



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 31.49 Thursday, December 4, 2025

Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

F R E E

Who to watch for in lighted Christmas parade on Saturday

At 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, Belleville's annual Winterfest light parade will step off from the Belleville High School parking lot. This year the theme is "A Very Retro Christmas."

Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce president Dinara Strikis shared this list of parade participants that were confirmed as of Monday. Units will not be in this order in the parade. Also, others may sign up over the next few days.

So far, we have:

- 2025 Grand Marshal Sophie Zoller
- 2025 Grand Marshals Pastor Bob and Becky White
- Atchinson Ford
- Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce executive board

• Belleville Central Business Community

- Belleville High School Dance Team
- Belleville High School Marching Band
- Belleville Seventh-day Adventist Church

- Belleville Tigerettes
- Belleville Yacht Club
- Bethany Bible Church
- Christmas Bus
- City of Belleville
- City of Belleville Fire Department + Santa Claus

- City of Belleville Police Department
- Cub Scout Troop 792
- Faith Community Church
- Gage & Hannah VanEckoute & family
- Genisys Credit Union
- Girl Scouts 77527
- Great Lakes FLAG Football League
- J&T Crova
- Making A Difference Cleaning and Caregiving L.L.C.

- Marcie Grzywacz for Michigan Senate
- Mt. Calvary of Van Buren
- Northern Lights Expedite Inc.
- P & P Dance Centre
- Snider Electric

- Solid Rock Church of Belleville
- State Representative Reggie Miller
- Sumpter Township
- Sumpter Township Police Department
- Traditions on Main
- Troop 231
- Van Buren Township
- Van Buren Township Fire Department
- Van Buren Township Police

Department

- Van Buren Township Public Safety

Honor Guard

- VBall Area Little League

The tri-community fire departments take turns bringing Santa to town at the very end of the parade. This year, the City of Belleville has the honor of bringing Santa to town.

After the parade, Santa will meet with children at the Belleville Area District Library. The Winterfest fireworks over Belleville Lake had been scheduled for 8 p.m., but may be delayed a bit until after conclusion of the annual Angel of Hope ceremony at nearby Hillside Cemetery.

Library's Memory Café gets \$10,000 grant from CultureSource

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent editor

Jennifer Richardson, who is on the staff of the Belleville Area District Library, successfully applied for and received a \$10,000 grant from CultureSouce for the library's Memory Café. This was announced by library director Mary Jo Suchy at the regular meeting of the library board on Nov. 18.

CultureSource leads the Southeast Michigan Exhale Memory Café Collective, which is a program that supports older adults living with memory loss and their

(continued on page 11)



Photo courtesy of Virginia Collins

The roof of a house on Borgman Road near the corner of the North I-94 Service Drive in Van Buren Township was set ablaze Sunday night, reportedly because of something being set on fire in the attic from the flue of a wood-burning stove. Fire fighters from Canton and Ypsilanti Township helped Van Buren Township Fire Department put out the fire. Reportedly, a little boy saw the fire across the street from his home and told his mother. She raced over and evacuated the four residents and a dog who had not realized their house was burning.

VBT fights two fires last weekend

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent editor

Van Buren Township fire fighters were called to a RV dealership fire on Saturday at about 4:30 p.m. and to a house fire on Sunday.

Deputy Fire Chief Andy Lenaghan said there were 10 fire departments at the National RV Center on the North I-94 Service Drive. He said there was so much damage to the building and the electrical that the cause of the fire is undetermined. They know it started in the garage area. Fire fighters were on the scene until 9:30 p.m., he said.

Chief Dave McNally said Belleville city councilwoman Julie Kissel and her husband representing the Belleville Public Safety Auxiliary came to the fire with hot drinks and ordered pizza for the fire fighters. Later, HART showed up with food and drinks. Chief McNally said HART volunteer group,

which usually shows up to their fires even though it is based in Washtenaw County, was delayed because of the University of Michigan football game.

On Sunday, the fire department was called to a house fire on Borgman Road for a fire that started around the flue pipe of a woodburning stove. Lenaghan said something was too close to the flue and caught on fire. The roof caught on fire and an upstairs bedroom destroyed.

He said the four adults in the house got out without any injuries.

Lenaghan said he hates to see personal items destroyed so close to the holidays.

Ypsilanti Township and Canton helped fight the fire and Belleville stood by to answer Van Buren Township's other calls.

Lenaghan said Washtenaw County uses different adapters for the fire hydrants, but that was quickly resolved when they got a Wayne County adapter and then hooked up.



The Denton Road bridge has been closed by Wayne County for 1,159 days as of today. (That's 3.18 years or 27,816 hours)



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SECOND FRONT PAGE

Miranda Phelps honored for winning state swimming title

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent editor

The big news delivered to the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education on Nov. 24 was that Belleville High School freshman Miranda Phelps won the Michigan Highschool Athletic Association Division 1 State Title in Girls 100-Yard Backstroke at the swimming and diving competition on Nov. 21 at Oakland University.

Girls swimming coach Aaron Lange showed a 56-minute-long video of her performance in the final competition, delighting the board and members of the audience, who broke out into applause. Her time was 56.07 seconds.

The announcement was part of the board's annual Fall Sports Recognition. Athletic Director Joseph Brodie said the football team did well and it won its eighth-straight KLAAs championship. He then turned the microphone over to Lange who focused on his girl swimmers. He said there are 13 young girls on the team, with only two seniors who will be leaving. That means most of his strong swimmers will be back.

He introduced the swim team members present at the meeting: Natalie Hungerford, Tabitha Hungerford, Miranda Phelps, Sadie Ethridge, and Keira Frederick. He said that they all did well and Sadie was an outstanding freshman.

Then he focused on Miranda, who qualified for the state meet and then took first place in the state in the 100-yard backstroke.

In other business at the 50-minute public meeting, the board:

- Approved a field trip for April 18-20 for 30 students, grades 10-12, to Chicago to attend the American Beauty Show. Families will cover the individual cost of \$300 for the trip by Amtrak train, the stay at the hotel, and the daytime educational sessions and evening tours in Chicago. Those attending must currently be enrolled in Cosmetology, Esthetics, Natural Hair, or Manicuring at Belleville High School and must be passing their course at the time of the trip.. Teacher/sponsor of the trip is Ozenia Cosey-Nolen;
- Approved the resignation of Rawsonville Elementary School Principal Julia Pitts as of Dec. 1 after 1.5 years of service. Later in the meeting school superintendent Pete Kudlak said interviews are under way to fill the position and they expect to have a recommendation for the board by the Dec. 15 meeting. Then the person will have to give notice to wherever the person works now;
- Approved the resignations of bus drivers Tonyetta Dickson and Martisha Palmer as of Nov. 17 after a year of service each and the resignation of Belleville High School paraprofessional Toriyana Mayes as of Nov. 18 after 2.5 years of service;
- Approved the following non-instructional employees recommended for employment: Garrett Kochan for BHS food service as of Nov. 12, Kimberly Johnson as Edgemont Elementary School secretary as of Nov. 17, Devontae Crimes as a school bus driver as of Nov. 17, and Tina Cazoneri as a

paraprofessional at McBride Middle School at a time to be determined;

- Heard curriculum director Jill Marvaso say she went to Indianapolis with other staff members and people from Wayne County RESA to a session of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association. She said she learned a lot about what is necessary for a regional program;

- Heard director of human resources John Leroy say he attended the Van Buren Public Schools Education Foundation fund raiser and it raised almost \$15,000. He said Aaron Lange wrote all the questions and answers for the Trivia Night. Supt. Kudlak said Margo DeLibera did a great job in planning the event;

- Heard BHS student Sydney Lasenby, president of the Class of 2027, say the winter sports are coming up and the Unified teams will be playing basketball and indoor cheering. She said she is very proud of longtime friend Miranda Phelps and her state championship;

- Heard Kudlak say he distributed at the meeting printouts of a color circle cut into pie pieces, showing athletic funding that totals \$1,056,998. He said the "salary" part of the circle of \$25.9% (\$273,315) covers the athletic director, his assistant, and a third employee. Another section shows benefits. He said the "equipment" part of 2.9% is \$11,000 and last year they paid \$30,000 for hurdles so it was over what was set aside. Kudlak said helmets and uniforms are a part of the supplies portion of 10.8% of the budget at \$114,000 and includes e-sports. He said he put together the colored circle showing the athletic budget because the board asked about it recently;

- Heard board member Dionne Falconer say McBride Middle School has an Adopt a Tiger Wishlist where people can help families with basic things like clothes detergent. Board members said they were interested in seeing the list so they could help;

- Heard board secretary Darlene Loyer-Gerick say she has set up another all day craft show at BHS on March 14 to support Tiger Village. She said she will be accepting donations of items for the sale;

- Heard board member Calvin Hawkins say a parent asked him about the district's I-Ready program and how it works. He said he thinks there should be a tutorial so parents can learn about it;

- Heard board member Victor DeLibera say he went to a Michigan Association of School Boards' training session in Traverse City and there was a workshop with the whole Livonia School Board who told about their workshops before board sessions. It is an open meeting where board members discuss what's coming up on the agenda. He said he thinks it might be a good idea that leads to transparency. Board president Amy Pearce agreed, but she was interested in the frequency of such a work/study. She said board members could share information from MASB classes they have taken;
- Heard president Pearce say the Jazz Band Concert is Dec. 4 and the BHS Marching Band will be in the Dec. 6 Winterfest parade,



Belleville High School freshman Miranda Phelps won the Michigan High School Athletic Association Division 1 Girls Swimming championship in 100-yard backstroke at the Nov. 21 competition at Oakland University. Her time was 56.07 seconds.

that steps off at 5:15 p.m. She also announced that Tyler Elementary School is now using the Leader in Me program in art classes, especially the second rule, "to begin with the end in mind." She said BHS has had 95% attendance for the past two weeks. She said the NJROTC helped with the veterans' program at BHS on Nov. 11. She announced that Aaron Watkins, applied technology teacher at BHS, has successfully completed his NOCTI (National Occupational Testing Institute) FANUC Certified Robot Operator Instructor exam. She said with this accomplishment, BHS is now only a sample video lesson submission away from being able to award students course completion certificates for the FANUC Level 1 Robot Operator – Handling Tool Operations & Programming course upon finishing the Mechatronics class. Students will also have the opportunity to pursue the NOCTI FANUC Certified Robot Operator with Roboguide industry-recognized credential. These advancements bring the program closer to its goal of helping students become career-ready immediately after high school, she said;

- Heard parent Angela Mears announce the BHS Class of 2026 earned \$365 at its last Hungry Howie's dine to donate event and another one is coming up Dec. 17 at the

Hungry Howie's restaurant in Van Buren Township. She said they need 38 orders mentioning the BHS Class of 2026 to get the donation. She said another Class of 2026 dine to donate is Dec. 22 at the Red Robin on Carpenter Road in Ypsilanti. The donations being gathered are for that class' graduation party at the end of the year;

- Heard retired teacher Ginny Gearn's thank the board members for their time, energy and effort to work to make the district a great place to be. She and her husband, another retired teacher, raised three sons who went to school in the district and one of the sons is carrying on the tradition of working for the school district. "People don't take the time to say thank you," she said to the board members and staff and presented them with brownies she had baked for them;

- Went into closed-door session at 7:50 p.m. to discuss Kudlak's personnel evaluation and to consider material exempt from discussion or disclosure by state or federal status. The board was expected to vote on an administrative item after the closed meeting, but at 11:17 p.m., the board meeting adjourned and no action was taken on that agenda item, which was called "31aa Funding Resolution Recommendation."

O P I N I O N S

Editorial:

Santa Claus is coming to town on Saturday

Santa Claus is coming to town on the back of the city of Belleville's new fire engine which will be at the very end of Saturday's lighted parade.

He will then walk over to the Belleville Area District Library to talk to the children waiting there. He has gifts for the children. He will be in town for two more weekends before he heads off to do his Christmas Eve trip.

The Winterfest weekend begins tonight (Thursday) with Ladies Night Out pop-up shops at the Fourth Street Square and around town.

On Friday, the Soup Crawl from 6 to 8 p.m. is the popular event at the Fourth Street Square and it's at the same time as the Night at the Museum Holiday Party. Santa Dance Party with DJ Richendollar then starts at the square with all ages welcome.

Saturday is the big day, starting with a run on the Iron Belle Trail in Van Buren Park to raise money for the Van Buren Education Foundation, followed by all kinds of activities and food trucks and carriage rides and music.

"A Very Retro Christmas" parade with lights starts off at 5:30 p.m. from the high school parking lot and heads downtown. With the BHS Marching Band in full form and glittering with lights, it is a big attraction.

Saturday of Winterfest is the area's big celebration and always attracts crowds. It ends with fireworks over the lake and then more music at the square. Sunday is breakfast with Santa and more carriage rides. It's Christmas in Belleville.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

At Monday's Belleville City Council meeting, DPW director Nathaniel Johnson told the council that the week of the 17th, the leaf truck went down and then it went down again near Thanksgiving. He said since then leaf pickup has gone from slow to very slow. He said now leaves are being picked up manually.

He said DPW employees are raking the leaves onto the street where they are being picked up with a backhoe.

When asked, he said he couldn't find a replacement that had a good price to replace it.

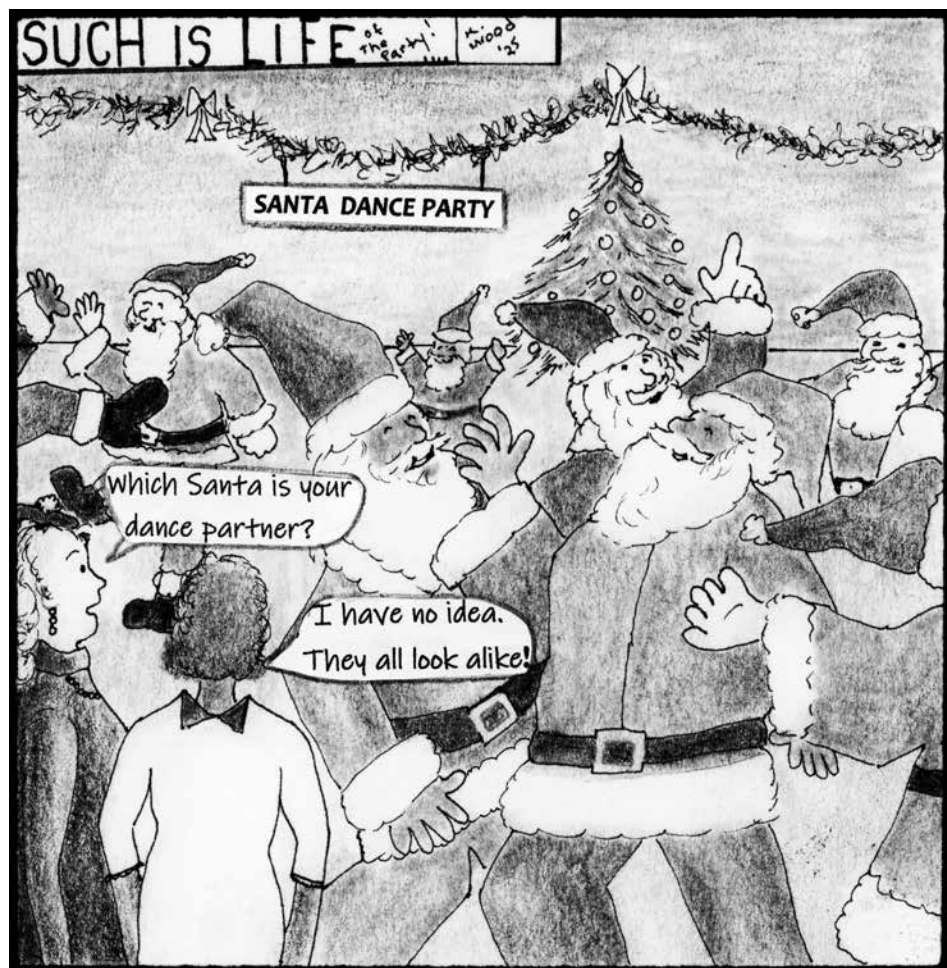
Council members were disturbed to hear that employees were doing that heavy labor, but were glad it was getting done.

When discussing the new city hall at 330 Charles St., mayor Voigt said the goal was to move from the present city hall to the new city hall over the Christmas holiday, but he was there the day before and said he doesn't think the building will be ready to move into by then.

A man at the back of the small city council chambers meeting room on Monday, said he had trouble hearing the council speaking. He said they needed a microphone system so the public could hear them.

The mayor said the microphone system in front of them on the council table are perfectly good and will be moved over to the new city hall for use, with improved speakers.

He said the council just hasn't used them. The mayor's voice is easy to hear for me, without a microphone, and so are the voices of Randy Priest and Kelly Bates.



I've asked the other two, Julie Kissel and Jeremiah Beebe to speak up because I could not hear them, but they don't do that.

Steve Jones, interim city manager, said when he worked at the Van Buren Public Schools, he found the board members did not speak into the microphones and so people couldn't hear them. He said he remembers one board member who automatically pushed the microphone down onto the tabletop as soon as he sat down at his place.

At the school, however, they got a bunch of gadgets to stick in your ears so you could hear them when they didn't talk into their microphones. You can turn up the sound until you can hear. Too bad they went to all that expense when they just could talk into their microphones.

School board president Amy Pearce speaks loudly and everyone can hear, so she's not the one who is inaudible.

Sumpter Township trustee Matt Oddy, who also sits on the Zoning Board of Appeals, told the ZBA at its Nov. 20 meeting that Wayne County wants \$1 million from Sumpter to add to their \$2 million needed to pave a part of Judd Road. Trustee Oddy said he doesn't think the township should pay money for that since it's a county road and the residents pay taxes.

Sumpter Township clerk Don LaPorte, a longtime member of the fire department, had suggested paving the gravel portion of

Judd that is a major pathway to get the fire trucks to Rawsonville Woods mobile home park. The fire department gets many calls for Rawsonville Woods and most of them are emergency medical runs where time is of the essence. Clerk LaPorte had been lobbying for the hard surface to keep the damage down for the trucks on the bumpy gravel road, as well as to help the trucks get to their calls faster.

Don't forget that "A Christmas Story" is being presented this weekend and next at the Black Box Theater in the Van Buren Township Community Center. You can get tickets at the counter in the Community Center or call 699-8921 for information.

The Van Buren Community Players have set up auditions for their next production that will be in February.

Sounds like they are having plenty of local people willing to get on stage to perform.

Last week we announced that Lionel Vincent, who a jury found guilty of two murders in Van Buren Township, was supposed to be sentenced last week.

The circuit court has delayed his sentencing until Dec. 12.

We hope it's life without parole, but that's up to the judge.



www.bellevillearea-independent.com
baindependent@ameritech.net

BELLEVILLE - AREA

INDEPENDENT

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Editor Emeritus:
Rosemary K. Otzman

Advertising Manager:
Janet Millard

Bookkeeper: James Otzman

Production Manager:
James Otzman

Office Manager: Yvette Gorecki

Editorial Cartoonist: Kathryn Wood

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Letters

Music unites us; and enriches us

There will be a combined Alumni and Belleville High School Choirs Benefit Concert, Saturday, July 25, 2026, BHS auditorium, 2 p.m. All proceeds to benefit the BHS choir program. <https://myevent.com/bhschoirsandfriendsreuniin>

“Music is a more potent instrument than any other for education because rhythm and harmony find their way into the inward places of the soul.”
– Plato (Source: *The Republic*)

To the editor:

As a 1978 graduate of Belleville High School, I understand and agree with Plato. I was in band from 4th through 7th grade, was in choir from 8th to 12th grade, and performed in “You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown,” “My Fair Lady” and “West Side Story.” These experiences had a lifelong impact on me. Not only in the friendships I still have and cherish, but in what they taught me about being a better person.

Now, we all have a chance to support new students in experiencing that same kind of opportunity. Alumni and current choir students are going to be giving a benefit concert on Saturday, July 25, 2026, in the BHS auditorium, at 2 p.m. All proceeds will go to support the choir program. Not only will there be choral and solo performances, but also a variety of raffles where individuals can win prizes offered by local and regional businesses and organizations.

Music has an amazing power on the human experience. Think about how a song can impact one or bring them back to a specific time and place. Being involved in the making of music increases and broadens that impact dramatically.

For me, being involved with the music programs and shows in school activated and strengthened my curiosity, wonder, compassion, empathy, and understanding of and for the world and individuals around me. It continues to influence my life to this very day, and I have heard the same from so many of my friends that were also involved in these programs.

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That is the gift we want to extend to the current and future students of the BHS choir program, and you have a chance to contribute as well. Go to <https://myevent.com/bhschoirsandfriendsreuniin> and you will be able to make donations to support BHS choirs, and be able to purchase tickets for the concert once they become available. Join us in celebrating the past, present, and, most importantly, the future of BHS choirs.

Thank you and hope to see you at the concert!

Bart Allen Burger
BHS Class of 1978
Grand Blanc, MI

Kiwanis sets Jingle Bowl fund raiser Dec. 14

To the Editor:

The Belleville Area Kiwanis is excited to announce our upcoming Jingle Bowl, taking place on Sunday, Dec. 14 at 12:00 p.m. at Lodge Lanes. This festive, family-friendly event is a wonderful way to celebrate the season while supporting local children and families.

Tickets are just \$10 and can be purchased through the Belleville Area Kiwanis Facebook Page (<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1BT3zLxe8M/>). We welcome bowlers of all ages and skill levels. Whether you’re aiming for strikes or simply enjoying the holiday spirit, we hope you’ll join us.

For those who may not be familiar with Kiwanis, we are a global service organization dedicated to improving the lives of children – one community at a time. The Belleville Area Kiwanis supports programs, projects, and partnerships that benefit youth right here in our area. Events like Jingle Bowl help us continue that mission throughout the year.

We look forward to seeing our friends and neighbors come together for an afternoon of fun and community support.

Belleville Area Kiwanis Club

Bridge construction improved traffic flow

To the editor:

Now that the Denton Road bridge is almost finished, I would just like to have everyone notice that the traffic flow, especially at rush hour, has been flowing very well with that right turn lane blocked at Quirk Road during construction.

I have a suggestion: Put the reflecting bike lane poles along the lane to make it only accessible to right turns onto Denton Road (similar to the ones on the I-94 express lane). As it is now, but permanently.

This will keep the traffic flowing because it will stop the people from driving up that lane and cutting into the other traffic lane and holding up traffic all the way back to the South Service Drive, as it was before.

Just a thought.

Belleville resident

Obituaries



Wayne William Stevens

WAYNE WILLIAM STEVENS

September 30, 1945 – November 25, 2025

His Legacy... Wayne William Stevens, 80, of South Lyon passed away November 25, 2025. He was born on September 30, 1945, in Detroit, Michigan to Daniel Stevens and Naomi (Orr) Stevens. Wayne married the love of his life, Rose Gordenier, on April 20, 1985, in Dexter, Michigan. Wayne will be remembered as someone who cared deeply for his family and had a natural warmth with kids. Teaching came naturally to him, and for 27 years he shared his love of learning with students at Belleville High School, and another 3 years at the Livingston Technical Academy. Whether it was a classroom lesson, a school field trip, or a band trip, Wayne was always there. Wayne was happy to be part of his family's and students' world. Math was more than a subject to Wayne; it was a joy. Outside the classroom he spent countless hours tutoring, both privately and publicly, always patient, always encouraging. And when he wasn't teaching someone else to love math, he could often be found with a Sudoku puzzle in hand, enjoying the quiet challenge. Wayne also found peace in simple things, especially fishing. Wayne will be remembered for his steady presence, his dad jokes, and the way he gave his time so generously to others. Wayne leaves behind a legacy of kindness, curiosity, and the many students whose lives he touched just by being exactly who he was.

His Family... Wayne will be dearly missed by his wife, Rose Stevens; his children, Sam Stevens, Lindsey (Brett) Hakala, and Eric; grandchildren, Sam Hakala, Gwen Hakala, Cohen Stevens; and many nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his parents, Daniel and Naomi Stevens; his son, Matthew Stevens; and his sister Sandy.

His Farewell... Wayne's family and friends will gather Tuesday December 2, 2025 from 4:00 – 8:00 PM (with a scripture service to begin at 7:00 PM), at Borek Jennings Funeral Homes, 7425 M-36, Hamburg, MI 48139. His Community Farewell will be held on December 3, 2025 from 11:00 AM (10:00 AM Gathering), at St. Joseph Catholic Country Church, 6805 Mast Rd, Dexter, MI 48130. Father Brendan Walsh will serve as Presider. Memorial contributions are suggested to St Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center in Detroit. Please leave a message of comfort for Wayne's family at 1-877-231-7900, or sign his guestbook at www.borekjennings.com.

WILLIAM DAVID ALEXANDER

December 29, 1990 – November 27, 2025

Age 34, of Garden City, MI. Graduated from Michigan Youth Academy in 2007. Was sales manager at Atchinson Ford. Survived by daughter Iyla Marie, fiancé Jessica, parents, three brothers. Service Dec. 3 at Connection Church, Canton. Arrangements by David C. Brown Funeral Home.

www.davidcbrownfh.com

Upcoming Meetings

- 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

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Obituaries



Shawn Steger

SHAWN STEGER

October 24, 1961 – November 26, 2025

Shawn Steger, beloved husband, brother, uncle, and friend, went home to be with the Lord on November 26, 2025, at the age of 64. Born on October 24, 1961, at Annapolis Hospital in Wayne, Michigan, Shawn was the cherished son of AnnaLee Hawkins and William G. Steger. From the beginning, Shawn carried with him a big heart, a tremendous love for family, and a personality full of warmth, humor, and just enough temper to keep life interesting — after all, “Don’t ever tell a chef how to cook!” Shawn grew up admiring the men who shaped his life. His Grandpa Steger was his greatest hero, and some of Shawn’s fondest memories came from their time together — fixing the car, mowing the lawn, enjoying afternoons at the Moose Lodge, sharing Easter dinners, and heading to Duff’s Smorgasbord. Mr. Richendollar was another admired figure in Shawn’s life, respected for his strength and his willingness to set Shawn straight when needed. Those early relationships helped mold Shawn into a man known for his kindness, honesty, and strong sense of respect.

A 1980 graduate of Belleville High School, Shawn began his working life as a custodian for Van Buren Public Schools, where he formed friendships that would last a lifetime, including one with Scott Guenther, who ultimately led him to the Lord — a life-changing turning point he treasured.

Shawn later found his calling in the culinary world. He devoted himself to learning all the chef skills and put them to good use in kitchens such as Woodstone Inn, Weber’s, and many others. He shared his gift generously, often cooking for church events, celebrations, and anyone lucky enough to sit at his table. His food was an expression of love, and anyone who tasted it knew it.

Though he waited a long time, Shawn eventually found the love of his life — his perfect match — when he met Tina at Grace Baptist Church. They married on April 2, 2011, beginning a beautiful chapter filled with joy,

laughter, and devotion. Shawn adored Tina with every part of his heart, and she fully, happily spoiled him in return. Together, they built a life rich with experiences: dining out, taking cruises (Carnival was the undisputed favorite!), TV nights, Bingo, cooking for others, shopping at Costco and BJ’s, and enjoying time with family. Their home was always full of love — and the antics of their spoiled fur babies, Dilly and Daisy.

Shawn’s faith was an important part of his life. He and Tina worshiped at Grace Baptist Church, later becoming members at Iron Creek Community Church in Manchester. When they moved to Maryland in 2008, they joined Rosedale Baptist Church, where Shawn delighted in singing in the choir. Most recently, he attended Lifepointe Church in Belleville. He loved church, music, Seinfeld, Elvis, and going to shows — all things that filled his days with happiness.

Shawn was preceded in death by his parents, Anna Lee (Gerald) Hawkins and William (Bill) Steger, and his sister, Jeanette Steger. He is survived by his devoted wife, Tina; siblings, Kim (Brian) Hawkins, Selina (Jeff) Stillwagon, Norman (Shannon) Ackron, and Robbie Lynne Napier; and a large, loving extended family that includes many cousins, nieces, nephews, and great-nieces and nephews — all of whom he loved as if they were his own children.

Those who knew Shawn will remember his enormous heart, his talent in the kitchen, his strong opinions (especially about politics!), and the way he poured love into everything he did. He was a man who made people feel cared for, fed them well, and made their lives brighter just by being part of them.

Shawn will be deeply missed, forever loved, and joyfully remembered.

A visitation will be held on Thursday, December 4, 2025 at LifePointe Church, 45170 Hull Road, Belleville MI, 48111 from 4 p.m. until 8 p.m. A funeral service will be held on December 5, 2025, with an hour visitation before the 11 a.m. service. Pastor Ronald Shubert will officiate. A burial will follow at Glen Eden Memorial Park, 35667 W. Eight Mile Road, Livonia, MI 48152.

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.

This year, the Winterfest fireworks are scheduled for the same evening and they are being delayed until after the Angel of Hope event concludes. Both events take place in the area of the Hillside Cemetery entryway.

The yearly national remembrance is always on Dec. 6 and the day of the week varies. This year, it coincides with Winterfest Saturday.

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

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

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Independent photo by Rosemary K. Oztman

At Monday's Belleville City Council meeting, 34th District Court Judge Lisa Martin swore into office the two council members who won the write-in ballot to retain their seats on Nov. 4. From left are Jeremiah Beebe and Julie Kissel.

Belleville approves contract for Liberty St. watermain

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent editor

Belleville mayor Ken Voigt told the council that because the city took the advice of Alan Cruz of Hennessey Engineers to postpone and rebid the watermain project for North Liberty Street the city will now save a half million dollars.

At Monday's regular meeting of the city council, the council voted unanimously to accept the \$983,047 bid of Inner City Contracting of Detroit for the project. With the 10% contingency the total is \$1,081,352. This was the lowest bid of ten bidders.

Mayor Voigt said work is planned to start

(continued on page 9)

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Maurice would do best as an only cat (though he did tolerate a laid-back female). He is not a fan of male cats, but he's perfectly comfortable with big dogs over 25 pounds (he was in foster with three dogs). He's an adventurer at heart and doesn't do well being tucked away or confined. He wants to be where the action is! When it comes to affection, Maurice is delightfully assertive. He'll let you know when it's time to play (which is often), and once he's romped out his energy, he'll settle right into your lap and create the coziest nest you've ever seen.

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City Council

(continued from page 8)

in January and be fully complete by May. The project consists of about 3,000 linear feet of watermain replacement from Main Street to East Huron River Drive.

Mayor Voigt said the original bid on asphalt from Al's will be retained. The project was originally planned for this year.

It was noted that North Liberty is concrete with an asphalt cap.

DPW director Nathaniel Johnson said during construction, the street won't be completely a dirt road but will be directional drilled in some places to reach the pipes on Main Street.

Mayor Voigt said that engineer Cruz also added some fire hydrants since there was only one on North Liberty.

Fire Chief 2 Chris Zweng said there are now four hydrants on the street, since three new ones were put in by the newly developed shopping center.

In other business at Monday's 65-minute meeting, the council:

- After witnessing 34th District Court Judge Lisa Martin swear in Jeremiah Beebe and Julie Kissel, who had been returned to office in the Nov. 4 election, unanimously reappointed Kelly Bates as mayor pro-tem;

- Heard a presentation from KSpringer Media on social media management for the city and later voted unanimously to pay the firm \$500 a month, based on the existing contract with the Downtown Development

Authority, which also pays it \$500 a month for its work. Mayor pro-tem Bates asked if the DDA dropped its services would KSpringer Media increase the cost to the city and she was told the firm would "talk to you" about it;

- Approved the schedule of 2026 city council meeting dates;

- Heard councilman Randy Priest suggest that the city council have a riser under its table at the new city hall at 330 Charles St., instead of having the council sit at a table on the same level as the audience. The mayor said they want the new council chambers to be like the library's Cozadd room, all on the same level for multiple uses. "I've looked into this and a raised space is a good idea ... best practices," Priest said, noting it is important for the public to see the council and the council see the public at this formal meeting. Interim city manager Steve Jones said he has looked into this and 6'x8' mobile pieces are available for \$1,500 each. They fold up, are on wheels, and can be rolled. He said it would be from \$9,000 to \$10,000 with shipping. Beebe said there should be a punch list of what is needed or wanted at the new city hall and this can be put on the list. Councilwoman Kissel said they need lots and lots of shelving units for the archives and they don't have enough yet. Mayor Voigt said they need a comprehensive list and Jones said he would look into as many things as possible and present them at the Dec. 15 meeting;

- Heard Priest also suggest a

commemorative brass plaque be put in place at the new city hall and, perhaps, the present brass plaque now at city hall be moved over there, as well. Mayor Voigt said the plaque for the pumphouse cost \$1,700 and it should be ordered now so it will be ready when the city wants to have an open house at the new city hall. He said the city manager can order that without a vote of the council;

- Heard Priest also ask about the tax refunds the city council is being asked to approve on the accounts payable list. He said he is on the city committee that considers tax appeals and he knows nothing about it. Clerk/treasurer Briana Papin said they will have to ask the city's financial officer and the assessor they have hired because they sent over the request for the checks; and

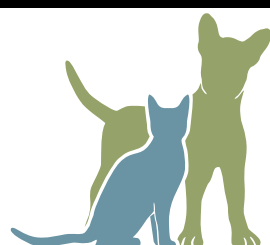
- Learned another member of the fire department graduated with his emergency medical technician certification. He is a senior at Huron High School.

Court Watching:

Jahlen Tyrone Coppy

Jahlen Tyrone Coppy of Saginaw was scheduled for his probable cause conference on Feb. 14, 2024 on two counts of larceny from a motor vehicle on Feb. 2 in Van Buren Township. Personal bond is \$50,000. The preliminary exam was scheduled for March 20, 2024 and at that time the preliminary exam was waived and he was bound over to circuit court for an April 3 arraignment on the information. A calendar conference was set for April 10 reset to April 11. Pretrial was set for April 18 and continued to April 30 and then May 7. Final conference was June 5, adjourned to June 20. Pretrial was Aug. 2 and jury trial was set for Sept. 18. He failed to show up for a Sept. 9, 2024 final conference and a bench warrant was signed and the jury trial canceled.

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District Library

(continued from page 1)

caregivers through arts and culture. The funding she obtained will be used for extra training and will pay for performers and supplies, director Suchy said.

CultureSource used to be called Cultural Alliance of Southeastern Michigan.

Richardson recently did a workshop on how to start a memory café at the Michigan Library Association's fall conference at the end of October.

Director Suchy said the library's memory program has been greatly successful and is partially funded by the Friends of the Library. Artist Kathryn Wood assists with a communal art piece that the group works on during each café and then the artwork is displayed.

In other business at the 48-minute Nov. 18 meeting the board:

- Heard Suchy announce the library has hired Kone Elevator Company to perform its CAT5 elevator testing on Nov. 25. It tried to get Otis Elevator, which installed the elevator and does maintenance, but it couldn't get Otis to come out. Otis has a

maintenance contract through June 2026 and the library may change after that, she said. Suchy also said the library is changing security system vendors at the media center in Sumpter Township, due to a request from Sumpter so that all of their buildings are under the same system. Also, the lighting control vendor was onsite recently to troubleshoot and repair the system that controls the timers to the exterior building lighting. While they were onsite they adjusted the timer for the lights in the second-floor quiet study room;

- Was informed by Suchy that there is a United Health Care conflict with Corewell Health and if it is not solved Corewell will drop off honoring some insurance coverage. The insurance of several employees is involved. Suchy said they are looking into it to make sure it all goes well, but everything is good until Jan. 1;

- Learned the library successfully switched accounting software systems the last week of October. The trainer for BS&A was very informative and helpful and the library's accounts payable assistant is very happy with the new system. The library board members commented on how much they liked the new finance reports with much more information;

- Was advised following all the trick or treating sugar that was given to youth and teens on Halloween, youth and teen services department head Tara McCann purchased healthy after-school snacks to have on hand in the teen room. The library went through almost two bags of apples on the first day. The Friends of the Library have volunteered to give \$300 a month to the library for healthy snacks;

- Heard the library will have hot chocolate and cookies on hand at 4:30 p.m. in the

Cozaad Room on Winter Fest Saturday, Dec. 6. The 1979 feature film "Jack Frost" will be playing in the background. Santa will be in the lobby after the evening parade to visit with children and pass out stockings filled with goodies;

- Were advised the Friends of the Library honey from the bees on the library roof is on sale for \$10 a jar at the library desk;

- Heard board members discuss how great the free public sessions at the library are and how you just have to show up. They agreed board members should bring people to the library who haven't been there before to show them what is available; and

- Heard board chairman Sharon Peters add her comments to board comments on AI and reading. "There are all different possibilities of reading," She said. "Helping children learn in any way they can. More and more we learn about the diverse human condition." She also noted that the tortoise that lives in the children's room is now living in a different area.

Ypsilanti Symphony Orchestra to present holiday concert Dec. 14

Music director Adam C. Riccinto and the Ypsilanti Symphony Orchestra will present their annual Holiday Extravaganza at the Lincoln High School Performing Arts Center at 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14.

This year's family-friendly "Suite and Swing" concert will include the orchestra performing Tchaikovsky's holiday classic the "Nutcracker Suite." Special guest the Depot Town Big Band will be taking the stage to perform Duke Ellington's swing arrangement of the "Nutcracker Suite."

There will be a festive selection of familiar holiday favorites, along with a visit from Santa.

The orchestra will also hold its third-annual Holiday Silent Auction during the concert featuring a variety of goods and services from more than 100 local businesses. This will be held before the concert and during intermission with the winners leaving with their winnings at the conclusion of the show. The auction begins at 2:30 p.m., with the concert beginning at 3:30 p.m. Auction items can be viewed online one week prior to the event at [The Ypsilanti Symphony Orchestra's 3rd Annual Auction](#).



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Amy M. Eversole

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Belleville, Mich. 48111 **Call 734-718-8574**
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Say hello to Jasper

Janet Deaton, CGC Evaluator
American Kennel Club

dogs by janet ~ Belleville janet@dogsbyjanet.com (734) 604-1720

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Open Monday – Friday 8am - 6pm

INDEPENDENT CLASSIFIED ADS

AUCTION

PUBLIC AUCTION
U-Lock-It Self Storage LLC
6130 Rawsonville Rd., Belleville, MI 48111
(734) 482-1502
Notice is hereby given that on 12/17/25 at 12:00 P.M. thru 12/24/25 at 12:00 P.M. contents of the following storage unit(s) will be sold online at:
Bid13.com
SPACE # G35 – Kellee Ripple
Unit(s) may or may not include the following: household items, recreational items, appliances, furniture, seasonal decorations, and tools.
Publish: Dec. 4, 2025; Dec. 11, 2025

GARAGE/YARD SALE

EVERYTHING MUST GO. Come check it out, lots of new stuff. Dec. 6 & 7, Sat. & Sun. 10a.m. – 5p.m. 1184 Georgina. Ypsi 12/04

FOR SALE

HOVEROUND TEKNIQUE XHD chair. Will fit larger person, very good condition. Comes with charging system. (734) 252-5185. Make offer. 12/18

VOCO PRO KARAOKE machine, over 75 country & misc. CD & G discs organized in books, Shure microphone & stand. Best offer. (734) 308-9912 12/11

OUR GENERATION Awesome academy schoolroom & accessories. \$75 (734) 748-2680 please leave a message. 12/04

FRENCHIES, YORKIES, TEDDY BEAR & other small breed. Vet checked, happy puppies, \$499 & up. View available pups at Petcitypets.com Ypsilanti. (734) 487-0800 Come see the difference. 12/04

WESTERN SNOWPLOW- 7 ½'. \$500 OBO. (734) 417-3233 01/01

FOOD GRADE BARRELS Plastic &- metal. Inventory & pictures at www.mattsbarrels.com, call or text (734) 474-5981. Located in Willis. 12/18

FENCE BOARDS 2 x 6 and 2 x 8, reasonable. (734) 461-1414 HAY, round bails (708) 646-7595 12/18

FREE

FIREWOOD & KINDLING. You cut. (734) 941-9567 12/04

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1999 LINCOLN CONTINENTAL Tennessee car, privately owned, very nice. (734) 695-0819 12/04

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Kovalak Excavating Company
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or **(734) 645-0100**

“ Anyone who stops learning is old whether at twenty or eighty. Anyone who keeps learning stays young. The greatest thing in life is to keep your mind young. “
– Henry Ford

Notice to Advertisers – private gun sales:
It is the responsibility of both the classified seller and buyer to ensure they understand all laws applicable to private gun sales in Michigan. The *Belleville-Area Independent* is not responsible for the legal compliance of classified buyers and sellers.

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ADVANCED H & W
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LOCAL FALCONER needs fields to hunt with hawk. If you have a field/trees with multiple rabbits, I’m interested in paying to hunt with my bird. Or, come along for the experience. (734) 262-0998 cperdue@shadowspeak.org 12/04

WANTED TO BUY – Standing timber. Sawmill office. (517) 254-4463 01/08

WANTED – ANY SIZE MEN’S JEANS for the homeless. Please drop off at Bladez’s 601 E. Huron River Drive. (734) 697-5600 TFN

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

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LARRY’S HANDYMAN SERVICE. No job too small. Interior/exterior painting, wallpaper, plumbing, powerwashing & carpentry. (618) 267-7774 04/03

“It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge.”
– Albert Einstein

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

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:
All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention, to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

DECEMBER BOARD OF REVIEW CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN

NOTICE TO THE TAXPAYERS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF VAN BUREN CHARTER TOWNSHIP

The BOARD OF REVIEW of the Charter Township of Van Buren will meet at the Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Road on Tuesday, December 9, 2025 from 2:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

The purpose of this meeting will be:

- 1) To correct clerical errors or mutual mistakes of fact;
- 2) Poverty Exemptions.

Any property owner who believes they qualify should contact the Van Buren Township Assessing Department at 734.699.8946 prior to December 9, 2024.

Leon Wright
Van Buren Charter Township

Post: November 20, 2025
Publish: November 27, 2025
December 4, 2025

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Things to do in the Belleville area...

• **Thursday, Dec. 4, through Sunday, Dec. 7** – Winterfest in Belleville, with activities throughout the weekend, including a 5:30 p.m. lighted parade on Saturday, followed by fireworks at 8 p.m. over the lake.

• **Friday, Dec. 5** – Southwestern Wayne (County) Democratic Club's annual holiday dinner is at UAW Local 898, 8975 Textile Rd., Ypsilanti. Doors open at 6, dinner served at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$25 each and \$45 per couple.

• **Friday, Dec. 5** – Night at the Museum Kick-off Party to the Festival of Holiday Trees from 6-8 p.m. Free and open to the public. Enjoy light snacks, festive drinks, and holiday music and get first look at the holiday trees.

• **Saturday, Dec. 6 through Tuesday, Dec. 23** – Festival of Holiday Trees at the Belleville Area Museum. Hours are: Tuesdays, 12-4 p.m.; Thursdays, 1-7 p.m.; and Saturdays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

• **Saturday, Dec. 6** – Van Buren Public Schools Education Foundation is holding its Jingle Belle 5K and 1 Mile Fun Run through Van Buren Park on the Iron Bell Trail at 10 a.m. Early bird special is \$25 per runner. After Nov. 30 it's \$30 per runner. \$15 is for the fun run race. Walkers welcome.

• **Saturday, Dec. 6** – Holiday Ornament Workshop, 1-3 p.m. at the Belleville Area District Library. No fee. Preregistration required online at vanburentwp.recdesk.com. Information: (734) 699-8921.

• **Saturday, Dec. 6** – The annual Angel of Hope ceremony is at 7 p.m. at Hillside Cemetery. The national remembrance is for families who have lost a child at any age. There will be a reading of names and tolling of the bell for each name read. Call Brown Funeral Home at (734) 697-4500 to add a name or to get more information. It is an outdoor event, so dress for the weather.

• **Sunday, Dec. 7** – The public is invited to the "Sing Noel" chorus concert by the Belleville Lakeside Singers at 5 p.m. at Faith Community Church, 894 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville. Admission is free. There will be a collection of Christmas favorites followed by cookies and refreshments. Information: Jane Vesche, (734) 740-4165.

• **Sunday, Dec. 7** – Bugles Across America starts at 7:15 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial on High Street on the lake in Belleville. A brief ceremony honors all those who are serving or have served in the military, put on by the VFW and PLAV. The event includes a salute to the flag, singing of the "National Anthem" and a bugle playing "Taps."

• **Friday, Dec. 12** – BHS Unified Sports Bowling fund raiser is at Lodge Lanes. Check in at 6 p.m.; bowling at 6:30 p.m. \$25 entry includes two games, shoes, and pizza. There is a 50/50 and raffle baskets.



City of Belleville Public Notice



CITY OF BELLEVILLE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES Monday, November 17, 2025 - 6:30 pm

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE

2. ROLL CALL

Mayor Voigt - Present
Mayor Pro-Tem Bates - Present
Council Member Kissel - Present
Council Member Beebe - Present
Council Member Priest - Present

3. PRESENTATIONS & CITIZENS COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

- Presentations
 - i. America in Bloom Plaque Presentation
 1. The city's America in Bloom plaque was presented to Paula Levesque from Pioneer Landscaping
 - Citizen Comments
 - i. Public Safety Director Faull
 1. Congratulations to Paula Levesque
 2. Officer Stewart was able to obtain another grant from Walmart for Shop with a Cop, and J&T Crova donated \$2,500 for the event.
 3. Congratulations to Firefighter Isabella Teachout for passing her exam to become an EMT.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Motion by Kissel, supported Beebe 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. November 3, 2025 – Regular Meeting Minutes
 - ii. November 10, 2025, Workshop
- Budget report
 - i. None.

- Communications
 - i. None.
- Council Follow-up list
 - i. As of November 13, 2025
- Police Stats
 - i. None.
- Fire Stats
 - i. None.
- DPW Report
 - i. None.
- Special Events
 - i. Holiday Train Viewing Party

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

Motion Carried.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- a. None

7. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

- None.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS DISCUSSION

- a. Holiday Lights Contest
 - i. Item was discussed, no action taken.
- b. Parks and Recreation Master Plan
 - i. Item was discussed, no action taken.
- c. Fire Department

MOTION: Motion by Beebe, supported by Priest to hire an embedded advisor for the Fire Department for a period of 3 months.

ROLL CALL:

Council Member Beebe Aye
Council Member Priest Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Bates Nay
Council Member Kissel Aye
Mayor Voigt Aye

Motion Carried.

- d. Resolution #25-035 – DUWA Representative Nathan Johnson

MOTION: Motion by Kissel, supported by Priest approving **Resolution # 25-035**, as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Council Member Beebe - Aye
Council Member Priest - Aye
Mayor Pro-Tem Bates - Aye
Council Member Kissel - Aye
Mayor Voigt - Aye

Motion Carried.

9. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND DEPARTMENTAL EXPENDITURES

- Accounts Payable
 - Departmental Expenditures
- MOTION:** Motion by Kissel, supported by Beebe 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

- Wishing everyone a safe & happy Thanksgiving.
- Leaf pickup is ongoing throughout the city.
- There are under 50 water meter replacements remaining.

11. CITY COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Council Member Kissel

- Advisor Greg Flynn is expected to begin with the Fire Department after the first of the year.
- The council needs to look at removing the Interim designation from the Director of Public Safety position.

Council Member Priest

- Asked administration to remind residents about snow removal and shoveling on city sidewalks.
- Suggested purchasing a collapsible raised platform for the Council dais in the new City Hall building.

Council Member Beebe

- Nice to see the working relationship that the city

has with Pioneer Landscaping, which has produced some great landscaping.

- Thanked DPS Director Nate Johnson for attending the recent DUWA meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem Bates

- Excited to hear how Shop with a Cop goes.
- Congratulations to Fire Fighter Teachout.
- Looking forward to judging the holiday light contest.

• Looking forward to hearing from the new Fire Department's advisor, Greg Flynn.

- Congratulations to the city for being 3rd in the nation for our flower baskets.

- Excited to see duty crews returning to the Fire Department.

12. Mayor's Comments

- Thanked the Fire Department for the effort put in to their proposal.
- Congratulations to Fire Fighter Teachout.
- Attended the Van Buren Public Schools fundraiser this past Friday night.
- Attended the SEMCOG general assembly and gave a presentation.
- Spoke at the recent event honoring veterans, that was held at Belleville High School.
- Feeling encouraged by the progress at the new City Hall.

13. CITIZENS' COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

- None.

14. ACTION ITEMS FOR THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING

15. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Motion by Priest, supported by Beebe to adjourn at 8:00 PM.

No objections were noted.

Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted by,
Briana Hootman (Papin), City Clerk/Treasurer
Publish: December 4, 2025

Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

There were 269 dispatch calls reported by Van Buren Township police this week including the following.

Sunday, Nov. 23:

0030 – motorist assist, S. I-94 Service/Rawsonville
0124 – noise complaint, Lake Villa Dr.
0250 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, S. I-94 Service
0304 – property check, Cross St.
0320 – intrusion alarm, Haggerty Rd.
0803 – welfare check, Denton Rd.
xxxx – repossession, Parkwood Dr.
0913 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Oak Ln.

0949 – hospice death, Pond Bluff Dr.
1008 – assault & battery, Belleville Rd.
1042 – larceny, Westlake Cir.
1134 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Belleville Rd.
1222 – domestic, Denton Rd.
1625 – assist fire dept., E. Archwood Dr.
1647 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Red Oak Dr.

1647 – welfare check, Water’s Edge Ln.
1708 – PPO violation, Westlake Cir.
1710 – assist other dept., S. I-275/Ecorse
1719 – domestic, Kirkridge Park Dr.
1741 – property damage accident, Sheldon/Van Born
1847 – trespassing, Belleville Rd.
1852 – traffic offense, State St./Republic Dr.
1859 – welfare check, S. I-94 Service Dr.

2012 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Kirkridge Park Dr.

2012 – noise complaint, Oak Ln.
2046 – missing person, Kirkridge Park Dr.
2132 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
2224 – malicious destruction of property, Rawsonville

Monday, Nov. 24:

0025 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, S. Woodbury Dr.
0049 – welfare check, Rawsonville Rd.
0049 – intrusion alarm, Ricardo Dr.
0100 – family trouble, Stonebridge Dr.
xxxx – repossession, Oak Ln.
0614 – property damage accident, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0630 – intrusion alarm, Savage Rd.
0959 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
1034 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, W. Schooner Dr.

1157 – malicious destruction of property, N. Ponderosa Trl.

1237 – misc. complaint, Michigan Ave.
1320 – prisoner transport, S. Wayne Rd.

1331 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, Beck/Tyler

1344 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Belleville Rd.

1532 – malicious destruction of property, McBride Ave.

1603 – follow-up by officer, Parkwood Dr.
1618 – property check, Coca-Cola Dr.
1957 – warrant arrest, Elizabeth Rd.
xxxx – warrant arrest, Elizabeth Rd.
1947 – Rawsonville Rd.
2014 – assist other dept., Lancaster Dr.
2056 – domestic, S. Bellridge Dr.

Tuesday, Nov. 25:

0327 – intrusion alarm, W. Huron River Dr.
xxxx – personal injury accident, Van Born/Beck
0816 – family trouble, N. Woodbury Dr.
0944 – private property impound, Old Haggerty Rd.
1054 – neighbor trouble, Anna Dr.
1103 – assist citizen, Belleville Rd.
1236 – animal complaint, Jackson Ln.
1246 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1320 – assist other dept., E. Columbia Ave.

1403 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Parkwood Dr.

xxxx – private property impound, Westlake Cir.
1611 – property damage accident, Ecorse/Denton
1704 – juvenile complaint, Westlake Cir.
1703 – fraud, Elwell Rd.

1712 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Belleville Rd.

1755 – personal injury accident, Belleville Rd.

2020 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Haggerty

2135 – civil matter, Pinewood Ln.
2243 – family trouble, S. Ponderosa Trl.

2358 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Rawsonville Rd.

Wednesday, Nov. 26:

0131 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Village Green Ln.

xxxx – repossession, Oak Ln.
xxxx – repossession, Lighthouse Dr.
0341 – 911 welfare check, Bog Rd.
0408 – PPO violation, W. Archwood Dr.

0422 – welfare check, Haggerty Rd.
0626 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
0635 – motorist assist, Belleville Rd.
0741 – intrusion alarm, Marlowe Ave.
0817 – property damage accident, Forestdale Dr.

0907 – breaking & entering, Assembly St.
0913 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.

0928 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd./S. I-94 Service Dr.

0930 – misc. complaint, Van Buren St.
1119 – civil matter, Village Green Ln.

1233 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, N. I-94 Service Dr. / Belleville Rd.

xxxx – misc. complaint, Locust Dr.
1558 – civil matter, Quirk Rd.

1649 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, S. I-94 Service Dr.

1727 – family trouble, Thornwood Dr.

xxxx – intrusion alarm, Revere Dr.
1840 – property damage accident, Tyler/Belleville

1953 – noise complaint, Oak Ln.
2115 – assist other dept., Sondra Dr.

2225 – vehicle lockout, Lake Crest Dr.
2231 – disorderly, Tyler Rd.

2330 – parking complaint, Anna Dr.

Thursday, Nov. 27:

0256 – noise complaint, Lancaster Dr.
1139 – domestic, Stanley Rd.

1221 – property check, Rawsonville Rd.
1408 – family trouble, Holly Ln.

1501 – 911 welfare check, Kouza Ct.
1529 – 911 welfare check, Kent Dr.

1538 – intrusion alarm, Morton Taylor Rd.
1632 – intrusion alarm, Ecorse Rd.

1723 – disorderly, Belleville Rd.
1836 – motorist assist, Belleville Rd./N. I-94 Service Dr.

1853 – 911 welfare check, Van Born Rd./Sheldon Rd.

1903 – intrusion alarm, Morton Taylor Rd.
1910 – assault & battery, S. Woodbury Dr.

2024 – intrusion alarm, Haggerty Rd.
2331 – assist other dept., W. Thornhill

Friday, Nov. 28:

0006 – mental subject, Parkwood Dr.
0256 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Parkwood Dr.

0447 – animal complaint, Rose Blvd.
0920 – intrusion alarm, Haggerty Rd.

1041 – motorist assist, Belleville Rd./Westlake Cir.
1127 – dumping complaint, Ecorse Rd./Belleville Rd.

1243 – parking complaint, Bristol
1400 – personal injury accident, W. I-94/Haggerty

1510 – 911 welfare check, S. Ponderosa Trl.
1551 – 911 welfare check, Patty Ln.

1603 – welfare check, Haggerty Rd.
1633 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Ecorse

/ Hannan
1733 – personal injury accident, Belleville/Ecorse

2030 – 911 welfare check, Rolan Meadows Dr.
2052 – private property/property damage accident, Belleville Rd.

2054 – assist other dept., Haggerty
2149 – domestic, Parkwood Dr.

2204 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Greenbriar

2254 – missing person, Victoria St.

Saturday, Nov. 29:

0200 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, N. I-94 Service Dr.

0252 – intrusion alarm, Tyler Rd.
0350 – welfare check, America/Liberty Ln.

0445 – civil matter, Cambridge Ct.
0700 – follow up by officer, Victoria St.

0917 – civil matter, Woodgrove Dr.
0856 – larceny from auto, Independence Ln.

1006 – motorist assist, Mission Pointe
1055 – civil matter, Oak Ln.

1123 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, N. I-94 Service Dr.

1230 – domestic, Parkwood Dr.
1243 – assist citizen, Hardwood Dr.

1324 – 911 welfare check, Christina Ln.
1417 – assist other dept., N. Liberty/First St.

1507 – assist other dept., Rawsonville/W. Huron River Dr.

1553 – civil matter, W. Sadie Ln.
1627 – assist other dept., N. I-94 Service Dr.

2032 – sexual assault, E Hospital

1925 – welfare check, Maurice Dr.
1925 – welfare check, S. I-94 Service Dr.

1945 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Hancock Ave.

2018 – noise complaint, Robson Rd./Marlowe Ave.
2050 – domestic, Walden Blvd.

2139 – shooting, Lake Pointe Pass
2159 – traffic offense, Victoria St.

2212 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Haggerty Rd.

2212 – traffic offense, Rawsonville Rd.
2309 – traffic offense, Meadows Ln.

2314 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Haggerty

2327 – property damage accident, Ecorse/Haggerty

Also, on this log are 106 traffic stops, 17 of which are on the I-94 and I-275 freeways.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Nov. 23:

0519 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Estrada Dr.

Monday, Nov. 24:

0058 – intrusion alarm, W. Columbia Ave.
0803 – assist fire dept., Robbe St.

xxxx – traffic offense, Main St./High St.
1115 – juvenile complaint, W. Columbia Ave.

1552 – lost property/child, Henry St.
1727 – assist fire dept., Victorian Ct.

Tuesday, Nov. 25:

0730 – civil matter, Carmell St.
0821 – assist other dept., N. Woodbury Dr.

1025 – juvenile complaint, Owen St.
1243 – civil matter, W. Wabash Ave.

1307 – traffic offense, E. Columbia Ave.
1412 – assist other dept., Parkwood Dr.

1432 – traffic offense, E. Columbia Ave./Madelon
1537 – lost property/child, Main St.

1955 – found property/child, Main St.

Wednesday, Nov. 26:

0756 – assist fire dept., Henry St.
xxxx – intrusion alarm, Henry St.

0835 – intrusion alarm, Robbe St.
0926 – assist fire dept., Menlo Park Dr.

1307 – vehicle lockout, Fourth St.
1918 – 911 welfare check, Church St.

1923 – private property/property damage accident, Main St.

2319 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, N. Liberty St. / Fifth St.

Thursday, Nov. 27:

0247 – welfare check, Carmell St.
1757 – intrusion alarm, W. Columbia Ave.

1912 – intrusion alarm, Sumpter Rd.
2210 – domestic, Carmell St.

2332 – 911 welfare check, W. Thornhill Ct.
xxxx – assist other dept., W. Thornhill Ct.

Friday, Nov. 28:

0410 – assist fire dept., W. Wabash Ave.
0509 – assist fire dept., Carmell St.

2144 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
2146 – intrusion alarm, W. Thornhill Ct.

2238 – domestic, Belle Villa

Saturday, Nov. 29:

0812 – property check, Denton Rd.
1415 – domestic, N. Liberty St./First St.

1514 – assist citizen, W. Columbia Ave.
1528 – misc. complaint, W. Columbia Ave.

There are 78 reports on this week’s log, 40 of which are traffic stops.

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Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Nov. 23:

0224 – noise complaint, Mulberry Dr.
1006 – fire dept. assist, Rustic Ln.

1158 – animal complaint, 46000 bl. Claxton Dr.
1215 – fire dept. assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

1229 – fire dept. assist, 23000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1244 – citizen assist, 22000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

1415 – fire dept. assist, 44000 bl. Paris Dr.
1423 – fire dept. assist, Walnut St.

1434 – follow-up investigation, 47000 bl. Judd Rd.
1454 – welfare check, 488000 bl. Harris Rd.

1548 – death investigation, 20000 bl. Sherwood
1815 – open burning, 47000 bl. Wear Rd.

2037 – citizen assist, Arkona Rd./Sherwood Rd.
2135 – harassment complaint, Edgewood Dr.

2214 – suspicious circumstance, 23000 bl. Sherwood
2300 – welfare check, Utah Ct.

Monday, Nov. 24:

0243 – fire dept. assist, 43000 bl. Willis Ct.
0640 – suspicious person, 43000 bl. Judd Rd.

0824 – juvenile matter, 21000 bl. Clark Rd.
1107 – welfare check, Oregon St.

1130 – assist other agency, Brookview Dr.
1152 – trespassing complaint, 18000 bl. Elwell

1154 – fire dept. assist, 22000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
1210 – traffic complaint/hazard, 19000 bl. Sumpter

1214 – larceny complaint, 48000 bl. Bemis
1226 – suspicious circumstance, Wayside Dr.

1422 – alarm, 44000 bl. Dunn Rd.
1735 – assist other agency, Colorado St.

1802 – fire dept. assist, 40000 bl. Willis Rd.
1829 – assist other agency, Rustic Ln.

1842 – property damage accident, Sumpter/Willow
1946 – assault, 21000 bl. Clark Rd.

2024 – suspicious person, 19000 bl. Crandell Ave.
2143 – 911 hangup, Arizona St.

2148 – civil matter, 26000 bl. Karr Rd.

Tuesday, Nov. 25:

0228 – fire dept. assist, 42000 bl. Willis Rd.
0237 – suspicious circumstance, 22000 bl. Sumpter

1048 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter
1148 – 911 hangup, Birch Dr.

1325 – 911 hangup, Oregon St.
1333 – family trouble, California St.

1422 – follow-up investigation, 47000 bl. Judd
1456 – suspicious vehicle, Martinsville/Bemis

1457 – welfare check, Brookview Dr.
1628 – welfare check, 46000 bl. Traskos Ave.

1812 – suspicious circumstance, 45000 bl. Bontekoe
Ave.

1931 – mental health call, 21000 bl. Clark Rd.
2032 – assault, Washington St.

Wednesday, Nov. 26:

0851 – welfare check, 22000 bl. Bohn Rd.
0854 – civil matter, Washington St.

0933 – follow-up investigation, 46000 bl. Claxton
Dr.

1108 – civil matter, 45000 bl. Dunn Rd.
1312 – 911 hangup, Utah St.

1404 – larceny complaint, 23000 bl. Martinsville
1429 – alarm, 8200 bl. Rawsonville Rd.

1743 – fire dept. assist, 21000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1804 – property damage accident, Savage/Bemis

1851 – citizen assist, California/Willis
1905 – 911 hangup, Tamarack Dr.

1934 – family trouble, 21000 bl. Clark Rd.
2103 – welfare check, 23000 bl. Martinsville

Thursday, Nov. 27:

0743 – family trouble, Delaware St.
0906 – follow-up investigation, 23000 bl.

Martinsville
0923 – welfare check, 45000 bl. Willow

1013 – family trouble, 20000 bl. Crandell Ave.
1105 – 911 hangup, Knollwood Dr.

1226 – animal complaint, Willis/Rawsonville
1437 – follow-up investigation, out of township

1501 – family trouble, Oregon St.
1557 – follow-up investigation, out of township

1629 – 911 hangup, 24000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
1736 – welfare check, 25000 bl. Karr Rd.

1800 – suspicious vehicle, 24000 bl. Sherwood
1804 – family trouble, 21000 bl. Clark Rd.

2255 – operating while intoxicated arrest, Oakville
Waltz Rd./Sumpter Rd.

Friday, Nov. 28:

0159 – civil matter, 23000 bl. Bohn Rd.
0231 – fire dept. assist, Birch Dr.

(Continued on page 15)

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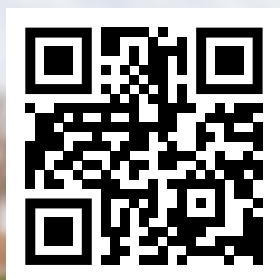
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Musings

By Janet Millard
Independent
Advertising Director



Welcome to a very busy Winter Fest weekend. With all the many activities, don't forget the Open House at the Belleville Area Museum on Friday at 6 p.m. View the beautiful Festival of Trees & Wreaths plus enjoy complimentary refreshments.

Another special event happening during Winter Fest is the return of the Living Nativity outside Belleville First United Methodist Church. This will happen on

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

(continued from page 14)

0311 – suspicious person, 28000 bl. Sumpter
0339 – fire dept. assist, 43000 bl. Willis Ct.
0657 – suspicious circumstance, Washington St.
1252 – follow-up investigation, 50000 bl. Willis Rd.
1633 – fire dept. assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter
1739 – follow-up investigation, Washington St.
1842 – fire dept. assist, Hampshire Dr.
2037 – follow-up investigation, 23000 bl. Sumpter
2208 – welfare check, 48000 bl. Willis
2319 – welfare check, 19000 bl. Sumpter

Saturday, Nov. 29:
0022 – civil matter, Country Club Blvd.
0107 – welfare check, Birch Dr.
0139 – fire dept. assist, Birch Dr.
0216 – family trouble, Birch Dr.
0404 – alarm, 8200 bl. Rawsonville
0511 – alarm, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
0706 – alarm, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1125 – family trouble, Mulberry Dr.
1204 – animal complaint, Elwell/Willis
1319 – family trouble, 41000 bl. Judd Rd.
1336 – civil matter, 43000 bl. Harris Rd.
1438 – family trouble, Utah St.
1508 – 911 hangup, 46000 bl. Harris Rd.
1509 – fire dept. assist, Clark/Judd
1732 – follow-up investigation, Birch Dr.
1901 – welfare check, 46000 bl. Harris Rd.
2033 – property damage accident, Rawsonville/Willis

2104 – traffic complaint/hazard, Rawsonville/Rustic Ln.
2106 – malicious destruction of property, Oregon St.
2142 – follow-up investigation, Alaska St.
2144 – suspicious person, Savage/Bemis
2154 – follow-up investigation, 21000 bl. Clark Rd.
2231 – family trouble, 21000 bl. Clark Rd.

Also on this week's log were 152 patrol checks, 51 traffic stops and 10 misc. details.

Saturday, Dec. 6, right after the Christmas Parade.

This also is the first weekend for the presentation of the play "A Christmas Story" by the Van Buren Community Players. Performances will be held on all three days (Friday, Saturday and Sunday) so hopefully there are still seats available but if not, there is always next weekend.

There are two bowling fundraisers at Lodge Lanes this month. On Friday, Dec. 12, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. BHS Unified Bowling for \$25 and on Sunday, Dec. 14, at noon is the Belleville Area Kiwanis Jingle Bowl for \$10. Both fundraisers include 2 games, shoes, pizza, a 50/50 and raffle baskets. Both organizations support the youth in our communities and are very worthy causes to support.

Bethany Bible Church at 810 East Huron River Dr. will present its Christmas Concert on Saturday, Dec. 13, from 7 to 8 p.m. and at its 11 a.m. service on Sunday, Dec. 14.

The Belleville Community Chorus will present its 21st Winter Concert at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14. "The Spirit of Christmas" will be held at the Belleville First United Methodist Church at 417 Charles St. If you haven't gotten into the Christmas spirit yet, this will certainly get you there.

Like I have said before, there is so much to do during this Christmas season. I try to give you at least a week's advance notice so you can get tickets, if need be, or at least make plans to attend as many as possible.

Birthdays

Nov. 29 – Ross Medos

Dec. 9 – Kathleen Springer, Drusilla Allen

Dec. 11 – Janet Sohl, Ruth Duda, Gerry Dockter

Dec. 14 – Barbara Thomas

Dec. 16 – Doc Pinter

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

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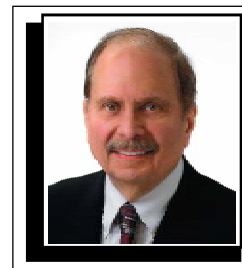
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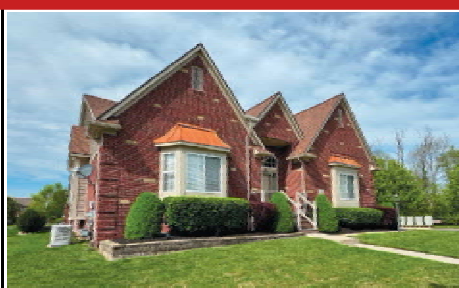
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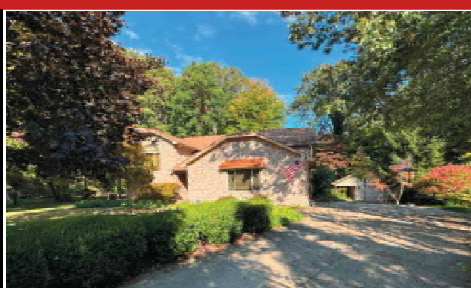
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