 4, up from 1,751 the previous Monday, Dec. 28.

On Monday, Jan. 4, the separate numbers released by the Wayne County Health Department for the tri-community were: Van Buren Township, 1,215 positive cases, 29 deaths; City of Belleville, 297 positive cases, 16 deaths; and Sumpter Township 328 positive cases, 4 deaths.

## Upcoming Meetings

- Monday, Jan. 11 – Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, Jan. 12 – Van Buren Township Local Development Finance Authority, 2 p.m. Also, Van Buren Township Board of Zoning Appeals, 7 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township workshop and board meeting

at 6 p.m. Also, Belleville Area District Library Board, 7:30 p.m.

- Wednesday, Jan. 13 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m.
- Thursday, Jan. 14 – Keystone Academy School Board, 6 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township Planning Commission, 7 p.m. Also, Belleville Planning Commission, 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, Jan. 19 – Van Buren Township work study session at 4 p.m. and regular

meeting at 6 p.m.

- Monday, Jan. 25 – Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, Jan. 26 – Sumpter Township workshop and regular meeting at 6 p.m.
- Wednesday, Jan. 27 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m.
- Monday, Feb. 1 – Van Buren Township work/study session at 4 p.m. Also, Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.

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<b>Total</b> .....	<b>\$7,125.00</b>
Same Day Service .....	\$6,630.00

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Service Charge .....	\$4,890.00
Ceremonial Rental Casket .....	\$1,095.00
Register Book Package .....	\$140.00
Crematory .....	\$180.00
Cremation Authorization .....	\$75.00
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>\$6,380.00</b>
Same Day Service .....	\$5,885.00

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# Obituaries



Richard J. Moon

## RICHARD J. MOON

1969 – 2020

Rick passed away at home surrounded by his family on December 22, 2020.

Rick was born in El Paso, Texas, and moved here with his parents when he was just a baby. He lived a wonderful life. A man who has made me feel safe and truly loved for 31 years. An amazing Father and Papa who was wrapped around his grand daughters' little fingers. A master of whatever he put his mind to. He spent as much time as he could in nature. Hunting, fishing, riding and just being outside. He also had a huge love for the old Mopars. One of the things that made him happy was to be in the garage making the old beautiful again. He was the kind of person who was there for anyone that needed him. He is a man who has made so many lasting friendships just by being who he was. He would talk to anyone who wanted to take that moment and shoot the shit.

He was preceded in death by his father Gary Moon and survived by his wife Tammy, his daughter Brittany (Tyler) Carver, his son Richard (Kristina) Moon Jr. and two lovely granddaughters, Gemma and Hazel. His brothers Ryan (Mitzi) Moon & Tony (Lori) Wallman, his mother Nancy (August) Wallman. His nephews, Anthony (Kayla) Moon, Nicholas Salisbury (Jordan), Brett Wallman and his niece Tyler Moon. He loved his family and friends like no other. For him, there was no difference in blood or not. He was loved by many and will be missed by many.

## YVONNE LOIS HOLM

(July 22, 1927 – December 21, 2020)

Age 93, of Romulus. Survived by son Ross, daughter Patricia Brasch, two grandchildren and one great-grandson. Cremation rites have been accorded. Arrangements by David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville [www.davidcbrownfh.com](http://www.davidcbrownfh.com)

## MIRIAM LORETTA JOHNSON

(March 6, 1926 – December 29, 2020)

Age 94, of Farmington Hills, formerly of Bloomfield Township. Survived by daughter Anita Hart, two grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, five great-great-grandchildren. Arrangements by David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville. [www.davidcbrownfh.com](http://www.davidcbrownfh.com)



Paul Eric Paige

## PAUL ERIC PAIGE

(September 1, 1959 – December 28, 2020)

Paul Eric Paige, age 61, of Belleville, MI, passed away peacefully, Monday, December 28, 2020 at Heartland Healthcare Center, Canton, MI, after a long battle with kidney failure. He was born September 1, 1959 in Port Huron, MI, son of Paul Ernst & Katherine Mary (Setusic) Paige. He graduated high school and went on to graduate from cosmetology school. He was an avid reader who also loved music and singing. Most of all, his passion was dressing up in full costume and attending the Renaissance Festival every year.

Paul is survived by his niece Krystal (Greg) Leece, their children Alexander and Olivia Leece, all of Belleville, MI; niece Katelyn (Mike Anthony) Palmer of Ypsilanti, MI; nephew Christian Pritt of Romulus, MI; niece Marianne (Corey) Basney, and their children Marcus and Kaylee Basney, all of Berlin Township, MI; his beloved dog Tessa Mae; niece Heather Ormanian and her daughter Kaylynn, and niece Dawn Ormanian, all of Texas. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Dignified cremation rites have been accorded to honor his wishes. Arrangements were by David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville, MI.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and would be appreciated.

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## Belleville DDA

(continued from page 10)

In other business at the DDA's 36-minute meeting, the board:

- Welcomed invited guests from the DDA taxing jurisdiction and presented an illustrated DDA Report on activities for 2020. The report was prepared by DDA Coordinator Carol Thompson and presented by DDA officers: Chairperson Alicia McGovern, vice-chairperson Jason Mida, secretary Denise Baker, and treasurer Sabrina Richardson-Williams;

- Approved the treasurer's report and accounts payable of \$89,567.87, which included a settlement totalling \$58,747.12 paid to the city for street lights for 2018-19 and 2019-20. In 2011 the LED street lights were installed and were supposed to cost less to operate. The city manager is finding out more details for a better explanation of what happened; and

- Heard Thompson report the long-awaited, custom-made tree grates for the Fourth Street Placemaking Project were due to arrive on Dec. 17. She said after the holidays, Blue Ribbon will lay the concrete and install the grates. In the spring they will plant trees and place the other amenities. "I think they'll be really beautiful," Thompson said of the tree grates. The seven grates ordered cost \$7,000 each for a total of \$49,000 for grates. The total project is priced at \$425,000.

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# Library Board approves Remote Work Policy required by MIOSHA

By Rosemary K. Oztman  
Independent Editor

MIOSHA requires the Belleville Area District Library to have a Remote Work Policy in place during the pandemic that requires any staff member who has work that they can do at home to do so.

Library Director Mary Jo Suchy told the library board at its regular meeting, by Zoom, on Dec. 8, that much of the library staff work is interaction with the public, but those in professional positions can work on planning and other things.

"Some you just have to rely on the honesty of the individual," Suchy said.

"Basically, it's the reality of the pandemic," said board chairperson Sharon Peters.

Suchy said libraries must have the policy under law and the policy was created by a library attorney who furnished it to libraries across the state.

The library board unanimously passed the policy. It is implemented as a supplement to the Library's Preparedness and Response Plan that prohibits in-person work for employees if their work can be completed remotely.

Suchy said the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services' COVID order that took effect Nov. 18 reduced the library's maximum occupancy to 30%.

That 30% equals about 60 people in the library, counting the staff, she said.

She said indoor gatherings are restricted at this time, hence the need to return to Zoom library board meetings. The Nov. 10 regular meeting had been in person, the first in-person meeting since March.

Suchy said the library has purchased in-room air filters for the staff workrooms in order to increase the air exchange in those rooms. The filters are capable of filtering to 1.10 microns and can assist in reducing the potential of COVID airborne transmission, she said.

In addition, the library has purchased in-room humidifiers for the staff workrooms, Suchy said.

She said other libraries in southeast Michigan have had to close temporarily due to discovering an employee who has tested positive for COVID. Libraries that

have had to close for deep cleaning and staff contact tracing and quarantining include Canton, Novi, Westland, Pontiac, Bloomfield, Baldwin, and Oxford.

"Hopefully we can get through until there is a vaccine," she said.

Suchy also reported the exterior wireless access points at the library have been installed.

"Punching through the walls to run the wires to the outside proved to be a very difficult process, but Dean and George persevered," Suchy said.

She reported all library programs are virtual now and most likely will be for the next few months.

"Thanks to the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce, Santa made an appearance to the kids from within our circular entryway," Suchy said. "Children were able to wave at Santa through the glass in the hour before the WinterFest fireworks and place their letters in his mailbox."

She said the children had a mike to talk to Santa, who wore a mask, and got a picture taken on the bench in front and each child got a bag of goodies.

At the hour-long meeting on Dec. 8, the board also:

- Approved authorizing the library director and the board president as signatories for MERS contracts;

- Approved regular meeting dates for 2021 as 7:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month. Notices of special meetings will be posted at least 18 hours before the meeting;

- Approved 13 days the library will be closed in 2021 for holidays plus April 2 for a staff training day. "We took away Strawberry Festival because there's no Strawberry Festival," Suchy said. "That's a big change for the community," board chairperson Sharon Peters said. "It's a positive change," board members John Juriga and Mary Jane Dawson said together. "That's from our Belleville residents," chairperson Peters said, implying they should know what they are talking about since they live in the city where the festival has been held;

- Heard Joy Cichewicz give a report on the previous week's building committee

meeting. She said the dishwasher is fixed, the key panel installed, and there was a lengthy discussion on a program for temporary art display. She said the library gave Hennessey Engineers, which works for the city, \$80,000 for their services. She said they are done with 90% of the testing and they have to follow up with Rick Rutherford on the refund. She also said the Belleville Police Department asked for plans of the new library building and she gave it to them "five minutes ago." Juriga said they should check with Belleville Fire Department and Van Buren Township want plans, too;

- Heard Cichewicz and Suchy report they talked with architect Dan Whisler on ways to make the building safer during the COVID crisis and Whisler presented a plan totalling \$125,000, including needle point bipolar ionization. Suchy said she checked to see if the library had the money for this and it does so they are doing the whole

plan suggested by Whistler;

- Heard Peters say there are extra telephone poles in the parking lot that are yet to be removed by AT&T and Comcast. She said people are telling her we've made parking spaces in front of poles. "The parking lot will look better after the poles are gone," she said;

- Heard Juriga say he was walking by the parking lot the previous Sunday and he noticed kids on bikes were enjoying the area, but no skateboarders. He said the bike riders were going down the bioswale and, "That's an attractive nuisance." Peters said skateboards wouldn't work there because there are stones at the bottom. "They'd only do it once," Dawson said;

- Also heard Juriga say he registered the humidity in the building and it registered 17, "not as good as it should be. I'm glad you're getting a humidifier"; and

- Agreed to move the director's evaluation to January.



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The Belleville High School football team takes to the field once again this week, hopefully to close out the fall season and pursue a state championship title along the way with a home game versus Cass Tech this Saturday, Jan. 9, at 1 p.m. Both of these Division 1 teams are 9-0 on the year with the regional championship title on the line. The winner will advance to take on the winner of Romeo and West Bloomfield

next weekend in the state semifinals with the finals slated in two weeks at Ford Field. As of this writing, the game will be live-streamed by subscription to the NFHS Network and on Fox Sports Go, the website/app of the Fox Sports Detroit local cable channel which is showing Detroit Catholic Central at Davison beginning at 1 p.m. No fans will be permitted at BHS. The weather should be the best we could ask for with a January football game outdoors in Southeast Michigan. The forecast calls for partly sunny skies, temps in the low 30s, and no precipitation. Go, Tigers!

The Yankee Air Museum is offering Rivet like a Rosie on Jan. 23 and Feb. 27, from noon to 2 p.m. both days at the museum at Willow Run Airport. The cost is \$35 per person at the adult-only event, with only eight adults permitted per time slot. Masks must be worn and participants must be 18 years or older to take part. Participants will be able to try their hands at being a real-life Rosie the Riveter, where they will learn how to rivet sheet metal using non-powered hand rivets, as instructed by the YAF's very own Tribute Rosies. Call (734) 483-4030 and visit [www.yankeearmuseum.org](http://www.yankeearmuseum.org). The Museum will also be opening a new exhibit Jan. 11 - Dec. 31 titled "Fatal Crossing," a traveling exhibit based on the award-winning book "Fatal Crossing," which explores the mysterious disappearance of Northwest Airlines Flight 2501 in the waters of Lake Michigan in 1950, where

all 58 people on board died. The exhibit tells the story of the passengers along with some of their personal possessions that were later recovered. The exhibit is free with purchase of museum entry.

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While new construction continues along the first block of Main here in Belleville, the new Lunch Box on Telegraph Road near Annapolis Road in Dearborn Heights opened Jan. 2 but for pick-up and delivery only at this time. Rodney Herald, the owner of the former Belleville Lunch Box, vows he will be back in town, hopefully later this year. Meanwhile visit them at [www.lunchboxdearbornhts.com](http://www.lunchboxdearbornhts.com) and on Facebook, Instagram, Grubhub, Uber Eats, etc. For carry-outs call (313) 789-7177.

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## Forgotten Harvest to continue free food distribution in VBT

Van Buren Township and Forgotten Harvest will continue to host free pop-up food pantries every Tuesday from 2 to 4:30 p.m., or while supplies last, starting Jan. 12.

Anyone in need can drive up to the distribution area outside of the Community Services entrance at Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Rd. Volunteers will load fresh groceries into the vehicle of anyone in need.

"We're really excited to be continuing the free food distribution partnership with Forgotten Harvest," said Township Supervisor Kevin McNamara in a township news release. "We know many of our residents and neighboring residents are in need of food and we hope this helps them during these challenging times."

There are no registrations or forms to fill out. If you would like to pick up food for another family or neighbor, provide a name, address and the number of people living in the household and /or the number of senior citizens in the household (if applicable).

The distribution model of all Forgotten Harvest Pop-Up Pantry events is from "truck to trunk." Have all trunks free of belonging and cleared for easy loading of groceries.

If interested in volunteering, call the Senior Center at (734) 699-8919.

For more information about the Van Buren Township pop-up pantry visit <https://vanburen-mi.org/> or <https://www.forgottenharvest.org/>

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

- **Thursday, Jan. 7** – Red Cross Blood Drive, 1-7 p.m., Van Buren Township Hall. Call 1-800-733-2767 to make an appointment.

- **Saturday, Jan. 9** – Belleville High School football team's regional finals against Cass Tech at BHS field, 1 p.m. Postponed from previous Jan. 2 date.

- **Tuesday, Jan. 12** – Forgotten Harvest Free Food Give Away runs from 2 to 4:30 p.m., or while supplies last, starting today and running every Tuesday at Van Buren Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Rd. Volunteers will load fresh groceries into the vehicle of anyone in need.

- **Tuesday, Jan. 12** – Forgotten Harvest Food Give Away at noon every Tuesday until further notice at Romulus High School, 9650 S. Wayne Rd. Sponsored by Wayne County Executive Warren C. Evans and hosted by Romulus Community School District. Information: Virginia Williams, (734) 673-8396

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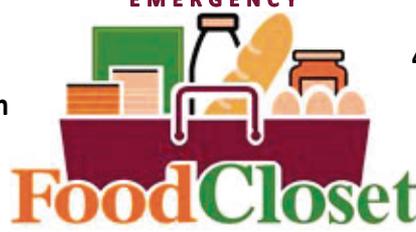
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# B-25 Mitchell bomber 'Yankee Warrior' gets new paint job

Yankee Air Museum's B-25 Serial Number 33634 is fully repainted to the original colors it wore when it emerged from a North American Aviation assembly plant in Kansas City 77 years ago.

The plane now reflects its role in American history as a combat veteran flying out of Corsica in the Mediterranean Theater of Operations. The re-paint project, courtesy of Kalitta Air, is complete.

"It looks fantastic," said Kevin Walsh, president and CEO of Yankee Air Museum. "I am very anxious to see it outdoors, in natural light. The Kalitta Air team has delivered a remarkable, authentic paint job" at its Oscoda facility.

Walsh looked back to Monday night, Dec. 28, 2020 when the Yankee Air Museum's B-25 maintenance crew had been working on mechanical components of the plane throughout the day. They reinstalled ailerons and other panels on the plane. These parts were removed and painted separately during the project. The elevators, which control the plane's ascent and descent will be weighed and balanced at the museum's Willow Run base before being reinstalled.

"Just like in World War Two, the last official paint to go on the plane, are the '9C' squadron identification markings on the tail, said Walsh. "These were applied, and the paint job is complete."

Walsh said that over the next couple of weeks the museum's mechanics will return with the balanced elevators, reinstall them and complete a series of mechanical inspections. He said the plane will need to have engine runs and a test flight before it ferries home, to Willow Run.

"Our B-25 did not have any nose art, or a name when it was in the war," said Walsh. "We will name it and get an artist to paint period-correct nose art later this year."

Walsh said the B-25 will honor history and fly to air shows this summer to educate people about the gallantry of our Greatest Generation.

"Yankee Air Museum salutes Conrad 'Connie' Kalitta with great appreciation and thanks everyone at Kalitta Air for making this project possible," concluded Walsh.



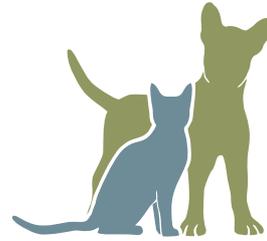
The B-25 repainting project could not have been accomplished without a crew of museum volunteers who travelled to Oscoda, spent a few overnights, and took time away from their families this holiday season, said Walsh.

Like many non-profit organizations, Yankee Air Museum could not fulfill its mission without the time, skills and labor donated to it by volunteers.

He said with heartfelt appreciation, these B-25 project members are recognized: Paul Hakala, Chief of Maintenance; Angel Estrada, B-25 Crew Chief; and volunteers: Grant Schwartz, Darrel Bazman, Brian Gawronski, Rich Koski, Nick Consiglio, Tim Wedig, Eric Esckelson, Luke Noble, Bob Bailey, Joe Provost, Gene Wedekemper, Justin Walsh and Patrick Trevas. The B-25 pilots for this mission, flying without heat in the cockpit: Mike Vetter and Delane Buttacavoli.

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# Court watching

(continued from page 3)

Prosecutor Gillis said it was emailed to him on Nov. 25, right after the last court session. "I didn't receive it," Chapman insisted.

Judge Green said Gillis is an officer of the court and she takes her word on this. Gillis said she could give him the police department where he could go to get the discovery. "I'm in my office right now and I don't have it," Chapman insisted. Judge Green asked Gillis to email it to Chapman again and Gillis made sure the address was right and sent it again.

Judge Green reset the probable cause conference to Jan. 13 in front of Judge Lisa Martin.

## Quann Alexander Patterson

Quann Alexander Patterson, 33, of Ypsilanti is facing charges of possession of firearms by a felon, weapons-felony firearm, carrying a concealed weapon, and operating while intoxicated / impaired / controlled substance - 2<sup>nd</sup> offense on Sept. 26 in Van Buren Township.

Defense attorney is Stephanie Farkas of the Neighborhood Defense Service of Detroit. Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor was Lori Mireles-Smith.

On Nov. 4 Farkas told Judge Oakley that her client would like a live exam. It was set for 2:30 p.m. on Dec. 16 and then removed from the calendar and reset for a new date to be determined after Jan. 1.

## Tiara Renea Malone

Tiara Renea Malone of Eastpointe had a live exam set for 8:30 a.m. Nov. 23. Her attorney, Glen Oh of the Neighborhood Defender Service of Detroit, said he was told there is no digital discovery available.

She is facing a charge of assault with a dangerous weapon (felonious assault) on Aug. 24, 2019 in Van Buren Township. Malone is free after posting bond of \$3,000/10%.

On Nov. 11, the exam was removed from the calendar and will be rescheduled. The case status will be reviewed Feb. 25.

## Bianca Ilianalydia Martinez

Bianca Ilianalydia Martinez, 34, of Ecorse who was facing charges of operating while intoxicated - 3<sup>rd</sup> offense and having an open alcohol container in a vehicle on Oct. 21, 2019 in Van Buren Township accepted a plea deal before Judge Green on Nov. 9.

She pled guilty to a reduced charge of operating while intoxicated - 2<sup>nd</sup> offense and the open intoxicant charge was dismissed. She will be entering the 25<sup>th</sup> District Court Sobriety Court and be on two years of probation. Before completion of probation she will serve 60-90 days in jail or be put on a work-release program, if available. Judge Green said parts of this could be postponed because of the pandemic. Martinez was sent to the probation department for a review and she was to be back before Judge Green for formal sentencing.

## Calvin David Howard

Calvin David Howard, 36, of Van Buren Township, did not show up on Nov. 9 for his probable cause conference and his appointed attorney J. Parker of the Neighborhood Defender Service told Judge Green that he has had trouble contacting his client.

Judge Green said she would put Howard in her bench-warrant file because he definitely was a no-show. "If he reaches out, we will reset," Judge Green said.

Howard is charged with two counts of operating while intoxicated - third offense, and driving while license suspended, revoked or denied on Feb. 28 in Van Buren Township. He also was arraigned on a

bench warrant Nov. 2 for a previous failure to appear.

Howard also is scheduled for a remote pre-trial before Judge Green on Jan. 7 for a charge of driving while license suspended on May 22 in the City of Belleville. He failed to appear for a Sept. 9 court date on that charge and was arraigned on a bench warrant Nov. 2 for not showing up.

## Brian Jamarr Hicks

Brian Jamarr Hicks, 29, of Fort Pierce, FL, accepted a plea bargain before Judge Green on a Feb. 3, 2014 charge of domestic violence in Van Buren Township. He pled no-contest to disorderly person/jostling and that charge is deferred for six months and will be erased from his record if no new charges are filed against him. Hicks told Judge Green he couldn't remember the incident and so he couldn't plead guilty.

Judge Green said his costs were \$300 and he could pay \$50 a month.

Hicks was scheduled to have a live bench trial on Nov. 10, but the plea was offered by Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor Larry King. The VBT officer in charge of the case was Ken Toney, who has since retired from VBT and now is an officer in Sumpter Township.

## Diamond Lashe Hamilton

Charges of assault and domestic violence against Diamond Lashe Hamilton, 32, of Van Buren Township, were dismissed Dec. 2 when the complaining witness did not wish to pursue the charges.

She was charged after an incident on Sept. 27 in Van Buren Township. Everyone was waiting to begin the Zoom preliminary exam before Judge Oakley, when Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Darrian Fortier said she just spoke with the complaining witness and without that witness she was unable to proceed.

Judge Oakley said the charges could be refiled in the future.

## Keenan Deshon Black

Keenan Deshon Black of Taylor had his Dec. 2 probable cause conference adjourned until Dec. 23 because his defense attorney Cheryl Quick of the Neighborhood Defense Service had received no discovery and she needs video and paper evidence.

Black is charged with embezzlement by an agent or trustee, between \$1,000 and \$20,000, on Jan. 3, 2020 in Van Buren Township. He is free on \$2,500 personal bond.

On Dec. 23, his probable cause conference was adjourned by Judge Green until Jan. 13 before Judge Lisa Martin.

## Andres Daniel Duran-Escamilla

Andres Daniel Duran-Escamilla of Detroit

is in ICE custody and appointed defense attorney Cheryl Quick said she was having a heck of a time getting a visit. Perhaps they could do it by Zoom, she said.

Judge Oakley told Quick at the Dec. 2 date of the probable cause conference to find out where her client is being held and his clerk will set up the probable cause conference. It was adjourned to Dec. 21, but then found Calhoun County Jail does not do hearings on Mondays, so it was adjourned to Dec. 23. That didn't work so a new date will be set.

Duran-Escamilla is charged with assault with a dangerous weapon (felonious assault) on Oct. 6 in Van Buren Township. On Nov. 17, he posted \$200, the 10% on his \$2,000 bond, and was free when he was taken into custody by ICE.

## Avery Lamark Holliman

Avery Lamark Holliman, 23, of Ypsilanti has his probable cause conference adjourned until Dec. 23 because his defense attorney Cheryl Quick said she still was missing some discovery. She especially wanted discovery from the body-worn cameras of the Van Buren Township police and the search warrant on her client's phone or the witness' phone. She said she has the paper discovery.

Holliman is charged with assault with intent to murder, assault with intent to do great bodily harm less than murder, and two charges of felony firearm on Oct. 12 in Van Buren Township. He attended his hearing from the Wayne County Jail where he is being held on \$250,000 cash or surety bond.

At the Dec. 23 probable cause conference, Holliman's new attorney Christopher Sinclair said there may be more discovery coming, but he was asking for an in-person preliminary exam. Judge Green said the live exams are being set in January and she said she could give him no firm date yet but will try to get a priority for his case since Holliman is incarcerated.

## Michael Ray Malone, Jr.

Michael Ray Malone, Jr., 22, of Westland and previously of Sumpter Township, is charged with carrying a concealed weapon and driving while license suspended on Oct. 13 in the City of Belleville.

On Dec. 2, his defense attorney Glen Oh of Neighborhood Defender Service said he needed a copy of the police dashcam from the incident and will be writing a CCW Diversion request. Judge Oakley adjourned the probable cause conference until Dec. 16. On Dec. 16, Oh waived his client's preliminary exam. Malone's arraignment

(continued on page 13)

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# Court watching

(continued from page 11)

on the information was set for Dec. 30 at the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice. He is free on \$2,500 personal bond.

Oh said he is pursuing the Holmes Youthful Training Act for his client and will write a gun-board letter.

### Robert James Johnson

Robert James Johnson, 42, of Ypsilanti, will have a live preliminary exam sometime after the first of the year on two charges of criminal sexual conduct and felony firearm on Aug. 28 in Sumpter Township.

He is free on \$5,000 personal bond and GPS tether. Defense attorney is Robert Elmen and Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor is Nida Simona.

At his probable cause conference on Dec.

9, Elmen said there is an outstanding DNA test and Simona said Michigan State Police are behind on lab work.

Judge Green said the defense will want a live exam, so she put the request in the stack for January, with dates yet to be set.

### Austin Robert Vivrette

Austin Robert Vivrette, 23, of Van Buren Township requested a live preliminary exam and he will be advised in January of the date.

Vivrette is charged with assault with a dangerous weapon (felonious assault) and felony firearm on Aug. 28 in Van Buren Township. He is free after paying his \$5,000/10% bond. Defense attorney is Joseph Hall.

### Todd Bennett Squires

Todd Bennett Squires, 56, of Ypsilanti will have his Zoom preliminary exam at 11 a.m., Jan. 4. He is charged with operating while intoxicated – 3<sup>rd</sup> offense, failure to stop after a collision, and driving while license suspended – 2<sup>nd</sup> offense on Feb. 6 in Van Buren Township.

Squires turned himself in to Van Buren Township police on Nov. 24 and he is free on \$2,500 personal bond. His defense attorney David Goldstein said he has yet to receive discovery. Prosecutor Gillis said it's been scanned in and he should request it from the discovery portal. She said she would check for videos.

His probable cause conference was held Dec. 9 by Zoom in front of Judge Green.

### Michael Francis Dennany

The case of Michael Francis Dennany, 20, of Kalamazoo was before Judge Oakley on Dec. 16 for his probable cause conference by Zoom. His attorney James Goulooze said his client has decided to waive his preliminary exam and proceed to circuit court for an arraignment on the information. Judge Oakley set that date for Dec. 30.

Dennany is charged with assault to do great bodily harm less than murder, aggravated domestic violence, and malicious destruction of personal property more than \$200 on Dec. 6 in Van Buren Township.

Goulooze said his client qualifies for the Holmes Youthful Trainee Act which he will seek at circuit court. Dennany is free on \$5,000 personal bond, which stipulates he must have no contact with the victim

and to not return to Wayne County.

### David Osmond Brown

David Osmond Brown, 52, of Sumpter Township, had his probable cause conference set for Dec. 16 adjourned to Jan. 6 to get the terms of a plea deal finalized. Attendance at Sobriety Court is a part of the proposed deal.

Brown is charged with operating a vehicle while intoxicated / impaired by a controlled substance – 3<sup>rd</sup> offense, a felony, on June 25 in Sumpter Township. He is free on \$10,000 personal bond.

### Andre Maurice Smith, Jr.

Andre Maurice Smith, Jr., 22, of Detroit asked for a live preliminary exam on charges of fleeing police in a vehicle and driving without a license on Dec. 5 in Van Buren Township. This was before Judge Oakley on Dec. 16 during his probable cause conference.

Judge Oakley said he would put them with the others who want live exams and they will be set in January. Smith is free on personal bond of \$5,000. Defense attorney is Randall Upshaw.

## Washtenaw County Prosecutor eliminates use of cash bail

*Washtenaw County Prosecutor's Office News Release*

Washtenaw County Prosecutor Eli Savit -- who took office on Jan. 1 -- has announced that the Prosecutor's Office will no longer seek cash bail in any case.

In a 20-page policy directive issued to staff Monday morning, Savit explained that cash bail "is a system under which a defendant who has been accused of a crime is required to post money in order to secure release from jail pending trial." The directive emphasized the inherent inequity of cash bail. "Under a cash bail system," the directive noted, "poorer people—even those who are accused of relatively minor crimes—are forced to sit in jail for days, weeks, or years.

"At the same time," the directive continued, "cash bail allows wealthier people who are accused of serious crimes to go free pending trial."

Savit directed Assistant Prosecuting Attorneys "not to request cash bond in any case." Instead, the policy requires

prosecutors to make an individualized assessment about the defendant's dangerousness and flight risk, and to seek appropriate nonmonetary conditions -- up to and including pretrial detention -- that will ensure public safety. "A defendant's wealth, however," the policy states, "should not play a role in their release."

Washtenaw County is the first jurisdiction in Michigan in which prosecutors will not seek cash bail. But other jurisdictions across the country -- including Washington, D.C. and New Jersey -- have eliminated cash bail. The policy directive noted that those communities have done so "without undermining public safety." Prosecutors in San Francisco, Chittenden County (Vermont), and Fairfax County (Virginia) that have also stopped seeking cash bail in recent months.

"I pledged during the campaign that we would not be seeking cash bail, and I'm proud to make good on that promise today," Savit said. "Cash bail is inherently inequitable and unjust. The size of a person's bank account should never determine their freedom."

"To be clear," Savit continued, "our policy still allows for the detention of people who pose an imminent threat to the community. Our office will never consent to pretrial release unless we are satisfied that conditions are in place to ensure public safety. But we will no longer perpetuate a system of wealth-based detention."

In addition to eliminating cash bail, the policy lists factors that Assistant Prosecutors should consider when recommending pre-trial release conditions. The policy notes, for example, that a domestic "abuser's access to a firearm increases the risk of femicide by at least 400%." Accordingly, the policy requires defendants who are accused of domestic violence to be prohibited from possessing firearms "in all cases."

The policy also highlights the "cascading consequences" associated with cash bail. Cash bail, the policy notes, places poorer people "at serious risk of losing their jobs" and their homes and can impose serious harm on defendants' children.

The policy further emphasizes that cash bail interacts with "the enduring racial wealth gap in the United States." Because "people who lack wealth in the United States are disproportionately likely to be black," the policy emphasizes, "cash bail perpetuates 'the glaring legacy of American slavery,' and the cascading consequences that have accrued from centuries of discrimination."

The full policy directive is available for the public to view at <https://www.washtenaw.org/DocumentCenter/View/19064/Cash-Bail-Policy>.

Also Monday, The Bail Project -- a national organization known for providing free bail assistance to those who cannot afford it -- announced that it would be expanding its partnership with the Washtenaw County Public Defender's Office to provide pretrial support to defendants who are released without bail under Savit's new policy. The Bail Project will ensure that indigent clients receive adequate support in returning to court, and that their basic unmet needs are addressed during the pretrial process.

## Van Buren Public Schools Public Notice

### Attention Parents/Guardians and Former Students:

The Van Buren Public School District has determined that certain special education records that contain personal identifiable information about former students are no longer needed to provide educational services to those students. Specifically, the District no longer has a need to maintain certain special education records for students who graduated or dropped out of school prior to June 16, 1995.

Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, parents or adult former students may request the District destroy personally identifiable information when a school district no longer needs that information to provide educational services to the student. Under the Family Educational Right & Privacy Act, parents and adult former students have the right to inspect and review educational records. These records may be useful for purposes of college admissions or for obtaining public assistance benefits.

If a parent or adult former student would to inspect and review records, they may set an appointment to do so on or before February 1, 2021 by contacting

Angela Mercer  
Email: [amercer@vanburenschools.net](mailto:amercer@vanburenschools.net)  
Phone: (734)697-1009

Please note that after February 1, 2021, unless the District has received a request to inspect and review records, it will destroy any or all special education records of students who either graduated or dropped out prior to June 14, 1995 as permitted by state and federal law. For more information email [amercer@vanburenschools.net](mailto:amercer@vanburenschools.net).

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## Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

There were 178 dispatch calls reported by Van Buren Township police for last week, including the following.

### Sunday, Dec. 27:

0012 – suspicious person/vehicle, W. Archwood  
0017 – malicious destruction of property, Kirkridge Park Dr.  
0405 – assist other dept., Tyler Rd.  
0643 – fraud, Parkwood Dr.  
1038 – suspicious person/vehicle, S. I-94 Service  
1218 – larceny from auto, Ironwood Dr.  
1237 – follow up by officer, Bog Rd.  
1301 – malicious destruction of property, Westlake Cir.  
1303 – fraud, Kirkridge Park Dr.  
1310 – domestic, Denton Rd.  
1443 – intrusion alarm, Tallgrass Ct.  
1442 – domestic, Parkwood Dr.  
1528 – civil matter, Parkwood Dr.  
1546 – suspicious person/vehicle, Westlake Cir.  
1552 – welfare check, Meadows Cir.  
1558 – welfare check, Belleville Rd.  
1638 – civil matter, Belleville Rd.  
1701 – traffic offense, Hannan Rd./Ecorse Rd.  
1814 – suspicious activity rept., Belleville Rd.  
1840 – threat, Brandi Dr.  
2127 – assault & battery, Belleville Rd.  
2354 – fight, Freedom Way  
2358 – intrusion alarm, Wildbrook Dr.

### Monday, Dec. 28:

0029 – welfare check, Denton Rd.  
0030 – welfare check, Park Estates Dr.  
0055 – suspicious person/vehicle, Maple Dr.  
0246 – 911 welfare check, Tyler Rd.  
0718 – road hazard, Belleville Rd./Tyler Rd.  
0738 – civil matter, Maple Dr.  
0743 – larceny, Sylvia Dr.  
0846 – property damage accident, EB Michigan Ave./bypass  
0904 – welfare check, Dewitt Rd.  
1006 – intrusion alarm, Samuel Barton Dr.  
1125 – fraud, W. Huron River Dr.  
1158 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.  
1256 – abandoned auto, Haggerty Rd./I-94  
1357 – private property/property damage accident, Belleville Rd.  
1551 – malicious destruction of property, Oak Ln.  
1558 – animal complaint, Belleville Rd.  
1606 – larceny from auto, Lighthouse Dr.  
1745 – suicidal person, Ormond Dr.  
1921 – motorist assist, W. I-94/Belleville Rd.  
1931 – suspicious person/vehicle, Kirkridge Park  
2121 – intrusion alarm, Rawsonville Rd.  
2123 – suspicious person/vehicle, Red Oak Dr.  
2240 – private property/property damage accident, Belleville Rd.

### Tuesday, Dec. 29:

0047 – noise complaint, Victoria St.  
0104 – noise complaint, S. Bellridge Dr.  
0216 – juvenile complaint, Haggerty Rd.  
0309 – noise complaint, Denton Rd.  
0358 – intrusion alarm, Haggerty Rd.  
0519 – welfare check, N. I-94 Service Dr.  
0559 – property damage accident, E. Schooner Dr.  
0720 – domestic, N. Woodbury Green Dr.  
0928 – property damage accident, Southport Apts.  
1126 – mental subject, Outer Dr.  
1148 – domestic, E. Walden Dr.  
1246 – intrusion alarm, Haggerty Rd.  
1257 – traffic offense, Haggerty Rd.  
1357 – suspicious person/vehicle, Holly Ln.  
1402 – unauthorized driving away of auto, S. I-94 Service Dr./Belleville Rd.  
1459 – fraud, Belleville Rd.  
1508 – road hazard, Rawsonville Rd./W. Huron River Dr.  
1523 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.  
1536 – vehicle lockout, Belleville Rd.  
1537 – harassment call, Kirkridge Park Dr.  
1548 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.  
1605 – welfare check, E. Huron River Dr.  
1613 – larceny from auto, Oak Ln.  
1634 – welfare check, Ecorse  
1655 – private property/property damage accident, Belleville Rd.  
1727 – intrusion alarm, Brookview Dr.  
1755 – property damage accident, Oak Ln.  
1752 – domestic, W. Archwood Dr.  
1833 – property damage accident, Ecorse/Edwards

1920 – traffic stop, S. I-94 Service Dr./Quirk Rd.  
1921 – larceny, Anna Dr.  
1933 – welfare check, S. I-94 Service Dr.  
2028 – property damage accident, Michigan Ave./Winchester St.  
2059 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.  
2102 – intrusion alarm, Haggerty Rd.  
2137 – suspicious person/vehicle, Milton Dr.  
2154 – civil matter, Bog Rd.  
2250 – domestic, S. I-94 Service Dr.  
2333 – noise complaint, Park Estates Dr.

### Wednesday, Dec. 30:

0027 – assist citizen, Meadows Cir.  
0324 – suspicious person/vehicle, Oak Ln.  
0522 – abandoned auto, Haggerty Rd.  
0838 – hospice death, Marina Dr.  
0916 – abandoned auto, W. Huron River Dr.  
0917 – road hazard, Savage  
1053 – assist other dept., W. I-94/Belleville Rd.  
1103 – vehicle lockout, Belleville Rd.  
1142 – private property/property damage accident, Belleville Rd.  
1309 – civil matter, Denton Rd.  
1317 – domestic, Hamlin St.  
1343 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.  
1444 – intrusion alarm, E. Schooner Dr.  
1551 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.  
1613 – suspicious person/vehicle, S. I-94 Service  
1723 – vehicle lock out, Parkwood Dr.  
1724 – malicious destruction of property, Hamlin  
2030 – 911 welfare check, Belmont Dr.  
2159 – welfare check, Laguna Dr.  
2224 – intrusion alarm, Ecorse Rd.  
2233 – intrusion alarm, Haggerty Rd.

### Thursday, Dec. 31:

0029 – shooting, Denton Rd.  
0032 – malicious destruction of property, Rawsonville Rd.  
0309 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.  
0346 – assist fire dept., S. I-94 Service Dr.  
0558 – intrusion alarm, Ecorse Rd.  
0700 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Westlake Cir.  
1141 – property damage accident, Savage Rd.  
1214 – motorist assist, Rawsonville Rd./Grove Rd.  
1241 – animal complaint, Van Born  
1351 – domestic, Morton Taylor Rd.  
1404 – 911 welfare check, Water's Edge  
1424 – malicious destruction of property, Oak Ln.  
1504 – private property impound, S. I-94 Service  
1524 – assist citizen, Tyler Rd.  
1628 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.  
1647 – suspicious person/vehicle, Lancaster Dr.  
1654 – larceny from auto, Denton Rd.  
1944 – shooting, Spruce Ln./S. Ponderosa Trl.  
2104 – welfare check, Kirkridge Park Dr.  
2149 – shooting, Hawthorne Ct.  
2231 – shooting, Michigan Ave./Denton Rd.  
2241 – hospice death, Brookside Dr.

### Friday, Jan. 1:

0001 – fireworks, Park Estates Dr.  
0047 – suspicious activity rept., N. I-94 Service  
0232 – civil matter, N. I-94 Service Dr.  
0240 – intrusion alarm, Daniel Dr.  
0401 – assault & battery, W. Archwood Dr.  
0532 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.  
0800 – assist fire dept., Lancaster Dr.  
0959 – traffic offense, Belleville Rd./Ecorse Rd.  
1006 – suspicious person/vehicle, N. I-94 Service  
1042 – harassment call, Parkwood Dr.  
1119 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.  
1121 – malicious destruction of property, Haggerty  
1139 – animal complaint, Ruthan Dr.  
1233 – property damage accident, Sumpter/Bemis  
1241 – property damage accident, Ecorse/Beck  
1322 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.  
1327 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.  
1347 – larceny, S. I-94 Service Dr.  
1354 – private property/property damage accident, Denton Rd.  
1437 – property damage accident, Ecorse Rd.  
1455 – 911 welfare check, N. Sadie Ln.  
1517 – welfare check, Michigan Ave./Dellor St.  
1706 – civil matter, Parkwood Dr.  
1756 – property damage accident, Samantha Ave.  
1827 – property damage accident, E. I-94/Belleville Rd.  
1909 – property damage accident, WB I-94/rest area  
1913 – property damage accident, N. I-94 Service Dr./Beck Rd.  
1919 – 911 welfare check, Locust  
2120 – traffic offense, Hull Rd./Sumpter Rd.  
2207 – civil matter, S. I-94 Service Dr.

2316 – intrusion alarm, Village Center Dr.

### Saturday, Jan. 2:

0322 – 911 welfare check, Morton Taylor Rd.  
0435 – traffic stop, Belleville Rd./E. I-94  
0510 – larceny from auto, Denton Rd.  
0522 – family trouble, Meadows Cir.  
0705 – larceny from auto, Denton Rd.  
0830 – traffic offense, Belleville Rd.  
0906 – domestic, Beckley Rd.  
1140 – private property/property damage accident, Lighthouse Dr.  
1159 – suspicious person/vehicle, Village Green Ln.  
1202 – found property/child, Denton Rd.  
1215 – suspicious person/vehicle, Westlake Cir.  
1304 – assist other dept., W. Walden Dr.  
1438 – hospice death, Marina Dr.  
1450 – assist other dept., Sumpter Rd.  
1547 – larceny, Denton Rd.  
1548 – threat, E. Huron River Dr.  
1702 – domestic, Peachtree Ln.  
1723 – mental subject, Parkwood Dr.  
1806 – threat, Patriot Ln.  
1944 – welfare check, Main/High  
2141 – traffic stop, VB Plaza  
2203 – assist fire dept., Parkside Dr.  
2204 – suspicious person/vehicle, Venetian Ave.  
2231 – suspicious person/vehicle, Sumpter Rd.  
2308 – noise complaint, E. Huron River Dr.

There were three traffic stops on this week's log, none of which were on the I-94 or I-275 freeways.

## Belleville Police Dispatch Log

### Sunday, Dec. 27:

0022 – traffic stop, Main St./Denton Rd.  
0115 – traffic stop, Fifth St./Main St.  
0132 – noise complaint, W. Wabash Ave.  
0934 – traffic stop, High St./Main St.  
0940 – traffic stop, Main St.  
1022 – suspicious person/vehicle, N. Aberdeen Ct.  
1114 – civil matter, Harbour Pointe Dr.  
1132 – property damage accident, Belle Villa Blvd./Carmell  
1242 – traffic offense, Sumpter/Hull  
1531 – disorderly, Main St.  
1712 – civil matter, Loza Ln.  
1938 – property damage accident, High St./Edison  
1948 – animal complaint, W. Columbia Ave.

### Monday, Dec. 28:

0108 – traffic stop, Potter/E. Huron River Dr.  
0204 – suspicious person/vehicle, Brain St./High  
0915 – 911 welfare check, Main St.  
1748 – property check, Owen  
2001 – traffic stop, Sumpter/Industrial Park Dr.  
2115 – traffic stop, E. Huron River Dr./N. Edgemont Ave.

### Tuesday, Dec. 29:

2023 – vehicle lockout, Main St.  
2129 – assist fire dept., Sumpter Rd.  
2204 – noise complaint, Oxford Ct.

### Wednesday, Dec. 30:

0959 – misc. complaint, Light Tower Ct.  
1331 – traffic stop, E. Huron River Dr.  
1430 – traffic stop, Madelon/E. Huron River Dr.  
1947 – animal complaint, Church St.  
2132 – motorist assist, Main St./N. Liberty St.  
2302 – assist fire dept., N. Liberty St.

### Thursday, Dec. 31:

0957 – traffic stop, W. Columbia Ave.  
1013 – traffic stop, W. Columbia/Edison Ave.  
1349 – traffic stop, W. Huron River Dr./Harbour Pointe Dr.  
1545 – suspicious person/vehicle, Wexford Ave.  
2329 – traffic stop, Biggs Ave./E. Huron River Dr.

### Friday, Jan. 1:

0225 – traffic stop, Savage Rd./Victorian Ln.  
0240 – traffic stop, E. Huron River Dr./Potter Dr.  
0310 – traffic stop, E. Huron River Dr./Madelon  
0826 – malicious destruction of property, Victorian Ln./N. Aberdeen Ct.  
1107 – traffic stop, N. Liberty St./Main St.  
1627 – assist fire dept., Belle Villa Blvd.  
2124 – assist other dept., Roulo/Sumpter

### Saturday, Jan. 2:

1136 – animal complaint, Wexford Ave.  
1318 – breaking & entering, Carmell  
1446 – property damage accident, Sumpter Rd.  
1639 – assist fire dept., Loza Ln.  
1913 – larceny, Loza Ln.  
2036 – missing person, Harbour Pointe Dr.

2227 – harassment call, Carmell St.

2345 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.  
There were 17 traffic stops on this week's log.

## Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

### Sunday, Dec. 27:

0250 – mental health call, 51000 bl. Willis Rd.  
0802 – fire dept. assist, 17000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
0917 – fire dept. assist, 8500 bl. Rawsonville Rd.  
1136 – animal complaint, 42000 bl. Willis Rd.  
1313 – missing person report, Kansas St.  
1428 – prisoner transport, out of township  
1547 – fire dept. assist, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
1609 – malicious destruction of property, 47000 bl. Wear Rd.  
1804 – suspicious circumstances, 44000 bl. Kozma  
1919 – animal complaint, 50000 bl. Wear Rd.  
2234 – misc. detail, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

### Monday, Dec. 28:

0843 – civil matter, Mulberry Dr.  
0852 – traffic stop, Rawsonville Rd./Bemis Rd.  
0919 – traffic stop, Rawsonville Rd./Bemis Rd.  
1125 – fire dept. assist, 21000 bl. Sherwood Rd.  
1233 – fire dept. assist, Texas St.  
1430 – welfare check, Rustic Ln.  
1509 – assist other agency, Waltz Rd./Judd Rd.  
1534 – fire dept. assist, 44000 bl. Willow Rd.  
1607 – suspicious person, 39000 bl. Wear Rd.  
1716 – 911 hang up, 50000 bl. Judd Rd.  
1931 – misc. detail, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
2030 – follow up investigation, 50000 bl. Judd Rd.  
2112 – fire dept. assist, 21000 bl. Sherwood Rd.

### Tuesday, Dec. 29:

0756 – 911 hang up, 17000 bl. Savage Rd.  
0826 – alarm, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
0936 – suspicious person, Edgewood Dr.  
1040 – property damage accident, Greenmeadow  
1302 – civil matter, Mulberry Dr.  
1442 – civil matter, 44000 bl. Arkona Rd.  
1528 – civil matter, 44000 bl. Arkona Rd.  
1723 – suspicious circumstances, Redwood St.  
2013 – 911 hang up, 45000 bl. Dunn Rd.  
2234 – misc. detail, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
2311 – suspicious person, Edgewood Dr.  
2327 – fire dept. assist, 20000 bl. Elwell Rd.

### Wednesday, Dec. 30:

0622 – death investigation, 24000 bl. Haggerty Rd.  
1903 – fraud complaint, Wayside Dr.  
2237 – suspicious circumstances, Carleton West Rd./Judd Rd.  
2352 – suspicious circumstances, 7300 bl. Oakville Waltz Rd.

### Thursday, Dec. 31:

0050 – fire dept. assist, Washington St.  
0319 – misc. detail, out of township  
0855 – suspicious vehicle, 24000 bl. Martinsville  
1137 – animal complaint, 26000 bl. Karr Rd.  
1456 – suspicious circumstances, 7300 bl. Oakville Waltz Rd.

1659 – animal complaint, 42000 bl. Bemis Rd.

1708 – misc. detail, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

1939 – 911 hang up, 39000 bl. Willis Rd.

1949 – 911 hang up, 48000 bl. Ray Ln.

2112 – follow-up investigation, 42000 bl. Bemis

2259 – suspicious circumstances, 48000 bl. Sully

### Friday, Jan. 1:

0110 – 911 hang up, 20000 bl. Karr Rd.  
0724 – family trouble, Redwood St.  
1256 – civil matter, Mulberry Dr.  
1655 – property damage accident, 25000 bl. Sherwood Rd.

1802 – property damage accident, Sumpter Rd./Dunn Rd.

2022 – fire dept. assist, 43000 bl. Harris Rd.

2217 – fire dept. assist, 42000 bl. Willis Ct.

2230 – fire dept. assist, Rustic Ln.

2242 – citizen assist, 46000 bl. Willow Rd.

2253 – fire dept. assist, 47000 bl. Executive Dr.

2318 – misc. detail, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

### Saturday, Jan. 2:

0151 – fire dept. assist, 20000 bl. Karr Rd.

1032 – juvenile complaint, 50000 bl. Arkona Rd.

1314 – fire dept. assist, 25000 bl. Clark Rd.

1513 – animal complaint, 23000 bl. Karr Rd.

1536 – civil matter, 51000 bl. Willis Rd.

2039 – misc. detail, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

Also on this week's log are 63 patrol checks. There were two traffic stops this week.



Photo courtesy of Ray Eissinger

Belleville Rotary Club members rang the Salvation Army Bell in front of Walmart in Van Buren Township recently, helping to gather donations for those in need. From left are Rachel Kozlowski, Corrine Flynn, and Dr. John MacDermid.

# Belleville Rotary Club members active during holiday season

The Rotary Club of Belleville has been and will continue to be very busy in the days leading to our upcoming holidays, said Rotarian Ray Eissinger.

- Among the club's recent efforts are:
- Bell-ringing for the Salvation Army;
  - Providing 100 new winter coats to Belleville school students in all grades;
  - Delivering 2,500 reusable water bottles to the school district;

- Funding the badly needed reroofing of the Victory Park gazebo; and soon-to-come
- Installing decorations including holiday lights and a tree at the gazebo.

The club currently is meeting by Zoom at 6 p.m. on Tuesdays. Those interested in attending a meeting can go to the Rotary website [www.bellevillerotary.org](http://www.bellevillerotary.org), click on "Contact Us" and indicate their interest. The club will follow up, Eissinger said.

# VBT, Belleville Police send out Nixle alert on theft of running vehicles

The winter months have brought on an increased number of vehicle thefts in the area, as car thieves take advantage of the cold weather to steal running vehicles that have been left unattended to "warm up."

- Never leave your car running or the keys in the ignition when you are away from it.
- Always roll up the windows and lock your car, even if it is in your driveway, garage, or in front of your home.
- Do not keep valuables or weapons in your car.
- Never leave the vehicle title or important

documentation in your car.

- Be alert when approaching your car, have a plan of action, and have your keys in your hand. Always check your surroundings.
- Make an effort to park your car in busy, well-lit areas when possible.
- If your vehicle has an alarm or other anti-theft device, USE IT.
- Immediately leave the scene to get help if you have any concerns for your safety.

Van Buren Township Police  
Belleville Police



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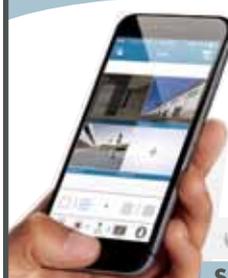


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**500E HURON RIVER DR, BELLEVILLE**  
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### PRIME LOCATION



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**41405 TYLER, VAN BUREN**

**PRIME LOCATION.** Corner of Haggerty and Tyler. Opportunity Awaits - 3 Bedroom, 1 Bath Home. Large Lot with Larger 2 1/2 Car Detached Garage. New Carpet, New Bath, New Paint \$155,000

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**324 CHERRY, WYANDOTTE**

A Preferred Location 2 Bedroom 1 Bath Home near Everything. Full Basement with Newer 90+ Furnace and Newer High Efficient Water Heater. Purchaser responsible for certificate of occupancy and home sold in as is condition. \$109,900

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HURON TWP VAC OTTER 2.94 ACRES \$60,000

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

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

41530 SAVAGE 30 AC VAN BUREN \$349,999



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