



# BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 30.50 Thursday, December 12, 2024

Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

FREE

## Underwood gets Key to City

After Saturday's Winter Fest parade in Belleville, Mayor Ken Voigt presented Keys to the City to both Santa, who came to town on a Van Buren Township fire truck, and Belleville High School quarterback Bryce Underwood, who walked the parade route with other team members.

Underwood, the nation's top college football recruit in 2025, officially signed to play with the University of Michigan on Dec. 4 backing off from his original commitment to Louisiana State. He reportedly was offered \$10.5 million over the next four years to play on the U of M football team.

"Bryce has done a lot of great things for the school and the community of Belleville," said Belleville Tigers head coach Calvin Norman, according to a news release from the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce.

"He's the best quarterback I've ever seen and that I've coached. His character, his class, his understanding of the game of football, which is extremely impressive. His parents have done a great job raising him. As a coach I'm very proud of him, just as the school and the community are deeply proud of him," Norman said.

Over the past four years, Underwood shattered Michigan D1 high school football records, leading the BHS Tigers to two State championships.

(continued on page 8)



Belleville Mayor Ken Voigt presented the Keys to the City to Santa Claus and Belleville High School quarterback Bryce Underwood at the end of Saturday's parade.



Bryce Underwood's family is made up of, from left, father Jay Underwood, 12-year-old sister Jayce Underwood, Bryce, and his mother Beverly Underwood.



2024 Grand Marshal was Calvin Norman, head coach of the BHS varsity football team.

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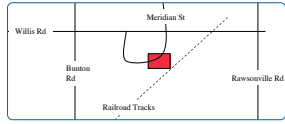
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# SECOND FRONT PAGE

## School Board gives Kudlak \$5,500 raise, names him ‘Effective’

By Rosemary K. Otzman  
Independent Editor

After a three-hour closed-door session on Nov. 25 and another hour and 45-minutes closed-door meeting on Monday, the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education passed a resolution giving him the highest rating allowable – Effective – and a raise of about \$5,500.

Procedures recently changed making “Effective” the highest rating.



Kudlak The “Highly Effective” rating was at the top of the chart on the multi-page Michigan Association of School Boards’ evaluation form last year. The board also gave Supt. Kudlak the top rating in its 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023 evaluations.

The five-year contract the board approved in December 2023 is still in place and he expects to retire June 30, 2028. Monday’s evaluation was for his job for the calendar year January to December, 2024.

His base pay went from \$169,500 to \$175,048.50.

In other business at Monday’s 49-minute meeting, the board:

- Heard Belleville High School head varsity football coach Calvin Norman praise the football team’s academics. He said there were 70 players on the team and they had a 3.2 GPA overall team average. He said there were 8,000 people when BHS played Catholic Central, with attention from the entire state. He introduced Andre Johnson, Jr., who he called the most-improved player and was Center for quarterback Bryce Underwood. Coach Norman said he enjoys coaching the team and would do it for nothing. He said he works the midnight shift at Detroit Diesel. He said he goes home from BHS at about 7 or 8 p.m. and rests before going on to work. After the midnight shift he rests briefly and then goes back to BHS to coach. Athletic Director Joseph Brodie said the ultimate goal is building kids as leaders in society;
- Approved the Savage and Tyler elementary schools secure entry projects at a total cost of \$2,350,312, with Davenport Brothers Construction Co. as construction manager. The project will be funded by the Sinking Fund and 31aa Mental Health Grant funds. The project will move the school offices from the center of the schools to the front, where school rooms will be converted into offices with safe procedures for entry. Construction will begin March 24 and be substantially complete by Aug. 18;
- Approved paying \$306,979 for district-



The Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education posed for a final picture with the three outgoing board members. From left are Calvin Hawkins and Dionne Falconer; outgoing members Simone Pinter, Susan Featheringill, and Kelly Owen; Amy Pearce; and Darlene Loyer-Gerick. The new board members will be sworn in at the Jan. 13 meeting.

Independent photo by Rosemary K. Otzman

wide radio upgrades, programming and Cellular BDA DAS;

- Approved offering an unlimited number of openings for Schools of Choice for the second semester of 2024-25 school year. Director of Instruction Jeff Moore said the district usually gets only about 10-15 new students for the second semester, with most Schools of Choice students coming in the first semester;
- Set 7 p.m., Jan. 13, 2025 as the date of the organizational meeting of the school board at the Belleville High School Commons. The new school board members will be sworn in and the dates set for the upcoming year’s official meetings;
- Approved the retirement of Marc Miloser of BHS after 25 years of service as of Oct. 31; and approved the hiring of Cynthia Mullins as a speech pathologist at the Early Childhood Center as of Jan. 6 and April Crawford in the Resource Room of Rawsonville Elementary as of Dec. 9;
- Approved hiring the following non-instructional employees: LaDonna Walter as secretary at McBride as of Nov. 25; Fouad Zammer and Martisha Palmer as bus drivers as of Dec. 2; Angela Bragg-Carey as a bus aide as of Dec. 2; and Ashley Weddington in food service at BHS as of Dec. 5;
- Approved the termination of Amber Knowlton as a non-instructional employee from Rawsonville Elementary after six years of service as of Dec. 3;
- Heard Director of Instruction Moore say three students from Belleville were among the 32 teams that were in person competing in eSports at Michigan State University on Dec. 7. Chris Battle, Jaden Jones, and

Justin McNeir were honored, and they are still competing statewide. Moore said 127 dinners were passed out at Owen for Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners will be passed out, as well;

- Heard Supt. Kudlak praise the men who brought Lego Robotics into all the district’s school buildings. As the students grow, the skills grow with them and these people have created something special; and
- Heard Karen Wright address the board concerning Park Estates mobile home park on Michigan Avenue cutting off access to where about 12 students (ages 10, 11, 12 and high school age) are picked up by the school bus to go to Owen, McBride, and BHS. “The park management took down the gate and boarded it up,” she said. She said she called Transportation and they gave her a convoluted route down and around several dark and dirt roads without sidewalks. She said Transportation said it would take a month to figure out how to deal with this. She said she couldn’t get a call back from the school about the problem, but Belleville City Manager Jason Smith gave her the number of the manager of the park. When she called, she was told corporate didn’t want any riffraff coming into the park and it wasn’t a local decision. Wright started to cry, saying her young grandson had been hit by a truck and killed on Michigan Avenue and the school needs to supply safe transportation for students. She apologized for her tears and board president Amy Pearce told her not to apologize and that Supt. Kudlak will be getting back to her and, “We’ll figure it out.”

A gathering was held before the regular

meeting to celebrate the work of the three board members who are stepping down from the board: Simone Pinter, Susan Featheringill, and Kelly Owen.

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

- **Friday, Dec. 13** – Van Buren Eagles at 9961 Beck Rd., Van Buren Township, presents dinner at 5 p.m., meat auction at 6:30 p.m., with Karaoke DJ Betty at 7:30 p.m.
- **Friday, Dec. 13, and Saturday, Dec. 14** – Sumpter Township Vendor Market, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Community Center gym, 23501 Sumpter Rd. \$10 per table rental. Rain or shine. More information, call Sumpter Senior Coordinator Maryann Watson at (734) 461-9737; email [maryannwatson@sumptertwp.org](mailto:maryannwatson@sumptertwp.org)
- **Saturday, Dec. 14** – Photos with Santa at the Belleville Area Museum, 12-4 p.m., sponsored by the Belleville Central Business Community. Photos for Special Needs, 11:30 a.m.-12 p.m.
- **Saturday, Dec. 14** – Come Visit with Santa at Blade Hair Studio, 601 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, from noon to 2 p.m. For more information, call (734) 697-5600.
- **Saturday, Dec. 14** – Country Christmas is 1-3 p.m. at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, 19109 Craig St., New Boston. Meet Santa, have lunch, play games, crafts, cookie decorating, chili cook-off, and more.



# O P I N I O N S

## Editorial

### Winter Fest turns into Football Fest

The Belleville High School varsity football team was the main focus of last weekend's Winter Fest in Belleville.

Instead of just Santa getting the Key to the City from the mayor, Bryce Underwood, BHS quarterback, also got a second Key to the City. Santa's key was wooden and Bryce's key was metal. Both had to give the keys back to the chamber for use another year. Usually just Santa gets the key.

It's not unusual for the BHS football team to march together in a parade, but this time it was extra special. And, the Grand Marshal of the parade was the team's head coach, Calvin Norman.

The team didn't win the state title this year, so that wasn't what the hoopla was about. They won state titles back to back in other years. What brought all the attention this year was that BHS senior Bryce Underwood changed his January 2024 commitment to University of Louisiana and last week officially signed to play at the University of Michigan. This was after U of M supporters reportedly offered him \$10.5 million over four years to play at the school.

This was on the front page of *The Detroit Free Press* on Dec. 5, the day after he signed, and even in *The Wall Street Journal*.

One observer noted that all this football excitement has brought attention to Belleville and now everyone knows where Belleville is – just down the road from U of M and our former star quarterback.

### EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

Mary Herring of Sumpter Township dropped by to ask me to write about a proposed dog park for the tri-community that might get people thinking about one.

She said that she has acreage for her dogs to run, but some people live in apartments and trailer courts and this isn't available to them. They would use a dog park for sure.

Mary brought her friend Amy of Van Buren Township to a Sumpter Township meeting to support a tri-community dog park.

In about 2017, Van Buren Township was considering a dog park on Martinsville Road between E. Huron River Drive and Savage Road, but it didn't work out.

\*\*\*

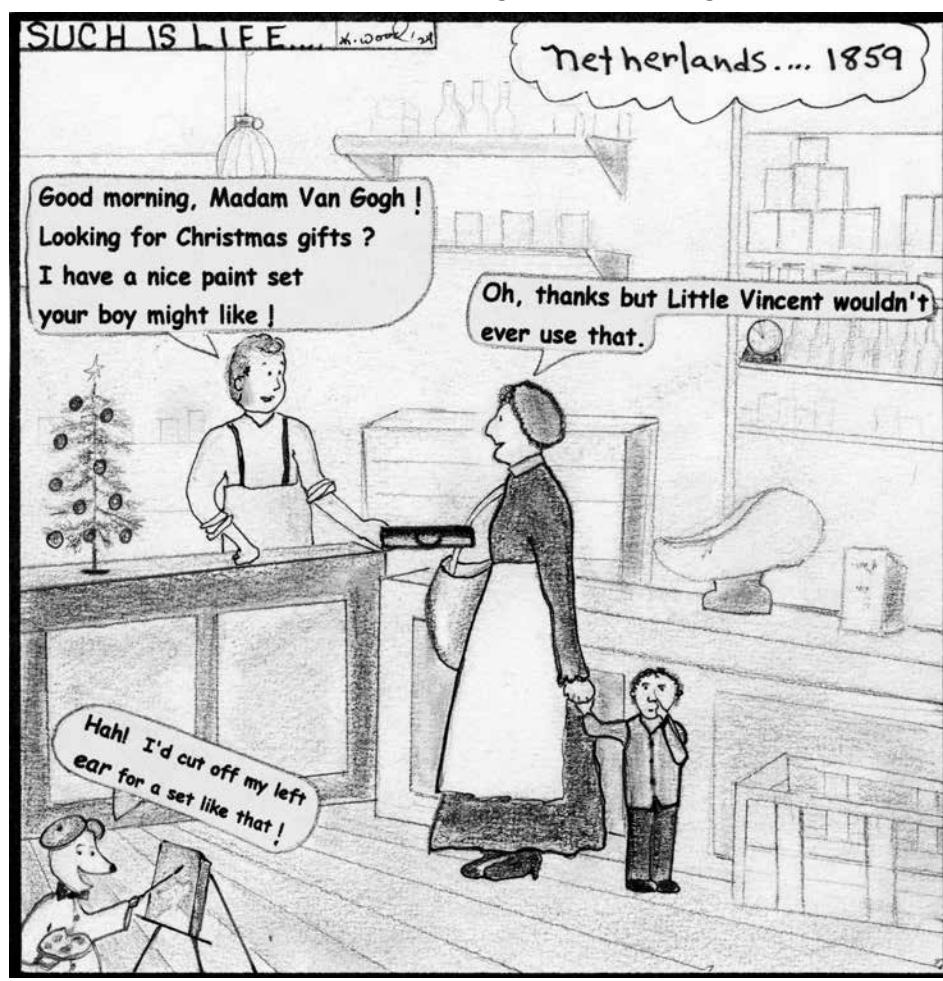
We have learned that Charles Bazy of Dearborn has died. He was the father of retired Van Buren Township Police Lt. Chip Bazy. Chip will be taking over his father's safari business. My brother Tony Kuchta worked with Charles Bazy in the glass house at Ford Motor Co. and Tony went on a safari with the Bazzys, including Chip, who was a boy at the time. Our best to the Bazy family.

\*\*\*

My brother also said he will be sending a book to me written by Mary Kathryn Baxter, who moved to Belleville in the 1970s and started getting messages from God. I don't know her, but according to her 2021 obituary, she traveled all over the world with her messages from God.

She died in Florida, and according to her obituary, in 1976 while she was still living in Belleville, Jesus appeared to her in human form, in dreams, in visions, and in revelations. Her books have been translated into 20 languages.

I can hardly wait for my brother Tony to



finish the book and send it on for me to read.

\*\*\*

On Monday, the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education had a little going-away party for the three board members that would not be serving on the board in 2025. They had a spread of all kinds of good things to eat and those who were present enjoying the munchies with one high school student present going back for more. He's still growing.

This scenario reminded me of my early days covering the Van Buren school board 30 years ago. In those days, we always had a coffee pot available with hot coffee and usually cookies, too, for the public at the meeting to enjoy. The meetings were in the cafeteria and the cafeteria staff would set it up and, I believe, the custodians would turn it all off at the end.

The meetings nowadays are also in the cafeteria (which now is called The Commons), but not a thing in sight for the audience to eat. That's OK with me, but the early days those goodies, made the public feel welcome at the meetings. Many more people came to the meetings in those days.

The *Independent* goes to each meeting whether we feel welcome or not and nowadays the public is usually just a retired teacher and a set of parents, who never miss. Unless there's a problem and then there is a crowd.

\*\*\*

We got a Nixle alert from the city of Belleville on Tuesday saying Hillside

Cemetery was closed for the day due to bridge construction mobilization. Is this an encouraging word?

\*\*\*

It was a treat to watch the video of the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees meeting of Nov. 26. It was the first regular meeting of the new board and at the board table was just the seven members of the board.

When township attorney Rob Young spoke, he spoke from the audience where, apparently, he now sits. It seems that he signed up on the Citizen Comment list and then gave his comments. For years he has been attending every meeting and rocking back and forth in his chair at the board table and pretty much directing things.

Now, he's in the audience and the board table looks more like the other boards and councils I cover – just the elected officials up front. If they want anything from their attorney, they can ask him. He wasn't on the agenda for a report.

It's kind of peculiar to see the new Sumpter board: all white males. There always were black members on the board until Supervisor John Morgan was defeated. Then, the female clerk, Esther Hurst, decided not to run for reelection.

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**Letters**  
**Let's focus on progress in Sumpter Township**  
 To the editor:  
 I recently read a letter from Mr. Robinson regarding our beloved Sumpter Township and feel compelled to address some of the points he raised -- not with negativity, but with facts that reflect the ongoing progress of our community.  
 Mr. Robinson claims that our parks need to be cleaned up and repaired, and I'd like to set the record straight. This past summer, our township worked diligently to improve these spaces, with many significant updates. One of our parks is receiving all-new playground equipment, an exciting upgrade for our families and children. These improvements are just a glimpse of the ongoing commitment we have to enhancing our township.  
 Additionally, Mr. Robinson suggests that "untold thousands" encourage the township's leadership to respect its residents and visitors. I would like to point out that the current leadership does, in fact, respect and prioritize the needs of our residents. In our most recent election, thousands of residents actively voted to re-elect many of the current board members, reflecting their confidence in the leadership guiding our township. If residents were dissatisfied with the board, it stands to reason they would not have voted for its members. The voices of our residents matter, and they've shown their trust through their votes.  
 It's also worth addressing Mr. Robinson's claim that our township is "on life support." While the challenges we faced during the COVID-19 pandemic were difficult, our township has been working tirelessly to recover. Many programs, events, and services that were paused during the pandemic are now being actively revived, with input from volunteers and dedicated staff. Our township's resilience and sense of community remain strong.  
 Regarding Mr. Robinson's concerns about trash and blight, I want to assure everyone that Sumpter Township is not a trash site. We have dedicated ordinance officers who ensure our community remains clean and well-maintained. Our

township boasts beautiful homes and hardworking residents who take pride in their neighborhoods. Moreover, Sumpter Township offers several programs to support the disadvantaged, including a valuable initiative by our Fire Department that provides and installs free smoke and CO2 detectors for residents in need.

Sumpter Township also maintains a balanced budget and operates with full transparency. Contrary to any claims of corruption, our financial management is sound and regularly reviewed to ensure fiscal responsibility. We take pride in the trust placed in us by our residents, and we remain committed to providing services in the most efficient and accountable way possible.

Finally, while Mr. Robinson expresses frustration with the board and the township, I invite him -- and anyone who shares his concerns -- to engage in a more positive manner. Attend our Township Board meetings, participate in Parks and Recreation meetings, and share ideas that can help our community move forward. Criticism is welcome, but it's important that we all strive to be part of the solution, not just amplify the challenges.

Sumpter Township is a great place, filled with kind-hearted people who support one another. We may face challenges, but with ongoing dedication and a commitment to working together, we will continue to build a brighter future for all. Let's focus on the positives and the progress we are making -- together.

Anita Honey  
 Sumpter Township Resident

**I'm looking for the young man who helped**

To the editor:  
 To the young man who stopped to help me on Thursday, Dec. 5, 2024, when I was stuck on a huge rock at Ace Hardware on Sumpter Road, thank you.

To your mom and younger siblings who waited and watched patiently as you tried everything within your power to free my vehicle, thank you.

I apologize I didn't even ask your name. You will go far in this world because of your selfless, giving heart. I commend you.

I would appreciate to know your name. I would like to bless you in your high school endeavors, with your mom's permission. Please contact me at the number below and, again, thank you!

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# Obituaries



Karen Marie Gerick

**KAREN MARIE GERICK**

(December 8, 1943 – December 6, 2024)  
 Karen Marie Gerick, of Ypsilanti, Michigan, age 80, passed away on December 6, 2024, at Trinity Health Hospital in Ann Arbor, Michigan. She was born on December 8, 1943, in Washington D.C. to James and Ellen (Rechnagel) Snell. Karen was a faithful member of St. John's Lutheran Church in Wayne, Michigan. She loved her grandkids, birdwatching, gardening and music. Karen had a talent for playing several instruments including piano, violin, and ukulele. She was a proud nurse and would volunteer her spare time at horse rescues as well. One of her fondest memories was participating in the world record breaking Rosie the Riveter Event at Willow Run; she was very pleased to be involved. She will be truly missed.  
 Karen is survived by her children, Karla (David) Brodoski of Canton, MI, Kent Gerick of Phoenix, AZ, and Kristina (Jamie) Bever of Ypsilanti, MI; grandchildren: Erica (Noah Moyer) Hall of Belleville, MI, and Sarah and Nathan Brodoski of Canton, MI; her brothers, James Snell of Brooklyn, MI, Robert (Judy) Snell of Hastings, MN and Mark (Patricia) Snell of Tecumseh, MI; as well as many nieces, nephews, cousins, neighbors and friends.  
 She was preceded in death by her parents, and her husband Robert Gerick.

A visitation was planned for Wednesday December 11, 2024, from 3 p.m. until 7 p.m. and a service will take on Thursday, December 12, 2024, at 11 a.m., with visitation an hour before the service at the David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Drive, Belleville, Michigan, 48111. Pastor Gordon Moore will officiate. A burial will follow the service at Denton Cemetery located at 49780 Cross Street, Van Buren Twp, MI 48111.  
 Donations in Karen's memory to the Starry Skies Equine Rescue and Sanctuary in Ann Arbor are appreciated and envelopes will be available at the visitation <https://www.starryskiesequinerescueandsanctuary.com/donate>  
[www.davidcbrownfh.com](http://www.davidcbrownfh.com)

# More Letters

## City's winter taxes go up, summer taxes down

To the Belleville Community:  
 Heads-up, neighbors! Let's talk winter tax bills  
 We've been hearing some buzz about the winter tax bills, so let's break it down together. Yes, there's an increase this cycle – but don't worry, it all evens out! You'll see relief on your summer tax bills, making it a net-zero change.

Here's the scoop:  
 Safety First! This assessment helps fund our amazing police and fire teams, so they can keep doing what they do best – keeping our city safe and sound. Back in November 2019, voters approved this measure in an advisory vote to ensure our public safety sector gets the resources it needs.

It's a wash! What goes up in the winter comes back down in the summer. The mills increased on your winter bill will decrease on your summer bill by the exact same amount.

There is NO INCREASE on the mills levied on your property!

Thanks for being part of this fantastic community and for supporting our city's safety!

Jason Smith, city manager  
 Belleville

## Thank you, St. Jude

Dear Sacred Heart of Jesus and St. Jude:  
 Thank you, St. Jude for hearing my prayers. You always come through for me and my family again.

Patty, Allen Park

# Upcoming Meetings

- Thursday, Dec. 12 – Keystone Academy School Board, 5 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township Planning Commission, 6 p.m. Also, Belleville Planning Commission, 7 p.m.
- Monday, Dec. 16 – Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, Dec. 17 – Van Buren Township regular meeting, 6 p.m.
- Wednesday, Dec. 18 – Van Buren Township Environmental Commission, 6 p.m. Also, City of Belleville Downtown Development Authority, 6 p.m.

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- ✿ Real-world socialization
- ✿ Your questions (time permitting)



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# Obituaries



Robert Thomas Binert

## ROBERT THOMAS BINERT

(December 9, 1945 – December 3, 2024)  
Robert Thomas Binert, better known as “Opa” by his beloved grandchildren, age 78, of Sumpter Township, MI, passed away Tuesday, December 3, 2024, at Trinity Health, Ypsilanti, MI. He was born December 9, 1945, in Detroit, MI, son of Andrew John Binert & Helen (Burczykowski) Binert. He worked for the Ford Dearborn engineering plant for 35 years, during which time he gained an associate’s degree to further his career. Robert was also a proud veteran of the United States Army. He was a long-time member of the Van Buren Public School board and was known for joyfully playing Santa Claus any chance he got, including the local schools and Petsmart. “Opa” was a proud father and grandfather and could often be found watching U of M or Lions football. He was also an avid hunter and enjoyed playing golf.

Bob is survived by his wife Carol (Sumner) Binert of Sumpter, MI; children: Mark Binert-Armstrong (Neil) Grayling, Christine Costa (Quentin Mitchell) of Belleville and Jennifer Runyan (Jacob) of Tecumseh. He is also survived by 8 grandchildren: Mollie, Zora and Phoebe Binert, Hannah and Tano Costa, Donovan and Zach Mitchell and Charlie Runyan as well as 4 brothers: Andrew of Bitely, MI, Paul of Belleville, MI, Donald (Beverly) of Garden City MI and Thomas (George) of St. Clair Shores MI. He was preceded in death by his parents, sister Patricia Taylor, son-in-law Giovanni Costa, two very special childhood friends, Joann Leja and Leo Whalen, and his Goddaughter Mary Kay Whalen.

A visitation was held at David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville, MI (734) 697-4500 on Saturday, December 7, 2024 with a service that followed. Arrangements by David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville, MI (734)697-4500.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Goodfellows, Toys for Tots, or Van Buren Public Schools Education Foundation. [www.davidcbrownfh.com](http://www.davidcbrownfh.com)



Richard Maton

## RICHARD ‘DICK’ MATON

(August 29, 1946 – December 7, 2024)  
Richard “Dick” Maton, age 78, of Loveland OH, formerly of Belleville, MI, passed away on December 7, 2024, surrounded by his family. He was born on August 29, 1946, in Ypsilanti, MI, to Frank and Marjory (Cullin) Maton. After high school he studied at Western Michigan University. Dick became a State Farm Insurance Agent where he loved serving and caring for many families in the Belleville area. Most recently, he was a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Charlottesville, VA. He was also a member of St. Michael Lutheran Church in Wayne, MI for many years and cherished his time there. Dick was also a charter member of Open Arms Lutheran Church in Belleville. He was a past member and president of the Belleville Rotary Club and a member and chairman of the board for the Lutheran High School Association. Dick also was a longtime member of the Belleville Chamber of Commerce. In his free time Dick enjoyed hunting, fishing and golfing with his many special friends and family. Dick loved classic cars and was proud of his 1964 and a half Ford Mustang convertible. Most of all Dick loved his Lord, his family and his community.

Dick is survived by his loving wife Joyce Maton of 58 years; his children, Robert (Kira) Maton of Matthews, NC, Ashley (Peter) Roehm of Loveland, OH, and Benjamin (Jennifer) Maton of Charlottesville, VA; his grandchildren, Trent and Bryce of Matthews, NC, Reno and Ryder of Loveland, OH, and Stella, Ruby and Phoenix of Charlottesville, VA.

He was preceded in death by his parents. A visitation has been planned for Friday, December 13, 2024, from 4 p.m. until 8 p.m. at David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Drive, Belleville, MI 48111 (734) 697-4500. A funeral service will be Saturday, December 14, 2024 at 10:30 a.m. at St. Michael Lutheran Church, 3003 Hannan Rd. in Wayne, MI 48184; Reverend James Richter will officiate. Burial will be in Hillside Cemetery at 2:15 p.m., 46785 Denton Rd. Belleville, MI, 48111.

[www.davidcbrownfh.com](http://www.davidcbrownfh.com)  
In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to St. Michael Lutheran Church building fund at [www.stmichaellutheran.org/give](http://www.stmichaellutheran.org/give).



## FRANK EDWARD ROBINSON, SR.

(July 30, 1948 – December 6, 2024)  
Age 76, of New Boston. U.S. Navy and Ford Motor Co. Survived by loving partner Diana Carroll; children Christine, Frank Jr., Denny, Melissa; bonus son Shawn; siblings Tom, Carol; 18 grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren. [www.davidcbrownfh.com](http://www.davidcbrownfh.com)

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# Underwood

(continued from page 1)

Deeply respected for his fierce work ethic and humble character, the town is celebrating Underwood's accomplishments, commitment to community and decision to continue playing football just down the road at the University of Michigan, where he accepted the most lucrative NIL offer ever conferred, according to the news release.

"Bryce Underwood represents the spirit of dedication, perseverance and kindness that define our small community, so the Key to the City is a well-deserved honor," said Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce President Dinara Strikis, "We're thrilled that he, along with Elijah Dotson, will continue to represent us on and off the field at the nearby University of Michigan. It's great to see such top talent stay so close to home."

"I would like to personally thank the community of Belleville for supporting me on my BHS football journey," said Underwood in the news release. "The love and support I've felt is beyond amazing. I'm excited to be a short drive away from Belleville, to continue my football journey at University of Michigan and happy to say that the Belleville community had an impact on me deciding to stay home!"

Bryce's parents said they are beyond thrilled with not just his poise on the field, but also his all-around development as a person.

"Bryce has exceeded our expectations both on and off the field," Mr. and Mrs. Underwood concur. "We are very proud of the young man he has become and excited about the future that God has blessed him with."

"Bryce is a hardworking young man that casts a positive light wherever he is," says Pete Kudlak, superintendent of Van Buren Public Schools which includes BHS. "It's clear that he was raised with pride, kindness, and humility. He brought these each day to BHS and, as a leader, they permeated the building."

Underwood walked in Saturday's evening parade along with fellow BHS football players who also have committed to playing college football.

"It's been a real treat to watch the Belleville Tigers these past four years," said City of Belleville Mayor Voigt, who presented the Key to the City to Underwood.

"Under the leadership of Bryce Underwood at quarterback, by making three trips to Ford Field and winning back-

to-back state championships, they have accomplished what few other schools can even dream of," Mayor Voigt said. "The entire community is anxious to see what this talented young man and the many other talented players on the Belleville Tigers do in the next stage of their athletic careers."

The Chamber of Commerce and City of Belleville also recognized eight additional college football signees and 12 more players with offers to continue playing football in college -- 21 players total.

Signed and committed BHS players are: Underwood (UMich), Elijah Dotson (UMich), Adrian Walker, Jr. (Miami of Ohio), Antwon Thomas (Miami of Ohio), Desmon Yharbrough (Miami of Ohio), Lamar Fairfax Jr. (Memphis), and Andre Thomas Jr. (Central Michigan).

Committed players are: Amari Martin (Madonna University) and Reyne Diaz (Madonna University).

Those with offers to continue playing college football are: Trezelle Jenkins, Jr., Brayden Lane, Marquis Peoples, Jr., Damon Denny, Jr., Ray-Mond Smith, Jr., Malik Murrell, Andre Johnson, Jr., Trey Graham, DeShaun Murray, Tayshaun Taylor, Rashad Jones, and Je' Von Martin. *Information from news release by Alvis Brigis, public relations director, Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce.*

## Birthdays

- Dec. 14 – Barbara Thomas
- Dec. 16 – Nashlan Robinson
- Dec. 17 – William C. Thomas
- Dec. 21 – Judy Speir-Crawford
- Dec. 22 – Gabbarella Hooks
- Dec. 30 – Amber Wood
- Dec. 31 – Journy Lynx Long, Kenny Tucker

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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# ORPHAN OF THE WEEK SPOT



## MEET SPOT!

Spot has been part of the FMAR family since she was just a tiny kitten, bravely overcoming an early battle with botflies. Despite her resilience and sweet nature, we can't figure out why this lovely girl hasn't found her forever home yet.

In the teen room, Spot is a quiet observer, content to watch the action unfold. She doesn't hide or shy away and is always happy to receive pets from visitors. Spot might not demand your attention, but she will absolutely melt your heart.

We know that in the right home, Spot will truly thrive. She has so much love to give and just needs a chance to shine. Will you be the one to make her holiday wish come true? Come meet Spot today and give her the forever home she's been waiting for.

If you'd like to adopt Spot, please submit an application. She's spayed, microchipped, vaccinated, and negative for FIV/FelV.

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**Belleville Central Business Community Presents**

*Photos with Santa*  
At Belleville Area Museum

**SATURDAYS**  
**December 14 & December 21**  
**12 noon to 4 pm**

No Charge but **DONATIONS WELCOME**

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**11:30 am to 12 noon**  
**both December 14 & 21**

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**Musings**  
By Janet Millard  
Independent Advertising Director

Wow, Winter Fest sure brought the crowds, even with the freezing temps. Such great parade entries and Buzz the Business Dog from the Belleville Central Business Community was enjoying all the attention. Speaking of the CBC, on Dec. 14 and 21, you may bring the children to sit on Santa's lap at the Belleville Area Museum from noon to 4 p.m. Special-need children and adults are invited to a quiet time with the big guy from 11:30 to noon. Free pictures (donations welcome), holiday stockings and an opportunity to pick from the treasure chest will make it worth your time to wait in the line. This is the last event hosted by the Belleville Central Business Community for 2024. Next up in 2025 are the Third Thursday monthly popups on Main Street and the Flop E Bunny candy hunt on Easter Saturday. Again, free pictures with the bunny and a gift from the Treasure Chest.

\*\*\*  
Tomorrow, Dec. 13, and Saturday, Dec. 14 is the last Vendor/Craft show scheduled by Sumpter Township Senior Center. It looks like it is never too late to pick up those last minute gifts.

\*\*\*  
You are going to find Santa around town many days this month. On Saturday, Dec. 14, from noon to 2 p.m., that jolly old elf has planned a visit to Bladez Hair Salon. Please see their ad in today's paper.

\*\*\*  
Still need stocking stuffers? There will be a few Third-Thursday Popups on Main Street in addition to our regular retail, so watch for the signs and get your shopping done!

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

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Independent photo by Rosemary K. Oztman

At its Dec. 3 meeting, the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees honored former Trustee Sherry Frazier who did not run for reelection. From left are newly elected Trustee William Frazier, Treasurer Sharry Budd, Supervisor Kevin McNamara (holding the framed proclamation), Frazier, Clerk Leon Wright, and Trustees Donald Boynton and Kevin Martin. Trustee Bryon Kelley was absent.

### VB T board presents proclamation honoring Trustee Sherry Frazier

**Whereas**, Sherry Frazier has been a Van Buren Township resident for over 42 years; and

**Whereas**, Sherry Frazier is wife to Wayne (d. 2011), a former teacher in the Van Buren Public Schools, mother to William, Andrew and Suanna Frazier-Abbasi, and grandmother and great-grandmother to her many grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and

**Whereas**, Sherry Frazier has dedicated herself to her education by receiving a Bachelor's Degree in Secondary Education from Eastern Michigan University, an Education Specialist Certificate from Wayne State University, and a Master's Degree in Library Science from the University of Michigan; and

**Whereas**, Sherry Frazier has had many careers including as a librarian at the Fred C. Fischer Library, an educator in the Plymouth-Canton School District and Trenton Public School, and as a Licensed Realtor; and

**Whereas**, Sherry Frazier has dedicated herself towards the betterment of her community by serving on the Belleville Area Council for the Arts; the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education from

1984 to 1994 and 2000 to 2016 for a total of 26 years; and

**Whereas**, Sherry Frazier has been appointed to many boards, including an appointment to the Wayne Oakland Library Federation Board from 1990 to 1992, an appointment to the White House Conference on Libraries from 1988 to 1990, and was appointed to RESA – the Regional Education System Association; and

**Whereas**, Sherry Frazier began serving on the Board of Trustees for Van Buren Township in November of 2016 and completed her final term in 2024 for a total of 8 years service;

**It is Resolved**, On this, the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of December, 2024, the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees hereby recognize the achievements of Sherry Frazier and commend her many years of service to the community and especially her 8 years of dedicated public service to the citizens of Van Buren Township as a Trustee and wish her the greatest luck in her future endeavors.

Kevin McNamara, Supervisor  
Sharry Budd, Treasurer  
Leon Wright, Clerk  
Kevin Martin, Trustee  
Donald Boynton, Jr., Trustee  
Bryon Kelley, Trustee  
William Frazier, Trustee

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Don't miss the upcoming Bethany Bible Church Choir Concerts on December 14 at 7pm and December 15 at 11am at 810 E. Huron River Drive. Our talented ensemble will perform an inspiring selection of choral masterpieces, delivering the true Christmas message.

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## VBT announces website domain name change

Van Buren Township announces it has moved to a new official website domain, vbtmi.gov.

This change is intended to enhance the township's online security and reinforce its identity as a government entity.

"The new domain name reflects our township's branding; it's memorable and conveys a positive vibe," said township supervisor Kevin McNamara. "Day-to-day township operations will remain unaffected," he said.

To learn more about Van Buren Township, visit vbtmi.gov .

## BHS at-home games

• **Thursday, Dec. 12** – Girls JV and Varsity Basketball vs. West Bloomfield (JV 5:30 p.m.; Varsity 7 p.m.)

• **Friday, Dec. 13** – Boys and Girls Bowling vs. Livonia Stevenson at Lodge Lanes, 3 p.m.

• **Saturday, Dec. 14** – Girls JV Basketball vs. Rockford, 6 p.m.; Girls Varsity Basketball vs. Muskegon, 8:30 p.m.

• **Monday, Dec. 16** – Boys and Girls Bowling vs. Livonia Franklin at Lodge Lanes, 3 p.m.

## Van Buren Eagles set New Year's Eve party

The Van Buren Eagles #3996 will hold its annual New Year's Eve Party on Dec. 31 at its lodge at 9961 Beck Rd., Van Buren Township.

There will be live music with the Saddle Rock Band and a catered dinner featuring brisket, pork loin, or chicken, along with pizza, champagne, and a balloon drop at midnight.

Tickets are \$40 if purchased before Dec. 15 and \$45 if purchased later. Tickets are available at the Eagles or through Paypal: www.foe3996.com .

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owner

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Belleville, MI. 48111

arrwoodconstruction@yahoo.com

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Belleville, MI 48111

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**STORM DAMAGE & FALL DISCOUNTS!**

50% DISCOUNT IF YOU KEEP WOOD/BRUSH!

- Storm Clean Up
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FIREWOOD, all hardwood \$85 face cord  
\$45 half face cord. For delivery add \$10  
(734) 341-8557 12/12

SNOW TIRES 4 used snow tires on  
rims for 2014 Ford Fusion. \$300 OBO  
(734) 383-0945 12/19

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OBO. (734) 417-3233 12/12

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135k miles. White, great cond. Clean.  
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Automatic, very good condition, no  
rust. \$7,950 OBO Private owner.  
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CANTON TOWNSHIP Immediate  
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\$1,500 month, \$2,250 security deposit.  
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ARIENS SNOWPLOW. It worked  
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Monday - Saturday.**  
**734-368-5088**  
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WANTED - ANY SIZE MEN'S JEANS  
for the homeless. Please drop off at  
Bladez's 601 E. Huron River Drive. (734)  
697-5600 TFN

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

### PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:

All real estate advertising in this  
newspaper is subject to the Fair  
Housing Act which makes it illegal to  
advertise "any preference, limitation  
or discrimination based on race, color,  
religion, sex, handicap, familial status  
or national origin, or an intention, to  
make any such preference, limitation  
or discrimination." Familial status  
includes children under the age of 18  
living with parents or legal custodians,  
pregnant women and people securing  
custody of children under 18.

This newspaper will not knowingly  
accept any advertising for real estate  
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readers are hereby informed that all  
dwellings advertised in this newspaper  
are available on an equal opportunity  
basis. To complain of discrimination  
call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777.  
The toll-free telephone number for the  
hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



## SERVICES

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**Home Improvement &  
Handyman Service**  
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No job too small. Interior/exterior  
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KNIFE SHARPENING. Tired of dull  
knives call, Razor Knife Sharpening  
(734) 699-6634 12/26

## FOUND

CELL PHONE, 11/22/24 on Haggerty  
Road, south of Huron River Drive.  
(248) 933-0611 12/19

"Trust, but verify."

- Ronald Reagan



**The Belleville  
Independent is a drop  
off location for the U.S.  
Marine Corps Toys for  
Tots Program. Bring in  
your new, unwrapped  
toy to our office at:  
152 Main St., Suite 9,  
Belleville, MI**

We are located in the Professional Building (the old  
movie theater building) across from Zax Auto Wash.

## HELP WANTED



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Immediate Position.  
Local Driving, Home  
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**LABORERS**  
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Company**  
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40 hours per week.  
Salary negotiable  
plus Benefits.  
Call 734-461-6838

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### Read The Newspaper On The Web!

**The Belleville-Area  
Independent Website  
is Online! Visit us @  
[bellevilleareaindependent.com](http://bellevilleareaindependent.com)**

### Notice to Advertisers:

The Belleville-Area Independent will not be liable  
for failure to publish an ad as requested or for more  
than one incorrect insertion of an advertisement.  
In the event of any error or omission in printing or  
publication of an advertisement, you must notify us  
within five days of publication or on the date of  
insertion, if an ad is scheduled as part of a package,  
so there is time to correct subsequent publications.  
The Independent's liability shall be limited to an  
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of the cost of the first incorrect advertisement or  
republication of the corrected advertisement. Under  
no circumstances shall the Independent be liable for  
consequential damages of any kind.



# More Letters

## Non-profit Tiger Village needs your support

To the editor:  
Gregory Cooper, distinguished graduate of

Belleville High School and lifelong Wayne County educator, was looking for a way to give back to the community that contributed to his early success in education.

In considering what he could bring to BHS, he thought of the Champions of Wayne and John Glenn programs for which he served as a mentor during his time as a biology teacher at both Wayne Memorial and John

Glenn High Schools.

The primary objective of the Champions of Wayne program is "to transform student obstacles to success by way of an incentive-based mentoring system so that each student graduates in the best way possible".

To this end, students, or champions, set semester-long goals for themselves, and select a mentor, a teacher or staff member, to help and guide them in their pursuit of these goals. In each of those programs, students who reach their goals are financially rewarded with a check at the end of the semester.

Funding for the programs at Wayne Memorial and John Glenn comes from alumni donors as well as support non-profit organizations, including The Helppie Family Charitable Foundation and Arrow Cares.

While it is normally advisable that a mentor have a caseload of two to three students a semester, Mr. Cooper, unable to turn a student away when reaching out for support, committed to mentoring up to 63 students in a semester. As a mentor, he saw unmotivated students who started with a GPA of 0.7 invest in their education, take challenging courses, believe in themselves and their future, ultimately improving to GPAs of 2.5 in just a semester or two.

Mr. Cooper's first-hand experience with the transformative nature of this program encouraged him to approach Principal Crockett of Belleville High School with the idea of starting something similar at BHS. From this seed of an idea, Tiger Village

has grown. In the fall, Tiger Village was fully registered as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and is overseen by a board of former educators and members of the Belleville community, including Gregory Cooper (president), Scott Wilsey (vice president), Randy Brown (treasurer), and Esther Walker (secretary). Dr. Sydney Rosenblum, the academic student success coach at BHS, has recruited the pilot cohort of Tiger Village scholars, or Villagers, who have set academic and attendance goals for the semester and are on the path to earning a financial reward for their efforts.

It is the hope that by providing incentives and opportunities for connections with adult mentors, Tiger Village will contribute to the improvement in student academic performance, self-efficacy, and to an increased sense of support within BHS.

It takes a village to raise a BHS Tiger, and the founders of Tiger Village would like to invite you, the Belleville community, to contribute to the success of this program by providing financial support. Please check out the website: <https://www.bit.ly/bhstigervillage> for more information and ways to donate. You can donate via Venmo (@tigervillage\_bhs), CashApp (\$bhstigervillage), PayPal (Tiger Village), or by cash or check (written out to Tiger Village). Tiger Village can be reached at tighervillagebhs@gmail.com or at Belleville High School, 501 W. Columbia Ave., Belleville, MI 48111.

Sydney Rosenblum

### FEEDING FAMILIES IN VAN BUREN, BELLEVILLE & SUMPTER



First United Methodist Church

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

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

## Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

### CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES - DECEMBER 3, 2024

Supervisor McNamara called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room. Present: Supervisor McNamara, Treasurer Budd, Clerk Wright, Trustee Boynton, Trustee Martin, and Trustee Frazier. Absent/Excused: Trustee Kelley. Others in attendance: Deputy Supervisor Selman, Recording Assistant Beaudry, Director of Community Services Renaud, Deputy Director of Community Services Dohring, Director of Water and Sewer Lawrence, Director of Parks Locke, DDA Director Coburn, Director of Municipal Services Akers, Director of Recreation Gerhart, and an audience of six.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE AGENDA:** Supervisor McNamara outlined the items appearing on the agenda.

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA:** Budd moved, Martin seconded to approve the amended agenda removing: New Business Item #3: To consider approval of a request by Pulte Homes for a PRD and site condominium modifications as recommended by the Planning Commission, New Business Item #4: To consider approval of a request by Pulte Homes for a special land use for PUD amendment to construct 88 detached, single family dwelling units on individual condominium lots, and New Business Item #5: To consider approval of a request by Pulte Homes for a special land use for PUD amendment to construct 88 detached, single family dwelling units on individual condominium lots. Motion Carried.

**ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA:** Boynton moved, Wright seconded to approve the Consent Agenda: Board Meeting Minutes of November 19, 2024, Prepaid List of November 21, 2024, Prepaid List of November 27, 2024, Approval of a METRO Act Permit for 123.NET, Approval of the 2025 Board of Trustees Meeting Schedule, Approval of the 2025 Township Holiday Schedule, Approval of Resolution 2024-25: Wayne County Annual Permit, Approval of Resolution 2024-26: DUWA Second Amended Articles of Corporation, Approval of an amendment to the 2024 Amended budget to Attorney Fees- Republic Litigation (101-266-801-003) from \$40,000 to \$150,000 from the General Fund balance and Approval of amendments to the 2024 Amended budget to Election Reimbursement Account

#101-262-727-001, Election Office Supplies (101-262-727), Election Office Wages (101-262-705), and Election Printing and Publishing (101-262-900) to account for reimbursements and grants received for elections. Motion Carried.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** None

### C O R R E S P O N D E N C E /

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS:** Clerk Wright announced the passing of VFW Commander Bob Krouse and thanked him and his wife for years of dedication and service in making sure veterans were continuously honored with flags on their graves and Former Trustee Sherry Frazier was given a proclamation honoring her terms as a member of the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees.

**PUBLIC COMMENT (Unfinished and New Business):** None.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.

### NEW BUSINESS:

Budd moved, Wright seconded to approve the purchase of an F-150 Crew Cab truck for the Water and Sewer Department in the amount of \$45,759. Motion Carried.

Wright moved, Frazier seconded to approve a request by Todd Waller for the excavation, removal, and off-site hauling of up to 93,000 cubic yards of soil to create a 5-acre pond for agricultural purposes. Wright and Frazier then amended their motion to rescind the previous motion. Finally, Boynton moved, Wright seconded to postpone the original motion until the applicant can be present to answer questions. Motion Carried.

Wright moved, Boynton seconded to approve Fishbeck to provide Engineering Services for North Shore and Beckly Road Pump Station replacement in the amount of \$24,850 to be paid from Sewer Capital Outlay Fund 592-537-971-004. Motion Carried.

**REPORTS:** None.

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:** None.

**BOARD COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:** None.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Wright moved; Boynton seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:33 p.m. Motion Carried.

Leon Wright, Township Clerk  
Kevin McNamara, Supervisor  
Publish: December 12, 2024



## Dudek Heating & Cooling

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Air Conditioning • Duct Work • Humidifiers • Water Heaters  
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**Office: (734) 461-6165  
Cell: (734) 730-9733**

## Public Notice

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
CIRCUIT COURT COUNTY OF LAKE  
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION  
Orders No. 2024OP002188, 2024OP002187  
James Justice Hammond  
vs.  
Makayla Danielle Tew  
NOTICE IS GIVEN TO YOU, Makayla Danielle Tew, that this case has been commenced in this court by the petitioner against you for ORDER OF PROTECTION and other relief.  
UNLESS YOU file your answer or otherwise file your appearance in this case in the Office of the Circuit Clerk of this Court in the Lake County Courthouse, Waukegan, Illinois, on or before DECEMBER 27th, 2024.  
A JUDGEMENT OR DECREE BY DEFAULT MAY BE TAKEN AGAINST YOU FOR THE RELIEF ASKED IN THE PETITION. Publish: Dec. 12, 19, 26, 2024

## Public Notice

IN THE PROBATE COURT  
OF COLBERT COUNTY, ALABAMA  
IN THE MATTER OF: THE ESTATE  
OF HAROLD GLEN CARRIGAN,  
DECEASED  
CASE NO.: 15-0263  
  
NOTICE OF HEARING  
A hearing is hereby set on January 9, 2025 at 9:30 a.m. in the Probate Court of Colbert County, Alabama on the Petition for Final Settlement in the Estate of Harold Glen Carrigan, deceased.  
  
DEBORAH BELL PASEUR  
Attorney for petitioner, Matthew W. Coats  
Administrator  
1847 N. Wood Avenue  
Florence, AL 35630  
(256) 766-3131  
Publish: Dec. 5, 12, 19, 2024



## Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

*There were 235 dispatch calls reported by Van Buren Township police last week including the following.*

### Sunday, Dec. 1:

0012 – domestic, Parkwood Dr.  
xxxx – intrusion alarm, N. I-94 Service Dr.  
0419 – domestic, Denton Rd.  
0455 – welfare check, W. I-94/Belleville Rd.  
0747 – assist other dept., W. I-94/Hannan Rd.  
0953 – property check, W. Walden Dr.  
1012 – civil matter, Chaney Ave.  
1016 – assist other dept., Vernon St.  
1133 – property damage accident, Haggerty Rd. / S. I-94 Service Dr.  
1158 – larceny from auto, Maple Dr.  
1322 – assist fire dept., Van Allen Ave.  
1332 – assist fire dept., Denton Rd.  
1359 – fraud, Anna Dr.  
1428 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.  
1444 – assist fire dept., Sheldon Rd.  
1524 – property damage accident, Michigan / Michigan Ave.  
1554 – assault & batter, Martinsville Rd.  
1658 – assist citizen, Belleville Rd.  
1709 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Parkwood Dr.  
1827 – civil matter, Maple Dr.  
1821 – civil matter, Oak Ln.  
2308 – animal complaint, Sheldon Rd.  
2346 – disorderly, S. Ponderosa Trl.

### Monday, Dec. 2:

0108 – assist fire dept., Winding Pond Dr.  
xxxx – 911 welfare check, Outer Dr.  
0921 – civil matter, S. Ponderosa Trl.  
0924 – private property impound, S. I-94 Service  
1001 – larceny, S. I-94 Service Dr.  
1315 – intrusion alarm, Tyler Rd.  
1329 – traffic offense, Belleville Rd.  
xxxx – repossession, Lenmoore Ave.  
1434 – property damage accident, Tyler Rd. / Belleville Rd.  
xxxx – misc. complaint, Tyler Rd.  
1456 – vehicle lockout, Belleville Rd.  
1456 – malicious destruction of property, Denton  
1612 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, WB Michigan Ave./bypass  
1626 – vehicle lockout, Ecorse Rd.  
1626 – civil matter, Arlene Ln.  
1718 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Hamilton St./Hayes St.  
1758 – private property impound, Belleville Rd.  
1849 – parking complaint, Kirkridge Park Condos  
2019 – trespassing, Belleville Rd.  
2134 – welfare check, Maurice Dr.  
2154 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Country Walk Blvd. / Savage Rd.  
2235 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, N. Woodbury Dr.

### Tuesday, Dec. 3:

0206 – assist fire dept., Parkwood Dr.  
0408 – holdup alarm, Belleville Rd.  
0457 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.  
0729 – fraud, Castell Blvd.  
0736 – mental subject, Bemis Rd.  
0931 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Belleville Rd. / Van Born Rd.  
0956 – private property impound, Belleville Rd.  
1024 – vehicle lockout, Belleville Rd.  
1118 – suicidal person, Rolan Meadows Dr.  
xxxx – repossession, Laguna Dr.  
xxxx – civil matter, N. Ponderosa Trl.  
1203 – fraud, Endicott St.  
1232 – disorderly, E. Huron River Dr.  
1536 – civil matter, N. Woodbury Dr.  
1855 – intrusion alarm, E. Sadie Ln.  
1855 – misc. complaint, Belleville Rd.  
1930 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.  
1946 – trespassing, Belleville Rd.  
2056 – disorderly, E. Huron River Dr.  
2104 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Quirk Rd.  
2108 – mental subject, Outer Dr.  
2316 – traffic offense, Savage Rd.

### Wednesday, Dec. 4:

0014 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Harbour Club  
0230 – intrusion alarm, Maple Dr.  
0436 – 911 welfare check, Brandi Dr.  
0843 – ordinance violation – all 7300 MICR codes, Marlowe Ave.

0851 – family trouble, W. Archwood Dr.  
1042 – fraud, Belleville Rd.  
1130 – private property impound, Industrial  
1424 – 911 welfare check, Parkwood Dr.  
1417 – civil matter, Belleville Rd.  
1600 – traffic offense, Belleville Rd.  
1707 – vehicle lockout, Brandi Dr.  
1911 – juvenile complaint, Juniper Dr.  
1940 – assist fire dept., Brookside Dr.  
1945 – suicidal person, Van Buren St.  
2235 – property damage accident, Haggerty Rd.  
2251 – property damage accident, Ecorse Rd. / Visteon Way  
2256 – property damage accident, S. I-275/Ecorse  
2307 – property damage accident, N. I-275/Ecorse  
2336 – intrusion alarm, Haggerty Rd.

### Thursday, Dec. 5:

0013 – intrusion alarm, Ecorse Rd.  
0413 – unauthorized driving away of auto, N. Bellridge Dr.  
0442 – property damage accident, Michigan / Michigan Ave.  
0642 – mental subject, Oak Blvd.  
0746 – property damage accident, Michigan Service Dr. / Cemetery Rd.  
0839 – juvenile complaint, Quirk Rd.  
1001 – ordinance violation – all 7300 MICR codes, Mida Dr.  
1017 – property damage accident, Michigan/Dellor  
1210 – intrusion alarm, Westlake Cir.  
1251 – mental subject, Oak Blvd.  
1253 – animal complaint, S. I-94 Service Dr.  
1410 – fraud, Belleville Rd.  
1517 – intrusion alarm, Rawsonville Rd.  
1534 – ordinance violation – all 7300 MICR codes, Tyler Rd.  
1608 – property damage accident, Ecorse/Denton  
1633 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.  
1713 – trespassing, Parkwood Dr.  
1835 – road hazard, Rawsonville Rd. / W. Huron River Dr.  
2018 – domestic, S. I-94 Service Dr.  
2021 – juvenile complaint, Chandler Dr.  
2045 – misc. complaint, Ormond Dr.  
2344 – domestic, Mantauk Ct.

### Friday, Dec. 6:

0026 – property damage accident, Oak Blvd./Maple Dr.  
0204 – intrusion alarm, Ventura Dr.  
0303 – domestic, Meadows Ct.  
0415 – property check, Ecorse Rd.  
0524 – welfare check, N. Adams  
0717 – larceny, N. I-94 Service Dr.  
0820 – private property/property damage accident, Belleville Rd.  
0939 – road hazard, Belleville Rd./Ecorse Rd.  
1011 – motorist assist, Ecorse Rd./Denton Rd.  
1107 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Parkwood Dr.  
1202 – larceny, Ecorse Rd.  
xxxx – private property impound, Oak Blvd.  
1424 – threat, Price Rd.  
1506 – larceny, Wildbrook Dr.  
1607 – mental subject, Hull Rd.  
1615 – motorist assist, Belleville Rd.  
1636 – animal complaint, Ash Dr.  
1713 – welfare check, Ecorse Rd.  
1732 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd. / Martz Rd.

xxxx – holdup alarm, Camden Rd.

1836 – larceny, Hanover Dr.  
1915 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.  
1946 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.  
2107 – road hazard, W. I-94/Belleville Rd.  
2114 – larceny, Outer Dr.  
2246 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.

### Saturday, Dec. 7:

0034 – property damage accident, Ecorse Rd. / Morton Taylor Rd.  
0054 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / Robson Rd.  
0154 – intrusion alarm, Haggerty Rd.  
0207 – assist fire dept., Richard Run Dr.  
xxxx – holdup alarm, Belleville Rd.  
0917 – trespassing, Haggerty Rd./McKinley St.  
0919 – domestic, Kirkridge Park Dr.  
1104 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.  
1105 – traffic offense, Belleville Rd.  
1229 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Haggerty Rd.  
1229 – civil matter, Rawsonville Rd.  
1434 – missing person, Riggs Rd.  
1444 – holdup alarm, Rawsonville Rd.  
1522 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.  
1544 – civil matter, Oak Blvd.

1551 – vehicle lockout, Belleville Rd.  
1617 – intrusion alarm, Alva Dr.  
1555 – assist fire dept., Holly Ln.  
1627 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Denton Rd.  
1806 – missing person, Anna Dr.  
1911 – traffic offense, S. I-94 Service Dr.  
2032 – intrusion alarm, Haggerty Rd.  
2035 – threat, Maple Dr.  
2041 – personal injury accident, Sumpter/Bemis  
2046 – missing person, Borgman Ave.  
2136 – private property impound, Belleville Rd.  
2258 – private property impound, Belleville Rd.  
2333 – assist other dept., Kahla Dr.  
2350 – welfare check, S. I-94 Service Dr.

Also, on this week's log are 68 traffic stops, 10 of which are on the I-94 and I-275 freeways.

## Belleville Police Dispatch Log

### Sunday, Dec. 1:

0844 – threat, W. Columbia Ave.  
0926 – follow up by officer, Main St.

### Monday, Dec. 2:

0814 – property damage accident, Main St.  
0853 – warrant arrest, Main St.

### Tuesday, Dec. 3:

0506 – road hazard, South St./E. Columbia Ave.  
1143 – juvenile complaint, W. Columbia Ave.  
xxxx – disorderly, S. Industrial Park Dr.

### Wednesday, Dec. 4:

0920 – welfare check, Loza Ln.  
0945 – juvenile complaint, W. Columbia Ave.  
1116 – larceny, W. Columbia Ave.  
1045 – warrant arrest, Michigan Ave.  
1113 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Owen St.

1247 – juvenile complaint, Owen St.

1345 – follow up by officer, W. Columbia Ave.

1440 – intrusion alarm, Main St.

1948 – assist other dept., Main St.

2006 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Main St.

### Thursday, Dec. 5:

0323 – intrusion alarm, Third St.  
0809 – property check, Denton Rd.  
1114 – misc. complaint, Main St.  
1234 – juvenile complaint, W. Columbia Ave.  
1314 – property damage accident, Main St.  
2117 – welfare check, W. Columbia Ave.

### Friday, Dec. 6:

1431 – property damage accident, Main St./Roys  
1954 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Hull Rd.  
2017 – lost property/child, Main St.  
2125 – welfare check, Carmell St.

### Saturday, Dec. 7:

1454 – suicidal person, N. Biggs Ave.  
1700 – domestic, W. Columbia Ave.  
1902 – family trouble, Belle Villa Blvd.  
1904 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Main St.  
2013 – vehicle lockout, Main St./Third St.  
2114 – welfare check, Main St.

There are 71 reports on this week's log and 39 of those are traffic stops.

## Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

### Sunday, Dec. 1:

0006 – family trouble, Martinsville Rd.  
0710 – civil matter, Wayside Dr.  
0833 – 911 hang up, Nevada St.  
1125 – fire dept. assist, First St.  
1132 – welfare check, Martinsville Rd.  
1440 – 911 hang up, Martinsville Rd.  
1505 – family trouble, Vermont St.  
1515 – juvenile matter, Creekside Dr.  
1618 – family trouble, Willow Rd.  
1703 – 911 hangup, Nevada St.  
1821 – suspicious circumstance, Willis Rd.  
1849 – trespassing complaint, Willis Rd.

### Monday, Dec. 2:

0125 – welfare check, Harris Rd.  
0650 – animal complaint, Wear Rd.  
0717 – fire dept. assist, Haggerty Rd.  
0956 – suspicious circumstance, Bemis Rd.

1522 – property damage accident, Redwood Ct.  
1542 – follow-up investigation, Martinsville Rd.  
1631 – property damage accident, Arkona Rd.  
1632 – property damage accident, Martinsville  
1819 – suspicious vehicle, Sherwood Rd.  
1821 – suspicious circumstance, Willis Rd.  
1852 – suspicious person, Arizona St.  
2015 – 911 hangup, Willis Rd.  
2022 – suspicious vehicle, Mulberry Dr.  
2204 – fire dept. assist, Mulberry Dr.

### Tuesday, Dec. 3:

0451 – 911 hang up, Sherwood Rd.  
0711 – civil matter, Nevada St.  
0846 – civil matter, Arizona St.  
1036 – civil matter, Virginia St.  
1227 – suspicious person, Martinsville Rd.  
1252 – fire dept. assist, Executive Dr.  
1519 – open burning, Arkona Rd.  
1547 – welfare check, Martinsville Rd.  
1548 – assist other agency, Elwell Rd.  
1641 – traffic complaint/hazard, Bemis Rd.  
1714 – assist other agency, Martinsville Rd.  
1916 – suspicious circumstance, Wear/Bohn  
1926 – follow-up investigation, Willis Rd.  
2019 – suspicious circumstance, Bemis Rd.  
2029 – fire dept. assist, Haggerty Rd.  
2134 – family trouble, Rustic Ln.  
2323 – civil matter, Colorado St.

### Wednesday, Dec. 4:

0051 – harassment complaint, Magnolia Dr.  
0345 – shots fired, Bemis Rd.  
0512 – fire dept. assist, Harris Rd.  
0823 – traffic complaint/hazard, Wear Rd.  
0838 – assist other agency, Willis Rd.  
1209 – 911 hang up, Willow Rd.  
1220 – 911 hang up, Redwood St.  
1506 – ordinance violation, Sumpter/Willis  
1620 – traffic complaint/hazard, Elwell Rd.  
1639 – suspicious circumstance, Willis Rd. / Rawsonville Rd.

1647 – harassment complaint, Creekside Dr.  
1707 – animal complaint, Savage Rd.

1751 – animal complaint, Sherwood Rd. / Oakville Waltz Rd.

1850 – property damage accident, Judd Rd.  
2225 – traffic complaint/hazard, Willis/Sherwood  
2336 – alarm, Karr Rd.

### Thursday, Dec. 5:

0053 – alarm, Sumpter Rd.  
0335 – follow-up investigation, Willis/Sherwood  
0612 – traffic complaint/hazard, Willis/Elwell  
0750 – mental health call, Bemis Rd.  
1157 – civil matter, Bohn Rd.  
1222 – felony warrant arrest, Martinsville Rd.  
1657 – traffic complaint/hazard, Delaware St.  
1722 – animal complaint, Judd Rd.  
1739 – follow-up investigation, out of township  
1806 – fire dept. assist, Judd Rd.  
1836 – fire dept. assist, Hawaii St.  
1844 – property damage accident, Oakville Waltz Rd. / Martinsville Rd.  
1945 – family trouble, Willow Rd.

### Friday, Dec. 6:

0128 – animal complaint, Birch Dr.  
0138 – fire dept. assist, New Mexico St.  
0818 – suspicious circumstance, Martinsville Rd.  
0823 – suspicious person, Judd Rd.  
0923 – civil matter, Birch Dr.  
1217 – 911 hang up, Karr Rd.  
1424 – 911 hang up, Rustic Ln.  
1446 – animal complaint, Judd Rd.  
1734 – fire dept. assist, Wayside Dr.  
1738 – property damage accident, Bemis Rd. / Rawsonville Rd.

1910 – fire dept. assist, Alaska St.

1922 – property damage accident, Sumpter/Willis  
2042 – suspicious circumstance, New Mexico St.  
2138 – civil matter, Montana St.

### Saturday, Dec. 7:

0021 – suspicious circumstance, Birch Dr.  
0256 – suspicious vehicle, Sherwood Rd.  
0313 – family trouble, Timberlane Dr.  
0451 – fire dept. assist, Rawsonville Rd.  
0920 – traffic complaint/hazard, Sumpter/Bemis  
1419 – citizen assist, Willis Rd./California St.  
1820 – assist other agency, Carlisle Rd.  
1911 – noise complaint, Savage Rd.  
1950 – civil matter, Virginia St.  
1958 – animal complaint, Bohn Rd.  
2031 – assist other agency, Sumpter Rd./Bemis

### Sunday, Dec. 8:

0832 – breaking & entering report, Clark Rd.  
1143 – mental health call, Willis Rd.

Also on this week's log are 232 patrol checks, 139 traffic stops, and 13 misc. details.



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On Thursday, Dec. 5, the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce celebrated the grand opening of Thrifts & Gifts at 430 Main St., Belleville, with a ribbon cutting. From left are Arlyne Miller, Lynette James, Stacey Trzeciak holding Sage Patterson, Merri Coburn, Steve Jones, Kathleen Springer Janelle Gohl (hidden), Sarah Warring, Dinara Strikis, and Belleville Mayor Ken Voigt.

Independent photo by Janet Millard

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Photo by Alvis Bragis

On Sunday, Santa drew the winning entry for a pair of Lions vs. Vikings football game tickets in January offered by the Belleville Area Council for the Arts as a fundraiser. The winner was Mary Jo Suchy, director of the Belleville Area District Library and active Rotarian, who was not present for the drawing. From left are Santa, and BACA members Harry VanGelder, and Barbara Rogalle Miller. The raffle was held to support bringing the Missoula Children's Theater to Belleville next summer.

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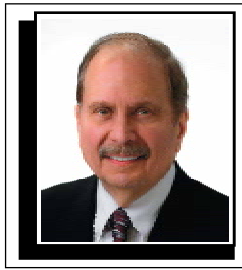
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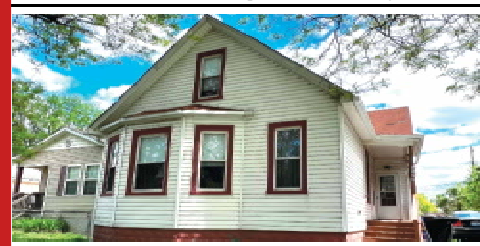
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