



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

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Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

F R E E

Council votes 4-1 to hire advisor to run fire dept.

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent editor

After another lengthy discussion on the fire department, the Belleville City Council at Monday's regular meeting voted 4-1 to hire an outside advisor to direct the fire department for three months at a cost of \$5,000, starting Dec. 1. The time period could be extended.

Mayor pro-tem Kelly Bates cast the only no vote.

The council was about to vote on the proposal by interim city manager Steve Jones, when Bates asked for the fire department to give the report she had asked for at previous meetings. Mayor Ken Voigt reluctantly allowed a representative of the fire department to speak before the vote.

The Jones proposal had been to reinstate the duty crews immediately, to hire Greg Flynn as an advisor for three months, and a possible extension of how far away duty crew members could live. He also recommended that police chief Kris Faull continue as interim public safety director, which includes police and fire.

Fire fighter Alice Reed stepped forward with a lengthy report on the suggestions the fire fighters had put together for the council, as requested by Bates.

At the end of the report, she said the recommendations of the fire fighters was to promote Chief 2 Chris Zweng to Chief 1; promote Lt. Landskroener to captain; appoint two lieutenants, put duty crews back in service at two days a week now, growing to three, to five, to seven; establish an evening duty shift; a quarterly bonus for fire fighters; sign-on bonuses and years-of-service awards; create a senior firefighter position for mid-level advancement; and quarterly meetings with members of the city council to find out what the council is thinking about the fire service.

(continued on page 3)



Stephan Cannon took a picture of the Northern Lights above Belleville Lake at about 9:30 p.m. on Nov. 12. He is sharing it with the community. The Independent has enhanced the photo by AI and Photoshop to bring out the colors of the Aurora.

VBT planners postpone action on extension of 21-year-old site plan

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent editor

River Park II Condos had its site plan approved in 2004 and then was not built. The roads and utilities are in place, but no condos.

At the Nov. 12 meeting of the Van Buren Township Planning Commission, Michael

Furnari of Tiburon Holdings was present with a request to build the condos now. After much discussion, the commission postponed a vote on the matter in order to get legal advice and other information on whether it could be built under the 2004 ordinances since much more is required for

(continued on page 6)

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SECOND FRONT PAGE

City Council

(continued from page 1)

Zweng rose at the end to explain only two fire fighters live in the city and that Reed's report was done in collaboration with all the fire fighters. He said a week ago, at a special workshop, fire fighters were asked to put together a report by that Wednesday and they had it by Wednesday. He said some of the information was not available to them, however.

"We're not in it for the money," Zweng said. "We're in it to protect your community ... Let us do this."

Mayor Voigt called out, "Stop!" to Zweng.

The mayor said the council appreciates the report and there were many good ideas. He said everything had been rehashed, referring to the lengthy discussion at a previous council meeting, followed by a special workshop on the department.

Voigt said the city has come up with the money to reinstate a duty crew and a quarterly progress report is a good idea.

But he insisted they need to have someone come in and help the city and they can't just do it the way it's always been done, referring to taking the next in line for chief.

"It has to be a process," he said. "Not the way it's been done in the past. We're looking for best practices."

Councilman Jeremiah Beebe spoke about grants and asked whether the city's grant writer looked for grants for the fire department. Jones replied, "Not really."

Beebe also said he was under the impression the advisor would be present at that meeting. He said any time you're asking for money for a person, that person should be present. He referred to the "hiring freeze" referenced by fire fighters, and that Jones had said wasn't really a "hiring freeze." The fire fighters had said there are three in line waiting to be hired and Jones said they could process them.

It was pointed out that the proposed advisor had been before the council when he gave the original report on the fire department.

Mayor Voigt said they don't really need to vote on reinstating the duty crew, since that can be done administratively. And, he said, Faull already is serving as interim public safety director.

So, the motion to hire the advisor for three months, with the possibility of extension, was made by Beebe and seconded by councilman Randy Priest. Voting yes were Beebe, Priest, Voigt, and councilwoman Julie Kissel. Voting no was Bates.

At the end of the meeting, Bates said she would make sure the new advisor had a copy of the fire fighters' report so he could put it next to the report he had given to the city, so the two proposals are "married."

Kissel said the advisor would be on duty



Independent photo by Rosemary K. Oztman

Posing for a picture with an award plaque at Monday's Belleville City Council meeting are, from left, Mayor Ken Voigt, city employee Paula Levesque, and Joyce and Walter Rochowiak. Mayor Voigt said the city placed third in the nation by America in Bloom for exemplar flower baskets. Levesque waters the 77 baskets every day, always with small amounts of fertilizer in the water which makes them flourish. The Rochowiaks of Garden Fantasy in Van Buren Township plant the plants early and place 15 plants in each planter. They also recommend how to care for them.

as of Dec. 1 and, "There's nothing like this in the archives. A first!"

Beebe said he voted for the advisor because he was tired of going around and around. He apologized to the fire fighters and said the city shouldn't hurry to put the duty crew back in because it could just end up with the problems they have now.

In other business at Monday's one-and-a-half-hour meeting, the council:

- Heard interim public safety director/chief Faull announce that fire fighter Isabella Teachout learned she had passed her final test and now is an EMT. Faull also said Belleville will be taking part in the shop with a cop the week of Dec. 16 and, while Meijer and Walmart donate to the project every year, this year the city school resource officer got another \$2,400 from Walmart and \$2,500 from J&T Crova for the event;
- Approved the Holiday Train Viewing party at 149 South St. this Saturday, Nov. 22. There will be commissary businesses and a lot of food while people wait for the decorated train to go past on the tracks;
- Heard Bates tell the details of this year's holiday lights contest. She said council

members will travel around separate areas of the city to judge the best lights on Dec. 5-7 and report winners to the *Independent* on Dec. 8, so pictures can be taken. Awards will be given to winners at the Dec. 15 council meeting. Categories will be Harbour Pointe, Victoria Commons, mobile home parks, downtown, and remainder of the city;

- Heard Stephanie Osborn of Giffels and Webster consultants ask for suggestions on the Parks and Recreation Master Plan she had presented to the planning commission the previous week and to the council that evening. Kissel suggested changes. Osborn said the plan will go out by Dec. 6 to surrounding communities for 30-day review period and then be back to the city council in January for adoption so it can get to the DNR by Feb. 1;
- Voted to make new DPW director Nathaniel Johnson the city's official representative to the Downriver Utilities Wastewater Authority. Johnson gave a report on the last DUWA meeting. He reported an announced 3.5% increase in cost to the 13 different communities who are part of the DUWA;

- Discussed voting on the mayor-pro-tem position, since this was the first meeting after the council election and the charter said that's when a vote should be taken. When clerk/treasurer Briana Papin said she was unsure about putting something new on the agenda after it had been approved, the mayor said this could be voted on at the first meeting in December;
- Heard councilman Priest say he finally went over to look at the new city hall and he thinks the meeting room should have the council table on a riser so everyone can see them and they can better see the public. He also commended the fire department; and
- Heard mayor Voigt say he had attended the successful Van Buren Public School Foundation fundraiser at the BYC, the SEMCOG general assembly, and the veterans' event at the high school that was not as well attended as it should be. He said councilman Priest's idea to have a slightly raised council table in the new city hall is not what is planned. The "big room" will not be set up just for council meetings and will be used like the Cozaad room at the library.

O P I N I O N S

Editorial:

This is the time of giving with an open heart

People are always generous in this small community, but when Thanksgiving Day approaches and Christmas lights start twinkling, our hearts open wide and our hands reach into our pockets to share what we have.

After our explanation about the tough financial times we are having, our readers started coming forward to help. One man walked into our office last Wednesday, after reading the new paper online, and handed me a crisp, \$100 bill and wouldn't give his name. He said he appreciates the paper.

Other donations are coming in various ways and we appreciate every dollar. Thank you.

The schools are having fund-raisers to help those in need, scouts are collecting food, and Shop with a Cop is coming up, with big-time donations from Meijer, Walmart, and J&T Crova. Meijer gave \$10,000 to the local food closet and a fund-raiser at the Eagles lodge came up with \$17,000 to fight Parkinsons.

We are happy to live in such a giving community that has just started its giving for this season. Goodfellows for Belleville / Van Buren and for Sumpter Township have begun their work and also Toys for Tots bins are already starting to fill up.

Hearts are overflowing and those who can are sharing with those who can't.

We are all blessed to live in such a great community and such a great country.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

Two of our original investors in the *Independent* died last week. Beverly Yurchak died on Nov. 13 and Allen Sacco died on Nov. 15. Allen's obituary is in today's paper and Bev's obituary will run next week.

They were among the dozen who chipped in \$1,000 each to start a new local paper. They did this in December 1994 and the *Independent* was published for the first time on Jan. 5, 1995 and has continued ever since. Over the years various owners of the LLC have changed, but Bev and Allen were among those who stayed and supported us always. We mourn their passing.

On our police dispatch log for Belleville this week we noticed a "bomb threat" entry on Main Street at 11:12 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 15. We asked police chief Kris Faull about it before Monday's city council meeting and she explained that the call came from the museum. She said someone opened a box at the museum and found military items, including a grenade. They didn't know if it was live so they called the police and the police called the bomb squad. It was found to be "decommissioned" so all was well.

A fireman sitting in the back row said where he used to work they got calls like this all the time. He said people went to war and brought back souvenirs and some of them were live souvenirs.

It was pointed out to me on Monday that while the mayor wants to follow "a process" with the management of the fire department, the process for hiring wasn't followed for the new DPW director. He was not processed through the Civil Service Commission as required by the charter. The

...By Rosemary K. Otzman



city manager is in charge of the commission and he apparently bypassed the commission and just announced the new director. Of course, he is *interim* city manager and under the charter interim employees can only be in place for 90 days and he's been there a lot longer.

The council tried to get rid of the Civil Service Commission, but the voters said no. So, they ignore the voters?

What's going on with the "process"?

We really feel sorry for the Belleville Fire Department. Morale has been low since the department was targeted by the council. Apparently, somebody doesn't like the next in line for chief. It's pretty easy to figure out who that is on the council by watching the person's facial movements during discussions.

Good luck to those city residents depending on the fire department for their well-being. I'm told there is some dissension in the fire department and I wouldn't be surprised.

The move to vote on a mayor pro-tem without it being on Monday's agenda was peculiar. Hope it's not a move to get rid of the present mayor pro-tem who supported the fire fighters who wanted to keep charge of their department instead of letting it be run by some expert from out of town.

We'll see how the mayor pro-tem vote goes at the next council meeting.

Crain's Business magazine reports that

Trinity (the former St. Joseph Mercy Hospital) is expanding its emergency room space. It will keep the present emergency services in place during the expansion.

We are so glad to hear this, since so many people have told us of their visits to the ER that ended up with them on beds in the hallways for days.

U of M Hospital is opening a huge new hospital and Corewell Health (the former Annapolis Hospital) has expanded.

Is this all to fight for the business or are we getting sicker as a society so we need the extra space?

We received a report that the 13th most-dangerous intersection in Michigan in 2024 was the double roundabouts at Lee and Whitmore Lake roads in Green Oak Township. Located just off U.S. 23 near Costco and the Green Oak Village Place mall, the roundabouts, have been controversial with area drivers since they opened in the summer of 2006.

There were 80 total crashes and three injuries at the site in 2024.

I'm not crazy about roundabouts, but the present Belleville city council has talked about having one at Five Points and a mini roundabout at Third and Main.

Hope they reconsider.



www.bellevilleareaindependent.com
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BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

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Letters

Sumpter Goodfellows seek help for children

To the editor:

Sumpter Goodfellows -- Our motto is "No child without a Christmas." We envision a world where every child experiences the magic of Christmas, and our community's generosity makes this vision a reality.

All donations are utilized to purchase gifts and essentials for families in need. In the years past, we have chosen a few hours on a Saturday morning (either the end of November or first week in December) where several Goodfellows volunteers come together to collect money on street corners.

Unfortunately, last year one of our members was struck by a vehicle while collecting donations. To prioritize our members' safety, we need to adapt our approach this year. Our street collections have been a vital contributor to our donations.

We have contacted several local businesses and below is a list which have so graciously allowed us to place cash donation and or toy collection boxes in them. Please support these businesses as they have shown their support for our community. We are grateful for their partnership in spreading joy to those in need.

The following have both a toy collection box and a cash donation box: Sam's Bar and Grill on Bemis, Chapp's Landing on S. Huron, Ace Hardware on Sumpter, Red Rooster Bar and Pizzeria on Willis, The Hair Station on Main Street, Atchinson Ford on Belleville Rd.

The following businesses have toy collection boxes: The Butcher Shop on Main Street and Country Farms Market on Rawsonville Road.

The following businesses have cash donation boxes: Iron Mike's Tavern on Waltz, Littletown Liquor & Deli, BP Station Sumpter and Willis, Sunoco Bemis and Sumpter, Denny's Hair Salon on Main Street, and NAPA Auto Parts on Sumpter.

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Sumpter Goodfellows

Emergency Food Closet blessed with support

To the editor:

With Thanksgiving right around the corner, the Emergency Food Closet housed at Belleville First United Methodist Church, 417 Charles St., has been blessed by an outpouring of support from community residents and community groups with donations of food, personal care items, and monetary donations in this time of uncertainty for so many.

On Nov. 4 and 5, 94 bags and refrigerator items were distributed in 6 hours and we had 10 new clients. October was our busiest month of the year with 296 bags distributed.

From Jan. 1-Oct. 31, 2025, 2,571 bags and frig items were passed out, had 163 new clients, and served 334 families. 689 more bags have been distributed in 2025 than in the same time period in 2024.

Thank you to everyone who has donated to help those in need in our community!

Marilyn Wood, coordinator
Emergency Food Closet
Belleville

Angel of Hope event set at Hillside Cemetery

The Angel of Hope ceremony, for families who have lost a child at any age, will be held at 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, at Hillside Cemetery in Belleville.

The yearly national remembrance includes reading of names and tolling of the bell for each name read. Participants are urged to dress for the outside ceremony.

To add a name to the list or to inquire about the ceremony, call David C. Brown Funeral Home at (734) 697-4500.

Free Winter Movie Night set at WCCC

Wayne County Community College will show the Disney movie "Elio" at its Van Buren Township campus at 6 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 25. The event is open to the public at no cost.

The winter movie will be shown indoors in the Ted Scott Community Room at 9555 Haggerty Rd. The event is family friendly and people are invited to bring their blankets, chairs, and coolers. Alcohol is not permitted on the premises.

In the movie, Elio struggles to fit in until he is transported by aliens and becomes the chosen one to be Earth's galactic ambassador while his mother Olga works on the top-secret project to decode alien messages.

For more information, call (734) 699-7008 or visit www.wcccd.edu.

Obituaries



Allen David Sacco

ALLEN DAVID SACCO

June 11, 1962 – November 15, 2025

Allen David Sacco, age 63 of Belleville, MI, passed away unexpectedly in his home Saturday, November 15, 2025. He was born to Joseph "Sonny" and Katherine "Kay" (nee Marcoux) Sacco, on June 11, 1962, in Detroit, MI.

Allen was truly a spark of life. With his infectious laugh and incredible personality, he would light up any room he entered. He could, and would, talk to anybody, instantly enchanting people with his warmth. His genuine conversation was always peppered with a bit of offbeat humor and sarcasm. He was intelligent and enjoyed creating books, websites and also podcasts in his free time. He loved to write about his kids, and his love for his cats. He truly was one of a kind. He graduated from Garden City East High school in 1980. He was one of the 12 investors who started the *Belleville-Area Independent* in 1995 and has proudly carried ownership ever since. He was very proud of all of his accomplishments in his too short life. He managed to leave a lasting mark on so many people. He leaves behind his beloved wife of 22 years, Kimberly; his dear children: Joseph, Benjamin, Rachel (Bruce Woodward), Leah, Levi, and Rebekah (Joseph Arnett); his grandchildren: Mackenzie Arnett, Samantha Arnett, Frances Woodward and Lucas Arnett; his brother John and sister Pamela (Eddie Wielander). Many nieces, nephews and cousins share in mourning his loss. He also would want to acknowledge his best friend "Uncle" Glen Skinner (Sheri). He is preceded in death by his mother Katherine and father Joseph. Allen fought battles with his health for many years and remained positive for everyone around him. He fought hard until his last breath. Per Allen's wishes, which have been discussed during previous hospital stays, there will not be an open funeral service held. A celebration of life will be planned for a future date.

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VBT Plan

(continued from page 1)

building permits now.

The site is located on the south side of Ecorse Road between Morton Taylor and Haggerty roads. The development was partially constructed around 2004. The request is to build 74 condos on the unused seven acres, as approved by the township 21 years ago.

Furnari has asked for an extension of the old site plan.

Township planning consultant Vidya Krishnan of McKenna Associates recommended approval of the extension, although a residential site plan is good for one year and then can be extended for one or two more years at the most. She said condo site plans don't expire. She said the property was split from the developed part and there is a question about the Homeowners Association being separate or not.

Commission vice-chairman Jeff Jahr questioned whether the commission had the legal authority to grant this extension. He asked for a letter of reapproval from Wayne County for the drainage. He said the parcel would not be able to be developed under the new ordinances.

Commission chairman Brian Cullin said he would like to see continuity in the development from the old to the new.

Furnari said he would like to start building in the spring. He said he has been

paying property taxes on the 74 parcels and, "I just want to develop my lots."

"I've never seen this before," Jahr said. "We have some concerns ... On the surface it's not a bad idea."

The commission unanimously passed a motion to postpone action until they get a letter from Wayne County on water detention, have the staff consult with the township attorney, look into the possibility of putting the parcels back together, and see a comparison of regulations from 2004 compared to those in effect now.

In other business at the two-hour-and-37-minute meeting, the commission:

- Postponed action on a request by Davenport Brothers on behalf of owner Sdikhdev Singh of Chahal Trucking to amend the approved site plan for a repair facility. More information is needed and there was no one present from the applicant to respond to questions;

- Approved a site plan for a dock and stairs for Mission Pointe on the Lake Subdivision Association at 13085 Ventura Dr. Structural steel will replace the 20-year-old wooden structures that have deteriorated. There will also be 10 steel pilings. No slips will be rented and this will be just for daily recreational use, according to the association representative;

- Discussed the proposed drafts for the MRD (Mixed Residential District) and MROD (Mixed Residential Overlay District) and set a public hearing for Jan. 14 on the ordinances;

- Discussed proposed ordinance amendments to control the placement of car washes. A moratorium on car washes is in place until April 7, 2026, but a new car wash has been proposed on Belleville Road and is under staff review. Krishnan said with the Water Works and new Zippy Car Wash on Belleville Road and the application by El Car Wash in the same area, that will make three car washes within one mile of each other. She noted Zax Car Wash in the city of Belleville is within a mile of Zippy, making four in that area; and

- Heard Krishnan say that she would like to see traffic impact studies to be conducted by the township engineers instead of the applicant's engineer, the way it is now. She said she has never seen an applicant's study saying something wasn't feasible. Jahr added that there are no consequences if the study is wrong. Krishnan wants to put this in the car wash ordinance being proposed.



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Obituaries



Michael Ray Horvath

MICHAEL RAY HORVATH

December 29, 1943 – October 18, 2025

Devoted husband, father, grandfather.

Mike, 81, of Belleville, passed away October 18, 2025. He was born December 29, 1943 to Elmer and Jean (Dunham) Horvath from Plymouth, MI.

After graduating from Plymouth High School, he served his country in the United States Army for 2 years. He met and married the love of his life Lynda from Belleville, MI, sharing 56 years of marriage together.

He worked for several years at Ford Motor Company and then he was employed by Stu Evans Lincoln Mercury painting cars until retirement. Her was a very hard worker and provider.

Mike loved spending time with his family and friends. He enjoyed being outdoors, fishing, hunting and trips to Canada.

Through his journey of 81 years, he touched many lives with his wisdom, humor, stories and unwavering spirit of perseverance.

Mike was preceded in death by his parents Elmer and Jean Horvath, his wife Lynda Horvath, brother-in-law Cliff Perry, sister-in-law Cheryl Sineveck, and brother-in-law John Sineveck. Mike is survived by his children Rene'e (Mark) LeClair, Michael (Melissa) Horvath, Bryan (Michelle) Horvath, Brad Horvath (Stephanie Sharpe), Tonya Horvath (Ryan Scherz); his grandchildren Marrisra (Sam) Parham, Blaine LeClair, Cole (Deanna) Horvath, Hunter Horvath, Madison Horvath, Ava Horvath, Sophia Horvath, Chase Horvath, Parker Horvath, Colin Schuman and Carson Schuman; and his sisters Sue (Arlen) Wallace, Linda Wilkin, Sherry (Gene) Strickland, and sister-in-law Glenda Perry.

A memorial service will be held Friday, November 21, at 11 a.m. at Faith Community Church, 894 East Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI.

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www.duzakcremation.comCharles Richard "Dick"
Zywicki

CHARLES 'DICK' ZYWICKI

November 12, 1946 – November 11, 2025

Charles Richard "Dick" Zywicki of Floral City, FL, and formerly of Belleville, Michigan, for many years passed away on November 11, 2025, surrounded by his family. He was born on November 12, 1946, in Ypsilanti, MI, to John and Helen (Porch) Zywicki. He graduated from Belleville High School, class of 1964. He went on to continue his education at Michigan State University where he was in the Air Force ROTC. He retired from Michigan Dairy after 32 years of loyal service. He was a member of St. Anthony Catholic Church, Belleville, MI, for many years, before he and his wife Linda retired and moved to Florida and became members of St. Scholastica Catholic Church, Lecanto, FL. Dick enjoyed being the football announcer for Lincoln High School for 38 years. He enjoyed retirement with Linda; quilting, traveling, and walking the Tarawood Community especially with their dog Zoey who really lifted his spirits. Mr. Zywicki is survived by his wife of 59 years, Linda Bernice (Tupacz) Zywicki, two sons: Rick (Shelia) Zywicki and Scott (Jackie) Zywicki, both of Belleville, MI; 5 grandchildren: Bethany (Ben) DeFlice, Hannah (Chris) Fenrich, Alan Zywicki, Brianna (Travis) Hill, and Joey Zywicki; Four great-grandchildren: Luca DeFlice and Ruby, Gideon, and Felix Fenrich; two brothers: Jerry (Peggy) Zywicki and Don (Carol) Zywicki, both of Belleville, MI; also numerous nieces, nephews, extended family, and many friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers John Ronald Zywicki and Raymond William Zywicki, granddaughter Melissa Zywicki, grandson Derek Zywicki, also a niece, Lisa Rising.

Visitation was Tuesday, November 18, 2025 at The David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville, MI, 48111, with visitation and a funeral mass on Wednesday at St. Anthony Catholic Church, in Belleville, MI. Father Bryan Shackett served as Celebrant. Entombment followed at Michigan Memorial Park, Flat Rock, MI.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Anthony Catholic Church. In lieu of flowers donations to the family are greatly appreciated.

JAMES D. CHASE

October 29, 1933 – November 14, 2025

Age 92 of Belleville. Survived by wife Betty Chase, children James and Susan, three grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. Memorial service is 1 p.m. Dec. 13 at Denton Faith United Methodist Church, Belleville.
www.davidcbrownfh.com

Seeking nominees for BHS Distinguished Grads

The deadline for nominating a Belleville High School Distinguished Graduate is Jan. 31 and BHS assistant principal Falisadoll Green wants everyone to start thinking about who deserves the honor.

Nomination forms are available on the Van Buren Public Schools website at vanburenschools.net. Click on PARENTS.

Musings

**By Janet Millard
Independent
Advertising Director**



As always, please pay attention to our advertisers and particularly for specials during the holiday season.

I mentioned last week that on third Thursday you could drop off non-perishable food items at businesses during the extended hours of shopping. Well, the Belleville Rotary Club also is collecting food items this month for the food closet located at the First United Methodist Church. Please feel free to drop off your donations at the Rotary's collection spot in the Belleville Area District Library if you find it more convenient.

I hope you've bought your tickets for good seats for Belleville High School's fall drama on Nov. 21, 22 or 23. When my son was in the plays, I attended all three so I wouldn't miss any slight changes they always make. The play, "A Wrinkle in Time," is a mix of science fiction, fantasy, and realism that tells the story of Meg, a high school girl who defeats the forces of evil in the universe to rescue her father from the evil IT. Wow, can't wait to see the sets for this one.

Also this weekend is the night the Canadian Pacific Holiday Train travels through Belleville. A lot of people end up on South Street to spend most of the evening waiting for the train to quickly pass through. But I'm sure there are people parked at many of the crossings along the way.

Veterans Day is over but Van Buren Township is planning a special Veterans Resource Expo on Tuesday, Nov. 25, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Township Hall. It is hosted by our local VFW and PLAV and although I'm not sure what vendors will be there, I do know Jasper (Dogs by Janet) will be in attendance from noon until 1 p.m.

Wayne County Community College, the Ted Scott Campus on Haggerty Road, has another free movie scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 25, at 6 p.m. "Elio" by Disney will be shown inside. For more information call (734) 699-7006 or www.wcccd.edu

Next week is Thanksgiving and our weekly paper will start being delivered on Tuesday so we can enjoy the holiday with our families on Thursday. Winterfest is almost here and next week a whole page is devoted to all the activities. Although a night parade is not my favorite, I know many of you enjoy all the lights. The Chamber has selected great, grand marshals and you can read all about them next week.

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

Veterans Resource Expo set at VBT Community Center

The Van Buren Township Community Center, 46425 Tyler Rd., will host a Veterans Resource Expo from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 25. Entry is free. The program begins at 11:30 a.m. with welcomes by VBT senior center programmer Marylynn Balewski and PLAV Post 167 post commander George Kennedy.

There will be a presentation of the colors, presentation of flags of the armed services, the National Anthem and the Missing Man Table ceremony. At 11:45 a.m. the vendor expo will begin.

The event is hosted in partnership with the Polish Legion of American Veterans

Post 167 and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4434.

Veterans are invited to connect with fellow veterans, access resources, and discover programs to support and improve quality of life.

Vendors present will include: Van Buren Township police and fire departments, Brown Funeral Home, VFW claims consultant, The Senior Alliance, U.S. Veterans Administration, Ann Arbor VA representative, VA Center for Development and Civic Engagement Services, Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency, DiPietro and Day law firm, Great Lakes National Cemetery, and Elder Law/Neighborhood Legal

Services.

Special guest is Jasper and his person Janet Deaton of Dogs by Janet.



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Belleville High School Tiger Drama Club will perform the play, "A Wrinkle in Time," at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 20; at 7 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 21; and at 2 and 7 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 22d at the BHS auditorium. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at the door.

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 Nov. 27 – Sophie Blaharski
 Nov. 28 – Jacqueline Copeland, Justine Kimbler, Jane Vesche
 Nov. 29 – Linda Endicott

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Things to do in the Belleville area...

• **Thursday, Nov. 20, Friday, Nov. 21, and Saturday, Nov. 22** – Belleville High School presents the drama, "A Wrinkle in Time," at the BHS auditorium at 6 p.m. on Thursday, 7 p.m. on Friday, and 2 and 7 p.m. on Saturday.

• **Saturday, Nov. 22** – Vendors' Market at Belleville High School, 501 W. Columbia Ave., Belleville, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. More than 70 local crafters and vendors will be there, snacks and drinks available to buy, and raffles of one-of-a-kind items. This event

raises money for the BHS senior class.

• **Sunday, Nov. 23** – At 7 p.m., Denton Faith United Methodist Church will present an evening of classical music featuring Charles Gounod's "Petite Symphonie" and Mozart's "Serenade No. 12 in C Minor" performed by current and former students from the University of Michigan School of Music and Theatre. Free. All are welcome. The church is at 6020 Denton Rd., Van Buren Township.

• **Monday, Nov. 24** – Supporters of Ranked Choice Voting will give a presentation from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Cozadd room of the Belleville Area District Library, 167 Fourth St., Belleville. Bridge the Divide

said Ranked Choice Voting will turn down the temperature of politics. Learn how this upgrade to voting lowers the temperature, decreases attack ads, increases voter turnout, and makes campaigns about issues that matter to you. Register at rankmivote.org/ events.

• **Monday, Nov. 24** – Annual Tree of Remembrance ceremony at Brown Family Center, 678 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville. Arrival at 6:45 p.m., ceremony begins at 7 p.m. No refreshments will be served. This is an outdoor ceremony, so dress warmly for the weather. Gather to remember, speak loved ones' names, and begin this holiday season together. Information: (734) 697-4500.



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Van Buren School board gets ‘jump start’ on bond projects

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Editor Emeritus

At its regular meeting on Oct. 27, the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education got information on a recommended construction management firm and architectural and engineering contracts. At its regular meeting on Nov. 10, they both were unanimously approved. Absent from the meeting was Vic DeLibera.

The projects are part of the \$77 million in bonds approved by voters in the Nov. 4 election.

Plante Moran Realpoint consultant Rob Kakoczki had recommended C.M. Granger for the construction management firm to provide construction manager services at a

cost of \$321,484 from the bond money for pre-construction services for each phase over the next six years, plus 2.0% of the project for work as it progresses. Project manager is Bryan Darling. Kakocski said it will be six to 10 months before starting the first project.

Kakoczki also had presented information on architectural and engineering contracts recommended. Out of seven firms bidding, The Collaborative+Acock was recommended at a lump sum fee of \$3,249,481 and reimbursable costs of

\$150,000. He said this information is to “get a jump start with the first projects” after the election approves the bond.

In other business, the board:

- Heard fall building presentations from the staffs of Rawsonville and Tyler elementary schools and the Early Childhood Development Center;
- Approved hiring Curtissa Frison as a fifth-grade teacher at Owen Intermediate School and Jennifer Frazier as a resource room teacher at McBride Middle School, both starting Nov. 17;

- Approved the retirement of William Frazier, a paraprofessional at Rawsonville Elementary School, as of June 30, 2026, after 38 years of service; and the resignation of administrative assistant Joumana Kadri, who worked at the administration building, as of Nov. 11 after three years of service; and
- Went into closed session “to consider material exempt from discussion or disclosure by state or federal statute” and came back into regular session only to adjourn.

Upcoming Meetings

- Monday, Nov. 24 – Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m., BHS Commons
- Tuesday, Nov. 25 – Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority, 3 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township board, 6 p.m.
- Monday, Dec. 1 – Belleville City Council, 6:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, Dec. 2 – Van Buren Township Board of Trustees, 6 p.m., and workshop at 5 p.m. as needed
- Tuesday, Dec. 9 – Sumpter Township board meeting, 6 p.m. Also, Belleville Area District Library, 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, Dec. 10 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 5:30 p.m.
- Thursday, Dec. 11 – Keystone Academy School Board, 5 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township Planning Commission, 6 p.m. Also, Belleville Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- Monday, Dec. 15 – Belleville City Council, 6:30 p.m. Also, Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m., BHS Commons
- Tuesday, Dec. 16 – Van Buren Township Board of Trustees, 6 p.m., and workshop at 5 p.m. as needed
- Wednesday, Dec. 17 – City of Belleville Downtown Development Authority, 6 p.m., Belleville City Hall, 6 Main St.


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 Date: December 1, 2025

 Time: 5:00 – 7:00 PM

 Location: Van Buren Township Hall — Boardroom, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, MI 48111

vanburendda.com

Belleville DDA holds special meeting to discuss Hayward's grant

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Editor Emeritus

A special meeting of the Belleville Downtown Development Authority was called for Nov. 5 to discuss upgrades to Hayward's Liquor Store at 573 Main St. Business owner Jennifer Kouza is applying for one of the \$20,000 grants the DDA offers for façade work on businesses in the district. No decisions could be made at the meeting because five of the nine DDA members could not attend the hastily called special session. No votes can be taken without a quorum. Present were chairman John Winter, vice-chairman Chris Donley, treasurer Sabrina Richardson-Williams, and mayor Ken Voigt.

At the DDA's Oct. 15 regular meeting, Kouza was not present but DDA manager Steve Jones said she wanted to do exterior façade improvements, including the roof, shingles, corner repair, and sign replacement. Jones said someone damaged the corner of her building and also the sign had been knocked down. He said the DDA's grant program allows up to a \$10,000 grant and up to a \$10,000, three-year no-interest loan.

More information was needed and so the grant was put off until the Nov. 5 special meeting when Kouza could attend.

Kouza brought Rad Greaves of Radford's construction to the meeting with her and he said he had been a friend of her late husband

and wanted to donate some of the project to Jennifer.

He said after he tears the roof off, he will see if the building can support the weight of slate tiles he plans to donate and that would take copperwork as well. He said he planned a batten look to the building that was commercial and not too homey.

Kouza said the wood is old and it's been at least 40 years since upgrades were made.

Greaves said it's been cedar shake since 1976.

Kouza said she sees former owner Roy Acho once in a while and he told her the façade hasn't been touched since his day.

Mayor Voigt said he remembers when he was 12 years old and his father brought him to Hayward's. They had soft-serve ice cream at the time.

Jones said the upgrades to the building will keep it with the same shapes.

Kouza said she's been trying to do things over the five years since her husband died, "God bless my husband." He had owned the business for 30 years. She said there's more to be done on the dock.

DDA chairman Winter said she has tried to improve the business.

Kouza said the state shut the business down over a gas leak that had to be repaired. She said she is so much caught up on the lower level, with wood rotting, and people stealing money.

She said she plans a simple, basic color.

Winter said the colors are up to her and the city can't tell her what colors to use.

Jones said she could paint several swaths of different colors on the building and have the people weigh in.

Kouza said she wants respectable colors, adding the dock has to be painted as well.

Greaves said the business seems historical to him, since he was friends with Kouza's husband. He said he did Mama Mia's restaurant on Mackinac Island, as a reference to his experience.

"We're the face of the city," Kouza said, noting Hayward's is one of the things drivers see first as they enter Belleville. She said on Halloween some people told her they were sorry the cross came down. She said she told them Hayward's is a liquor store, not a church, and they seemed satisfied with that

reply.

Greaves said he thought a nautical theme would be good.

DDA vice chairman Chris Donley agreed that sounded good because they were on the water.

Kouza said the lottery representatives say Hayward's numbers have been way up, so business is good.

Mayor Voigt said the DDA could approve the grant at the regular meeting in two weeks when there is a quorum and those present that evening will recommend approval.

"But, it's not approved until it's approved," Voigt said.

"I was glad when the request for the grant came in," said DDA treasurer Richardson-Williams, adding she appreciates Kouza wanting to fix up the place.

Kouza said she didn't own the building or property, but she does own the business. She said the owner told her she could do what she wanted with the building and she wants to be "uplifting the store."

Mayor Voigt said Kouza also plans improvements to the old ice house, which now holds propane.

Kouza said they will meet the ordinance on sign regulations and she plans nothing electrical on the sign.

Greaves said when he gets into the roof he can relocate the electricity, if necessary.

Donley questioned whether Kouza was going to paint the red brick to tie in with the nautical theme. She said the orange brick was painted and is chipping so she is not so sure about painting brick.

Kouza asked about the timing and if she had to be done by a certain date and she was told there was no time limit. Greaves asked if he could work at night and Mayor Voigt said he could as long as he doesn't disturb nearby residents. The city has a noise ordinance, mayor Voigt said.

In other business at the 28-minute gathering, Donley asked about power to light a Christmas tree on the flagpole at Five Points and was told the power there belongs to the county. He then suggested that a Christmas tree could be put up in the shopping center at the entry to the city. "I'll talk to him," Donley said, referring to Scott Jones who owns the shopping center.



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Publish: Nov. 20, 2025; Nov. 27, 2025

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Presentation on Ranked Choice Voting set at library on Nov. 24

A presentation on Ranked Choice Voting will be given from 6 to 7:30 p.m., Monday, Nov. 24 at the Cozadd room at the Belleville Area District Library.

The event is organized by Bridge the Divide, which asks the public to join them to see how to turn down the temperature of current politics.

Bridge the Divide urges the public to learn how this upgrade to voting lowers the temperature, decreases attack ads, increases voter turnout, and makes campaigns about issues that matter to voters.

Register at rankmivote.org/events.

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Denton Methodist Church to present classical concert

On Sunday, Nov. 23, at 7 p.m. Denton Faith United Methodist Church, along with musical director Christi Blahnik, will present an evening of classical music. The public is invited and there is no charge.

Featured with be Charles Gounod's "Petite Symphonie" and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's "Serenade No. 12 in C Minor." They will be performed by current and former students from the University of Michigan School of Music and Theatre.

The Rev. Dr. Willie F. Smith, pastor of Denton Faith United Methodist church at 6020 Denton Rd., Van Buren Township, said all are welcome.

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Summer, regional manager, and Tania, office manager, under the direction of Dr. Nicholas Kizy from Purpose Dental located at 45520 Tyler Rd in Van Buren Township, delivered 60 adult and 60 children's dental bags to the Emergency Food Closet at Belleville First United Methodist Church on Nov. 4. Each bag contains either an adult or a child's toothbrush, a box of toothpaste, and dental floss with an information card on the services provided at Purpose Dental. These will be passed out to clients with their weekly food bags. The dental team hopes to donate these on a regular basis.



Girl Scout Troop 77515, Cub Scout Pack 793, and Boy Scout Troop 231, along with parents and their troop leaders, delivered 476 bags and boxes of food to the Emergency Food Pantry housed at Belleville First United Methodist Church located at 417 Charles St. on Saturday, Nov. 8. The scouts were excited and worked very hard! Over a period of four hours, the food was sorted, date-checked for freshness, and stored by 27 scouts, parents, leaders, and food closet volunteers. The food was donated from 14 subdivisions. This is the most food collected by the scouts in recent years. It will help fill many food bags and the Little Free Food Panty on Charles Street for several months, said Marilyn Wood, pantry coordinator. She thanks everyone who participated.

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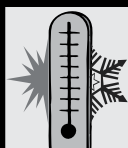
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Keystone Academy principal Jorvonna Drain reported as of the school’s board of directors’ meeting on Nov. 13, the student absentee rate had just dropped to 8%.

That was down from the previous month, she said.

The staff had been making an effort to reduce the absentee rate so the students will be in class to learn and it is working well, Drain said.

Absentee rates in surrounding school districts are much higher, the board noted.

Board president Chris Mihaly said the comparison of students enrolled from three years ago is higher and she complimented Drain and her teachers. She called the growth “impressive.” The enrollment was 696 in 2023-24, to 718 in 2024-25, and 731 in 2025-26.

When asked about grade 4 and its smaller number of students than other grades, Drain said that was the COVID group of students and some of them in that group never even started school.

Board vice president Steve Harsant said the public should hear about the high grades at Keystone and Keystone should advertise on television like another charter school is doing.

National Heritage Academy representative Andrew Roth said NHA decides which schools to advertise. Drain said she could mention to them that Keystone would like to be considered.

It was noted 57% of Keystone students reside in the Van Buren Public Schools district, 23% live in the Lincoln Consolidated School District, 5% in Romulus Community Schools District, 4% in Wayne-Westland Community Schools District, and 3% in the Huron School

District.

In other business at the Nov. 13 meeting, the board;

- Heard Rahki Kapoor from Alan C. Young and Associates give the audit report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, noting Keystone received an unmodified opinion, the highest. She said the fund balance was \$69,899 and enrollment was up for the past two years bringing in more state money. The revenue grew from \$8.2 million to \$8.8 million. The clerical error of \$71,668 reported did not affect the audit report and was corrected, she said. Her report was done by zoom, with her face projected on the wall;

- Approved the 2025-26 amended budget;
- Approved a request to purchase additional electric tuners for the concert band at a cost of \$315. Band director Joshua Bialochowski said this investment will directly benefit the students and enhance the quality of the band program;

- Approved giving Amazon gift cards to the staff for this year’s holiday present from the board;

- Heard Drain report that the school acknowledged more than 40 veterans from the Keystone community at it annual Veterans Day assembly. A Veterans Wall was put together providing a display of all the veterans from the Keystone community, even those who couldn’t make it to the assembly. The PTO organized the reception, families donated items for the reception, and students spent time as volunteers, giving up their time at lunch/recess to help;

- Learned Keystone has hired an occupational therapist and extended an offer for a speech therapist, with the

resource room teacher’s medical leave to end at the end of the year. The social worker position is still open; and

- Was advised the book fair is Nov. 24-25, classes will be dismissed at 11:20 a.m. on Nov. 25 and will be closed for

Thanksgiving until Monday, Dec. 1. A holiday food drive is Dec. 1-5, a band concert at 6 p.m. Dec. 6, and the Harper Mathis Toy Drive on Dec. 15. Winter break is Dec. 22-Jan. 2.

Court Watching

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.

Lamar Allen Respress

Lamar Allen Respress of Detroit was video-arraigned in custody on Oct. 29 on a charge of larceny by conversion, \$1,000 to \$20,000,

in Sumpter Township on June 6, 2023. Bond was set at \$20,000/10%. A probable cause conference was scheduled for Nov. 12 and a preliminary exam for Nov. 19.

Christopher Anthony Anderson

Christopher Anthony Anderson of the city of Belleville had a remote pretrial set for Feb. 14 on charges of assault and battery of a pregnant individual and aggravated domestic violence on Feb. 3 in Van Buren Township. Personal bond was \$50,000. He was scheduled for a final pretrial on Feb. 28 and the case was dismissed when the complaining victim would not appear. Case closed.



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Meg Shepstone and Mark Bleecker of Van Buren Township spent a week on the Gulf of Papagayo in Costa Rica, with their *Independent* ready to read. They say they enjoyed the wonderful people, culture, and all of the birds, butterflies and animals of the rainforest.

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Once a year, the employees and staff at the Belleville Meijer store at 9701 Belleville Road select a local charity to receive a \$10,000 donation which will be used to help the local community. On Nov. 13, the Emergency Food Closet housed at Belleville First United Methodist Church in Belleville, was presented a \$10,000 check for its work to feed those who are experiencing food insecurity in Van Buren and Sumpter Townships and the City of Belleville. Food Closet coordinator, Marilyn Wood stated, “We are so grateful and blessed to receive this money. It will fill many, many bags and homes with food. Without the support, partnership, and philanthropic philosophy of Meijer and its Simply Give Program, we could not provide the help and support we give to community residents.” From left are Pastor Greg Buchner, Kelvin Brooks, Terri Morioka, Marilyn Wood, Lori Summer, Micky Keelan, Belleville Meijer HR Rep. Sarah Johnson, Steve Lazere, Nancy Boltrick, and Scott MacShara



City of Belleville Public Notice



CITY OF BELLEVILLE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, November 3, 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 – Arrived late
Council Member Priest - Present

3. PRESENTATIONS & CITIZENS COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

- Presentations
 - i. Introduction of new DPW Director – Nathaniel Johnson
 - Interim City Manager Steve Jones introduced Nathaniel Johnson as new DPW Director with start date of November 6, 2025.
 - ii. Proclamation – Tri-Community Veterans Day
 - Mayor Voigt read proclamation on behalf of the Tri-Community.
- Citizen Comments
 - i. Update on Liberty Street sidewalks from damage from DTE work.
 - ii. Ray Martin from Victoria Commons, update on recommendations for fire consultants.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Motion by Council Member Kissel, supported by Council Member Priest 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. October 20, 2025 – Regular Meeting Minutes
- Budget report
 - i. As of October 20, 2025.
- Communications
 - i. None.
- Council Follow-up list
 - i. As of October 30, 2025
- Police Stats
 - i. None.
- Fire Stats
 - i. None.
- DPW Report
 - i. None.
- Special Events

i. Winter Fest 2025

MOTION: Motion by Council Member Kissel, supported by Council Member Priest to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Motion Carried.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

a. Amendment to Chapter 9, Section 9.3, of the Belleville City Charter – Election Schedule
MOTION: Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Bates, supported by Council Member Kissel to open public hearing at 6:38 PM.

Motion Carried.

MOTION: Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Bates, supported by Council Member Priest to close the public hearing at 6:39 PM.

Motion Carried.

7. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

- None.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS DISCUSSION

a. Resolution # 25-024 – Amendment to Chapter 9, Section 9.3 of the Belleville City Charter.

MOTION: Motion by Council Member Kissel, supported by Council member Beebe, to approve **Resolution # 25-024**, 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.

b. Resolution #25-031 – Corporate Benefit solutions – Employee Healthcare Benefits Proposal

MOTION: Motion by Council Member Priest, supported by Council Member Beebe to approve **Resolution # 25-031**, 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.

c. Resolution #25-032 – Participation in PFAS Phase 2 Litigation

MOTION: Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Bates, supported by Council Member Priest to approve **Resolution # 25-032**, as presented.

Motion Carried.

d. Resolution #25-033 – Embedded Advisor Proposal - Defer to next meeting.

e. Resolution #25-034 – Social Media Management Proposal - Defer to next meeting.

9. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND DEPARTMENTAL EXPENDITURES

- Accounts Payable
- Departmental Expenditures

MOTION: Motion by Council Member Kissel, supported by Mayor Pro Tem Bates 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. CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

- Thank you to all that helped with Halloween, DPW for placing barricades and Fire Dept for their participation. Estimated 1500 trick or treaters. Thank you to CBC for their hard work and the businesses that participated including those that do not have store front on Main Street.
- New City Hall – garage addition progress being made. Continuation of progress inside as well. Old City Hall – appraiser was in previous week to review property and submit appraisal in a few weeks.
- Liberty Street water main project out for bid, closes on November 19, 2025, with bid opening that day at 2:00 PM. Hennessy Engineers will be here to review bids.
- Winterizing bathrooms, sprinklers have been completed

11. CITY COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

• Council Member Kissel

- Thank Chief for the year she has had, added a lot to her plate. We are in position to make a decision.
- Welcome to Nathaniel, looking forward to him joining the city.
- City Works update appreciated.
- Time clock, we are using just not complete yet.
- Good open house for Park & Recreation Plan this evening.
- Packing update, began packing election room, assessing is packed, building files still being purged, spoke with PD regarding evidence room and the process to move that over to new building.

• Council Member Randy Priest

- Grateful to Nathaniel for being here, looking forward to working with him.
- Reminder to write in their favorite candidate for election

• Council Member Beebe

- Apologized for being late.

- Commendable to Chief Faull for handling the Police and Fire Department.

- Council “to do” list is dwindling down, requested items completed to be removed from list.

• MAYOR Pro Tem Bates

- Appreciates conversation and passion Fire Department has for the city, their crew and residents. Look forward to what developments.
- Happy Veteran’s Day to all veterans.
- Excited to see Winter Fest on agenda.

12. Mayor’s Comments

- Condolences to David C. Brown’s family.
- Thank you to banner crew for removing art banners and placing Veteran’s Banners.
- Harvest Fest was a cool event.
- Condolences to BHS Football team for losing district’s game.

Received request from resident near Victory Park for leaves to be cleaned up this fall.

- Welcome Nathan, excited to have you on board and looking forward to working together.

- Good discussion with Fire Dept and appreciate their comments.

- Halloween was a hoot! Everyone and everything very orderly. Thank you to the Police Department.

13. CITIZENS’ COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Chief Faull

- Thank you, Mayor, for passing out candy.
- Sgt Schrecengost last day of work Halloween night, he stayed to pass out candy.
- New car in garage up and operational.
- Fire Dept doing pancake breakfast for seniors at 275 W. Columbia, Saturday November 8, 2025.
- Fire Dept will provide food at fire hall after Winter Fest, everyone is invited.
- I appreciate all your comments and listening to the Fire Department’s frustrations.

14. ACTION ITEMS FOR THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING

15. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Bates, supported by Council Member Kissel to adjourn at 7:57 PM.

No objections were noted.

Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted by,
Steve Jones

Interim City Manager

Publish: November 20, 2025

Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

There were 297 dispatch calls reported by Van Buren Township police this week including the following.

Sunday, Nov. 9:

0044 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
0156 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
xxxx – domestic, Parkwood
0342 – family trouble, Parkwood Dr.
0429 – welfare check, Millington Ct.
0654 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Rawsonville Rd. / Capital Dr.
0859 – property damage accident, Ecorse/Belleville
0918 – assist fire dept., Michigan Ave.
1010 – civil matter, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1216 – property damage accident, Haggerty Rd. / N. I-94 Service Dr.
1309 – harassment call, Ayres Ave.
1606 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Hull Rd. / Sumpter Rd.
1650 – civil matter, Edwards Rd.
1820 – mental subject, rest area
1849 – civil matter, Edwards Rd.
1924 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Sheldon Rd.
2017 – civil matter, Westlake Cir.
2256 – family trouble, S. I-94 Service Dr.

Monday, Nov. 10:

0005 – mental subject, Parkwood Dr.
0155 – intrusion alarm, Ecorse Rd.
0224 – motorist assist, Rawsonville/Presidential Dr.
xxxx – repossession, Florence Ln.
0250 – intrusion alarm, Samuel Barton Dr.
0432 – larceny from auto, Oak Ln.
0537 – welfare check, Outer Dr.
0647 – larceny from auto, S. Bellridge Dr.
0811 – malicious destruction of property, Michigan Ave.
0912 – parking complaint, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1213 – assist other dept., W. Walden Dr.
1316 – found property/child, Haggerty Rd.
1458 – juvenile complaint, Victoria St.
1521 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Rawsonville Rd.
1545 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Kahla Dr.
1553 – domestic, Ecorse Rd./Denton Rd.
1611 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Pond Bluff Dr.

1721 – parking complaint, W. Adams
1735 – shooting, Hardwood Dr.
1929 – disorderly, Westlake Cir.
1953 – intrusion alarm, Van Born Rd.
xxxx – welfare check, Outer Dr.
2036 – assist other dept., W. Adams
2135 – domestic, Martinsville Rd.
2356 – intrusion alarm, W. Main St.

Tuesday, Nov. 11:

0015 – 911 welfare check, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0020 – personal injury accident, Belleville Rd.
0149 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Rawsonville Rd.
0700 – assault & battery, Haggerty Rd.
0722 – intrusion alarm, W. Huron River Dr.
1010 – welfare check, Ash Dr.
1123 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / N. I-94 Service Dr.
1147 – background investigation, Tyler Rd.
1306 – 911 welfare check, Peninsular Dr.
xxxx – private property impound, Westlake Cir.
1525 – civil matter, E. Huron River Dr.
xxxx – private property impound, Westlake Cir.
1545 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1611 – property damage accident, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1647 – found property/child, Tyler Rd.
1704 – civil matter, Quirk Rd.
1741 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Belleville Rd.

1905 – road hazard, Van Born/Morton Taylor
1939 – harassment call, Kirkridge Park Dr.
1945 – misc. complaint, Tyler Rd.
2103 – disorderly, S. I-94 Service Dr.
2103 – disorderly, Water's Edge Ln.
2221 – suicidal person, Ecorse Rd.
2357 – domestic, Parkwood Dr.
xxxx – repossession, Lenmoore Ave.

Wednesday, Nov. 12:

0416 – shooting, Park Estates Dr.
0441 – domestic, S. I-94 Service Dr.
xxxx – repossession, Meadows Cir.

0516 – parking complaint, Ecorse Rd.
0641 – welfare check, Belleville Rd.
0831 – domestic, Marina Dr.
1629 – motorist assist, Presidential Estates
1644 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, N. I-94 Service Dr. / Belleville Rd.
1846 – civil matter, Peachtree Ln.
1836 – harassment call, N. Adams
1851 – motorist assist, N. I-94 Service Dr./Beck Rd.
1909 – fraud, Chester Ct.
2137 – disorderly, McBride Ave./Haggerty Rd.
xxxx – repossession, Denton Rd.

Thursday, Nov. 13:

0210 – property check, Martinsville Rd.
0438 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / N. I-94 Service Dr.
xxxx – repossession, Westlake Cir.
0740 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
0939 – animal complaint, Roulo St.
1155 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd./N. I-94 Service Dr.
1353 – animal complaint, Roulo St.
1436 – vehicle lockout, Oak Ln.
1407 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Commons Dr./Hannan Rd.
1421 – domestic, Vernon St.
1450 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1436 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, E. Adams

1449 – trespassing, Belleville Rd.
xxxx – animal complaint, Rawsonville/Bog
1614 – animal complaint, Belleville Rd.
1655 – trespassing, Pine Dr.
1709 – missing person, Maple Dr.
1721 – fraud, S. I-94 Service Dr.
xxxx – trespassing, Belleville Rd.
1833 – trespassing, Belleville Rd.
1854 – juvenile complaint, Rawsonville Rd. / W. Huron River Dr.
1910 – assist fire dept., Belleville Rd.
2016 – welfare check, N. I-94 Service Dr./Jackson St.
2308 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Haggerty Rd.

Friday, Nov. 14:

0000 – animal complaint, McBride Ave.
xxxx – repossession, N. Woodbury Dr.
0647 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Westlake
0725 – hospice death, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0816 – property damage accident, Ecorse/Visteon Way
0944 – intrusion alarm, Old Michigan Rd.
1006 – trespassing, Belleville Rd.
1016 – domestic, Lake Villa Dr.
1115 – property damage accident, Van Born/Haggerty

1152 – misc. complaint, W. Columbia Ave.
1153 – misc. complaint, W. Columbia Ave.
1228 – breaking & entering, Paloma Dr.
1237 – property damage accident, N. I-94 Service Dr. / Morton Taylor Rd.
1258 – trespassing, Belleville Rd.
1332 – domestic, Berkdale Dr.
1352 – trespassing, Belleville Rd.
1437 – threat, Village Green Ln.
1445 – ordinance violation – all 7300 MICR codes, E. Huron River Dr.
1519 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1535 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Ecorse Rd.
1532 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Rawsonville Rd.

1537 – harassment call, Bayshore Dr.
1752 – personal injury accident, Belleville/Westlake Cir.
1903 – private property/property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1852 – civil matter, Chandler
xxxx – repossession, Westlake Cir.
1911 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Dover Ct.

1934 – assist citizen, Quirk Rd.
1941 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1950 – disorderly, S. I-94 Service Dr.
2118 – personal injury accident, Tyler Rd./Andover Dr.
2131 – welfare check, W. I-94/rest area
2141 – disorderly, Belleville Rd.
2326 – threat, Renton Rd.

Saturday, Nov. 15:

0107 – animal complaint, Stamford Rd.
0235 – 911 welfare check, S. I-94 Service Dr.
xxxx – repossession, Village Green Ln.

0444 – 911 welfare check, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0444 – disorderly, Solitude Ln.
xxxx – holdup alarm, Harmony Ln.
xxxx – repossession, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0826 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Quirk/Ayres
0835 – welfare check, Huron River Dr.
0917 – civil matter, Sylvia Dr.
0957 – intrusion alarm, Haggerty Rd.
1144 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd./Ecorse Rd.
1159 – private property impound, E. Huron River Dr.
1350 – welfare check, S. Woodbury Dr.
1354 – assist other dept., High St.
1426 – malicious destruction of property, Kirkridge Park Dr.
1426 – civil matter, Sheldon Rd.
1515 – civil matter, Tyler Rd.
1547 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1615 – intrusion alarm, Revere Dr.
1658 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Bradley Dr.

1704 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Patty Ln.
xxxx – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Victoria St.

1807 – motorist assist, Tyler/Belleville
1816 – welfare check, Belleville Rd.
2041 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
2050 – assist other dept., Bemis Rd.
2128 – intrusion alarm, Haggerty Rd.
2144 – domestic, S. I-94 Service Dr.
2157 – disorderly, Sadie Ln.
2204 – assist other dept., Togowtee Pass
2317 – motorist assist, Tyler Rd./Van Buren St.
Also, on this log are 122 traffic stops, 4 of which are on the I-94 freeway.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Nov. 9:

0454 – intrusion alarm, Owen St.
0516 – assist fire dept., S. Biggs Ave.
1236 – assist fire dept., Henry St.
1956 – welfare check, Main St.
2233 – intrusion alarm, E. Columbia Ave.

Monday, Nov. 10:

0610 – assist fire dept., Carmell St.
0639 – juvenile complaint, Oxford Ct.
0846 – repossession, Henry St.
0902 – intrusion alarm, E. Huron River Dr.
1109 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
1455 – animal complaint, Sumpter Rd.

Tuesday, Nov. 11:

1558 – assist fire dept., E. Thornhill Ct.
1729 – domestic, Victorian Ln.
2312 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
xxxx – assist fire dept., E. Huron River Dr.

Wednesday, Nov. 12:

0822 – trespassing, Owen St.
0824 – property damage accident, W. Columbia Ave.
0957 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Main St.
1435 – assist fire dept., Estrada Dr.
1718 – assist fire dept., W. Thornhill Ct.

Thursday, Nov. 13:

0109 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, High St.
0947 – holdup alarm, Main St.
1935 – hospice death, N. Liberty St.
2118 – shooting, Estrada Dr.

Friday, Nov. 14:

0047 – hospice death, E. Waterbury Ct.
0842 – juvenile complaint, W. Columbia Ave.
1217 – 911 welfare check, Owen St.
xxxx – misc. complaint, W. Columbia Ave.
1436 – neighbor trouble, South St.
1454 – mental subject, W. Columbia Ave.
1551 – assist fire dept., Carmell St.
1702 – intrusion alarm, E. Huron River Dr.
2134 – intrusion alarm, South St.

Saturday, Nov. 15:

1112 – bomb threat, Main St.
1321 – mental subject, Robbe St.
xxxx – welfare check, High St.
2117 – assist fire dept., Santa Clara St.

There are 92 reports on this week's log, 56 of which are traffic stops.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Nov. 9:

0401 – family trouble, Iowa St.
0553 – traffic complaint/hazard, Martinsville/Willis
0625 – welfare check, Oregon St.
0917 – fire dept. assist, 22000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1645 – traffic complaint/hazard, Martinsville/Dunn
1702 – animal complaint, 22000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1833 – juvenile matter, 21000 bl. Clark Rd.
1937 – 911 hangup, Alaska St.

Monday, Nov. 10:

0056 – civil matter, Utah St.
0115 – welfare check, Tamarack Dr.
0633 – fire dept. assist, Mulberry Dr.
0741 – alarm, 50000 bl. Willow Rd.
0745 – fire dept. assist, Birch Dr.
0940 – alarm, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1118 – fire dept. assist, Carriage Ln.
1200 – alarm, 18000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
1333 – welfare check, 45000 bl. Bemis Rd.
1525 – family trouble, Rustic Ln.
1613 – disorderly person, Second St.
1637 – 911 hangup, 20000 bl. Oakmot Rd.
1907 – 911 hangup, 8200 bl. Wilkville Waltz Rd.
2329 – family trouble, 25000 bl. Elwell Rd.

Tuesday, Nov. 11:

0042 – civil matter, Utah St.
0052 – noise complaint, Birch Dr.
0315 – fire dept. assist, Creekside Dr.
0830 – citizen assist, 26000 bl. Karr Rd.
1304 – citizen assist, 488000 bl. Harris Rd.
1455 – follow-up investigation, 51000 bl. Willis
1530 – animal complaint, 26000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1752 – welfare check, 46000 bl. Bemis Rd.
1813 – follow-up investigation, Magnolia Dr.
1836 – 911 hangup, Carriage Ln.
2233 – property damage accident, Oakville Waltz Rd. / Karr Rd.

Wednesday, Nov. 12:

0006 – follow-up investigation, Alaska St.
0558 – death investigation, 48000 bl. Willis Rd.
0727 – alarm, 28000 bl. Karr Rd.
0859 – 911 hangup, 23000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
0913 – civil matter, New Mexico St.
0918 – follow-up investigation, 47000 bl. Colorado St.

1002 – welfare check, Arizona St.
1021 – follow-up investigation, Magnolia Dr.
1129 – harassment complaint, Alaska St.
1338 – property damage accident, Sumpter/Clay
1440 – mental health call, 21000 bl. Clark Rd.
1730 – fire dept. assist, Kansas St.
1834 – fire dept. assist, Washington St.
2123 – fire dept. assist, Delaware St.
2251 – 911 hangup, California St./New Mexico St.
2318 – operating while intoxicated arrest, Rawsonville Rd. / Judd Rd.

Thursday, Nov. 13:

0034 – fire dept. assist, Rustic Ln.
0115 – noise complaint, Birch Dr.
0548 – 911 hangup, 39000 bl. Wear Rd.
0647 – property damage accident, Sumpter Rd./Judd
0715 – follow-up investigation, Sumpter/Kozma
0923 – animal complaint, Arkona Rd./Sherwood Rd.
1144 – 911 hangup, Magnolia Dr.
1202 – follow-up investigation, out of township
1438 – suspicious person, 19000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
1625 – carrying concealed weapon violation, Rustic Ln.

1656 – 911 hangup, Alaska St.
1704 – misdemeanor warrant arrest, Wayside Dr.
2129 – 911 hangup, Wyoming St.
2341 – family trouble, Knollwood Dr.

Friday, Nov. 14:

0104 – citizen assist, 25000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
0932 – civil matter, Edgewood Dr.
1005 – follow-up investigation, Hampshire Dr.
1223 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1305 – follow-up investigation, out of township
1428 – citizen assist, Edgewood Dr.
1624 – mental health call, 21000 bl. Clark Rd.
1704 – juvenile matter, Colorado St.
1739 – noise complaint, Brookview Dr.
1925 – traffic complaint/hazard, Willow/Rawsonville
2036 – follow-up investigation, Texas st.
2105 – welfare check, 48000 bl. Harris Rd.
2147 – suspicious person, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2215 – citizen assist, 21000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

(Continued on page 19)

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BREAK-INS CAUGHT ON CAMERA

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

(continued from page 18)

Saturday, Nov. 15:

0058 – assist other agency, 22000 bl. Middlebelt Rd.
0205 – welfare check, Knollwood Dr.
0421 – welfare check, Haggerty Rd./Willis Rd.
0444 – welfare check, Sumpter Rd./Willis Rd.
0906 – death investigation, Carriage Ln.
0923 – property damage accident, Mulberry Dr.
1136 – family trouble, Washington St.
1204 – mental health call, 21000 bl. Clark Rd.
1659 – weapons offense, 44000 bl. Wear Rd.
1744 – shots fired complaint, 25000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1803 – shots fired complaint, 46000 bl. Willis Rd.
1932 – welfare check, Washington St.
2151 – operating while intoxicated arrest,

Rawsonville/Willis

2312 – fire dept. assist, 40000 bl. Wear Rd.

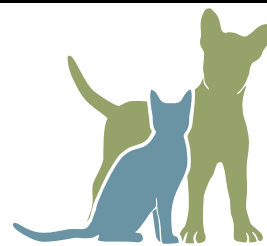
Also on this week's log were 163 patrol checks, 69 traffic stops and seven misc. details.



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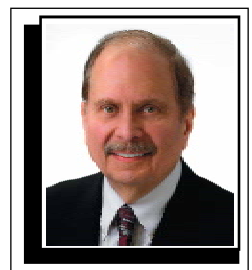
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38111 JUDD, HURON TOWNSHIP
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