



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

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Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

F R E E

VFW presents checks to Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen winners

Belleville High School eleventh-grader Lola Kennedy and McBride Middle School eighth-grader Donald DeYoung are winners of the local Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen essay contests.

The two now will compete in the district competition, which leads to the state, and national Veterans of Foreign Wars contests.

Before the regular VFW Post 4434 meeting on Dec. 30, Commander John Blackstone presented a check for \$300 and a plaque to Lola Kennedy for winning the Voice of Democracy contest and a check for \$200 and a plaque to Donald DeYoung for winning the Patriot's Pen competition.

They were reminded of the awards banquet on Jan. 4. At that time they learned that Donald had won the district Patriot's Pen contest, as well, and his essay was now in state competition.

PLAV Commander George Kennedy said the contest is very important and more students should enter.

VFW past commander Robert Krouse had been in charge of the contest and he recently passed so the check ceremony was delayed.

Established in 1947, the Voice of Democracy audio-essay program provides high school students the opportunity to express themselves about a democratic and patriotic-theme in a recorded essay. Each year, nearly 40,000 9-12 grade students from across the country enter to win their share of \$2.1 million in educational scholarships and incentives awarded through the program.

The national first-place winner receives a \$30,000 scholarship paid directly to the recipient's American university, college or vocational/technical school. A complete list of other national scholarships range from \$1,000 to \$15,000, and the first-place winner from each VFW Department (state) wins a minimum scholarship of \$1,000 and an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C.

Patriot's Pen youth essay contest each year brings nearly 68,800 students in sixth through eighth grades to enter the youth essay contest for a chance to win their share of nearly \$1 million in state and national awards. Each first-place state winner receives a minimum of \$500 at the national level, and the national first place winner wins \$5,000.

The essay contest encourages young minds to examine America's history, along with their own experiences in modern American society, by drafting a 300- to 400-word essay, expressing their views based on a patriotic theme chosen by the VFW Commander-in-Chief. Applications are due by midnight each Oct. 31.

The theme for the next contest is announced each spring.



Independent photos by Rosemary K. Otzman

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4434 Commander John Blackstone presented award checks to local winners of the essay contests before the VFW's regular meeting Dec. 30. From left above are Commander Blackstone, mother Angela Kennedy, winner of the Voice of Democracy contest Lola Kennedy, father Steven Cowen, and grandparents Sharon and George Kennedy. From left, below, are Commander Blackstone, winner of the Patriot's Pen contest Donald DeYoung, parents Robbie and Brittany DeYoung and sisters Rose and Josephine DeYoung. It was later learned that Donald's essay also won the district competition and was now in the state contest.

Belleville City Council scolded for no 'real' water bills in a year

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Belleville resident Michael Renaud scolded the Belleville City Council at Monday's regular meeting, noting the council has hired all kinds of new people, put new infrastructure in city hall, and the residents haven't had a basic water bill for almost a year.

He said the residents keep getting estimates which are not "real" bills.

City manager Jason Smith said they are working at getting new water meters installed and hope to be completed by the end of February.

"You're going to come up with a bill for a year of water?" Renaud asked, noting all the estimates need to be changed to real use. Renaud said he has a new meter and

(continued on page 3)



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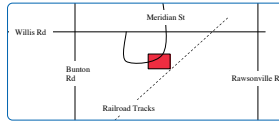
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SECOND FRONT PAGE

City of Belleville

(continued from page 1)

keeps getting estimates.

He said he has kept track of all the estimates for a year, but most people don't have that information.

City manager Smith said when the new meter is replaced, the installer notes the reading on the old meter and cost will be adjusted.

Smith said recently a resident had a bill for \$111,000 and it was adjusted.

Smith said he went through the same problem when he was in Litchfield and it took 13 months. He said just 13 people had significant changes to their bills in Litchfield.

Council member Julie Kissel said she is paying an exact water bill with her new meter and there are no estimates.

Renaud suggested that may be because she has inside information.

Smith said some people call in their meter readings to city hall, but Renaud said that's not the resident's job.

"We have all these people and can't provide a basic service?" Renaud asked.

Smith said the old meters were from the 1970s and the only people who knew how to fix them live in Isreal.

"That's why we decided to replace them," said Mayor Ken Voigt, cutting off the public comment.

Later, Smith said 35.7% of the new meters have been installed and the city is working at getting them all in place as the residents allow entry into their homes. He said if residents can get a neighbor to oversee an installation, that would work.

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

- Held a moment of silence in memory of former Mayor Pro Tem Rick Dawson, who Mayor Voigt call a "pillar of our society," noting, "It's truly a loss to not have him around";

- Heard Kelly Howey of Plante Moran give a six-month budget overview in preparation for next month's audit report on the previous year's budget. She said there is \$272,000 excess in the general fund over what was budgeted and \$2.9 million general fund balance, which is 103% of expenditures for the year – "a very, very healthy fund balance." She said generally municipalities seek a fund balance of 25% or about three months of operation costs. Investing funds in My Class for higher interest rates was a good idea, she said. It was pointed out the fund had a 4.5% interest rate in December, earning \$17,000 in interest for the city. She said the city added a lot of employees and they need to be expensed from their actual departments. How to get funds to maintain the cemetery was discussed. The process for the new budget will be in May;



Photo courtesy of Randy Miller

While the township was partially shut down for the holidays, on Dec. 26 and 27 workers were busy installing the new roof on the Sumpter Township hall.

- Heard Smith ask the council if it wanted him to do legwork on codifying short-term rentals or air bnbs? He said if they do nothing, any resident could do short-term rentals. He said the state allows a tax on short-term rentals that the community shares half of with the state. The council took no action;

- Heard Smith ask if the council wanted to set the L-4029 millage rate request for the summer taxes at the next meeting and Mayor Voigt said that would be good, since the city told the residents they would change that rate. Also, the council's annual goal-setting session will be set at the next meeting;

- Learned a candidate for the front office position had first accepted and then turned down the job. Another person has accepted and a background check will be needed, Smith said, adding they hope to have her in place soon; and

- Heard councilman Jeremiah Beebe say he would talk to people about getting their water meters installed.

Looking back:

30 years ago, this is what was happening in the tri-community

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

We are celebrating completion of our 30th year of publication by printing stories from our earliest issues to show what was happening in Belleville, Van Buren, and Sumpter.

In our first issue of the *Independent* on Jan. 5, 1995, which had 12 pages, our front-page story was headlined: "Is 'Haggerty Sub' getting a bad rap?"

The story was about Van Buren Police Detective Gregory Laurain referring to "Haggerty Sub" as the headquarters for youth gang activity in Van Buren Township, surprising many people – especially those living in that neighborhood.

Laurain made his comments at a public forum sponsored by the Van Buren Public Schools in late November.

As if to underscore his comment, a brick house on Tyler Road with its back door to "Haggerty Sub" was painted with gang symbols in early December.

This followed months of gang graffiti removal at Tyler Elementary School across

the street and defacement of Haggerty Center strip mall's back wall.

But Ralph Eccles, who had lived on Van Buren Street for more than 20 years at that time, said he hadn't seen any gang activity or disruptions in his area. He said he thinks the neighborhood is getting a "bad rap," and always has.

Eccles spent 17 years as a counselor in the Taylor schools and another 17 years as a high school teacher there before retirement. He said his family moved into its new home on Van Buren in 1973, one of the first to buy in the development, which was then called Van Buren Estates.

But he said even then friends warned him not to buy in that area because it had the reputation of a HUD development where people could get mortgages with no money down.

Eccles said that was an incorrect assumption. He said he and others got conventional mortgages for their homes. Other neighbors got VA loans. Some were HUD mortgages.

(continued on page 11)

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O P I N I O N S

Editorial

Addition in city tax brings windfall for this fiscal year

There is \$272,000 more than budgeted in income for the 2024-25 fiscal year for the city of Belleville to spend on streets or other projects. This is what Kelly Howey of Plante Moran, the city's financial consultant, told the city council at Monday's regular meeting.

She was present to give a financial report at the half point of the fiscal year, which runs from July to June.

Howey said the city levied the 15.5 mills for public safety in the summer and then, in the same fiscal year, levied the same 7.25 public safety operating mills part in December. The plan would keep the DDA and others from capturing part of the funds.

Taxpayers will pay just half of the tax next summer and that would catch them up for the extra amount on this winter's tax, city officials announced in September. There is no tax increase, they were promised.

Tell that to the tearful senior citizens who protested the sudden extra tax on the December bill that destroyed their budgets.

A city resident also has noted that by bringing the public safety millage down to 7.5 mills in the summer collection, the total would no longer be bumping against the 20-mill maximum and that millage could be increased without a vote of the people.

There's more to this sudden windfall than meets the eye and residents should be watching officials closely.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

At about 6:22 p.m. Christmas Eve the Belleville Police Dispatch log showed a "bomb threat" on E. Huron River Drive.

I called Police Chief Kris Faull and she said it was a dispatcher's error. That the wrong code had been entered for that call. It was actually a property check. No bomb.

On Jan. 2 two people complained to me about the American flag at Five Points in Belleville. They both said it wasn't at half-staff to mark the passing of former President Jimmy Carter after the governor had ordered the lowering. They both said it also still is not being lighted at night, although there is a light on top of the police department that points in the flag's general direction. It needs to be adjusted.

Although the flag was eventually lowered, it's still in the dark whether it's up or down the pole. People are still poking their head into our office to report, "the flag's still dark."

Several readers have come into our office to ask what's being built in front of the urgent care facility on Belleville Road, on the curve just south of I-94. It's the long-planned Zippy Auto Wash that got final approval in December 2023.

At that time, Vidya Krishnan, planner at McKenna Associates, said the plans had to change to an underground wastewater detention pond instead of the surface pond planned and the township asked that the surface be changed into a lawn area. Wayne County has approved the change.

Also, she said the drive shared with the urgent care facility got an "F" rating for the intersection with Belleville Road, indicating "failed," but no changes are



recommended there. She said the cars leaving the car wash can stack up in the drive for exit onto Belleville Road. She said the change to the detention pond and the traffic study caused the original delay, but she recommended approval of the final site plan.

In 2022, the owner of Zippy Auto Wash, Corey Weaver of Saline, said he and his wife Michelle have 10 other automatic car washes in the area and more coming. He said there will be two or three employees on site and two EV charging stations, among other amenities.

In looking back at 30-year-old papers for stories to mark our anniversary, we found some interesting comments from the developers of what is now called Victoria Commons. It didn't have a name yet in early 1995.

At a joint meeting of the city council and the DDA on Dec. 21, 1994, an EMU professor, Jerry Riccardo, who was a parks and recreation management specialist, discussed the city's new park that was being planned as part of the subdivision. Riccardo had been on the city's parks commission until he moved from the community.

He questioned the four, finger-shaped ponds, surrounded by narrow parkland. He said the water does not have a rapid movement and would stagnate, produce algae in the summer, and be slightly offensive.

Developer Terry Stamper of Crosswinds

Communities replied, "I don't believe those ponds will stagnate. We'll be lowering the water table four feet so we can build. It will drain northeast to the 60-inch (storm) sewer at the north."

Stamper said the worst-case scenario would mean adding fountains to aerate the ponds. He promised to work with the parks commission and be flexible to come up with the best plan.

Riccardo also suggested construction of a multiple-use, year-round structure, with one or two administrative offices, for a park director, which he said would be an inevitable need. He also pointed out that this would be a city park, not a neighborhood park, and it needed to have access to Savage Road so visitors wouldn't have to go through the subdivision to enter the park.

We thought this report in the Jan. 5, 1995 *Independent* was interesting because of the problems the homeowners are now having with those ponds. Looks like Jerry Riccardo knew what he was talking about.

At Monday's regular city council meeting, city manager Jason Smith announced that the new tornado siren pole is now up at the DPW yard and the siren will be installed soon.



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BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

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Letters
Tri-Community will not exist without newspaper

To the editor:
 I know I am only repeating what I have said to everyone I know. The Tri-Community would not exist and will not exist without your paper and your efforts.
 We all should be thankful to you. I know I am -- even when you hammer me.

With the Greatest Respect,
 Kevin McNamara
 Supervisor, Van Buren Township

Musings
 By Janet Millard
 Independent Advertising Director



So, have you purchased your ticket for St. Anthony Men's Club \$10,000 raffle? It is an investment but, with only 300 tickets sold, what great odds! Much better than the Michigan Lotto and you know how much you drop on it! Their ad is running for the last time in the paper today so give Pete a call at 699-8563.

Main Street has added another retail shop and the grand opening for Twisted Willow Soap Company will be on Friday, Jan. 17, with a Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce ribbon-cutting at 1p.m. You will find them at 331 Main St. where the Henry Deering Insurance Agency was located for many years. Mark your calendar now to welcome this Apothecary & Gift shop. The owner is local and is excited to bring these natural & organic products that nourish your body and feed your soul.

Jennifer Trotter, executive director of Guiding Harbor (Girlstown), has sent us some excellent articles. I hope you have been moved to apply to be foster parents or to donate funds to help them carry on this most-important work. Please tape this last article from the Dec. 26 paper in an observable spot so you don't forget to help them in their endeavors -- it takes a village!

The Belleville Community Chorus is welcoming a new director, Brianne Boyd, and as they begin rehearsals for their spring concert they invite more local singers to join them. If you love to sing, please attend their open rehearsals on Monday, Jan. 13 or 20 from 7-9 p.m at Belleville First United Methodist Church, 417 Charles St. What a great way to start the new year!

For all of you who avoid Face Book like the plague, the Blue Angels will be at Thunder Over Michigan on June 21 and 22. Tickets are on sale now, so better start saving your dollars. Nothing is cheap these days!

Do you have a business item you would like to see in this column? Call Janet Millard at (734) 699-9020.

*"Out of clutter, find simplicity."
 - Albert Einstein*

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We need to have an art museum in Belleville

To the editor:
 We need to have a local art museum that could become a destination spot for people that would come to. I have the idea of using the airport off Rawsonville and bring people to the town to experience everything that the city has to offer.

I'm a big-idea guy and I think of creating an art museum that starts with the vacant hardware store and the old CVS store. As other properties open up on that strip of buildings, to take over those spots. We would need a top-notch hotel in town to receive the guests that would come to town for the lakes and the arts and other festivals and such.

It's a pipe dream but always possible! Remember "it's not how big you are, it's as big as you seem" mentality that is needed. The new bridge could be involved, too, in some way.

Thanks for listening and I look forward to hearing good ideas!

Donald S. Keith
 P.S. Please replace the clock! At least take it down. And the alligator has got to go!

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Obituaries



James Brent Laine

JAMES BRENT LAINE

(May 31, 1970 – December 29, 2024)
James Laine, age 54, of Belleville, MI, passed away on December 29, 2024, at his home after a courageous battle with cancer. He was born on May 31, 1970, in Southfield, MI, to Gale and Beverley (Simmons) Laine. After high school he began a career in the automotive industry and was a local Truck Driver. He loved life and it showed. "Jim" as family and friends knew him enjoyed trips up north and riding his ATV on the trails. He enjoyed Disney and trips to Disneyland, also taking his wife Stephanie to Greenfield Village. Jim hosted many Saturday arcade nights, and his home was set up with various games, and he loved to enjoy those fun parties. He also enjoyed racing and watching trains. He was an all-around fun person who liked to help others have fun. He will be truly missed.

Jim is survived by his parents, Gale Laine of Grand Rapids, MI, and Beverley Stephens of Belleville, MI; his loving wife Stephanie Laine of Van Buren Twp.; his brother Kenneth (Maxine) Laine of LaSalle, MI; as well many extended family members, neighbors and friends.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents. A visitation was held at the David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Drive, Belleville, MI, 48111 on Saturday, January 4, 2024, and a visitation with funeral service was held on Monday, January 6, 2024. Elder Leonard White of Ridge Road Church of Christ officiated. Burial followed at Glen Eden Memorial Park in Livonia, MI.
www.davidcbrownfh.com

COREY SHOPSHEAR

(October 1, 1998 – December 25, 2024)
Age 26, of Manchester, MI, formerly of Belleville. Survived by parents, son Legend Rothove, siblings, grandparents, great-grandmother. Viewing Jan. 11, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., followed by 2 p.m. service at David C. Brown Funeral Home.
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Janice Marie (Rose) Wisniewski

JANICE MARIE (ROSE) WISNIEWSKI

(September 4, 1953 – January 1, 2025)
Janice Marie (Rose) Wisniewski, born September 5, 1953 in Lansing, Michigan, passed away peacefully at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor on New Year's Day at the age of 72.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 45 years, Ed Wisniewski. Janice worked many jobs over her lifetime and always had a story to tell. Janice enjoyed many things such as sewing, traveling, and spending time with her children and grandchildren.

She is survived by her three children, Annette Birch, Ed Wisniewski, Jr., Michael Wisniewski, Amanda Wisniewski (daughter in law); her grandchildren, Cherokee Wisniewski, Edward Wisniewski III, Jacob Wisniewski, Ruby Wisniewski, Gage Bingham, Blake Wisniewski, Caleb Anderson, Stacy Belcher, Kevin Wisniewski, Mikey Wisniewski, Shyla Wisniewski; and great-granddaughter Ivy Lademann. There will be a memorial service at a later date.

GAYLE ANN DOOLITTLE

(December 12, 1944 – December 4, 2024)
Age 79, mother of six children, 10 grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren. Preceded in death by her parents, husband, and a daughter, Deborah. Survived by five children and two sisters. A private celebration of life will be held in the summer of 2025.
www.davidcbrownfh.com

MARY LOU ROCHA

Mary Lou Rocha, 86 years of age, passed away on Jan. 6, 2025. She will always be remembered as a strong, confident woman, and a great Mother and Wife.

Things to do in the Belleville area...

- **Friday, Jan. 10** – Chicken Alfredo Dinner, \$12, 5 p.m. until gone at the Van Buren Eagles, 3996, 9961 Beck Rd. Also, meat raffle at 6:30 p.m., music bingo at 7:30 p.m.
- **Friday, Jan. 17** – Dinner, 5 p.m. until gone at the Van Buren Eagles, 3996, 9961 Beck Rd. Also, DJ/Karaoke Mix Anthony Richendollar at 7:30 p.m.
- **Friday, Jan. 24** – Dinner, 5 p.m. until gone at the Van Buren Eagles, 3996, 9961 Beck Rd. Also, meat raffle at 6:30 p.m.
- **Saturday, Jan. 25** – President's Fund Raiser at the Van Buren Eagles, 3996, 9961 Beck Rd. Doors open at 5 p.m., dinner at 6 p.m. DJ/Karaoke Mix Anthony Richendollar at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25

each. Raffles, silent auction, 50/50s to raise funds for Inspirit Salon and Spa which offers services to support patients during and after cancer treatment.

- **Friday, Jan. 31** – Dinner, 5 p.m. until gone at the Van Buren Eagles, 3996, 9961 Beck Rd. Also, Trivia with DJ to follow at 7:30 p.m.
- **Sunday, Feb. 2** – St. Anthony Men's Club 55th annual raffle, drawing between 2-3 p.m., St. Anthony Parish Center, 409 W. Columbia Ave., Belleville. \$10,000 grand prize, need not be present to win. 2nd prize is \$1,000 and 3rd, 4th, and 5th prizes are \$500 each. Only 300 tickets printed. If fewer than 250 tickets sold, raffle will revert to a 50/50 format with five prize of 40%, 4%, and 2%. Contact: Pete Pitzen, (734) 699-8563.
- **Friday, Feb. 7** – Dinner, 5 p.m. until gone at the Van Buren Eagles, 3996, 9961 Beck Rd. Also, DJ/Karaoke Mix Anthony Richendollar at 7:30 p.m.

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Obituaries



Reginald Arthur Dawson, Jr.

REGINALD ARTHUR DAWSON, JR.

(December 9, 1945 – December 26, 2024)
Reginald Arthur Dawson, Jr., affectionately known as Rick or Reggie to many, age 79, long-time Belleville, MI resident, passed away Thursday, December 26, 2024, at his home. He was born December 9, 1945, in Detroit, MI, son of Reginald A. Dawson, Sr. and Pauline Margaret (Soltis) Dawson. Rick graduated from Salesian High School class of 1964.

Some of you may have heard Rick speak about the interesting summer after graduation. He was 18 and working as a deckhand on the Horace Johnson, an iron ore ship traveling the Great Lakes.

Rick proudly served his country in the U.S. Army and was deployed during the height of the Vietnam War. After his Honorable discharge, he used the skills learned in the military to transition into a life-long career as an FAA Air Traffic Controller. He retired in July 2001 after completing 35 years and two months with the FAA; the last 26 of which were spent working at Detroit Metro Airport.

Rick's boundless love for life and adventure led him down countless paths, each filled with new experiences and treasured friendships. His curiosity and passion fueled a remarkable journey filled with diverse interests and accomplishments.

Rick had his pilot's license and was a member of the Yankee Air Museum. He knew so much about aviation that he could tell what type of plane was flying overhead. A highlight in recent years was flying in a Ford Tri-Motor with his three sons.

He was dedicated to Belleville. Rick was on the City Council, served as Mayor Pro-Tem and supported initiatives that promoted transportation for local seniors and the library. Rick loved motorcycle riding. Along with MJ, he was Regional Director for STAR Touring and Riding Association for almost ten years. They traveled nationwide and when he could no longer ride, he bought a red Mustang convertible and became a proud member of RMR-Red Mustang Registry.

He was a member of VFW Post #4434 and PLAV #167, where he was the Past Senior Vice Commander and a proud member of the Veterans Honor Guard. He also played TAPS for Bugles Across America honoring Veterans during funerals and memorials. Rick loved the water as a sailor, skier, scuba diver, and proudly licensed Captain of ships up to 50 tons. He became a member of the Belleville Yacht Club (BYC), where he made many more friends as quite the "social butterfly". Rick became a certified Pyrotechnic professional and enjoyed helping coordinate fireworks displays for the BYC Independence Day celebrations for the entire community to enjoy.

Rick also had a Culinary Arts degree. He loved bringing family and friends together and cooking for them. He founded the BYC's annual chili cookoff, which was renamed the Rick Dawson Awesome Chili Bowl in October of this year.

The most important thing in his life was his family. He always took the opportunity to dance with his wife. Sometimes in the kitchen: Slow dancing because, "I get to hold my wife when we slow dance." His biggest joy was spending time with his grandchildren. He loved teaching them how to ride dirt bikes, play a favorite game, show them how to cook, garden, build something, or just read a book. He loved his family so very much.

Together Rick and MJ built a beautiful life, blending Rick's three sons Brad (Samantha) Dawson of Springboro, Ohio; Ryan (Dulcy) Dawson of Holland, Michigan; Burke (Anna) Dawson of Canton, Michigan; and MJ's three sons Jim (Melinda) Baird of Breckinridge, Colorado; Scot Baird of Howell, Michigan and Jason Baird of Avon Lake, OH into one family. Together they welcomed 12 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Rick is survived by his favorite wife of exactly 26 years, Mary Jane (Judd) Dawson, their children, grandchildren and great grandchild, his sister Mary Ann (Scott) VanCuren of Oklahoma, sister-in-law Lena Dawson of California, also, numerous nieces, nephews, extended family, and many, many friends. Rick was preceded in death by his parents, brother William Dawson and daughter-in-law Debbie Baird.

Rick lived a life filled with purpose, adventure, and love. He leaves behind a legacy of laughter, generosity, and indomitable spirit. His memory will forever be cherished by those fortunate enough to have shared his remarkable journey. Fair winds and following seas, Rick. Visitation was 12-4 p.m. on Friday, January 3, 2025, with a 4 p.m. Funeral at David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI 48111-2764 (734) 697-4500. Father Manuel Chircop, C.S.B., officiated.

To honor Rick and his generous spirit, memorial contributions may be made to Tunnel to Towers (T2T.org), Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue, Detroit Dog Rescue, or VFW Post #4434, and would be appreciated by his family. Thank you for keeping Rick and his family in your thoughts and prayers at this time. www.davidcbrownfh.com

DAVID LEHMAN

(January 21, 1963 – December 23, 2024)
Age 61 of Belleville. Survived by mother Ruth Lehman of Texas, sister Laura Christian of Oregon, girlfriend Audrey Tripplett and her son, and ex-wife Candice. Cremation rites have been accorded through David C. Brown Funeral Home. www.davidcbrownfh.com

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Three generations of mothers and daughters are twins in local family

Three generations of mothers and daughters are twins in a local family. Although many think twins skip a generation, that's not the case in this family.

Catarina Nickole Gasser grew up in Victoria Commons and was the Belleville High School Homecoming Queen in 2015 and her fraternal twin sister Carlynn Noel Gasser was drum major in the BHS Marching Band in 2015. They graduated together in 2016.

Their mother Nina Gasser, who lives in Victoria Commons with their father William Robert Gasser, has a fraternal twin sister Tina.

Catarina married Cory Eric Yankey in 2021 and they live in Dearborn. In November she gave birth to identical twin girls, and they were so identical they weighed exactly the same – 6 pounds, 11 ounces – and were the exact same length – 18 inches.

They are Mary Gail Yankey and Wilhelmina Estee Yankey.

“While cool, this may seem unremarkable, since twins are born every day, but my story is a bit different,” said Catarina.

“I have a fraternal twin sister, Carlynn. Not only am I a twin, my mom, Nina, is also a twin. She has a fraternal twin sister, Tina,” she said. She said her mother and aunt are the first twins in the family and the chain started with them.

“I’m not sure what the odds of something like this happening are, but everyone seems suprised when I tell them, so I assume it is pretty rare.”

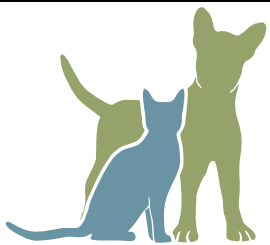


All the twins sit together for a Thanksgiving photo. From the top, left to right, are Nina Maria Gasser and Tina Marie Weinberg. Next are Carlynn Noel Gasser and Catarina Nickole Yankey. They are holding Mary Gail Yankey and Wilhelmina Estee Yankey. The picture is taken at the home of Nina and William Gasser in Victoria Commons.




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Photo courtesy of Elena Manalp, Van Buren Township Communications Dept. Teddy, the two-year-old Great Pyrenees who was the winner of the recent Santa Paws contest, is the beloved pet of Justin and Leah Dunn, who live in Sumpter Township at the corner of Sumpter and Bemis roads. Teddy loves car rides and spending time outside. He also enjoys treats, barking, belly rubs and taking naps. In the winter, he loves playing in the snow and could spend the entire day outside. During the summer he prefers to be relaxing in the air conditioning, but when he's not doing that, he enjoys going to see the goats at Horizon Park and getting pup cups at Frosty Boy and Roller Eats and Treats. Teddy got the most likes, comments, and shares on social media after being one of the 27 dogs photographed by the VBT DDA. [Editor's Note: We republished Teddy's picture this week because we found out more about his family and who Teddy is.]

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Court Watching

Christopher Lee Piggott
 Christopher Lee Piggott of Hazel Park and previously of Van Buren Township was charged with failure to register as a sex offender on March 30 in Van Buren Township. He was video-arraigned in custody on Oct. 31 by Magistrate Hindman. Bond was set at \$5,000/10% and a probable cause conference for Nov. 13 and then Nov. 20. Preliminary exam was Dec. 30, at which time the charge was

dismissed without prejudice and the tether was removed.

Dionte Kristopher Kelley
 Dionte Kristopher Kelley of Roseville and previously of Belleville was video-arraigned in custody on a bench warrant on Jan. 2, 2025 by Magistrate Hindman. He was charged on Oct. 27, 2023 with child abuse – 4th degree on Oct. 20, 2021 in the city of Belleville.

His mail could not be delivered. It was later determined his name was spelled

(continued on page 13)

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Independent photo by James Otzman

A Tuesday morning photo shows that the deck of the former Denton Road Bridge has been completely removed. The destruction of the old bridge is the first step in getting the new Wayne County bridge in place.

Upcoming Meetings

- Thursday, Jan. 9 – Keystone Academy School Board, 5 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township Planning Commission, 6 p.m. Also, Belleville Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- Monday, Jan. 13 – Van Buren Public

- Schools Board of Education organizational meeting, 7 p.m., BHS Commons
- Tuesday, Jan. 14 – Van Buren Township Local Development Finance Authority (LDFA), 2 p.m.
 - Wednesday, Jan. 15 – Van Buren Township Environmental Commission, 6 p.m. Also, city of Belleville Downtown Development Authority, 6 p.m.
 - Monday, Jan. 20 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day



- Dec. 18 – Gary Missant
- Dec. 28 – Mandy Maier
- Dec. 31 – Jack Maier
- Jan. 5 – Nicholas Reid, Jr.

Do you have a birthday soon? Does someone you know have a birthday? Let us know and we will print the name as soon as possible. For more information, call (734) 699-9020.



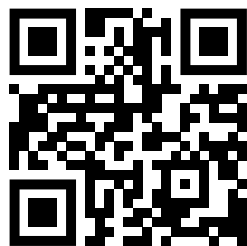
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30 years ago

(continued from page 3)

He said over the years, some neighbors defaulted on HUD homes, which were empty and boarded up for a time. But, new owners eventually took over and fixed up the homes.



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Eccles said the large subdivision of about 700 homes in the area bordered by Tyler, Haggerty and the North I-94 Service Drive, actually was built as three separate developments by three different developers.



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He said the homes in his area, the first development to be built, all have basements. The second development, near Haggerty, which is 10 years younger, also has basements. The third development, around McBride, doesn't have basements, he said.

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Leland Ruedel of Coolidge Street, not far from Haggerty Road, said he thinks what Det. Laurain said was quite true. "Some parents don't care what their kids do any time of the day ... The community has to pull together to solve the gang problem," he said.



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Ruedel said, "I think it's the police who are getting a bad rap. I understand there are some problems, but those people are being dealt with..."

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Mark Perkins, Van Buren Township Director of Public Safety, said Haggerty Sub has an undeserved reputation, in his opinion. He said a lot of Van Buren police officers live in the sub. "There are a lot of good people and a lot of nice homes that are kept up very well."

"There is gang activity there, but anytime you have a high concentration of people, there's gang activity," Perkins said.

Perkins said the subdivision has always had a bad reputation, but he can't understand just why.

Paul Thornsberry, a scoutmaster who lives in the sub, agreed with Perkins on

(continued on page 13)

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(Published on the front page of the first edition of the *Belleville-Area Independent* on Jan. 5, 1995)

The mission of the *Belleville-Area Independent* is to be among the highest-regarded community newspapers in the State of Michigan.

Our guiding principles are accuracy and fairness, credibility and integrity.

We will serve the communities of Belleville, Sumpster, and Van Buren with a free, weekly publication supported by reasonably priced advertising – display and classified.

This community newspaper will report on local governmental and school issues, paying close attention to issues that affect the pocket books and the quality of life of the residents.

The newspaper will make every effort to discover and provide facts so the citizens are informed and then able to take appropriate action.

This paper will report the funny, sad, and outrageous stories of the communities with sensitivity and accuracy.

The *Independent* will report births, deaths, weddings, social events, and church news – the broad range of activities within a community.

Community organizations can count on us to support their endeavors.

A letter column, open to all viewpoints, will provide a forum for lively debate on current topics and the readers may participate without fear of reprisal from the paper.

The editorial policy of the paper is to highlight important issues in the community. When necessary, we'll hold elected officials responsible for their actions by applauding successes and pointing out mistakes. On occasion, we may suggest alternate solutions.

Editorial comment will be clearly marked. Our motto: "To build a better world, start in your own community."

-- Adopted by a unanimous vote of the *Belleville-Area Independent Board of Members*, Dec. 31, 1994.

Court Watching

Cameron Keith Nichols

Cameron Keith Nichols, 26, of Van Buren Township was video-arraigned while in custody by Judge Martin on Jan. 3 on a charge of possession of narcotics or cocaine less than 25 grams on Jan. 1. The arraignment was held and he was set for a probable cause conference on Jan. 15. Personal bond is \$1,000.

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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.

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30 years ago

(continued from page 11)

Haggerty Sub getting a bad rap. He said when the comments were made about the sub at the gang forum, that made the kids from the subdivision go out and buy the gang colors and wear them.

“If they saw real gangs in there, they’d know it,” Thornsberry said of all the publicity over local youth gangs. “I was in Los Angeles when I was in the Marine Corps and I saw real gangs.”

Thornsberry said he feels the police hands are tied by weak laws. He agreed that it’s the parents’ responsibility to monitor their children’s activities.

Other stories in the Jan. 5, 1995 edition,

included:

• Sumpter Clerk Joan Oddy is interviewed while recovering from surgery after the removal of a cancerous portion of her lung. No chemotherapy was necessary, but she spent 14 days in Beyer Hospital. She was waiting for her doctor’s OK before getting back to work at the township.

• Fred C. Fischer Librarian Debbie Green is wearing a new engagement ring and plans to marry in the fall. The ring is a sapphire set in white gold.

• Belleville City Council voted to demolish a house at 142 Second St. since the owner has not done so. The building had been hit with a fire, but the owner, identified as “a local attorney,” has the demolition permits but has not moved forward.

• Belleville City Council and Belleville DDA met in joint session on Dec. 28 to discuss preliminary plans for what was to become the 200-plus homes of Victoria Commons. They also discussed the proposed lakeside housing next to the bridge on the Doane family property from Main to Fifth Street and noted it was not in the DDA district. The business area on Main and Liberty between the bridge and Fifth Street also was discussed. The final agreement on the housing development was expected within 30 days. The city and DDA already had sold bonds for infrasture for Victoria Commons: \$1.075 million on Dec. 15 and \$825,000 on Dec. 27. In order to qualify as a state “pipeline” project which would get the city \$1.5 million in revenue, up to \$1.9 million in revenue bonds had to be sold by the end of December.

• We explained how the *Independent* grew from a newsletter put together on our family’s new desktop publishing software to send to four friends vacationing in Arizona. The newsletter carried news about Van Buren Township. When the four returned to Michigan, I was set to suspend the reports, but found the newsletter had taken on a life of its own. It had been faxed and copied and read all over this area. Our four readers grew to dozens who urged us to continue. Volunteers contributed money to have the newsletter printed by the thousands and volunteers delivered them to the newspaper tubes of township residents on weekend rural routes. Eventually it became a “real” newspaper with a dozen local residents as owners.

• We explained how a big, beautiful, double rainbow arched over the communities of Belleville, Van Buren, and Sumpter early in the morning of Saturday, Dec. 3. That was the same morning a group of investors met to decide whether to support starting a real newspaper. Those who saw it took it as a good omen, a blessing to the endeavor. We chose to have a double rainbow in the newspaper’s masthead, a symbol of new

beginnings and hope – doubled.

• Published were columns by Lois Morioka, who told how she and her husband found Belleville, and a column by Lila Warner on pet care, with the offer to readers to send in their questions on pets for her to answer. The two columns continued in the paper.

• A story told how the Community Quilt was created and hung at the Fred C. Fischer Library. It was announced that Marilyn Locke would write a column beginning the next week and running for 30 weeks, telling the stories of each block in the quilt, week by week.

We will publish more history from 30 years ago as space allows.

Court Watching

(continued from page 9)

wrong on the paperwork – without the “e” in Kelley. His named was amended on the record. He was set for a remote arraignment/pretrial on Nov. 15, 2023, but the notice was not deliverable as addressed and he failed to appear. A bench warrant was issued.

His remote pretrial was set for Jan. 15, 2025 before Judge Patton. He is to have no contact of any kind with the victim.

Thilann Elias Napier

Thilann Elias Napier, 26, of Van Buren Township was arraigned on four bench warrants from 2019 in Van Buren Township on charges of driving while license suspended. He pled guilty and was sentenced to a fine of \$190 on each charge. This was added to the payment plan, which now totals \$3,933. The first payment of \$100 is due on Jan. 17 and each month another payment of \$100 is due on the 17th. The last payment of \$33 is due on April 17, 2028.

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City of Belleville Public Notice

POLICE VEHICLE AUCTION

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN BY THE UNDERSIGNED THAT ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2025 at 10AM, at J&T Towing, 287 Industrial Park Drive, Belleville, County of Wayne, Michigan, a public sale of the following vehicle(s) will be held:

2001	BUICK REGAL	VIN: 2G4WB55K711297121
2004	CHEVROLET MALIBU	VIN: 1G1ZT64874F171955
2005	CHRYSLER TOWN & COUNTRY	VIN: 2C4GP54L85R204294
2011	DODGE CHARGER	VIN: 2B3CL3CG3BH551425
2013	CHEVROLET MALIBU	VIN: 1G11D5SR9DF128203

BELLEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT
6 MAIN STREET
BELLEVILLE, MICHIGAN 48111

PUBLISH: JANUARY 9, 2025

BY KRISTY DOE
BELLEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT
RECORDS CLERK

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Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

There were 166 dispatch calls reported by Van Buren Township police in the week of Dec. 22-28, including the following.

Sunday, Dec. 22:

0339 – disorderly, S. Bellridge Dr.
0314 – welfare check, Belleville Rd.
1111 – mental subject, Bemis Rd.
1123 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Rawsonville Rd.
1149 – civil matter, Maple Dr.
1243 – suicidal person, Stamford Rd.
1247 – suicidal person, Stamford Rd.
1259 – property damage accident, N. I-94 Service Dr. / Belleville Rd.
1325 – domestic, N. Ponderosa Trl.
1451 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
xxxx – animal complaint, Van Born Rd.
1643 – civil matter, Parkwood Dr.
1832 – animal complaint, Van Born Rd.
1931 – motorist assist, Belleville Rd. / S. I-94 Service Dr.
2000 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
2042 – family trouble, Brandi Dr.
2228 – assist citizen, Parkwood Dr.

Monday, Dec. 23:

0100 – animal complaint, Savage Rd. / Country Walk Blvd.
0155 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Brandi Dr.
0245 – property damage accident, Alden Ave.
0414 – welfare check, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0827 – traffic offense, Ecorse Rd./Haggerty Rd.
1006 – mental subject, Freedom Way
xxxx – private property impound, Tyler Rd.
1120 – civil matter, Park Estates Dr.
1059 – traffic offense, Haggerty Rd./Ecorse Rd.
xxxx – misc. complaint, Wildbrook Dr.
1213 – civil matter, Winchester St.
1246 – vehicle lockout, Belleville Rd.
1301 – threat, Park Estates Dr.
1316 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Thornwood Dr.
1456 – animal complaint, Linda Vista Ct.
1603 – parking complaint, Belleville Rd.
1616 – assist fire dept., Van Buren St.
1718 – larceny, Denton Rd.
1804 – domestic, McBride Ave.
1804 – welfare check, Freedom Way
1843 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Belleville Rd.
1942 – welfare check, E. Archwood Dr./N. I-94 Service Dr.
2036 – motorist assist, Michigan Ave.
2040 – domestic, Arthur St.
2125 – domestic, Arthur St.
2241 – private property impound, Belleville Rd.
2316 – assault & battery, Locust Dr.
2330 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.

Tuesday, Dec. 24:

0738 – motorist assist, Ecorse Rd./Sheldon Rd.
0758 – mental subject, Bemis Rd.
0852 – suicidal person, Jackson St.
0939 – intrusion alarm, Haggerty Rd.
1115 – welfare check, Westlake Cir.
1115 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1114 – domestic, Michigan Ave./Dellor St.
1150 – welfare check, Capitol Dr.
1240 – 911 welfare check, N. Woodbury Dr.
1243 – animal complaint, Coolidge St.
1314 – malicious destruction of property, Alden
1328 – malicious destruction of property, Alden
1440 – disorderly, Belleville Rd.
1520 – intrusion alarm, E. Huron River Dr.
1550 – assist fire dept., S. I-94 Service Dr.
xxxx – intrusion alarm, Kirkridge Park Dr.
1831 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd. / Martz Rd.
1926 – road hazard, Ecorse Rd./Sheldon Rd.
1945 – private property/property damage accident, Jeannette Ave.
2029 – mental subject, Vernon St.
2154 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, Fay Dr.
2312 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Freedom Way

Wednesday, Dec. 25:

0115 – noise complaint, Denton Rd.

0251 – assist other dept., Savage Rd.
0817 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Freedom Way
1138 – fraud, N. Woodbury Dr.
1144 – assist fire dept., Belleville Rd.
1259 – assist other dept., Casteel
1243 – assist fire dept., Oak Ln.
xxxx – assist other dept., McKinley St.
1431 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Harmony Ln.
1531 – property damage accident, Denton Rd. / Michigan Ave.
1547 – trespassing, Jeremy Rd.
1552 – neighbor trouble, Maple Dr.
1820 – suicidal person, Ecorse Rd./Haggerty Rd.
2056 – larceny, Belleville Rd.
2255 – assist other dept., Haggerty Rd.

Thursday, Dec. 26:

0302 – assist fire dept., Ecorse Rd.
0401 – 911 welfare check, Brandi Dr.
0412 – family trouble, Anna Dr.
0812 – suicidal person, Belleville Rd.
1113 – motorist assist, Belleville Rd.
1138 – suicidal person, N. I-94 Service Dr./Quirk
1256 – traffic offense, Lindsey Dr.
1529 – property check, Coca-Cola Dr.
1600 – vehicle lockout, N. Timberland Dr.
1654 – lost property/child, Belleville Rd.
1718 – disorderly, Parkside Dr.
1739 – property damage accident, Ecorse/Denton
xxxx – civil matter, N. Bellridge Dr.
1844 – road hazard, W. Huron River Dr. / Rawsonville Rd.
1857 – missing person, Haggerty Rd.
2121 – larceny, Freedom Way
2134 – domestic, McBride Ave.
2231 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Ecorse Rd.

xxxx – assist citizen, Renton Rd.
2256 – disorderly, Belleville Rd.
2309 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / N. I-94 Service Dr.

Friday, Dec. 27:

0011 – family trouble, Florence Ln.
0100 – noise complaint, Lake Villa Dr.
xxxx – intrusion alarm, Van Born Rd.
0103 – property check, Winding Pond Dr.
0738 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Ironwood Dr.
0747 – property damage accident, Haggerty Rd. / Savage Rd.
0942 – welfare check, Richard Run Dr.
1119 – noise complaint, Parkwood Dr.
1014 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Lighthouse Dr.
1101 – misc. complaint, Bemis Rd.
1117 – domestic, Rawsonville Rd.
1119 – property damage accident, Haggerty Rd. / E. Huron River Dr.
1201 – neighbor trouble, Sunrise Ln.
1138 – threat, Belleville Rd.
1213 – breaking & entering, S. Woodbury Dr.
1215 – welfare check, Christina Ln.
1259 – civil matter, Michigan Ave./Denton Rd.
1508 – animal complaint, Jeremy Rd.
1551 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1802 – civil matter, Parkside Dr.
1802 – assist other dept., Brandi Dr.
1915 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, America

1939 – domestic, Venetian Ave.
2022 – animal complaint, N. Woodbury Dr.
xxxx – repossession, Parkwood Dr.
2101 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
2341 – assist fire dept., Rawsonville Rd.

Saturday, Dec. 28:

0052 – domestic, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0410 – domestic, Holly Ln.
0847 – harassment call, Meadows Cir.
0920 – shooting, Fret Rd.
0939 – intrusion alarm, Lenmoore Ave.
1137 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / N. I-94 Service Dr.
1207 – animal complaint, Pond Bluff Dr.
1341 – larceny from auto, S. Bellridge Dr.
1458 – 911 welfare check, Outer Dr.
1516 – PPO violation, Martinsville Rd.
1704 – intrusion alarm, Paloma Dr.
1734 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Parkwood Dr.
1850 – domestic, Fret Rd.
1938 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1951 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Linda Vista

2142 – traffic offense, Hickory Woods
2249 – assault & battery, Belleville Rd.
2320 – welfare check, S. IU-94 Service Dr.
Also, on this log are 18 traffic stops, three of which are on the I-94 freeway.
There were 219 dispatch calls reported by Van Buren Township police in the week of Dec. 29-Jan. 4, including the following.

Sunday, Dec. 29:

0006 – noise complaint, Denton Rd.
0020 – suicidal person, Sadie Ln.
0059 – welfare check, Southport Apts.
0109 – harassment call, Lake Point Blvd.
0448 – property damage accident, Haggerty Rd./N. I-94 Service Dr.
0939 – assist other dept., W. I-94/Haggerty
1026 – intrusion alarm, W. Huron River Dr.
1147 – civil matter, Water's Edge
Xxxx – repossession, Parkwood Dr.
1251 – civil matter, Daisy Blvd.
1447 – intrusion alarm, Haggerty Rd.
1617 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Spruce Ln.
1622 – assist fire dept., Holly Ln.
1818 – threat, Belleville Rd.
1850 – threat, Hannan Rd.
1958 – assist other dept., Rawsonville Rd. / S. Grove Rd.

2003 – civil matter, McKinley St.

2035 – neighbor trouble, Freedom Way
2050 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Robison River Park

2107 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Sylvia Dr.

2245 – mental subject, Freedom Way
2228 – domestic, S. I-94 Service Dr.
2302 – threat, Meadows Ct.
2326 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Denton
2343 – property damage accident, S. I-94 Service Dr. / Ryznar Dr.

Monday, Dec. 30:

0530 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
0711 – warrant arrest, Sondra Dr.
0834 – domestic, Parkwood Dr.
0926 – abandoned auto, Tyler Rd./Parkwood Dr.
1201 – animal complaint, Maurice Dr.
1200 – noise complaint, Purple Sage Ct.
1249 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Maurice Dr.
xxxx – assist citizen, Cobblestone Creek Dr.
1301 – private property impound, Rose Blvd.
xxxx – private property impound, Sumpter Rd.
1320 – civil matter, Martinsville Rd.
1414 – disorderly, Belleville Rd.
1425 – civil matter, Tyler Rd.
1441 – road hazard, E. Huron River Dr.
1456 – larceny, Hayes St.
1524 – breaking & entering, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1615 – welfare check, Parkwood Dr.
1803 – parking complaint, Village Green Ln.
1836 – civil matter, McBride Ave.
1841 – motorist assist, Bemis Rd.
1908 – civil matter, Ecorse Rd.
1957 – private property/property damage accident, Belleville Rd.

2029 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
2045 – motorist assist, Ecorse Rd./Morton Taylor
2122 – intrusion alarm, Yost Rd.
2322 – family trouble, Arlene Ln.

Tuesday, Dec. 31:

0027 – intrusion alarm, Van Born Rd.
0104 – family trouble, Tallgrass Ct.
0204 – assist fire dept., E. Huron River Dr.
0259 – threat, Fairbanks St.
0516 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
0552 – property check, Haggerty Rd.
0650 – 911 welfare check, Sheldon Rd.
0650 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
0816 – larceny from auto, Kirkridge Park Dr.
0849 – trespassing, N. I-94 Service Dr.
0906 – intrusion alarm, S. Cumberland Dr.
1045 – assist citizen, Laguna Dr.
1105 – larceny, Parkwood Dr.
1208 – civil matter, McBride Ave.
1442 – welfare check, Tallgrass Ct.
1550 – traffic offense, Belleville Rd.
1630 – welfare check, Jackson St.
1631 – larceny, Beacon Trl.
1655 – civil matter, Peninsular Dr.
1708 – property damage accident, Hull Rd.
1837 – civil matter, Tyler Rd.
1837 – road hazard, E. Huron River Dr. / Haggerty
1855 – motorist assist, Hull Rd./Elwell Rd.
1926 – intrusion alarm, Jeremy Rd.

1944 – assist fire dept., Maurice Dr.
2040 – motorist assist, Martz Rd./Lohr Rd.
2058 – disorderly, S. I-94 Service Dr.
2056 – private property impound, Kirkridge Park
Condos
2156 – shooting, E. Huron River Dr.

Wednesday, Jan. 1:

0024 – missing person, Freedom Way
0151 – fight, Belleville Rd.
0328 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Haggerty Rd.
0803 – family trouble, Holly Ln.
0951 – mental subject, Haggerty Rd.
1032 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Sunrise Ln.
1206 – trespassing, Belleville Rd.
1329 – civil matter, Country Ln.
1345 – civil matter, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1417 – property check, Westlake Cir.
xxxx – harassment call, Denton Rd.
2013 – juvenile complaint, Sadie Ln.
2101 – intrusion alarm, Ecorse Rd.
2224 – noise complaint, Westlake Cir.
2316 – family trouble, Sylvia Dr.
2334 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd. / S. Grove Rd.

Thursday, Jan. 2:

0114 – 911 welfare check, lake Villa Dr.
0328 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Haggerty Rd.
0708 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
0940 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Purple Sage Ct.
0940 – motorist assist, Belleville Rd.
1033 – intrusion alarm, Ecorse Rd.
1156 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Fret Rd.

1457 – intrusion alarm, Cobblestone Ct.
1512 – motorist assist, Rawsonville Rd.
1643 – civil matter, Belleville Rd.
1803 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1902 – welfare check, Chester Ct.
1914 – motorist assist, Savage Rd./Martinsville
2024 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
2110 – intrusion alarm, Sunset Pond Cir.
2254 – welfare check, S. I-94 Service Dr. / Belleville Rd.
2310 – mental subject, Harmony Ln.
2344 – overdose, Martinsville Rd.

Friday, Jan. 3:

0027 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Togowtee Pass
0228 – intrusion alarm, Rolan Meadows Dr.
xxxx – 911 welfare check, N. Woodbury Green
0432 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Harbor Ln.

1003 – assist fire dept., Park Estates Dr.
1024 – threat, Water's Edge Ln.
1214 – family trouble, Pond Bluff Dr.
xxxx – intrusion alarm, Belmont Dr.
1320 – 911 welfare check, Parkwood Dr.
1521 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Belleville Rd./Quirk Rd.

1540 – sexual assault, Belleville Rd.
1637 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Elwell Rd./Hull Rd.

1703 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Belleville Rd.

xxxx – vehicle lockout, Robson Rd.
1740 – civil matter, Belleville Rd.
1811 – mental subject, Kirkridge Park Dr.
1904 – domestic, Hardwood Dr.
2017 – private property/property damage accident, Rose Blvd.
2041 – fraud, W. Archwood Dr.
2310 – vehicle lockout, Parkwood Dr.
2336 – intrusion alarm, Martinsville Rd.

Saturday, Jan. 4:

0113 – assist citizen, Sawgrass ct.
0453 – motorist assist, N. I-275/Ecorse Rd.
0752 – intrusion alarm, Brookside Dr.
0900 – intrusion alarm, Forestdale Dr.
0934 – fraud, Greenwood Dr.
1056 – larceny, Rawsonville Rd.
1324 – animal complaint, Marlowe Ave./Robson
1240 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1257 – assist fire dept., Martinsville Rd.
1321 – civil matter, Water's Edge Ln.
1325 – animal complaint, Martinsville Rd.
1433 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1504 – private property/property damage accident, N. Cumberland Dr.

(Continued on page 15)

Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

(continued from page 14)

1437 – civil matter, S. Woodbury Dr.
1539 – intrusion alarm, Vista Dr.
1836 – disorderly, Belleville Rd.
1924 – disorderly, S. I-94 Service Dr.
xxxx – property damage accident, E. Main St.
2203 – road hazard, W. I-94/Haggerty Rd.
2217 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
2232 – found property/child, N. I-94 Service Dr.
Also, on this log are 63 traffic stops, 17 of which are on the I-94 and I-275 freeways.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Dec. 22:
0039 – welfare check, Main St.
0141 – intrusion alarm, W. Columbia Ave.
1722 – animal complaint, Main St.
Monday, Dec. 23:
1426 – property check, W. Columbia Ave.
1554 – property check, Life Pointe Church
Tuesday, Dec. 24:
1013 – intrusion alarm, E. Huron River Dr.
1121 – civil matter, Carmell St.
1346 – family trouble, Harbour Pointe Dr.
1440 – larceny, Sumpter Rd.
1812 – property check, N. Liberty St.
1821 – bomb threat, E. Huron River Dr.
2259 – property damage accident, South St. / E. Huron River Dr.

Wednesday, Dec. 25:
0737 – property check, W. Columbia Ave.
0746 – property check, trailer park Belle Villa
0801 – property check, Life Pointe Church
1041 – property check, Denton Rd.
2344 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Harbour Pointe Dr. / W. Huron River Dr.

Thursday, Dec. 26:
0820 – intrusion alarm, W. Columbia Ave.
0857 – unattended death, E. Columbia Ave.
1312 – animal complaint, Harbour Pointe Dr.
1545 – ordinance violation – all 7300 MICR codes, Potter Dr.

Friday, Dec. 27:
1443 – mental subject, S. Liberty St.
1623 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
1727 – 911 welfare check, Belle Villa Blvd.
1817 – intrusion alarm, Main St.
2201 – property damage accident, Main St.

Saturday, Dec. 28:
0925 – intrusion alarm, Main St.
0935 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
1115 – property damage accident, Main St.
1202 – mental subject, S. Liberty St.
1240 – intrusion alarm, Main St.
1527 – assist other dept., Martinsville Rd.
1543 – 911 welfare check, Belle Villa Blvd.
1726 – traffic offense, South St./Wabash
1750 – intrusion alarm, E. Huron River Dr.

There are 55 reports on this week's log and 21 of those are traffic stops.

Sunday, Dec. 29:
0136 – assist citizen, Main St.
1210 – property check, Village Park
1232 – property check, Owen St.
1831 – domestic, Belle Villa Blvd.
2137 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Belle Villa Blvd.

Monday, Dec. 30:
1412 – misc. complaint, Main St.
1609 – ordinance violation – all 7300 MICR codes, E. Wabash Ave.
1747 – trespassing, Belle Villa Blvd.
1925 – assist fire dept., Sumpter Rd.

Tuesday, Dec. 31:
1113 – motorist assist, E. Columbia Ave. / S. Liberty St.
1202 – fraud, S. Biggs Ave.
1355 – disorderly, S. Industrial Park Dr.
1428 – property damage accident, Sumpter Rd. / Belle Villa Blvd.
1441 – harassment call, N. Liberty St.
1823 – property check, Clarence St.

Wednesday, Jan. 1:
0233 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, W. Columbia Ave.
1322 – suicidal person, Carmell St.
1409 – warrant arrest, Mound
1525 – civil matter, Main St.
2121 – found property/child, Main St.

Thursday, Jan. 2:
1357 – mental subject, Main St.
1427 – property damage accident, Main St.
1446 – trespassing, W. Columbia Ave.
1436 – sex offender registration, Carmell St.
1604 – sex offender registration, Carmell St.
2154 – intrusion alarm, W. Columbia Ave.

Friday, Jan. 3:
0857 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Sumpter Rd.
1140 – mental subject, Robbe St.
1628 – vehicle lockout, South St.
1715 – family trouble, Henry St.

Saturday, Jan. 4:
0317 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, South St. / Industrial Park Dr.
1006 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, Main St. / E. Columbia Ave.
1152 – assist other dept., N. Aberdeen Ct.
1940 – property damage accident, Main St.
2107 – found property/child, Main St.
Also on this week's log are 83 dispatch calls, 49 of which were traffic stops.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Dec. 22:
0818 – 911 hangup, 262 New Mexico St.
0946 – civil matter, 22000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
1052 – subpoena service, New Mexico St.
1054 – 911 hangup, 17000 bl. Savage Rd.
1116 – follow-up investigation, 25000 bl. Clark
1142 – fire dept. assist, Wyoming St.
1149 – 911 hangup, Hampshire Dr.
1208 – fire dept. assist, New Mexico St.
1215 – fire dept. assist, 44000 bl. Willis Rd.
1314 – fire dept. assist, Huron Twp. PD
1330 – alarm, 22000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
1405 – fire dept. assist, 47000 bl. Wear Rd.
1456 – family trouble, Edgewood Dr.
1642 – mental health call, 49000 bl. Judd Rd.
1700 – fire dept. assist, Rustic Ln.
1756 – alarm, 41000 bl. Judd Rd.

1851 – animal complaint, 27000 bl. Martinsville
2018 – suspicious person, 24000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
2049 – fire dept. assist, 23000 bl. Clark Rd.
Monday, Dec. 23:
0017 – 911 hangup, Birch Dr.
0405 – fire dept. assist, Arizona St.
0944 – follow-up investigation, out of township
1032 – 911 hangup, Nevada St.
1035 – follow-up investigation, out of township
1113 – follow-up investigation 51000 bl. Willis
1137 – 911 hangup, Kansas St.
1237 – fire dept. assist, 47000 bl. Wear Rd.
1312 – welfare check, Willow Rd./Haggerty Rd.
1359 – civil matter, 45000 bl. Judd Rd.
1426 – welfare check, Virginia St.
1518 – fire dept. assist, 21000 bl. Fenster Ave.
1536 – follow-up investigation, out of township
1549 – fire dept. assist, 49000 bl. Collyer Ln.
1638 – larceny, 48000 bl. Sully Dr.
1735 – property damage accident, Bemis/Sumpter
1811 – 911 hangup, Nevada St.
2318 – fire dept. assist, Carriage Ln.
2318 – 911 hangup, Carriage Ln.

Tuesday, Dec. 24:
0400 – suspicious circumstance, 22000 bl. Bohn
0840 – family trouble, Mulberry Dr.
0933 – suspicious vehicle, 21000 bl. Wilmot Rd.
1534 – fire dept. assist, New Mexico St.
1802 – suspicious circumstance, Colorado St.
2005 – family trouble, Vermont St.
2121 – follow-up investigation, W. Arizona St. / California St.
2136 – fire dept. assist, Edgewood Dr.
2237 – assist other agency, Sumpter Rd./Willow

Wednesday, Dec. 25:
0024 – suspicious circumstance, Carriage Ln.
0748 – fire dept. assist, 17000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1019 – suspicious person, 25000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1324 – fire dept. assist, New Mexico St.
1417 – animal complaint, 26000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1717 – suspicious circumstance, 17000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2030 – traffic complaint/hazard, Clark Rd. / Oakville Waltz Rd.
2259 – fire dept. assist, Mulberry Dr.

Thursday, Dec. 26:
0029 – family trouble, Texas St.
0137 – follow-up investigation, Texas St.
0839 – family trouble, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1020 – fire dept. assist, Arizona St.
1050 – found property, Third St.
1200 – welfare check, 44000 bl. Dunn Rd.
1201 – follow-up investigation, Utah Ct.
1228 – follow-up investigation, 19000 bl. Sumpter
1325 – fire dept. assist, 21000 bl. Clark Rd.
1701 – fire dept. assist, Willis Rd./Sherwood Rd.
1745 – fire dept. assist, 25000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
1907 – motorist assist, 26000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1959 – 911 hangup, Mulberry Dr.
2055 – fire dept. assist, 49000 bl. Judd Rd.

Friday, Dec. 27:
0449 – 911 hangup, 48000 bl. Sully Dr.
0547 – fire dept. assist, 50000 bl. Willow Rd.
0625 – 911 hangup, 21000 bl. Elwell Rd.
0637 – follow-up investigation, out of township
0641 – family trouble, Iowa St.
1007 – suspicious circumstance, Wyoming St.
1552 – family trouble, Arizona St.
1635 – fire dept. assist, Mulberry Dr.
1711 – animal complaint, Washington St.
1808 – family trouble, Montana St.
1920 – mental health call, 45000 bl. Harris Rd.
2038 – fire dept. assist, Texas St.
2049 – family trouble, Utah Ct.
2203 – fire dept. assist, 45000 bl. Clay Rd.

Saturday, Dec. 28:
0036 – fire dept. assist, Colorado St.
0921 – animal complaint, 47000 bl. Wear Rd.
1347 – welfare check, 44000 bl. Dunn Rd.
1538 – follow-up investigation, out of township
1630 – citizen assist, 21000 bl. Wilmot Rd.
1636 – suspicious circumstance, 48000 bl. Willow Rd.
1644 – 911 hangup, 47000 bl. Willow Rd.
2152 – family trouble, Knollwood Dr.
Also on this week's log are 198 patrol checks, 58 traffic stops, and four misc. details.

Sunday, Dec. 29:
0042 – 911 hangup, Hickory Dr.
0135 – fire dept. assist, 48000 bl. Harris Rd.
0414 – welfare check, Greenmeadow Dr.
0454 – family trouble, 18000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
1223 – fire dept. assist, Delaware St.
1617 – neighbor dispute, 20000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1638 – assist other agency, Oakville Waltz Rd. / Martinsville Rd.
1706 – 911 hangup, Second St.
1706 – 911 hangup, 44000 bl. Judd Rd.
1715 – fire dept. assist, 40000 bl. Willis Rd.
1850 – follow-up investigation, 47000 bl. Sully Dr.
1917 – fire dept. assist, Greenmeadow Dr.
2012 – assist other agency, 9200 bl. Rawsonville
2042 – family trouble, 20000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
2144 – fire dept. assist, 40000 bl. Willis Rd.

Monday, Dec. 30:
0903 – damage to property, 19000 bl. Martinsville
1023 – death investigation, 50000 bl. Judd Rd.
1032 – civil matter, Edgewood Dr.
1038 – welfare check, Virginia St.
1040 – welfare check, Delaware St.
1240 – welfare check, 24000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1247 – civil matter, Wyoming St.
1255 – larceny report, 25000 bl. karr Rd.
1305 – suspicious circumstance, 20000 bl. Elwell
1340 – suspicious person, Virginia St.
1405 – civil matter, 48000 bl. Wear Rd.
1410 – suspicious circumstance, 47000 bl. Wear
1957 – damage to property, Sherwood Rd. / Oakville Waltz Rd.
2134 – civil matter, 44000 bl. Clay Rd.
2206 – suspicious person, Mulberry Dr.
2244 – assist other agency, 18000 bl. Westcott Dr.

Tuesday, Dec. 31:
0032 – suspicious circumstance, 20000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
0156 – family trouble, 48000 bl. Bemis Rd.
0757 – 911 hangup, 42000 bl. Willow Rd.
1231 – 911 hangup, 50000 bl. Bemis Rd.
1242 – animal complaint, 45000 bl. Willow Rd.
1337 – 911 hangup, 46000 bl. Judd Rd.
1456 – fire dept. assist, 42000 bl. Willis Rd.
1720 – 911 hangup, 28000 bl. Clark Rd.
2126 – fire dept. assist, 19000 bl. Elwell Rd.
2208 – fire dept. assist, 20000 bl. Karr Rd.

2237 – suspicious vehicle, 25000 bl. Karr Rd.
2315 – family trouble, Knollwood Dr.
Wednesday, Jan. 1:
0218 – suspicious circumstance, 20000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
0240 – suspicious person, Virginia St.
0241 – 911 hangup, 50000 bl. Judd Rd.
1208 – malicious destruction of property, Magnolia Dr.
1252 – fire dept. assist, 48000 bl. Bemis Rd.
1431 – citizen assist, Willow Rd./Sherwood Rd.
1656 – follow-up investigation, 22000 bl. Bohn
1837 – suspicious vehicle, Wear Rd./Martinsville
1847 – welfare check, Nevada St.
1902 – welfare check, Rawsonville/Willis
2114 – 911 hangup, Magnolia Dr.
2137 – mental health call, 20000 bl. Sherwood Rd.

Thursday, Jan. 2:
0524 – alarm, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
0548 – civil matter, Mulberry Dr.
0910 – fraud complaint, Magnolia Dr.
0952 – 911 hangup, 49000 bl. Arkona Rd.
1148 – animal complaint, Colorado St.
1212 – civil matter, Mulberry Dr.
1246 – civil matter, Mulberry Dr.
1350 – civil matter, Birch Dr.
1544 – traffic complaint/hazard, 44000 bl. Judd
1552 – suspicious circumstance, 42000 bl. Wear
1734 – follow-up investigation, 48000 bl. Sully Dr.
2213 – follow-up investigation, First St.
2323 – 911 hangup, 28000 bl. Clark Rd.

Friday, Jan. 3:
0035 – fire dept. assist, Montana St.
0056 – suspicious circumstance, Walnut St.
0138 – follow-up investigation, Walnut St.
0356 – welfare check, Carriage Ln.
0359 – fire dept. assist, 39000 bl. Willis Rd.
0511 – fraud complaint, Carriage Ln.
0938 – citizen assist, 22000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1228 – welfare check, 44000 bl. Dunn Rd.
1357 – fire dept. assist, Alaska St.
1413 – assist other agency, California St.
1515 – civil matter, Timberlane Dr.
1612 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1722 – family trouble, 21000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1815 – mental health call, 45000 bl. Willis Rd.
1853 – 911 hangup, Butternut Dr.
1959 – 911 hangup, New Mexico St.
2044 – animal complaint, 21000 bl. Martinsville
2141 – neighbor dispute, New Mexico St.
2211 – fire dept. assist, 21000 bl. Bohn Rd.

Saturday, Jan. 4:
0105 – civil matter, Birch Dr.
0214 – fire dept. assist, Wayside Dr.
0901 – family trouble, 41000 bl. Judd Rd.
1110 – fire dept. assist, 19000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
1608 – fire dept. assist, Wayside Dr.
1900 – alarm, 8200 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
1910 – fire dept. assist, Huron Twp. PD
1954 – citizen assist, Washington St.
2348 – fire dept. assist, 20000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
Also on this week's log are 200 patrol checks, 67 traffic stops, and seven misc. details.

More Letters

Thank you, St. Jude

To the editor:
Thank you, St. Jude, for hearing my prayers. I believe in you.
St. Jude Novena
May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, keeper of the hopeless, pray for us.
Say this prayer nine times a day for nine days. On the ninth day your prayer will be answered. Publication must be promised.
Thank you, Jesus and St. Jude, for prayers answered.
C.P., Wayne, MI



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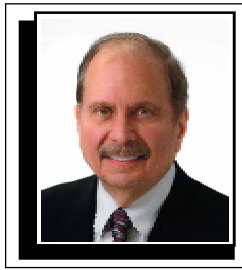
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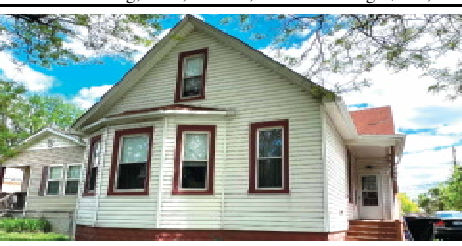
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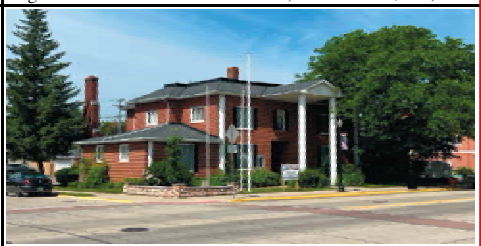
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