



# BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

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Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

FREE

## Public invited to study proposed City Master Plan

By Rosemary K. Oztman  
*Independent Editor*

At Monday's regular meeting of the Belleville City Council, the public was introduced into the 120-page proposed new City Master Plan by planning consultants from Giffels Webster.

A man in the audience said the new Master Plan wasn't available for the public to see to comment on, although members of the city council had copies.

After discussion, the council voted unanimously to formally authorize distribution of the plan to surrounding communities and other entities for 63 days. Then the planning commission will hold a public hearing, probably at its March 12 meeting, and make a recommendation to the council for approval.

The vote on the distribution came during the public hearing and before the 15-minute hearing was closed. Most of the comments on the plan came from the consultants and the council, since the public didn't have a copy of the plan.

The draft Master Plan will be available to the public for review at city hall, the Belleville Area District Library, and at the city's online site. Directions on how to comment on the plan will be included in the draft.

Eric Coppola of Giffels Webster said this is the first complete rewrite of the city's Master Plan since 2006. It has been updated regularly since then, but now it is completely redone.

Under state law the Master Plan must be at least updated every five years, said consultant Andy Aamodt.

Coppola said at least eight of nine meetings of the planning commission over the past year have included discussion on the Master Plan. There also have been several public-input surveys.

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*Independent* photo by Yvette Gorecki

Construction continues on the interior of the new Tractor Supply building at the southeast corner of Sumpter and Hull roads in Van Buren Township. The photo was taken Friday afternoon with the permission of workers who were concentrating their work on the delivery and storage area in the rear of the building. The large piece of plastic over the outside door kept the heat generated by the furnaces inside and the workers continued in comfort.

## BHS Robotics Competition 'game reveal' set for Jan. 10

By Dell Deaton  
*Contributing Writer*

Like any other sport, FIRST Robotics Competitions open each season by fielding fresh teams, advancing through brackets, and, for an elite few, closing with best-of-the-best facing-off during national or international championships.

Unlike more familiar legacy counterparts that square-off on diamonds, gridirons, and courts, however, the appearance of contestants and very goalposts and fields of play are different every year for student-developed robots.

This Saturday at noon Eastern, umbrella organizer FIRST Inspires is slated to detail exactly what that will mean for 2026.

Hometown Team 6615 "Bellevillains" and their advisors will be on-site at the high school to watch the "reveal" simulcast live. That, too, will be their chance to download literally hundreds of pages of documentation for this next game -- the only clue to which thus far is its name: "Rebuilt."

Initial matches come along on the calendar in early March, leading some to see Jan. 10 as starting pistol.

But insiders know better.

Three weeks ago, with just one day left before holiday break, a half-dozen *Bellevillains* and BHS robotics coach Aaron Watkins participated in an after-school press backgrounder with the

*Independent*. A leading point of emphasis was that the most effective teams view robotics as 12-month engagement.

Thus, Taste of Belleville visitors may have noticed the local team table set up near Horizon Park. Students were there to promote this "STEM-oriented" activity, explain it — and ask for financial support.

"This is a very expensive sport," one student said. Budgeting for 2026 is expected to range from \$20,000 to \$30,000. Going into matches, *Bellevillains* will plan to have up to \$7,000 in parts alone on-hand. Participation in each match comes with price tags, too.

For those "elite few" who merit slots at

(continued on page 3)



The Denton Road bridge has been closed by Wayne County for 1,194 days as of today.

(That's 3.27 years or 28,656 hours)



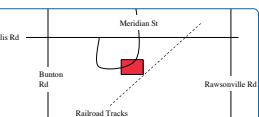
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# SECOND FRONT PAGE

## City Council

(continued from page 1)

### Parks and Recreation Plan

A second public hearing was held on the draft of the Parks and Recreation Plan. Mayor Ken Voigt said the notice of this public hearing had to be published 30 days in advance and it wasn't published in time. He said it was published Dec. 18 so the plan was to open the public hearing at this meeting and extend it to include the next meeting on Jan. 20.

Consultant Coppola said in order to be able to get state funding for park projects, the city has to have a Recreation Plan. He said they got six responses to a survey on the draft and after a special meeting for input, the total responses was up to 15, which he said was "acceptable for a town of this size."

He said the deadline to send the approved plan to the state is Feb. 1.

The public was told the Recreation Plan has been online for review.

Mayor Voigt said the city wants to submit a grant application for ten more boat docks at Doane's Landing park.

He said a \$750,000 grant to improve the banks at Horizon Park was received and is now in the hands of the city's engineers.

Mayor Voigt also said the city wants to submit a grant application to the state to improve the city boardwalks.

Several people in the audience commented on the Recreation Plan, with many wanting better water quality in Belleville Lake. It was noted the city has no power over the water quality, but could partner with Van Buren Township, Wayne County, and the State of Michigan to help with support groups.

The 24-minute public hearing closed and will reopen on Jan. 20.

In other business at Monday's meeting, the council:

- Heard an update from interim city manager Steve Jones on work at the new city hall at 330 Charles St. He said he believes all the staff took a tour of the building. He referred to a document he had distributed to the council, but not the public or the press. He mentioned a figure of \$175,000 and that audio-visual and updating of computers was needed. He said work at the building has been quiet over the holidays and the door jambs are coming any day now and then the floor can be laid. He guessed they could move in in mid-February;

- Heard councilwoman Julie Kissel say the shelves and desks intended to be moved to the new building have disappeared. Jones said they were put into storage until they could be brought into the new building;

- Heard DPW Director Nathan Johnson report the pre-construction meeting on the Liberty Street Project will be held the

next day. He said letters will be sent out to residences of the area under construction to tell them what will happen and when, such as water shutoffs and directional boring. He said law requires pressure tests and chlorine in the pipes for so long before putting the pipes into service and abandoning the old pipes. Mayor Voigt said the original bids were a half a million dollars more and so they saved money by rebidding, as recommended by the city engineers. He said this project includes adding a fire hydrant every block. Now there are just two on North Liberty St.;

- Heard the mayor remove from the agenda, without comment, a discussion on Tax Incentives for city economic development and a discussion on Civil Service;

- Noted since city hall has been closed over the holidays there were no accounts payable, departmental expenditures, budget reports or any reports from police, fire, or DPW; and

- Went into closed-door session with the city attorney for two items not available for the public to know.

## BHS Robotics

(continued from page 1)

the "World" championship starting at the end of May, travel and lodging costs for Houston, TX, will have to be plugged-into their accounting. Add more money to cover robot packing, shipping, and handling.

Way back when, local leadership recognized the need for enterprise-level thinking from the get-go.

FIRST Inspires was founded in 1989; Belleville entered its first robot in 2017, at the high school level. Attention in the Van Buren Public Schools then quickly prioritized launch of a local "FIRST Tech Challenge" team, which allowed students to join that as early as grade-seven. Next, they primed-the-pump to create a "FIRST LEGO League" team -- which meant introducing youth concepts as early as Kindergarten.

This has had the effect of shortening learning-curves and equipped incoming Belleville High School freshmen to hit-the-ground-running as thought- and leadership-contributors en route to FIRST Robotics Competitions.

Concurrently, nascent investments here were deployed to secure position as a host venue for competitions. That was critical to developing and perpetuating whole-of-community involvement.

"We know it's not easy to figure out scoring for our matches," one BHS robot programmer told the *Independent* just before Christmas.

"Is my team winning?" When you're in the stands, and you see things happening, that brings you into it. That helps you 'get

it.' Then your mind begins to get a place to put 'scoring' and you can figure out why your team is going to advance or if it isn't going to advance -- even if you still aren't exactly sure how the scoring got to that. But you see that it's fair."

Those "stands," by the way, are the same ones currently occupied this season by Belleville Tigers basketball fans.

Today, just like in the early days, teams can purchase "kit robots" produced by FIRST Inspires. Kit robots comply with all criteria of the current reveal (presently, "Rebuilt"). These can be especially helpful to newcomers, lowering barriers-to-entry by reducing the load on hardware specification deciphering, design, and fabrication time. "Some assembly required" kits, then, equate to more time down the road for programming and driver training.

Despite almost a decade under their belt, Bellevillains will acquire a 2026 kit robot -- to support their own newbies. In fact, a dated 2025 piece has continued to serve as an orientation platform for the past several months leading up to Jan. 10.

At the same time, lest readers be led to believe that the last almost-decade has been an all-success, linear climb, coach Watkins briefly revisited the humble beginnings of what is now Team 6615.

"We did not do very well at all," he said. "I remember one robot that was supposed to be built to fit within a certain cube of space. They always have to. And ours did -- in its base configuration. But not when it was deploying. The judges were nice enough about it. But we couldn't go forward with that, and things got a lot harder, really fast -- right there during the event."

Back at that time, the sum-total Van Buren Schools contingency amounted to eight students. And, thankfully, peer-to-peer support is root-DNA under FIRST

Inspires. So other, ostensibly competitor teams stepped forward with offers to assist.

"This is not 'BattleBots,'" one Bellevillain operator emphasized to the *Independent*. "You don't make your robot to destroy other robots. You don't try to knock other ones over or make them lose by damaging them. You don't win by blocking."

A second student elaborated: "If another team needs parts, you help them; you lend them parts." An important part of Team 6615 gangbox preparations includes stocking parts in considered anticipation of what might be needed for robot correction or repair by other teams in the field.

Beyond the team, that's broader, self-imposed Tri-community culture when serving in its role as host facility.

Collaborative field of play may be difficult to visualize for anyone brought up with sports where a yard gained by one side requires a yard lost by the other. Yet, putting that mindset aside does not mean lowering the bar on objective performance metrics. "Efficiency" is the key to advancing into State contests, the *Independent* was advised.

But the Bellevillains course has not been limited to mere reflexive claims of promised results. Juxtaposed against those first couple of years, the last two have seen BHS Team 6615 advance as far as World competitions each time.

And, as the 2026 season, proper, gets under way, the Bellevillains contingent now numbers about 35 students, plus eight to ten mentors. One of those is currently working toward a college degree in computer science. Prior to that -- full circle -- he, himself, was once a Bellevillain.

For readers interested in a next real-time update, the Saturday "Rebuilt" reveal will be accessible to the general public at no cost. It can be located online by entering "first robotics competition" into the Search box on YouTube.

## Sumpter OKs \$247,230 to rehab Martinsville Pump Station

By Rosemary K. Oztman  
Independent editor

At its Nov. 12 regular meeting, the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees approved a bid award of \$271,953, plus 10% contingency, to Lawrence M. Clark to rehabilitate the Martinsville Pump Station. The total amount is \$247,230.

In other business at the 41-minute meeting on Nov. 12, the board:

- Welcomed Pastor Jim McKinnes of Willis Baptist Church to pray over the meeting before it began deliberations;

- Approved the low bid of \$5,100 from VanAsche to clean up the blight at 47750 Wear Rd., per court order, cleaning up

everything and leaving the house. The other bid on the job was \$8,100. Township attorney Rob Young said the board had passed an ordinance and the township went to court where on Oct. 21 Judge Brian Oakley ordered a cleanup within 30 days. Young said there has been no action to clean up so far. The cost for cleanup will go on the property tax and the township could foreclose on the property. Police Chief Eric Luke said the low bidder could also clean up the blight on two other properties while its equipment is here and that will be considered;

- Approved going out for bids for snow

(continued on page 12)

# OPINIONS

## Editorial:

### Hope new attorneys hired in Sumpter are better behaved

As of Jan. 1, Sumpter Township has a new law firm on the job. At its Dec. 9 meeting it hired Pentiuk, Couvreur & Kobiljak P.C. of Wyandotte.

Present attorney Rob Young recommended the law firm and said he could work together with them covering all the many things a township attorney now needed to cover, more than one person could do.

We sure hope this new law firm will be more businesslike during the meetings. It would be nice if they sit in the audience rather than at the board table, the way they do in other municipalities.

Before I stopped going to Sumpter Township meetings, Young would regularly go off on tirades about what a terrible person I am and how the *Independent* just prints lies.

One such rant went on for 20 minutes. In all my 70 years of covering meetings, I've never seen an attorney act that rudely.

Of course, that encouraged board members to get on the attack, usually Tim Rush and Matt Oddy. One time, Rush was screaming at me that I couldn't leave because he had more complaints to voice when I stood up to go to a library board meeting.

I'm pretty sure that was one the last Sumpter meetings I covered in person. Since then, I have covered it through videos and printed minutes. At least it's some information to share with the residents. They deserve better.

### EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

The first roundabout in Wayne County recently opened in Northville at Seven Mile Road, Sheldon Road, and Center Street. The single-lane roundabout replaces a previously signalized intersection known for traffic congestion, speeding, and limited access for non-motorized users.

There are still some details to be completed, which will be done in the spring. They have provided a YouTube link online to allow drivers to update themselves on how to use a roundabout.

Our last Belleville city manager had voiced a goal for the city to have Wayne County's first roundabout at Five Points. Didn't happen.

\*\*\*

When the heavy winds started blowing in over Belleville Lake last week, it looked like the new Christmas tree lights near the Belleville Bridge had to be battened down in order to survive. Those were some heavy, cold winds.

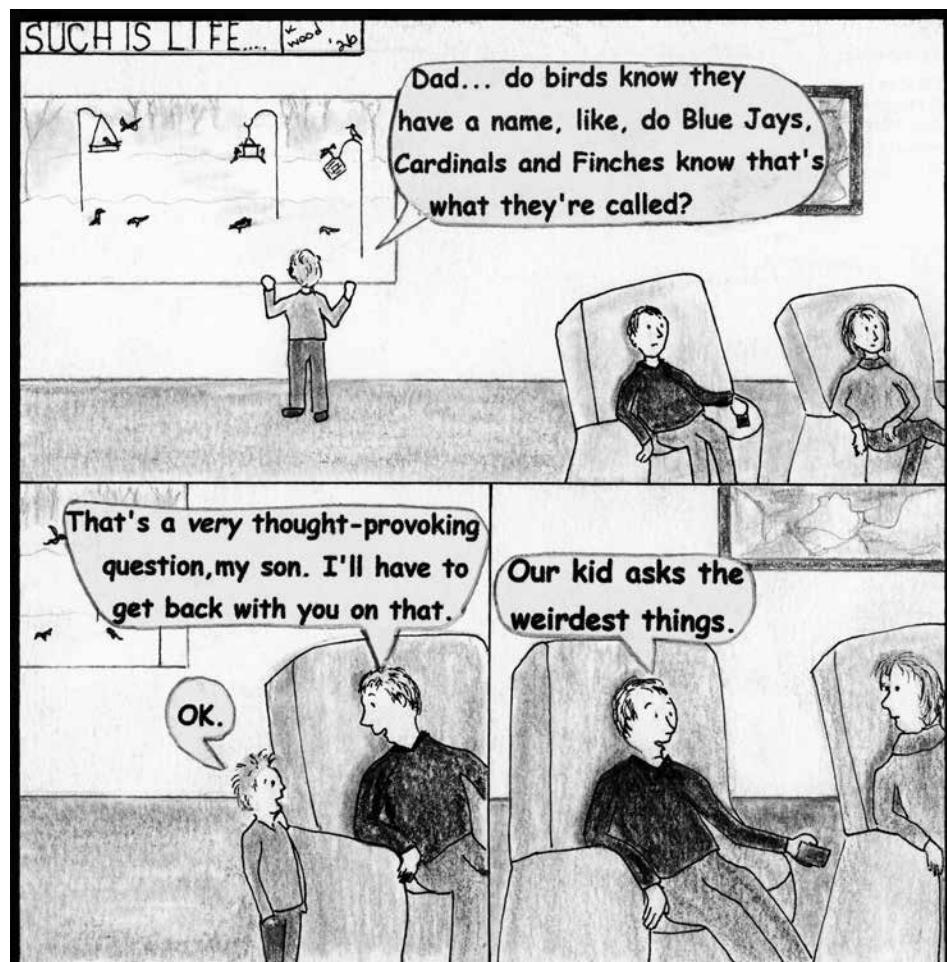
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We thank Detlor Insurance on Fifth Street in the city of Belleville for helping us out last week when we needed a favor to keep our business up to date. Thank you, for your generosity.

\*\*\*

At the Nov. 12 regular meeting of the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees, township attorney Rob Young said he has been talking about retirement, but he suggested the township just have him and another attorney work together.

He said there is so much more to know these days and there is more than one person can handle. They could take turns coming to the meetings, he said.



He said he had an attorney to recommend.

At its Dec. 9 meeting, the board voted unanimously to hire the law firm of Pentiuk, Couvreur & Kobiljak P.C. of Wyandotte as the township's attorneys beginning Jan. 1, but the amount approved for the retainer was not announced.

\*\*\*

Pete Pitzen, the Belleville resident who supports flying the American flag for every holiday and even gives recycled flags away free at his South Biggs Street home, is turning 90 years old on Jan. 29. His family is throwing a party for him. His mind is clear and he walks and drives without any assistance. He is a veteran who is active in the Belleville VFW Post and a blessing to our community.

\*\*\*

At Sunday's Bugles Across America event put on by the Belleville VFW and PLAV at the Belleville Veterans Memorial we had seven people in the audience and five veterans putting on the ceremony.

Bugles Across America is an event held at 7:15 p.m. on the first Sunday of each month at places all across the country and last Sunday's ceremony was for January.

Last month, December's event was held on Dec. 7, and there were just three of us in the audience. It was a bitter cold night, but I reminded myself that our young men and women in the service have to go out in all kinds of weather to defend our country. I'm glad to see a few more showed up

last Sunday. The weather was warmer in January.

\*\*\*

After being sworn in last Thursday, on Friday, Detroit's new mayor Mary Sheffield announced that she would retain the previous administration's corporate counsel Conrad Mallett, as well as chief financial officer Tonya Stoudemire, among a few others. Tonya became Detroit's CFO last year with the retirement of Jay Rising. She oversees a city budget of around \$3 billion.

Tonya, who lives in Van Buren Township with her family, also is a duly elected member of the Belleville Area District Library board and serves as treasurer.

Tonya recently told the library board that it was up to the new mayor as to whether she would continue to serve as CFO and she was waiting to hear the mayor's decision. Well, the mayor has chosen wisely. Library board members regularly express how grateful they are to have Tonya's talents to guide them along with their financial decisions.

She often comes to the district library board meetings after spending a busy day at her job in Detroit.

\*\*\*



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## Letters

### Romulus council taking away voice of the people

To the editor:

I was raised in Van Buren Township and graduated from Belleville High School class of 1965. Romulus has no local paper and I need to notify the public about the new "Council Vacancy Procedure Ordinance." In simple English, this would mean when there's a vacancy on the council, council would accept applications and, following questions, the council would appoint the person to fill the seat versus the next-highest vote-getter filling the seat.

I was raised with the idea that it was a right to be able to vote – that every vote counts. Our forefathers wanted it to be a fair and impartial voice of the people. I see this ordinance as trying to steal the power from the voters.

Prior practice was the next-highest vote-getter replaced a vacated seat which I think was the fair way. Those who run (to be eligible to run) must be approved by the county. They've invested their time, money, and energy. Appointing is taking away the voice of the people.

Sandra (Rhodes) Crout  
 Romulus

**Editor's Note:** The second reading and adoption of this ordinance is scheduled for the Jan. 12 council meeting.

### I need to contact snow contractor about service

To the editor:

On Dec. 6, I wrote out and mailed out a polite and concise letter to a neighbor asking for the name and address of the company/business hired to clear the snow for them. I included a S.A.S.E.

I have yet to receive the information.

I wrote to inform this neighbor of wrongs done by those clearing the snow. They've been driving (riding on) the machine past the property line (neighbor has this clearly marked) and, doing so smashes/pushes the snow down on our sidewalk. I did present this "problem" to the two men near the end of last winter – were same men this winter

(so far). The problem continued and I, once again, confronted these men. I asked why this has continued – no answer. I asked the name of their employer and address – they had no idea of whom pays them!

Now, the next snowfall, Dec. 1, I went out to shovel away the several inches of snow to see that the machine used next door had been driving back and forth, several times, over our front sidewalk (along the street) thus packing/smashing down the snow over and over, deeper and deeper, firmer and firmer.

I wrote to the neighbor informing of this cruel action. An action of anger, hate – even a threat of "how dare I" and "try confronting us again."

It's now nearing a full month since the letter.

Please, mail me the info I asked for. You have my name and address. As writing is the only way to "communicate" with you, so I will only receive the info from you via letter/mail. If you feel I don't have the right to this info, write and tell me why. Thank you!

With respect, I write this and request my name be withheld so to keep your name and address private.

Neighbor in City of Belleville

**Editor's Note:** This letter was mailed to the *Independent* on Dec. 22 and was delivered on Dec. 29. It took the Post Office a full week to deliver a letter to us from just a few blocks away.

### Belleville Community Chorus starts rehearsals for spring concert

To the editor:

Our holiday 2025 concert was our best yet! And there is so much more to look forward to! Our Spring 2026 rehearsals sessions start Monday, Jan. 12, 7-9 p.m. at Belleville First United Methodist Church, 417 Charles St. The concert is April 26 at 3 p.m.

The BCC is open to all regardless of musical ability. You can be a part of a great community, take part in local events, and have a great time!

Our director Jenny O'Neal is a talented, kind, and informative leader who has a fun and interesting selection of music for this season.

We will see you there!

Jill Collins-LaFlamme  
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# Obituaries



Dr. Leslie Walter Neinas

## DR. LESLIE WALTER NEINAS

January 7, 1943 – December 31, 2025  
Leslie Walter Neinas, age 82, of Van Buren Township, MI, passed away late Wednesday, December 31, 2025, at his home. He was born January 7, 1943, in Detroit, MI, son of Clarence Eric and Lavina Kathryn (Kammer) Neinas. Les graduated from Lutheran High School East, Detroit, MI. He then attended Wayne State University and Illinois College of Optometry receiving a BS and Doctor of Optometry degree. His optometry career began in 1965 joining a First Optometry franchise in Ypsilanti, MI. Later he fully took over the practice then called Henry Ford OptimEyes. He relocated to Van Buren Township in 1993. Retiring in 2001, Les sold the practice to his daughter, Dawn Gentz who left the franchise creating Perspective Eyecare. Dawn's husband, Michael Gentz, took over in 2013 continuing the family legacy of care and service.

Outside of his professional life, Dr. Neinas was an avid reader, and enjoyed outdoor activities including camping, jogging, tennis, volleyball, biking, walking, pickleball, cross country skiing and traveling. He was a proud member of the Ypsilanti Area Jaycees. Les enthusiastically rode motorcycles. He owned and drove various Corvettes. Spending winters in southwest Florida kept him happy in retirement.

Dr. Neinas will be remembered for his strong sense of values, his quick wit, the deep care he held for his patients and family, and his optimistic outlook toward life.

Dr. Neinas was predeceased by his parents, his daughter, Dawn Gentz, and his sister, Joan and her husband, John Herlitz.

Les is survived by his beloved wife of 25 years, Linda Charlene Luke of Van Buren Township, son, Scott of Carlsbad, CA, his brother, Dr. Frederick W. Neinas of Laconia, NH, his son-in-law, Michael Gentz and wife, Sandy Hardy Gentz, of Van Buren Township, his cherished grandchildren, Matthew and Preston Gentz, bonus grandchildren, Ethan, Nina, and Leah (Jake) Hardy, his nieces, Nicole Fernandez and Michelle Hynes, and his nephews, Kirk and Todd Herlitz.

Cremation rites have been bestowed upon David Brown Funeral Home, Belleville, MI.

A memorial service and Celebration of his Life is being planned for June, 2026, and will be announced. Memorial contributions may be made to the Salvation Army, Lutheran High School Association, Dawn Farm, or Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue and would be appreciated. [www.davidbrownfh.com](http://www.davidbrownfh.com)

## CAROLE HELZERMAN

February 13, 1946 – December 27, 2025  
Age 79, Belleville. Survivors include children, David, Michael, Max, Sara, and April; her siblings Larry, Linda, and Janice; nine grandchildren. Service was at David C. Brown Funeral Home. [www.davidbrownfh.com](http://www.davidbrownfh.com)

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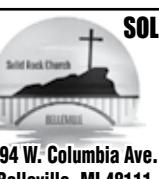
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# Obituaries



Frank Rochowiak

### FRANK ROCHOWIAK

August 21, 1939 – December 30, 2025  
 Frank Rochowiak, age 86, of Milan, MI, passed away peacefully at home on December 30, 2025, surrounded by his family. He was born on August 21, 1939, in Detroit, MI to Francis and Helen (Zarosley) Rochowiak. He was employed as a pipe fitter for Ford Motor Company and worked as a Farmer as well. Frank was a 1957 graduate of Belleville High School, was a lifelong advocate for agriculture education and community service and was honored as a Distinguished Graduate of Belleville High School. An agriculture educator and promoter, he studied agriculture at Michigan State University and later retired after 40 years as a pipefitter supervisor with Ford Motor Company and Rouge Steel. He co-founded Garden Fantasy Greenhouses with his father and brother, which supported local schools, churches, youth organizations, and community events, and farmed over 1,000 acres in Belleville.

Frank founded and served as president of the Tri-State Two-Cylinder Tractor Club, teaching

tractor safety and preserving agricultural history. A Michigan Farm Bureau member for nearly 60 years, he received many awards and led numerous education and outreach efforts, including Project RED. Frank was also a member of the York Township Planning Commission in Washtenaw County. As president of the Wayne County Fair Board, he helped restore the fairgrounds and preserve the county's agricultural heritage. He also enjoyed many years of helping his grandchildren and great children raise animals and show in 4H. For more than six decades, Frank shared his passion for agriculture locally, nationally, and internationally.

Frank is survived by his sweetheart and love of his life, Suzanne Reed of Monroe, MI; his daughters Gloria (Paul) Arnett of Saline, MI, Susan (Paul) Robakiewicz of Romulus, MI, Donna (Jim) Budd of Van Buren Township, MI, and Dawn (Todd) Adkins of Van Buren Township, MI; his grandchildren Kayla (Christopher James) Cable, Olivia (Daylen) Harrison, Joshua Robakiewicz, Breanna (Kyle) Osier, Tristin (Madison Hess) Robakiewicz, Gina (Brendan) Davenport, Jenna Budd, Joseph Budd, Luke Budd, Krista (Jacob) Spragg and Courtney Adkins; his great-grandchildren Elliana, Ava, Tali, Stella, Sylvie, Ruby, Hazely, Thomas, and Todd; siblings RoseAnn Conklin of Spruce, MI, Walter (Joyce) Rochowiak and Veronica McLeod of Van Buren Township, MI; as well as many nieces, nephews, cousins, neighbors and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

A visitation was held at the David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Drive, Belleville, MI, 48111, on Friday, January 2, 2026, and visitation Saturday January 3, 2026, until the time of service, which was led by Pastor Robert White of Grace Baptist Church. Burial followed at Michigan Memorial Park Cemetery in Flat Rock, MI.



### BRIAN JOE NAPIER, SR.

May 4, 1959 – January 1, 2026  
 Age 66, of Belleville. BHS class of 1977. Served in the U.S. Navy and was a Mason. Survived by children Monica, Brian, Jr., Brittany, and Brendon; 4 grandchildren. Visitation at Brown Funeral Home from 4 to 7 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 9, with Honor Guard service at 7 p.m.

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# Obituaries



James Lambert Baker



Beverly June Chrobak

## JAMES LAMBERT BAKER

May 12, 1947 – December 28, 2025

James (Jim) Lambert Baker, age 78, of Apex, NC, formerly of Frankenmuth, MI, passed away on December 28, 2025, surrounded by family. He was born on May 12, 1947, in Ypsilanti, MI to Robert and Mildred (Mida) Baker. After graduating high school in Belleville, MI in 1965, he achieved degrees from Michigan State University and the University of Michigan. Jim had a successful career as a business owner and packaging engineer. Jim worked at General Motors, Lansmont, and Nagel Paper. He also was involved in the Automotive Industry Action Group (AIAG) as the Video Series Producer, Independent Converters Association (ICA) Board of Directors, and the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Board of Directors for Bridgeport, MI. Jim belonged to the St. Paul Lutheran Church in Belleville, MI for many years, and most recently to St. John's Lutheran Church, Frankenmuth, MI.

Jim is survived by his mother, Mildred Baker of Belleville, MI; his loving wife, Linda Baker of Apex, NC; his children Marcus (Mindy) Baker of Rydal, GA, Tara (Mike) Genstil of Cary, NC; his siblings, Joan (Tom) Vicary of Oak Ridge, TN, Sharon Baker (Robert, deceased) of Lewis, DE; his grandchildren Maxton, Eve and Gabriel; and many nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

He was preceded in death by his father Robert Baker, brother Robert Baker Jr., and sister-in-law, Nina Baker.

A visitation will take place on Friday, January 9, 2026, at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 47445 West Huron River Drive, Belleville, MI, 48111, at 10 a.m. and a funeral service will begin at 11 a.m. with Pastor James Frey officiating. A delayed burial will take place at 2 p.m. at Glen Eden Memorial Park, 35667 W. Eight Mile Road, Livonia, MI 48152.

Jim enjoyed and benefited greatly from Rock Steady Boxing (RSB) during his time in Frankenmuth. The mission of Rock Steady Boxing is to equip and empower coaches to improve the quality of life for people with Parkinson's disease through a non-contact, boxing-based fitness curriculum. If you would like to make a donation, please visit [www.rocksteadyboxing.org](http://www.rocksteadyboxing.org) [www.davidcbrownfh.com](http://www.davidcbrownfh.com)

## DAVID GERARD GORICKI

November 11, 1961 – January 3, 2026

Age 64, of Ypsilanti. Sportswriter at the Detroit News for over 30 years. Survived by wife Becky; triplets Alexander, Adam, and Austin; 3 grandsons; mother; three brothers. Visitation 5-7 p.m., Jan. 8, at David C. Brown Funeral Home. Funeral mass at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Ypsilanti, at 1 p.m. Jan. 9. [www.davidcbrownfh.com](http://www.davidcbrownfh.com)

## BEVERLY JUNE CHROBAK

June 29, 1939 – December 30, 2025

Beverly June Chrobak, age 86, of Ypsilanti passed away on Tuesday, December 30, 2025, at Regency at Bluffs Park in Ann Arbor. She was born to Victor and Esther (Lang) Rouniser on June 29, 1939, in Waltz, MI.

Beverly was a social person who loved meeting new people, whether that was when she was waitressing, tending bar or working at the Meijer Bakery. She enjoyed day trips to Shipshewana and local casinos. She always enjoyed meeting with her friends and family and treating them to a good meal and a good time. She delighted in the annual Rouniser family reunions in August, where we all looked forward to her famous potato salad.

Although Beverly never had any children, she was very nurturing and she cared for her aunts and brother in their time of need, as well as her partner Don Bright, whom she met several years after being widowed.

Beverly is survived by nieces Mary Ellen Rouniser of Ypsilanti, MI, and Renee Baumunk (Donald Johnson) of Ypsilanti, MI; and nephews Brian Rouniser of New Port Richey, FL and Timothy Rouniser of Gainesville, VA.

Beverly is preceded in death by her parents, husband Matthew Chrobak, and brother Ronald Rouniser in 2018.

Beverly's family would like to thank Arbor Hospice for the wonderful care they provided her throughout the last months of her life.

A Visitation and service for Beverly will be Saturday, January 17, 2026, from 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. with a 12 p.m. Service. Pastor Gordon Moore will officiate. Burial at Michigan Memorial Park in Flat Rock, MI.



## RAYMOND EDWARD PREVEDEL

January 15, 1946 – December 30, 2025

Raymond Edward Prevedel, 79, of Belleville, MI, died at home on December 30, 2025. He was born in Dearborn in 1946 to Rizziri (Ernest) and Florence, the youngest of their five children. Ray attended Melvindale High School before being drafted into the Army. Upon returning home to Michigan, he went to work at Kelsey Hayes from where he eventually retired. He married Nidia (Cindy) June 22, 1968 and their son, Aaron, was born January 20, 1971. Ray was preceded in death by his parents, brothers Ron and Richard Prevedel, and sisters Jerry Tillman and Evelyn Craig, and is survived by his wife Cindy, son Aaron, daughter-in-law Brandy, honorary daughters Venus and Dawn, grandchildren Jianna and Jackson, honorary granddaughter Shelby, and a host of nieces, nephews and friends.

Memorial service will be held Friday, January 9, 2026 at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, 45 S Edgemont, Belleville, MI at 4 p.m.

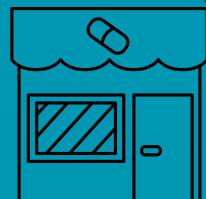
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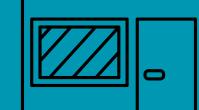


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# ORPHAN OF THE WEEK STERLING



## Happy New Year! Please Meet Our Orphan of the Week – STERLING!

Sterling came to FMAR as a stray after one of our amazing volunteers noticed just how sweet and curious he was and knew he deserved a safe, loving home. Now that he's fully vetted and ready to go, this energetic guy is eager to find a place of his own! Sterling is full of confidence and loves to strut around like he owns the place. He's playful, inquisitive, and always on the move. One thing that will definitely win his heart? A nice serving of wet food—he goes absolutely crazy for it! Because of his time as a stray, Sterling isn't a fan of other cats and would do best as the only feline in the home. He's had his fair share of being bullied and is much happier being the star of the show. Sterling also likes his affection on his terms. He can be a bit picky about where he's touched, and tail touches are a big no-no! If he gets overstimulated, he may give a gentle nibble to let you know he's had enough—nothing mean, just his way of setting boundaries.

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### Looking back:

## Remember activities in Tri-Community in 1996?

At this quiet time of year, we can look back to see what happened in the past to bring this present time into being.

**These are stories from the Jan. 4, 1996 issue of the Independent:**

There was an open letter from the Independent on the front page to each member by name of the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees asking them to direct their Public Safety Director Mark Perkins to uphold the Constitution and provide police news to the *Independent* as it regularly does to *The View*, the *Ypsilanti Press Edition* of the *Ann Arbor News*, and the *Belleville Enterprise*.

It has been 11 weeks of Director Perkins' news blackout. Perkins told us a seminar speaker said police do not have to speak with a reporter they do not like (ie. does not report the way they think it should be reported). We have just one reporter, so that is a problem.

\*\*\*

Homeowners in the Lake Crest Subdivision on the north shore of Belleville Lake in the Harmony Lane area are considering re-energizing their homeowners' association to fight the houses which suddenly have appeared on two neighborhood lots.

According to reports, A Taylor speculator purchased two or three lots in the

neighborhood, at about \$40,000 each, and is moving homes from the Metropolitan Airport construction area to Van Buren Township. One small home is on Fisher Drive and a large home is on Harmony Lane.

A reader furnished a picture he took out of his front window on Dec. 21 that showed two houses and a garage going by even though the subdivision covenant prohibits such homes from being moved into the area.

\*\*\*

Page three showed five pictures of the 60th birthday party thrown by Barbara Rogalle Miller for her brother, Lawrence, at the Eagles Lodge. Lawrence, a special needs person, was a member of the Eagles.

\*\*\*

Inside on page six, an article by Dee Crowe tells of the fun of running all year round, especially when the temperatures are below zero. She cites books that tell people not to do this, but she suggests the reader give it a try. She said up to 30 BBC Striders run all year long and she provided a phone number readers can call for more information.

\*\*\*

On page seven, there was a report on a Van Buren Township Planning Commission meeting where auto auctions were discussed. Darrel Ibach had asked for a rezoning of his property of about seven acres at 13000 Haggerty for a Pro-Tech business to hold auto auctions. He learned he already could have indoor auctions under the present zoning, so he withdrew

his request. Amendments to the zoning ordinance were suggested to allow outdoor auctions. Meanwhile, Pro-Tech opened as an indoor-only auto auction.

During the discussion, Hakim Shakir, who was representing Ibach, told the commission he talked to someone at the Wayne County Road Commission and was told there are plans to widen Haggerty Road to four lanes the next year.

\*\*\*

Page nine showed pictures of those attending the Davenport Brothers Christmas open house at their new facility at 301 Industrial Park Dr. in Belleville. The new headquarters for their construction company was given an award by the City of Belleville in July for outstanding improvement to the property in the city's industrial park.

\*\*\*

On page 11 is police news furnished by bystanders, including an eye-witness report of a suspect who escaped from a Van Buren Township police car and ran off. There were dogs and a helicopter looking for him, the reader reported.

On page 12 is a column by Lois Morioka telling stories of two loving husbands who stood by their wives during medical problems. One of the husbands was her husband Ted.

Lois wrote that she had two strokes, one leaving her with a bum leg that got bummer as the years passed. The other stroke left her with a weak mind, she said, adding that her mind, however, got stronger over the years.

She said she had liked to climb a high hill to look at fall colors near a state park she and her husband visited. She knew she couldn't climb it any more, but he insisted and helped her slowly up the hill with her cane and after she had enjoyed the beautiful colors, helped her slowly down the hill again. "Sometimes saying 'I love you' just isn't enough. You have to show it," she wrote.

\*\*\*

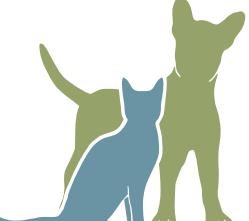
On page 19 was a story about Keith Kaye of Westland, who sued Van Buren Township police for allegedly beating him up at the township hall on April 25, 1993. Kaye accepted an out-of-court settlement of \$75,000 from the township.

Kaye was called to township hall in 1993

(continued on page 11)

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# Lisha Lewis joins Michigan contest as Ms. Van Buren Township

Ms. Van Buren Township Lisha Lewis has joined the Ms. Michigan Corporate America 2026 Competition, according to a press release.

Lewis is a retired Senior Master Sergeant of the U.S. Air Force and multi-business entrepreneur.

She has been confirmed as a contestant representing Van Buren Township in the Ms. Michigan Corporate America 2026 competition, with a platform centered on empowerment, community advancement, and amplifying the voices of those she serves.

Lewis rose to the rank of Senior Master Sergeant, earned by only 2% of women in the Air Force. She dedicated 34 years to military service, including a year-long combat tour in Afghanistan and deployments across more than 13 countries.

In her final assignment, she served as base human resource advisor to the general commander, focusing on retention, professional development, and strengthening diversity, equity, and inclusion across the force.

After retiring from active duty, Lewis served in the Air Force Reserve and Michigan National Guard. She graduated from the Specs Howard School of Broadcast Arts, became a senior sales and marketing account manager for Detroit's largest broadcast company for 15 years, and earned degrees in logistics and business management. She later served over 22 years as a logistics manager for the Department of Defense, before transitioning full-time into entrepreneurship.

Today, Lewis leads two companies:

- Extraordinary Black Race L.L.C.
- Another Day's Journee L.L.C.

The press release said her businesses reflect a lifelong commitment to inspiring resilience, building community, and helping people uncover their own power. As a skilled voiceover artist, Lewis has lent her talent to commercials and narrations blending her broadcasting background with creativity and precision.

Lewis is connected to her community as an active church member and mother to two sons, Brandon and Joseph, and grandmother to Journee.

She has been recognized by the Women's Informal Network as one of the "Most Influential African American Women



Lisha Lewis

in Metro Detroit." The network honors women for their success, leadership, and community involvement to promote growth and development in the Metro Detroit area.

Lewis steps into the Ms. Michigan Corporate America competition with a platform rooted in empowerment and service. Her goal is to rewrite the narrative with her story that highlights what happens when discipline, compassion, and purpose collide.

Her favorite quotes guide the heart of her mission:

"The biggest mistake people make when it comes to power is thinking they don't have any."

"Nothing beats a failure but a try."

## Birthdays

Jan. 8 – Ken Hospital  
Jan. 11 – Liz Riemer

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

## FOR RENT – BROWNSTOWN TWP.



Lovely three bedroom brick ranch with full basement and 2.5 car garage. Clean and move in ready. \$1600 per month. \$2400 security. Applicants must provide credit history, rental history, and verifiable proof of income. Minimum credit score of 620.



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**AERO REALTY**  
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Romulus, MI 48174

## Accurate Dental Denture Inc.

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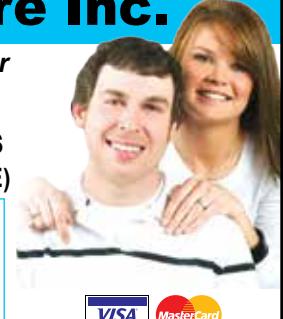
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WHITENING • BONDING • DENTURES (SOFT & FLEXIBLE)

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**COMPLETE DENTURE OR PARTIAL \$549.00**

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Includes Cleaning & X-Rays

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CALL FOR DETAILS

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INCLUDES EXAM, CLEANING & X-RAYS

INCLUDES EXAM, CLEAN

# Looking back

(continued from page 9)

to bring \$100 to bail out his minor son who was arrested by VBT police for soliciting without a license. The boy worked for Home Window Company in Westland and was with youths that would be let out in a neighborhood and go door to door, asking residents if they were interested in replacing windows. If they were, the youngsters would send a salesman to talk to them. The teen had been working for them for two years.

Kaye, a union steward at General Motors and a former police officer, learned the

officers had arrested his son while walking to the company van and had not observed him soliciting. As a former police officer, he said he knew the arresting officer had to observe the solicitation personally for a misdemeanor arrest without a warrant.

According to court documents obtained through FOIA by the Independent, Kaye said he asked one of the officers to go outside to discuss the matter. After less than a minute outside the officer reentered the building and warned Kaye not to reenter or he would be charged as a disorderly person. Kaye reentered and that's when he was attacked, he said. He said he was kneed in the chest and his rib broken among other injuries. The charges against him were dismissed before he was due at 34<sup>th</sup> District Court.

\*\*\*

On the back page, was an ad for Huron River Food Market, a packaged liquor store located next to the Belleville Police Department on E. Huron River Dr.

One dozen large eggs was 49 cents, loaves of bread were two for \$1.49, half-gallon of ice cream was two for \$3, and Pepsi and Coke were 99 cents each for a warm, two liter, plus deposit.

**WANTED TO BUY**  
**STANDING TIMBER**  
*Family Owned & Operated*  
**Land Clearing & Grinding**  
*Services Available*  
**Sawmill Office**  
**1-(517) 254-4463**

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50% DISCOUNT IF YOU KEEP WOOD/BRUSH!

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- Stump Removal • Bucket Service

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SERVICE BY  
PROFESSIONALS

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Service and Installation LLC

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 Generators • Electrical • Plumbing

Keith Dudek : Owner  
 11681 Rawsonville  
 Belleville, MI 48111

Office: (734) 461-6165  
 Cell: (734) 730-9733



Jasper is now scheduling volunteer appearances in our Tricommunity area.

He's credentialed and insured with both Alliance of Therapy Dogs and Canines for Christ — committed to brightening your day!

**Say hello to Jasper**

Janet Deaton, CGC Evaluator  
 American Kennel Club

janet@dogsbyjanet.com (734) 604-1720

dogs by janet ~ Belleville

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# Sherron Franklin named to Univ. of Maryland Summer Dean's List

ADELPHI, MD -- Sherron Franklin of Belleville was named to the Dean's List for the summer 2025 term at University of Maryland Global Campus.

To be eligible for the honor, a student must complete at least six credits during the term, earned a grade point average of at least 3.5 for the term, and maintained a cumulative GPA of 3.5 at UMGC.

University of Maryland Global Campus was founded more than 75 years ago specifically to serve the higher education

needs of working adults and military service members.

Today, UMGC is the largest provider of postsecondary education in Maryland and continues its global tradition with online and hybrid courses, more than 175 classroom and service locations worldwide, and more than 135 degrees and certificates backed by the reputation of a state university and the University System of Maryland.

## Court Watching

### Garrett John Guilloz

Garrett John Guilloz of Sumpter Township is charged with prohibited use of a chemical agent and disorderly disturbance in the city of Belleville on Oct. 18, 2025. He was arraigned on Dec. 10 at 34<sup>th</sup> District Court and a remote pretrial set for Jan. 2.

At that time he pled guilty to a reduced charge of use of a chemical agent and was fined \$585 and given a delayed sentence under probation. The second charge was dismissed by the party.

### Robert Costica Bonas

Robert Costica Bonas of Sumpter Township was video-arraigned in custody on Dec. 15 on charges of assaulting / resisting / obstructing a police and driving while intoxicated on Aug. 30, 2025 in Sumpter Township. Bond was

set at \$5,000/10% and a probable cause conference set for Dec. 22. Preliminary exam was set for Jan. 2, but removed from the calendar. Instead, another probable cause conference was set for Jan. 2.

At that time, he pled guilty to reduced charges of police officer assault and the second charge of driving while intoxicated. The OWI plea was sent to probation for a recommended sentence.

### Sunshine Wallace

Sunshine Wallace of Van Buren Township was video-arraigned in custody on Nov. 14 on a charge of domestic violence on Nov. 12 in Van Buren Township. Her personal bond was set at \$5,000 and a remote pretrial for Dec. 10. She is not to return to the protected address.

On Dec. 10, her pretrial was held and then a remote pretrial set on Jan. 2 for discovery. Now a final pretrial is set for Jan. 20.

## FEEDING FAMILIES IN VAN BUREN, BELLEVILLE & SUMPTER

EMERGENCY  
 First United  
 Methodist Church



417 Charles Street  
 Belleville, MI.  
 734-697-9288

Food distribution on Tuesdays & Wednesdays from 10AM – 1PM

**HONESTY IS OUR POLICY!**  
**LONNIE'S AUTO REPAIR** 

**HEATER CORE \$150**  
 FLUSH Includes Coolant  
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**DISC BRAKE SPECIAL**  
 PREMIUM PADS & ROTORS,  
 INCLUDES LABOR, STARTING AT \$400  
 Most Cars. Restrictions Apply.

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

**SENIORS, VETERANS &  
 ACTIVE MILITARY TAKE  
 10% OFF YOUR TOTAL BILL**  
 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**

Open Monday – Friday 8am - 6pm

# Sumpter Twp.

(continued from page 3)

removal with Community Development Block Grant funds, with revised specifications;

• Approved a volunteer policy and application form;

• Approved a \$3,500 contract with Plan-it, noting the BS&A version would be more expensive;

• Received no support for a motion to transfer Accounts Payable and Payroll oversight from the Clerk's office to the Finance Director. The motion died;

• Received no support for a motion to approval fiscal year 2025-26 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarterly Budget Amendments as presented at the Oct. 28 meeting of the board. The motion died;

• Approved closing township hall from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for the annual employee holiday luncheon on Thursday, Dec. 11;

• Heard treasurer Patterson praise the veterans' ceremony at Belleville High School on Nov. 11 and noted they need to get more youth involved and should promote it next year so more people will come;

• Heard attorney Young say he has been talking about retirement, but he suggested the township just have him and another attorney work together. He said there is so much more to know these days and there is more than one person can handle. They could take turns coming to the meetings;

• Heard Hassan Nassar complain about a letter in the *Independent* that said there was no American flag on the Hughes building now that he bought it. He said he was called an "outsider" but he has been in various businesses in Sumpter for 35 years. He said he did not take the flag and somebody else took it during the changeover from Hughes to his ownership. [Note: Now there are many flags.];

• Heard Zeola Walker say Sumpter residents welcome all businesses to the area, but they don't want all junk yards. She said Nassar has two now and another one was requested. She said she served on the planning commission when the original market request turned into a pharmacy and then turned into a gas station. She said she plans to be around a lot longer to keep watching things;

• Heard township manager Ken Marten report that the Environmental Protection Agency is working to clean up a property on Savage Road. It was granted a landfill permit in 1974 and now there is 10 to 40 times more than the safe amount of lead on the property;

• Heard Marten say he was ill and didn't attend the last township board meeting when the township logo was on the agenda and not approved. He said the committee working on the logo said the township has a farming heritage so the wheat, tractor, and color green and gold/brown reflect that. He asked for direction forward on completing the logo. He said this project was under way before he became manager; and

• Was advised the township has a 28-page technical report on the penetration test, which shows vulnerabilities in the township computer system. Trustee Rush said he thought that report should be kept confidential because public release could harm the township.

## Upcoming Meetings

• Thursday, Jan. 8 – Keystone Academy School Board, 5 p.m. Also, Sumpter Planning Commission, 6 p.m. Also, Belleville Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.

• Monday, Jan. 12 – Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m., BHS Commons, organizational meeting

• Wednesday, Jan. 14 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 5:30 p.m.

### 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.

### 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

## FOR SALE

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 ½'. \$500 OBO. (734) 417-3233

01/22

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

01/08

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06/04

## WANTED

### ADVANCED H & W PAYING CASH

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### D.K. JUNK CAR BUYERS PAY CASH

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734-545-5195**

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

01/08

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

## HELP WANTED



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**BACKHOE & ALL SMALL EXCAVATING EQUIPMENT**

*Prior Experience Necessary.*

**PLUS LABORER**

**Kovalak Excavating**

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04/03



# City of Belleville Public Notice



## CITY OF BELLEVILLE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, December 15, 2025 - 6:30 pm

### 1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE

### 2. ROLL CALL

Mayor Voigt - Present

Mayor Pro-Tem Bates - Present

Council Member Kissel - Present

Council Member Beebe - Present

Council Member Priest - Present

Council Member Priest - Present

### 3. PRESENTATIONS & CITIZENS COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

- Presentations

- i. Holiday Light Contest Winners

1. Council Members presented awards to residents from the following addresses:

- a. 392 Light Tower Ct.

- b. 162 Belle Villa Blvd.

- c. 336 Victorian Ln

- d. 184 S. Biggs St. (not present)

- e. Garden Fantasy on Main

- Citizen Comments

- i. Sabrina Richardson-Williams and Tom Jones

1. Presented concerns about their new water meter readings.

### 4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**MOTION:** Motion by Bates, supported by Kissel to approve the agenda as presented.

**Motion Carried.**

### 5. CONSENT AGENDA

*The Consent Agenda groups routine meeting discussion points into a single agenda item. In so doing, the grouped items can be approved in one action, rather than through the filing of multiple motions.*

- Approval of Minutes

- i. December 1, 2025 – Regular Meeting Minutes

- Budget report

- i. As of December 3, 2025

- Communications

- i. None.

- Council Follow-up list

- i. As of December 11, 2025

- Police Stats

- i. None.

- Fire Stats

- i. None.

- DPW Report

- i. As of December 15, 2026

- Special Events

- i. None.

**MOTION:** Motion by Kissel, supported by Bates to approve the consent agenda as presented.

**Motion Carried.**

### 6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- a. None.

### 7. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

- None.

### 8. GENERAL BUSINESS DISCUSSION

a. Charitable Gaming License Resolution – Boogie in Belleville Booster Club

**MOTION:** Motion by Priest, supported by Beebe to approve **Resolution #25-038**, as presented.

**Motion Carried.**

b. Residential Cross-Connection Program – HydroCorp

**MOTION:** Motion by Priest, supported by Bates to approve **Resolution #25-039**, as presented.

### ROLL CALL:

Council Member Beebe - Aye

Council Member Priest - Aye

Mayor Pro Tem Bates - Aye

Council Member Kissel - Aye

Mayor Voigt - Aye

**Motion Carried.**

c. Discussion/Update – 330 Charles

**MOTION:** Motion by Priest, supported by Bates to approve **Resolution # 25-040**, as presented.

### ROLL CALL:

Mayor Pro Tem Bates - Aye

Council Member Beebe - Aye

Council Member Priest - Aye

Council Member Kissel - Aye

Mayor Voigt - Aye

**Motion Carried.**

d. Fire Department Chief – Job Posting

**MOTION:** Motion by Beebe, supported by Priest to

approve **Resolution #25-041**, as presented.

**Motion Carried.**

### 9. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND DEPARTMENTAL EXPENDITURES

- Accounts Payable

- Departmental Expenditures

**MOTION:** Motion by Kissel, supported by Priest to approve Accounts Payable and Departmental Expenditures in excess of \$2,500, as presented.

### ROLL CALL VOTE:

Council Member Priest - Aye

Council Member Beebe - Aye

Mayor Pro-Tem Bates - Aye

Council Member Kissel - Aye

Mayor Voigt - Aye

**Motion Carried.**

### 10. CLOSED SESSION – Collective Bargaining Agreement Negotiation

a. Discussion – Negotiation of Collective Bargaining Agreement

**MOTION:** Motion by Bates, supported by Kissel to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:36 p.m. with the intent to enter a closed session.

**Motion Carried.**

**MOTION:** Motion by Bates, supported by Beebe to enter a closed session at 7:38 p.m.

**Motion Carried.**

**MOTION:** Motion by Bates, supported by Priest to adjourn the closed session at 7:42 p.m.

**Motion Carried.**

**MOTION:** Motion by Bates, supported by Kissel to resume the regular meeting at 7:43 p.m.

**Motion Carried.**

### 11. CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

• The leaf vacuum is down; the remainder of residents' leaves will be collected manually by the Department of Public Services.

• City Staff is continuing to pack in preparation for the move to the new City Hall, with the official move date to be decided.

### 12. CITY COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

a. **Council Member Priest**

- i. Wishing everyone happy holidays.

- ii. Looking forward to the new year.

b. **Council Member Beebe**

- i. Appreciates Mayor Pro-Tem Bates organizing the Holiday Lights Contest.

c. **Council Member Kissel**

- i. Happy Belated Birthday to Council Member Priest.

- ii. The time clock is officially live.

- iii. The city's Master Plan will be presented at a Public Hearing in January.

- iv. The Fire Auxiliary sponsored 2 families for the holidays.

- v. The Fire Auxiliary received a letter from Van Buren Township Supervisor Kevin McNamara thanking the Belleville Fire Department for their assistance with the National RV fire.

- vi. Will be reviewing the Interim Public Safety Director and Interim City Manager positions.

d. **Mayor Pro-Tem Bates**

- i. Loved seeing the holiday lights.

- ii. Happy holidays to everyone.

13. **Mayor's Comments**

- Also received a letter from Kevin McNamara thanking the Fire Department.

- The city was approved for a road safety tap grant of \$556,000.

- Looking forward to getting things done next year.

- Happy holidays.

### 14. CITIZENS' COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

a. DPS Director Johnson

i. The Huron River Watershed Council has approved our green storm water project grant; the city is slated to receive between 50 to 750 thousand dollars for the grant.

### 15. ACTION ITEMS FOR THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING

### 16. ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION:** Motion by Bates, supported by Kissel to adjourn at 8:00 PM.

No objections were noted.

**Motion Carried.**

Respectfully submitted by,  
Briana Papin, City Clerk/Treasurer  
Published: 01-08-26

## Musings

By Janet Millard  
Independent  
Advertising Director



p.m. at Faith Community with their spring concert scheduled for Sunday, May 17.

Both singing groups are welcoming new members so better put one of them on your calendar. You will find it very rewarding to entertain the community.

\*\*\*

January is a pretty quiet month so you should take time to visit some of the local stores that you put off last year. There will be two new businesses opening, two coffee shops for you to relax at, and, of course, lots of restaurants to try. The new year looks bright and there is a chair at all locations just waiting for you! Happy New Year.

\*\*\*

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

## BHS at-home game

• **Thursday, Jan. 8** -- Boys Swimming vs. John Glenn 6:30 p.m.

• **Friday, Jan. 9** -- Girls Basketball vs. Fordson, JV 5:30 p.m. and Varsity 7 p.m.

• **Monday, Jan. 12** -- Boys Basketball vs. Brighton Freshman, 4 p.m., and JV, 5:30 p.m.

• **Tuesday, Jan. 13** -- Girls Basketball vs. Livonia Stevenson, JV 5:30 p.m. and Varsity 7 p.m.

## Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

### CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Charter Township of Van Buren Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on **January 28, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.** The meeting will be held in person at Van Buren Township Hall, located at **46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, MI 48111**, in the Board Room.

**Case 25-025: El Car Wash – Special Land Use Request.** A request by applicant El Car Wash MI Belleville LLC to construct a 4,640 square foot facility to provide express (automatic) exterior automobile wash services and self-serve vacuuming, along with a 7,108 square foot building comprising of four (4) restaurant tenant spaces, including one offering drive-through service located at addresses 10525 Belleville Road, 10501 Belleville Road and 10401 Belleville Road, on the East side of Belleville Road, South of Westlake Apartments.

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

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

Posted: January 05, 2026

Published: January 08, 2026

## Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

There were 205 dispatch calls reported by Van Buren Township police this week including the following.

### Sunday, Dec. 28:

0636 – vehicle lockout, Parkwood Dr.  
0655 – harassment call, Oak Ln.  
xxxx – 911 welfare check, Colonial Rd.  
0807 – assist fire dept., Maple Dr.  
1025 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.  
1210 – intrusion alarm, Morton Taylor Rd.  
1314 – fraud, Anna Dr.  
1440 – missing person, Quirk Rd.  
1446 – assist fire dept., S. I-94 Service Dr.  
1608 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, Ecorse Rd./Belleville Rd.  
1610 – suicidal person, Sunrise Ln.  
1649 – property damage accident, Tyler/Haggerty  
1657 – welfare check, Westlake Cir.  
1929 – domestic, Ash Dr.  
1941 – civil matter, Martz Rd.  
2126 – welfare check, Lighthouse Dr.

### Monday, Dec. 29:

0003 – intrusion alarm, Ecorse Rd.  
0016 – intrusion alarm, Tyler Rd.  
0110 – intrusion alarm, Ricardo Dr.  
0140 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Denton Rd.  
0220 – noise complaint, Parkwood Dr.  
0449 – motorist assist, Belleville Rd./Tyler Rd.  
0518 – civil matter, Ecorse Rd.  
0550 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.  
0648 – intrusion alarm, Haggerty Rd.  
0808 – intrusion alarm, Jeremy Rd.  
0909 – PPO violation, Bog Rd.  
0949 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.  
1042 – follow up by officer, Quirk Rd.  
1101 – civil matter, Thornwood Dr.  
1121 – property damage accident, N. I-275/Van Born  
1136 – intrusion alarm, N. I-94 Service Dr.  
1242 – property damage accident, Spencer St. / Sumpter Rd.  
1303 – welfare check, Belleville Rd.  
1328 – property damage accident, Haggerty/Alden  
1345 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / S. I-94 Service Dr.  
1524 – road hazard, Rawsonville Rd./Bemis Rd.  
1616 – civil matter, Sunrise Ln.  
1705 – property damage accident, Sumpter Rd.  
xxxx – larceny, Belleville Rd.  
1908 – vehicle lockout, Holly Ln.  
2012 – intrusion alarm, Preswick Ct.  
2106 – assist other dept., Rawsonville/Martz  
2119 – PPO violation, Quirk Rd.  
2154 – suicidal person, Denton Rd.  
2218 – family trouble, Victoria St.

### Tuesday, Dec. 30:

0044 – assist fire dept., Outer Dr.  
0101 – civil matter, Parkwood Dr.  
0131 – intrusion alarm, Alba Ct.  
0130 – 911 welfare check, Holly Ln.  
0141 – assist citizen, Belleville Rd./Westlake Cir.  
0203 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Jackson St.  
0252 – family trouble, S. Ponderosa Trl.  
1042 – property damage accident, Quirk Rd.  
1141 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.  
1200 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.  
1304 – mental subject, Walden Ct.  
1348 – threat, Belleville Rd.  
1408 – animal complaint, N. Ponderosa Trl.  
1355 – fraud, Parkwood Dr.  
1843 – civil matter, McBride Ave.  
1857 – civil matter, Lenmoore Ave.  
1943 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Denton Rd.  
1955 – assist other dept., Belleville Rd./Tyler Rd.  
xxxx – repossession, Lake Villa Dr.  
2131 – welfare check, Denton Rd.  
2158 – domestic, S. I-94 Service Dr.  
2340 – neighbor trouble, Prairiegrass Ct.

### Wednesday, Dec. 31:

0237 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Denton Rd.  
xxxx – repossession, Denton Rd.  
0711 – trespassing, Belleville Rd.  
xxxx – intrusion alarm, Van Buren St.  
0843 – motorist assist, Van Born Rd./Sheldon Rd.  
xxxx – fraud, Belleville Rd.

1053 – fraud, Belleville Rd.  
1046 – 911 welfare check, S. I-94 Service Dr.  
1138 – assist other dept., Parkwood Dr.  
1146 – larceny, Hardwood Dr.  
1152 – parking complaint, Belleville Rd.  
1224 – breaking & entering, Rose Blvd.  
1243 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, N. I-94 Service Dr.  
1235 – disorderly, Belleville Rd.  
1430 – private property/property damage accident, Rose Blvd.  
1408 – intrusion alarm, Rawsonville Rd.  
1407 – missing person, Quirk Rd.  
1433 – personal injury accident, Haggerty Rd./N. I-94 Service Dr.  
1503 – juvenile complaint, Rawsonville Rd.  
1714 – property damage accident, Ecorse Rd.  
1855 – neighbor trouble, Burlwood Ln.  
1905 – assist fire dept., North Shore Dr.  
1925 – misc. complaint, Parkwood Dr.  
1955 – juvenile complaint, Maple Dr.  
2120 – welfare check, Westlake Cir.  
2149 – parking complaint, Briarcliff Dr.  
2132 – disorderly, S. I-94 Service Dr.  
2149 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, W. Huron River Dr.  
2210 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.  
2234 – noise complaint, Lake Point Pass  
2252 – harassment call, N. Timberview Dr.

### Thursday, Jan. 1:

0108 – assist citizen, Ecorse Rd.  
xxxx – property damage accident, Buchanan St.  
0121 – breaking & entering, Ashbury  
0220 – assist citizen, Ecorse Rd.  
0312 – noise complaint, Richard Run Dr.  
0409 – holdup alarm, Belleville Rd.  
0443 – property damage accident, Ecorse/Denton  
0512 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Parkwood Dr.  
0523 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Union St.  
0535 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Belleville Rd.  
0632 – domestic, Maple Dr.  
0819 – parking complaint, N. I-94 Service Dr.  
xxxx – harassment call, Parkwood Dr.  
1342 – neighbor trouble, Deanna Dr.  
1404 – assist other dept., Parkwood Dr.  
1519 – intrusion alarm, E. Huron River Dr.  
1545 – 911 welfare check, N. I-94 Service Dr.  
1559 – domestic, Parkwood Dr.  
1853 – disorderly, Holly Ln.  
1919 – suicidal person, N. Woodbury Dr.  
1928 – found property/child, N. I-94 Service Dr.  
1952 – missing person, Michigan/Belleville  
2001 – personal injury accident, Rawsonville Rd. / Presidential  
2008 – mental subject, Crowley Ave.  
2254 – noise complaint, Parkwood Dr.  
2138 – disorderly, Hayes St.

### Friday, Jan. 2:

0002 – suicidal person, Kennedy Ct.  
0036 – property damage accident, S. I-94 Service  
0129 – 911 welfare check, Lake Point Blvd.  
0429 – assist other dept., Parkwood Dr.  
0933 – property damage accident, Aldi/Belleville  
0938 – road hazard, Belleville Rd./Quirk Rd.  
0946 – property damage accident, Tyler Rd. / Walden Blvd.  
xxxx – personal injury accident, S. I-275/Ecorse  
1023 – missing person, Quirk Rd.  
1033 – vehicle lockout, Bog Rd.  
1106 – PPO violation, Bog Rd.  
1236 – intrusion alarm, Red Oak Dr.  
1317 – intrusion alarm, Pond Bluff Dr.  
1414 – welfare check, E. Adams  
1426 – welfare check, Winding Pond Dr.  
1444 – fraud, Holly Ln.  
1550 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.  
1610 – property damage accident, W. I-94 / Belleville Rd.  
1638 – larceny from auto, Oak Ln.  
1839 – road hazard, Michigan Ave./Denton Rd.  
1827 – larceny, Landmark  
1720 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.  
1855 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, North Shore Dr.  
1913 – private property/property damage accident, Oak Ln.  
1940 – welfare check, Rose Blvd.  
1952 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Ironwood Dr.  
xxxx – intrusion alarm, Stanley Rd.  
2206 – road hazard, Belleville Rd./Quirk Rd.

2211 – road hazard, Martinsville Rd./Riggs Rd.  
2318 – shooting, Freedom Way  
2357 – welfare check, S. I-94 Service Dr.

### Saturday, Jan. 3:

0004 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.  
0108 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.  
0559 – assist fire dept., Denton Rd.  
xxxx – animal complaint, Haggerty Rd./E. Huron River Dr.  
0954 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.  
0954 – larceny, Pebblebrook Dr.  
1034 – intrusion alarm, Marlowe Ave.  
1105 – neighbor trouble, Denton Rd.  
1106 – civil matter, Richard Run Dr.  
1123 – property check, Belleville Rd.  
1403 – welfare check, McBride Ave.  
1439 – welfare check, Pond Ridge Ln.  
1444 – road hazard, Belleville Rd./Quirk Rd.  
1456 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / Westlake Cir.  
1515 – animal complaint, Belleville Rd. / Van Born Rd.  
1522 – motorist assist, Belleville Rd./N. I-94 Service Dr.  
1606 – threat, Oak Ln.  
1702 – intrusion alarm, Lake Point Pass  
1858 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.  
1905 – intrusion alarm, Farm Rd.  
1913 – property damage accident, Van Born Rd. / Belleville Rd.  
1932 – disorderly, Rawsonville Rd.  
2132 – traffic offense, Maple Dr.

Also, on this log are 25 traffic stops, one of which was on the I-94 freeway.

## Belleville Police Dispatch Log

### Sunday, Dec. 28:

2211 – assist other dept., W. Columbia Ave.

### Monday, Dec. 29:

0639 – assist fire dept., Sumpter Rd.  
0647 – intrusion alarm, High St.  
0855 – intrusion alarm, E. Huron River Dr.  
1021 – welfare check, Carmell St.  
1108 – fraud, Carmell St.  
1155 – welfare check, Loza Ln.  
1219 – civil matter, N. Edgemont Ave.  
1527 – threat, Carmell St.  
1536 – private property/property damage accident, Carmell St.  
1754 – motorist assist, Sumpter Rd.  
1925 – intrusion alarm, W. Columbia Ave.  
2002 – assist fire dept., Charles Ct.  
2118 – welfare check, Carmell St.  
2156 – assist fire dept., San Carlos St.

### Tuesday, Dec. 30:

1048 – background investigation, Main St.  
1409 – larceny from auto, Santa Clara St.  
1612 – assist fire dept., Sumpter Rd.  
1921 – traffic offense, E. Huron River Dr. / N. Biggs Ave.  
2332 – intrusion alarm, E. Columbia Ave.

### Wednesday, Dec. 31:

1209 – assist fire dept., Harbour Pointe Dr.  
1253 – assist fire dept., Belle Villa Blvd.  
1412 – misc. complaint, Main St.  
1637 – assist fire dept., Sumpter Rd.  
xxxx – intrusion alarm, Henry St.  
2150 – parking complaint, E. Waterbury Ct.

### Thursday, Jan. 1:

0802 – assist fire dept., Carmell St.  
0944 – property check, Denton Rd.  
1211 – property check, Owen St.  
1511 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.

### Friday, Jan. 2:

0842 – assist fire dept., Sumpter Rd.  
0907 – intrusion alarm, E. Huron River Dr.  
1531 – assist fire dept., Huron River Dr.  
1810 – motorist assist, Main St./Second St.  
1940 – intrusion alarm, Sumpter Rd.

### Saturday, Jan. 3:

0732 – intrusion alarm, Belle Villa Blvd.  
1341 – assist fire dept., Anaheim St.  
2209 – assist fire dept., Santa Clara St.

There are 76 reports on this week's log, 39 of which are traffic stops.

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

## Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

### Sunday, Dec. 28:

0010 – welfare check, Magnolia Dr.  
0202 – follow up investigation, Magnolia Dr.  
1129 – fire dept. assist, 48000 bl. Sully Dr.  
1200 – animal complaint, 19000 bl. Sumpter  
1243 – family trouble, Mulberry Dr.  
1305 – citizen assist, Oregon St.  
1551 – welfare check, Montana St.  
1610 – disorderly person, 44000 bl. Judd Rd.  
1907 – mental health call, Mulberry Dr.  
1912 – alarm, 44000 bl. Dunn Rd.  
1959 – alarm, 44000 bl. Dunn Rd.  
2015 – family trouble, California/Arizona  
2024 – civil matter, Magnolia Dr.  
2102 – fire dept. assist, Hampshire Dr.  
2232 – suspicious circumstance, 21000 bl. Clark Rd.  
2236 – suspicious person, 50000 bl. Judd

### Monday, Dec. 29:

0038 – 911 hangup, Rustic Ln.  
0641 – alarm, 21000 bl. Sherwood Rd.  
0831 – alarm, 8200 bl. Rawsonville Rd.  
0950 – civil matter, Rustic Ln.  
1123 – traffic complaint/hazard, Martinsville Rd. / Oakville Waltz Rd.  
1247 – traffic complaint/hazard, Sumpter Rd. / Dunn Rd.  
1307 – fire dept. assist, Birch Dr.  
1313 – 911 hangup, Birch Dr.  
1430 – property damage complaint, California / Willis  
1514 – follow-up investigation, Washington  
1621 – assist other agency, 28000 bl. Sumpter  
2024 – family trouble, Tamarack Dr.  
2039 – 911 hangup, Wyoming  
2246 – welfare check, Rustic Ln.

### Tuesday, Dec. 30:

0009 – alarm, 50000 bl. Willow Rd.  
0044 – citizen assist, Greenmeadow Dr.  
0154 – fire dept. assist, 5500 bl. Oakville Waltz Rd.  
0226 – fire dept. assist, Washington St.  
0337 – fire dept. assist, Oregon St.  
0658 – 911 hangup, Utah St.  
1006 – civil matter, Magnolia Dr.  
1208 – death investigation, 22000 bl. Karr Rd.  
1253 – welfare check, 23000 bl. Martinsville  
1434 – traffic complaint/hazard, 45000 bl. Harris Rd.  
1954 – L3504 – Detail – SU, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
2104 – property damage accident, Willow Rd. / Rawsonville Rd.  
2239 – suspicious circumstance, Karr/Wear

### Wednesday, Dec. 31:

1050 – suspicious person, Rustic Ln.  
1149 – family trouble, Utah St.  
1204 – suspicious person, 8900 bl. Rawsonville Rd.  
1210 – family trouble, 48000 bl. Willow Rd.  
1418 – suspicious circumstance, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
1602 – traffic complaint/hazard, Rawsonville Rd. / Willis Rd.  
1604 – assist other agency, Rawsonville Rd. / Willis Rd.  
1650 – animal complaint, 48000 bl. Bemis Rd.  
1728 – fire dept. assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
1905 – neighbor dispute, Brookview Dr.  
1924 – property damage accident, Karr/Judd  
1932 – suspicious circumstance, 23000 bl. Sherwood Rd.  
2201 – 911 hangup, Montana St.  
2216 – civil matter, California St.  
2221 – shots fired, 45000 bl. Dunn Rd.  
2224 – family trouble, Knollwood Dr.  
2225 – fire dept. assist, Montana St.  
2240 – property damage accident, Delaware  
2258 – property damage accident, Martinsville Rd. / Willis Rd.  
2311 – alarm, 50000 bl. Willow Rd.  
2327 – narcotics possession, 45000 bl. Kozma

### Thursday, Jan. 1:

0028 – civil matter, Magnolia Dr.  
0448 – noise complaint, Knollwood Dr.  
1300 – follow-up investigation, Brookview  
1713 – civil matter, 26000 bl. Karr Rd.  
1755 – alarm, 50000 bl. Willow Rd.  
2310 – alarm, 50000 bl. Willow Rd.

### Friday, Jan. 2:

0103 – 911 hangup, Arizona St.

(Continued on page 15)





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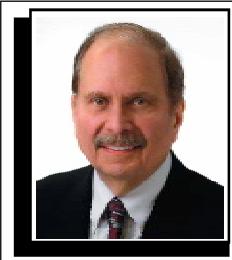
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