



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

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Belleville merchant asks city council for 2-hour parking limit on Main

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

At the beginning of its regular meeting on Feb. 18, the Belleville City Council heard a request from LeAnn Crouch of Twisted Willow Soap Company at 331 Main St.

Crouch asked the council to limit parking on Main Street to two hours and post it so people won't park for long periods of time in front of her store and keep customers from seeing that she is open.

She said she thinks that would be good all up and down Main Street and especially at the bar/restaurant.

Crouch said that Moon Star Express people, two doors down, park in front of her business. She said her signs can't be seen, so she put up a banner and that can't be seen over the trucks parked on the street. She said another sign is coming for her shop.

She said she tried to talk to the vice president and owner of the company and asked him nicely to have his people park elsewhere, but was cussed out.

She said she thought since he came from another country that it was an ethnic thing, so she sent Ian Unger to talk to him. She said Unger talked to him nicely, but Unger too was cussed out with the f-word.

Mayor Ken Voigt said he would refer this to the city administration for investigation.

Moon Star Express has a parking lot in back and that is filled when they have meetings, with spill-off parking into other public spaces on the street.

In other business in the 28-minute meeting, the council:

- Celebrated the retirement of Fire Department Captain Aaron Zehel after 15 years as a city fire fighter;

- Heard Mayor Voigt announce that the streets are being plowed of snow after just 2.5" of snow, rather than the old 4" of snow in the past;

- Heard Mayor Voigt say that pending the retirement of Fire Chief Brian

Loranger, the city wants a top to bottom assessment of the department. The council approved hiring Stone Productions for the assessment at a fixed fee of \$10,000. Police Chief Kris Faull, who has been acting as Public Safety Director, said the department reports lacks of manpower, budget, and other things. Mayor Voigt said this will be an objective look by experts who will give an independent analysis of the department. There is an impending transition, top to bottom, Mayor Voigt said. Councilwoman Julie Kissel said this has never been done before and Chief Faull said not as long as

(continued on page 7)

BHS leaders present Black History Month program to VBT board

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

At the regular meeting of the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees on Feb. 18, three members of the Belleville High School Leadership team gave a presentation on Black History to mark February as Black History Month.

Clerk Leon Wright said the board had been wanting to do something special for Black History Month and he contacted the high school where he has been conducting student council elections for years.

Ivana Goff, president of the senior class and the student council, led the presentation, with Morgan Liggins, and Braylon Hubbard participating.

Ivana said she is the first and only black female to serve on the Michigan Association of Student Councils and Honor Societies, which meets monthly in Lansing and works with the state Board of Education. She said she will be giving a presentation on leadership at a state

(continued on page 13)



Photos courtesy of Athletic Director Joe Brodie. Diane Kiessel, athletic secretary who retired after 41 years of service, was inducted into the Belleville High School Sports Hall of Fame at half time during the boys varsity basketball game against Dearborn on Feb. 18. Of her 41 years, Kiessel worked for 28 years in the athletic department. She posed for a photo with the previous and current athletic directors she had served. From left is Rod Fisher (retired), Joe Brodie (current athletic director), Diane Kiessel, and Mike Colletta (retired).



Former BHS football player Andre Seldon of Detroit was inducted posthumously into the BHS Sports Hall of Fame on Feb. 18 and had a large turnout of family members for the ceremony. He died July 20, 2024 at the age of 22 in an apparent cliff-diving accident in Utah. As a BHS senior in 2019, he led the BHS Tigers to conference, district and regional championships and a spot in the MHSAA Division 1 state semifinals.

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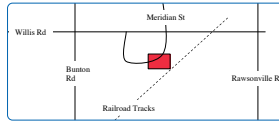
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SECOND FRONT PAGE

Murder mystery dinner theater set at VBT Community Center

Enjoy food, fun, and an audience-interactive murder mystery as Van Buren Community Players present "Murder at the Pie Auction" March 8 and 9 at the VBT Community Center's Black Box Theater.

The murder mystery has a cast of ten, directed by Emily Lange and assistant director Chandler Gimson.

"It has been an immense pleasure working with the incredibly creative and talented cast and crew of 'Murder at the Pie Auction!' said director Lange. "This whodone-it farce is filled with puns, drama and pie-related humor that will be sure to have you laughing out of your seat! I can't wait to see you there!"

The cast includes Jill Yob of VBT as Phoebe, Beverly Porter of VBT as Minaret, Rees Scott of VBT as Felicity, Andrea VanDenBergh of VBT as Mark, Benjamin Albovias of Farmington Hills as Rex, Wendy Albers of Willis as Julia, Max Wray of New Hudson as Eve, Alex Zahara of Plymouth as Roger, Tim Brunett of Canton as Guy and Sherrie Saksewski of VBT as Eunice.

After years of trying unsuccessfully, the small town of Mynute, Alaska, finally lands the famous Mother Mabel's Pie Baking Competition. The contest looks to be a disaster with no media or publicity.

To add to the tension, one of the contestants

is writing a tell-all book about the steamy side of competitive pie baking. Making matters even worse, just hours before the competition begins, someone goes missing. Find out who when the characters turn on each other as they try to uncover this mystery.

There will be a special "pie" fundraiser for the robotics teams at McBride Middle School and Belleville High School.

There are a limited number of seats per performance. The show includes a real, live pie auction. Bring cash to participate in the auction. Proceeds of the pie auction will go toward the expenses for the show.

The buffet menu, provided by Norman Catering, will include: mixed greens salad (GF, VEG), beef braised pot roast, veggie rice pilaf (GF, VEG), garlic mashed potatoes (GF, VEG), brown gravy, mixed vegetable medley (GF, VEG), buttery yeast rolls (VEG), coffee, water and lemonade.

Performances are Saturday, March 8, with dinner at 6:30 p.m. and the show at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, March 9, with dinner at 1 p.m. and the show at 2 p.m. at the VBT Community Center, 46425 Tyler Rd., VBT. All tickets are pre-sale only and must be ordered by March 1. There will not be tickets sold at the door. Tickets are not refundable.

Tickets to the performance are \$42-\$46



each and can be purchased online at <https://vanburentwp.recdesk.com/Community/Program>, or in person at the Community Center desk, 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Friday; 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday; and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sunday. For ticket

assistance by phone, call (734) 699-8921.

For more information on this show and all upcoming shows, see www.vanburencommunityplayers.com.

Belleville DDA elects John Winter chairman, Chris Donley vice-chair

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

At its regular meeting Feb. 19, the Belleville Downtown Development Authority unanimously elected John Winter as its new chairman and Chris Donley as its new vice-chairman for 2025.

Reelected were treasurer Sabrina Richardson-Williams and secretary Denise Baker.

Former chairperson Alicia McGovern, who was elected in 2020, has resigned from the DDA. Winter had served as vice-chairman in 2024.

The board also updated the DDA check-signers for the year. The current signers were treasurer Richardson-Williams, secretary Baker, and Kelly McWilliams.

McWilliams said she no longer wants to be a DDA check signer, so she was removed and chairman Winter was added to the list.

Later in the meeting, when the DDA was getting ready to approve accounts payable, McWilliams pointed out the accounts payable for January had not been presented to the board for this meeting.

The February meeting had been cancelled for lack of quorum. DDA Executive Director Steve Jones said he meant to

give the January payables to the board and left the meeting to make copies which he distributed.

McWilliams said the \$96,000 payable for the Victory Station payment was not on either the January or February payables.

She said recently she was in the business she owns, when Jones came in twice and asked her to sign a \$96,000 check.

Jones said the DDA will get reimbursement for the check, which was an error, a mixup.

McWilliams said it would have been nice if Jones had said, "You were right, Kelly. We shouldn't have signed the check."

She said that was a big check and he came to her business to get her to sign it and it was not approved to be signed.

She said her customers commented that he was pushy and she wonders if they thought he was a gang member and she was involved in something.

McWilliams said that check never came on the DDA's accounts payable list for approval.

"You came to my salon twice in one day, pushing me," she said.

Jones said they paid the contractor with that check and, "They are reimbursing us today," referring to the county. He said there was miscommunication between the

city and the county.

Mayor Kenneth Voigt, who sits on the DDA, said the DDA agreed to pay part of the money for the Victory Park project, about \$90,000. He said the contractor wanted to be paid.

McWilliams said she looked through her records and believes it was more like \$25,000. She explained it was more than two months ago when she checked, but she can dig it out.

Jones said he would call the county to follow up on this.

McWilliams said other times Jones brought checks to be signed, they had been approved by the DDA.

"I feel strongly about that," she said. "\$96,000 is out of our account and this board didn't know about it. I'll pull up the \$25,000 agreement.

Mayor Voigt said the arrangements for the Victory Park project came before he was mayor and when Police Chief / City Manager Robinson was here. He said the council approved its part.

"I do understand the reason," Mayor Voigt said. "The contractor wanted to get paid."

"If we don't owe, the DDA doesn't pay," she replied.

"What difference does it make?" Mayor Voigt said, noting he believes it was a foul-up at the county level.

He said the county was very slow and it was three years before a shovel was in the ground for the Victory Park project.

"But you don't jump and pay money you don't owe," McWilliams insisted.

"I didn't think Steve did anything nefarious," Mayor Voigt said.

McWilliams emphasized that check wasn't on the January or February accounts payable.

The accounts payable for those months were separately approved unanimously by the DDA. This included the newly presented January amount of \$54,275.83 and the February amount of \$27,968.62, which went up at the last minute when Jones presented a new payment he needed for \$44,480 for the new wall at the hardware store, for a total of \$72,448.62 for February.

In other business at its one-hour-15-minute meeting on Feb. 19, the DDA:

- Heard Jones announce he didn't get the DDA Follow-Up List that is listed on the agenda, but he will send it out to DDA members later;

(continued on page 8)

O P I N I O N S

Editorial

NHA refuses to share salaries after 10 years of doing so

Don't look for the Keystone charter academy employee salaries this year. For the first time in our 10 years of publishing Keystone's salaries, National Heritage Academies has refused our FOIA request.

Each year we have explained we know that NHA is not a public body and is the legal employer of the staff, but Keystone is operating on tax money and taxpayers have the right to know how their money is being spent.

Keystone's representative sent us an email telling us we can appeal or sue if we don't like it. We appealed to the president of the Keystone Board of Directors Steve Harsant, which is the next legal step, and he replied: "The Board has decided to maintain the denial of the Jan. 20, 2025 FOIA request for Keystone staff compensation information. The Academy will comply with all legal requirements, including the public posting of average salaries for new teachers, veteran teachers, and support staff, by Nov. 1st of each year."

We are disappointed in this sudden lack of transparency by NHA/Keystone and assume it has to do with all the federal funds dispersed as bonuses to Keystone teachers over the year which would have made their reported salaries much higher than their basic salaries.

The Keystone board has discussed in public whether its teachers will leave for higher-paying jobs once the federal funds have stopped - which they now have.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

The City of Belleville had another water main break. This one was at 150 S. Edgemont St. on Wednesday morning, Feb. 19. A couple of weeks earlier there was a break on N. Liberty Street near Fifth St.

At the DDA meeting on Feb. 19, Mayor Voigt announced that the plan is to entirely replace the aged water main on Liberty Street and then repave the street.

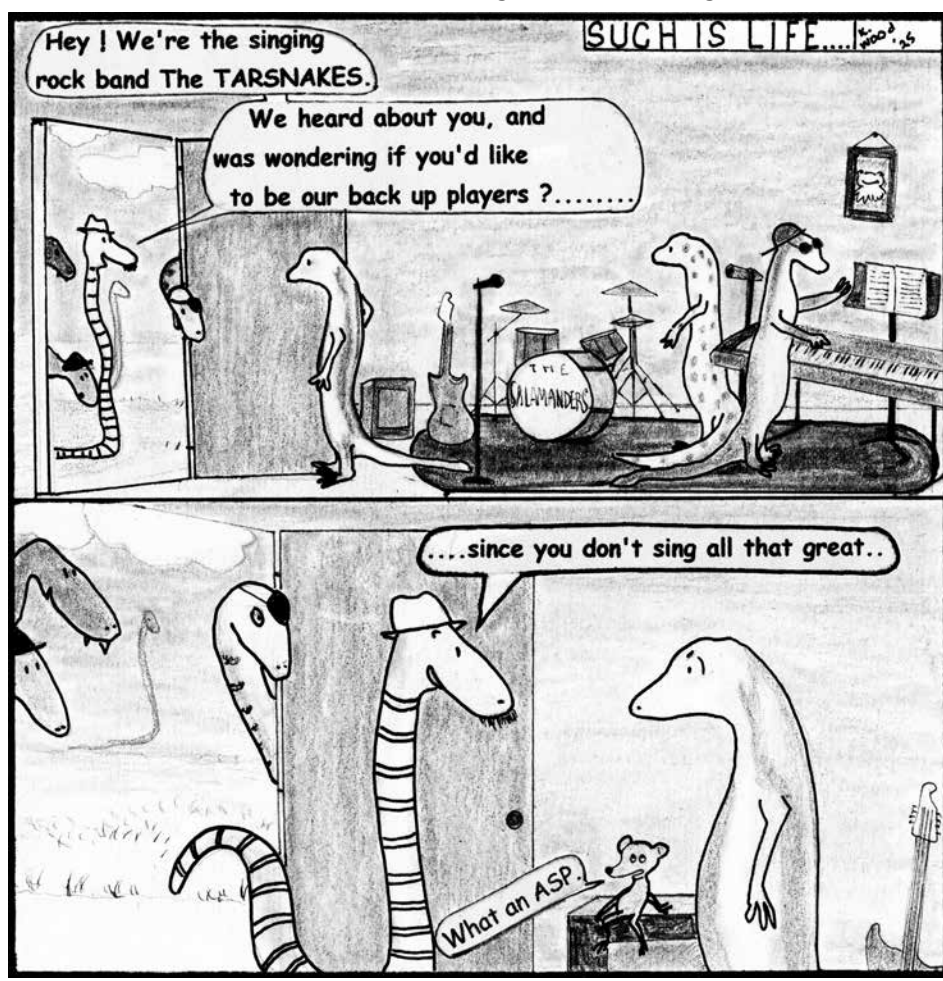
Everyone in the Wayne County Commission District 11 got a mailing from our new commissioner Allen R. Wilson of Romulus. I got a call at home on the afternoon we received the mailing from Wilson introducing himself. There seems to be a problem and our reader alerted me.

It seems commissioner Wilson printed the eight governmental logos of the municipalities he services in District 11 and they all looked very familiar - except for the Van Buren Township logo. The one he used was the logo for Van Buren County, on the other side of the state.

I keep getting complaints about flags. One reader said his family had many members of the military and when he sees our American flag misused, it really makes him angry.

His complaint was about the flag in front of the Chase bank on Main Street in Belleville. It has been hung up in a tree for weeks and now is all ragged and torn apart and still hanging and blowing in the tree.

I also keep getting a complaint about the American flag at Keystone Academy on Bemis Road in Sumpter Township. That flag is put up and down each day, but the tree next to it has grown too full and tall since it first was planted there and that flag



is tangled in the tree every day, our reader reports. He said he's alerted the school officials, but it still continues. He said they should move the flagpole or cut down the tree.

Continuous complaints come about the flag at Five Points in front of city hall that is no longer lighted at night. The light on the roof of the police chief that is aimed at the flagpole, misses the flag by a mile. The light no longer seems to be working.

Maybe the city of Belleville should go back to what it used to do: Have the police officers put the flag up at dawn and bring it down at dusk, so it is not flying in the dark. The city's current mayor, Ken Voigt, said putting that flag up and down as a young police officer taught him how to correctly fold the flag.

The huge holiday ornament on the front lawn of the Belleville Area Museum finally was removed Saturday, Feb. 22. That's the decoration Van Buren Township paid \$7,000 to buy. I saw it on the Jan. 21 list of bills paid by the township.

We were alerted to news stories about our former BHS varsity football coach Jermain Crowell who spent Feb. 14-17 in the Oakland County Jail after pleading guilty to a probation violation from a misdemeanor charge of operating a vehicle while intoxicated in 2023.

District Court in Royal Oak, Crowell pleaded guilty to a violation of his probation on Jan. 29 and was ordered to serve four days in jail starting on Feb. 14. It was alleged that Crowell failed to submit six random alcohol and drug screenings in October and November, according to the court records.

In February 2023, Crowell was arrested by Berkley Public Safety for operating a vehicle while intoxicated and pleaded guilty to the misdemeanor, court records show. In June 2023, he was sentenced to a 24-month probation through June 2025, a fine totaling \$2,431.88 and five days at Oakland County Jail.

After he resigned from BHS following eight winning seasons there and was suspended by the Michigan High School Athletic Association in 2022 for violating the undue influence rule, he was not allowed to coach in Michigan until the end of the 2024-25 school year. He recently was hired as the new River Rouge football coach with permission of the MHSAA, which had stipulations.

A worker at Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue was bitten on the arm by a pit bull while he was cleaning the dog's enclosure last Friday morning. Heard the 911 call on the scanner.



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Letters

What would you do?

To the editor:
 What would you do with a child in our elementary schools who disrespects authority? Whether it be a teacher or anyone in their school who has contact daily with this student?

These people are there to help and encourage each child. If the child is in need of help, for comfort, or to understand why a child is the way they are. Can discipline be a learning experience to help the child?

What if this child continues in his/her disrespect for adults? What if this child continues the way he is by hurting children so these children have to defend themselves? Are these children in a position where now they are being disciplined for defending themselves? What are the consequences?

Do the schools help these children by sending these children out of the classroom to get the needed help? Will the child who needs help be helped by the person who is there to calm this child down? Will the child be sent back to the classroom where he/she had been out of control?

Being sent back too soon to the classroom where the teacher again must deal with his/her unruly and disrespectful behavior? Who is in the authority to stop this? Is it the principal of the school?

The dedicated teachers teach the students who want to learn with no interruptions. What do the teachers do? Call the parents who do not answer when the outbreaks occur?

The teachers want to teach! Are meetings set up with the principals, parents, and the teachers? The real question in our school district is what are our district's rules as to who can suspend the students

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in our elementary schools? Is it up to the principals? Our children who want to learn are not getting the education they need.

The real important question to anyone who lives in this school district is WHAT IS BEING DONE? Parents will eventually remove their children and go somewhere where they are assured their child will get a good education.

I ask the School Board: What are you going to do? Our excellent teachers will be leaving our schools to look for other jobs or even think about retirement.

What should be done so this does not get any worse and families move and leave our district? It is a known fact that families look for a district which offers a good school system. They come to these districts from the time their children will enter kindergarten and go on to high school and graduate.

We have new School Board members that I would hope will read this. I am not in any way attacking the School Board members. They are there for us and our views. This is just to open their eyes as to what needs to be addressed at our elementary schools.

Ask yourself: What Will I Do? What Should the School Board members be doing?

Sent by an Anonymous Caring Resident.

Here's a chance to help Emergency Food Closet

To the editor:

This Saturday, March 1, is the first of two Meijer Simply Give Double Days at the Belleville Meijer Store located at 9701 Belleville Rd. The second Double Day is on Saturday, March 22.

On these two days, if one buys a \$10 Simply Give card which are located at the end of the regular check-out lanes, Meijer will match with \$20 for a total donation of \$30.

This is the Emergency Food Closet's biggest fundraiser! If \$5,000 can be raised locally on these double days, Meijer will match with \$10,000 for a total donation of \$15,000!

The Emergency Food Closet is located at Belleville First United Methodist Church, 417 Charles St. It is open every Tuesday and Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. for all residents of Van Buren and Sumpter townships and the city of Belleville.

Thank you for your continued support to feed the hungry in our community!

Marilyn Wood, coordinator
 Emergency Food Closet

Musings

By Janet Millard
Independent
Advertising Director



Time to leave February behind and hope March is a whole lot warmer. We had a little heat wave earlier this week but I'm looking for something in the higher 50-degree range at least! Probably too much to hope for a few 60 degree days in March.

The Belleville Area District Library will be holding the Seed Library in Cozzad on Saturday, March 1, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Such a great event for all you gardeners so take some time out of your busy Saturday to stop by and see what is new this year.

Belleville High School is planning a Polar Plunge in the morning of Thursday, March 6. A special Plungster tank will be set up in the high school parking lot by the Athletics door where around 20 staff and close to 80 students will take the plunge. So far over \$13,000 has been raised for Special Olympics and the Unified Sports Program.

Bethany Bible Church, 810 E. Huron River Dr., will hold its Winter Carnival on Friday, March 7, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. The community is invited to enjoy this family fun night with games, face painting, popcorn, snow cones, hotdogs, plus an all-time favorite, a cake walk.

Next week is another play by Van Buren Community Players at Van Buren Community Center. They will be presenting "Murder at the Pie Auction" on March 8 at 7:30 p.m. and March 9 at 2 p.m. There will be an actual pie auction so bring some money so you can do some bidding. As a special treat, dinner will be served one hour prior to each performance.

The Jeremy Stovall Splurge Foundation is accepting dresses for its 8th-annual Prom Dress Giveaway. New or gently used (clean) prom, formal or cocktail dresses may be dropped off at Crafted: Modern Homemade at 381 Main St. Tuesday-Friday, noon-5 p.m. until March 12.

The Annual Quilt Show starts March 1 at the Belleville Area Museum and runs through the month of March. Special Youth Sewing Workshops will be held by the Quilt Guild at the library on Saturday, March 8 at 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. There is a sign-up sheet at the library since only six can sew each hour. They will be making a half apron to take home.

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

Fat Tuesday spaghetti dinner set March 4 at Van Buren Eagles

The Van Buren Eagles #3996 at 9961 Beck Rd., Van Buren Township, is presenting a Fat Tuesday spaghetti dinner beginning at 4 p.m., March 4. Cost is \$10 and the dinners will be available until they

are all gone.

The event is open to the public.

Paczkis will be available for purchase at the pre-Lenten meal, along with drinks at the clubhouse bar.

Proceeds will go to the Eagles' building fund to pay for the parking lot that needs repaving and will be very expensive, said Joyce Rochowiak, chairperson of the dinner.

BHS at-home games

• **Thursday, Feb. 27** – Boys Swim & Dive KLAAS Swim Meet, prelims 5 p.m.

• **Saturday, March 1** -- Boys Swim & Dive KLAAS Swim Meet, finals 12 p.m.

Jamie Cichowski
Athletic Secretary
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Obituaries



Everett "Junior"
Hindmon

EVERETT 'JUNIOR' HINDMON

(November 11, 1936 – February 16, 2025)
Everett "Junior" Hindmon, 88, of Belleville, passed away February 16, 2025 at his home surrounded by family and friends.

Memorial Service: Community Free Will Baptist Church, 33031 Cherry Hill Road, Westland MI 48186; Saturday, March 1. Visitation 11am to 1pm; Service 1pm.

Survived by his wife Betty of 64 years; children Rick (Pat), Terena (Mike) Green, Ken (Min), Steve; grandchildren Eric (fiancee' Alicia) and Ashley (Brian) Puckett; great-granddaughter, Elliana; and many others.

In lieu of flowers, donations requested to: [Trinity Home & Hospice](#), [Department of Veterans' Affairs](#), [Wounded Warrior Project](#), or [Tunnel to Towers Foundation](#).



RICHARD DEAN BYARD, SR.

(April 22, 1948 – February 21, 2025)
Age 76, of Romulus. Served in U.S. Army, retired from Ford Motor Co. Survived by wife Vickie Lea Byard, son Richie Byard II, daughter Jessica Lusk, five grandchildren, brother Randy Byard. Visitation and funeral are Feb. 28 at David C. Brown Funeral Home.
www.davidcbrownfh.com

DOUGLAS DAVID TAIT

(August 6, 1953 – February 19, 2025)
Age 71, of Greenbush, MI. Survived by son Christopher of Van Buren Township; daughter Catherine Tait of Boston, MA; 2 grandsons; nine siblings. Arrangements by David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville.
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RUTH ANN WENZEL

(March 27, 1950 – February 18, 2025)
Age 74, of Wayne. Survived by daughter Rebecca James, son Kurt Wenzel, grandson Ryan James, granddaughter Evelyn James, sister Jill Hoffman. Arrangements by David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville.
www.davidcbrownfh.com

EDITH MAE JAGGERS

(August 23, 1966 – February 25, 2025)
Age 58 of Ypsilanti. Survived by 6 sisters, 2 brothers, 2 sons, 2 daughters, and many more. A family gathering is being planned for Thursday, Feb. 27. Cremation rites have been accorded.

City of Belleville

(continued from page 1)

she's been here. She said it will take three months of work, once they start. Mayor Voigt said it is the policy of the city to support its departments;

- Approved changing the Downriver Utility Wastewater Authority (DUWA) board representative to current department of public services director Melissa Frierson, with city manager Jason Smith as the alternate;

- Approved accounts payable of \$325,194.59. There were questions about the \$257.33 payment for DPW car washes to Waterworks. It was explained by Chief Faull that the last DPS director got DPW and police Water Works cards and the understanding was that it was \$20 a month for unlimited washes. But a bill came for \$565 in December and the police cards were pulled. She said police have always used Zax in the past. The big fire department trucks go to Water Works and they have one card. The Expedition goes there too for \$17 a month. She said they pay \$100 a month at Zax for the five police cars;

- Heard assistant city manager Steve Jones report that the city hall boiler was repaired that day and now they have a warm city hall. Also, he said tax bills are due Friday;

- Heard council members praise the snow removal on city streets and Mayor Pro Tem Kelly Bates was impressed that the sidewalks were shoveled in Victoria Commons and even around the ponds;

- Heard Bates say she likes to shop at Twisted Willow, which is owned by a brother and sister. She said the store has many unusual products and will be having classes in the future;

- Heard Mayor Voigt say the ice carousel that was put on the lake behind Johnny's on the Lake was "one of the things just the coolest thing I ever saw." He said they get it trolling around. And, although he was recovering from foot surgery and couldn't go in person, he said he watched it on Facebook and everybody was having a ball. He also said he was glad to get the city hall boiler fixed and is just keeping his fingers crossed that nothing else goes wrong before they move to the other building. He said it's not a done deal yet because the inspectors need to get done and they need to get final costs.

Belleville DDA

(continued from page 3)

- Heard McWilliams ask if the chairs at the Fourth Street Square are on the follow-up list as she had requested and Jones said it was on the list. The 8-10 benches were to be picked up and put in storage over the winter, and be repaired and painted before bringing back. McWilliams said it's almost spring and Jones replied it was still going to be done. McWilliams said she just doesn't like to see all those benched pushed against a building the way they are now because it doesn't look good;

- Approved a \$1,500 proposal for two consultants from America in Bloom to come out for two days to evaluate the public spaces in the city and then have a symposium on how to enhance the city with flowers and other plants. Jones showed a video on a large screen with pictures of towns throughout the country with lots of flowers that illustrated the project. Mayor Voigt said he and Jones listened to the presentation on this and there is a heavy emphasis on recruiting volunteers. When Winter asked what the cost would be for what they suggest, Voigt said, "If we don't have the evaluation, we don't know the cost." Baker said, "We need guidance on what's the next step";

- Approved the cost proposal of Orkin for pest control: \$546.91 for the initial visit and \$98.97 every month after that. Rose Pest Solutions was \$646 initially and \$190 per month. Jones said there was an issue in one of the rentals on Fifth Street and a mouse was caught in a trap. The pest control is for the hardware store and the three rentals;
- Heard Jones explain that Craig Atchinson

read in the paper that the DDA was going to replace the city clock in the Fourth Street Square. Jones said Atchinson asked about the options from Shinola. He said Atchinson said he will provide a sizeable donation for the clock. Jones had presented ten pages of Shinola clock information and the DDA decided on one similar to the present clock that doesn't work. Cost is \$27,800.62, about the same as another clock they were considering. Winter asked if this price included warranty, installation, and other things and Jones said he would get details. He said he has been trying to get in touch with Atchinson, but has been unsuccessful. The item was tabled to the next meeting;

- Approved the price quote of Water Landscapes for the removal of phragmites in and around the pond at Victoria Commons. The initial treatment of cutting, mulching and removal is \$11,500, which takes place in the winter months and monitoring the treatment would be \$650 per month, May through October 2025. The price proposal was dated Aug. 1, 2024. The DDA had wanted a second price quote and Jones said another firm came out and they didn't give a quote. Water Landscapes is the firm that regularly takes care of the Victoria Commons ponds. Voigt said the treatment is in the winter so they must act on this or wait another year;

- Approved the job description for DDA Executive Director, which was compiled by Chris Donley and first distributed to members for comments in December. McWilliams asked what was the next step and Jones said a salary level needs to be set and the board decides where to go from there. Voigt said it would be better to have

(continued on page 9)

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They're reading the *Independent* Everywhere

Marina Gerick, a 2023 Belleville High School graduate, and PFC John Stamper, a 2024 BHS graduate, read the *Independent* at Fort Jackson, South Carolina during Family Day. He just finished basic training and now he is at Fort Meade in Maryland for Advanced Individual Training. Marina's mother Darlene Gerick said it was just a coincidence that her picture is on the front page of the paper they hold, after she was photographed with other members of the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education.

You, too, are invited to submit a photo of you reading the *Independent* in an exotic location. Please include the name and address of the person you wish to get the free subscription when it is printed. Include your phone number if you want us to let you know just before goes in the paper. A person may use this offer to get a total of two free subscriptions — and no more.

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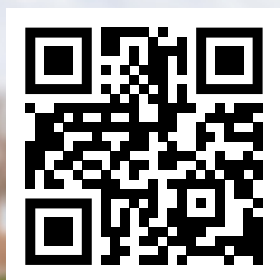


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Belleville DDA

(continued from page 8)

a full board for those decisions and that night's meeting has only a bare quorum;

- Tabled updating committee memberships for 2025 until more members are present;

- Heard member Valerie Kelley-Bonner ask if the Narcan vending boxes for the city have arrived. This was discussed at a previous meeting. Voigt said Growth Works was going to bring vending machines for the city. "My stepson overdosed two days ago," she said, adding that you can overdose on prescription drugs, like the woman at her church who collapsed at a meeting. She said carrying Narcan with you is a lifesaver. She said her organization, SOOAR, has it and can share it. She said they just have a porch box. She said Wayne State University could give the city a box. She said free Narcan and free condoms are important;

- Heard Voigt say Jones got the wall at the hardware store all wrapped up. It's a cinder block wall and it looks like it belongs there, he said;

- Heard Jones report that TechTown is coming out Feb. 28 to set up tech startups and incubations in the old hardware store, which is now being called "the warehouse" and the location is "outer Wayne." There will be six different entities;

- Voigt said the city may be doing something for the boardwalk at Horizon Park and may need help from the DDA for

that. He said engineering is being done for the Main/Denton intersection. He said the roads are a mess there and look like a third-world country. Engineers will put together a packet for bidding. Also, he said the water main broke on N. Liberty recently and the entire water main on N. Liberty will be replaced because it is cobbled together, he said. He said Liberty will then be repaved; and

- Heard Winter report that his oldest daughter Mary has saved another life. He said a man collapsed at Egan's Pub with no pulse. This is the second life she has saved there, he said. The city presented her with a plaque for the first time; and

- Heard Winter also report that Egan's will have a bus to take people to the St. Patrick's Day parade in Detroit on March 16 and bring them back again. This is the 31st year his family has been involved in the Detroit St. Patrick's Day parade. The biggest party of the year for Egan's is on St. Patrick's Day, which is March 17.

Western Wayne Quilt show starts March 1 at Belleville Area Museum

The Western Wayne County Quilting Guild quilt show opens at the Belleville Area Museum, noon to 4 p.m. on Saturday, March 1.

The quilt show continues through Saturday, March 29. The museum is open Tuesdays, 4-7 p.m. and Wednesdays through Saturdays, noon to 4 p.m. Special events on the hour on Saturdays.

Original patterns, handwork, vintage and modern quilts will be on display.

Special events on Saturdays on the hour includes, Roxann Baker showing yoyos and hexies on March 1, Roni Mazur showing hand quilting on March 8, Emma Moya showing paper piecing on March 15 and Tina Lewis sharing the We Care program given to those in need on March 22, and Bob Green showing machine maintenance on March 29.

Youth Sewing

Western Wayne County Quilting Guild is holding a Youth Sewing Workshop, at the Belleville Area District Library on Saturday, March 8. Sign up at the library.

The workshop can sew with six youth each hour: 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. and 1 and 2 p.m. Make a half-apron to take home.

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Independent photo by Rosemary K. Ozman

Captain Aaron Zehel, who retired from the fire department after 15 years of service, was honored at the Feb. 18 meeting of the Belleville City Council. Fire Chief Brian Loranger, left, said Zehel was always there for him and any time the department needed a part or piece, he fixed equipment and the building with little cost after rummaging around in his garage. The department presented him with his fire helmet as a memento and Police Chief Kris Faull gave him more in a gift bag.

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Photo courtesy of Elena Manalp, Van Buren Township Communications Dept. On Saturday, Feb. 22, the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce welcomed the area's newest barbershop with a ribbon-cutting. Blades & Fades is in Belle Park Plaza, at 881 Sumpter Rd., in the city of Belleville. From left, holding the ribbon, are: Ahlam Issa, Haydar Moussa, Fatme Shim, Mohamed Moussa (owner), Ali Zaytoun (owner), Mohammad Zaytoun and Fatima Chehadue.

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Correction

The name of Ivana Goff was misspelled in the school board story in the Feb. 13 issue of the Independent. We regret the error and apologize.

Rosemary K. Otzman, editor

Birthdays

March 4 – Steven L. Cinnamon

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VBPS officials: Error was made by student in honors class remarks

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

At the end of Monday's regular meeting of the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, board president Amy Pearce said she and school superintendent Pete Kudlak discussed the remarks made by a student at the last board meeting.

This followed a question by new board member David Shall on honors classes.

President Pearce said she was not present at the Feb. 10 meeting where the remarks were made. She said the fact is the 11th and 12th grade honors English classes are going away because of low enrollment. But, Belleville High School still offers 9th and 10th grade honors classes.

She said those students wishing to take honors English are being encouraged to take AP (advanced placement) classes in English literature and language or a general English course, which remain. She said the general English course is a wonderful class.

Pearce said they did not have a full class in honors English so it was eliminated, but "We have not cut all honors classes."

"AP English is not hard," she said. "If you can do honors, you can do AP." She told how her daughter, who loves math and hates English, took an AP English class to be with friends and she did very well.

"I hope more kids sign up for AP," she said.

Board secretary Darlene Gerick asked if students are not required to take the AP tests at the end.

Pearce said she discussed that with the superintendent and they weren't sure about that and he would check into it.

Parent Angela Mears said five AP exams cost \$300.

Pearce said they just wanted to make sure that everyone knew the information given by the student at the last meeting was incorrect. The student had said students can't take honors courses and some honors classes are available.

Pearce was referring to the comments from senior class president and student council president Ivana Goff, who gave a lengthy report on BHS activities on Feb. 10. She is one of the students who regularly sits at the school board table.

Among other things on Feb. 10, Ivana reported that BHS is doing away with honors classes because the classes keep the students

from interacting with each other. She said when the honor students come from the Gifted and Talented classes at Savage Elementary, they tend to stick together through the rest of their schooling.

She said students are being encouraged to sign up for AP classes, but you have to pay for AP tests, which deters some. Ivana was not present at the Feb. 24 meeting.

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

- Approved spending \$466,702.02 out of the fund balance to purchase 35 copiers and software from Applied Innovations. Sean Garland, IT administrator, said the copiers have a life of 5 years and the present copiers are 8 years old and new repair parts are not available. In response to questions by parent Todd Mears, financial director Priya Nayak said the purchase was not in this year's budget, but is in the amended budget being approved that evening. The copiers are expected to be delivered during spring break;

- Approved the first budget amendment for the 2024-25 school year, as presented by Nayak. She said there were 17 fewer students than expected. Pearce said it was unprecedented that there was zero upgrade in foundation allowance from the state. She said

some districts get more than the minimum foundation allowance that Van Buren gets and, "That infuriates me." Nayak said there was increased local tax income because of the increase in Sumpter Township. The amended general fund budget had \$71,536,560 in total revenue and \$73,981,926 in total expenses, with an increased fund balance

expected on June 30, 2025 of \$10,917,259 (14.56% of the budget);

- Learned the district was seeking a 3-year waiver from the state that would allow the district to open school before Labor Day, if it wanted to. The required hearing would

(continued on page 16)

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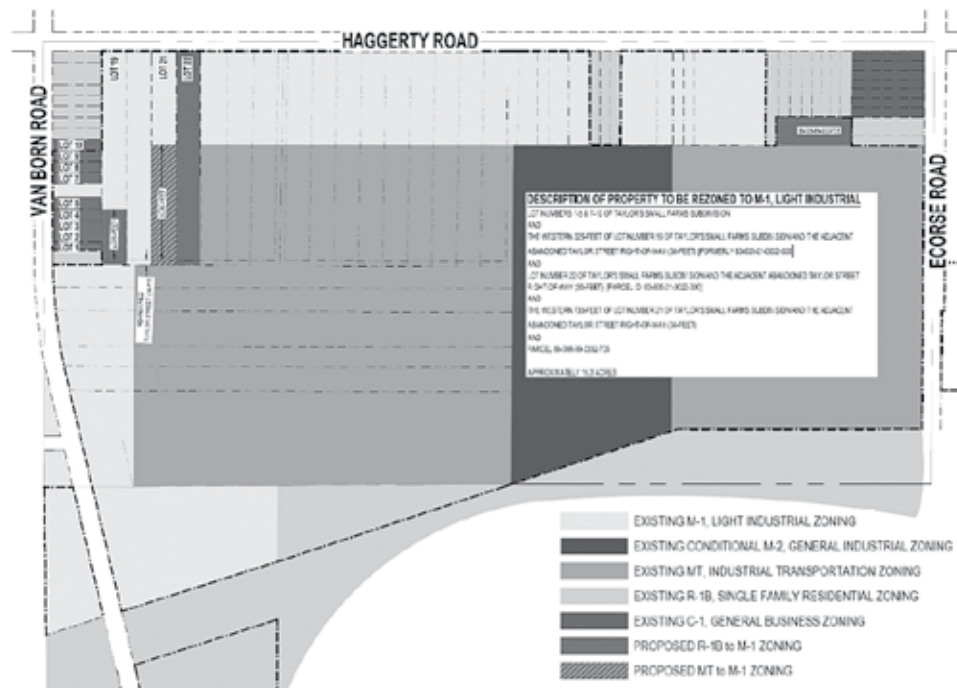
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Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Charter Township of Van Buren Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on **March 26, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.** The meeting will be held in person at Van Buren Township Hall, located at **46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, MI 48111**, in the Board Room.

Case 25-004: Ashley Capital – Rezoning Request. A request by Crossroads Distribution Center North, LLC to rezone parcels 41743 Van Born Road, ID# V-125-83-005-01-0002-300, 41723 Van Born Road, ID# V-125-83-005-01-0003-000, 41663 Van Born Road, 41635 Van Born Road, ID# V-125-83-005-01-0008-000, 41601 Van Born Road, 41589 Van Born Road, 6040 Haggerty Road, ID# V-125-83-008-99-0002-705 from R1-B – Single Family Residential to M-1 – Light Industrial. Parcel located at 6000 Haggerty Road from M-T – Industrial Transportation to M-1 – Light Industrial. The parcels are a total of 15.3 acres in area. Parcels are located South of Van Born Road and West of Haggerty Road.



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

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

Posted: February 24, 2025
Published: February 27, 2025

TACK AND TREASURES SALE
 Hosted by the Wayne County 4-H Horse & Pony

Saturday March 1, 2025
 11 am to 3pm | \$3 Admission per Person
 Silent Auction | Concession Stand

Wayne County Fairgrounds (Dining Hall)
 10871 Quirk Road, Belleville, MI 48111

Special Consideration for Commercial Vendors

Reserve a Table @ \$35 text Melissa
 734-751-1022
 or email: heyli529@yahoo.com

VBT

(continued from page 1)

conference the coming weekend.

The three named black leaders and innovators throughout history, with pictures and graphics on the meeting room screen and included Clerk Wright, by noting he is the first black clerk Van Buren Township has ever had and he earned the state Clerk of the Year award.

Ivana explained the importance of DEI (diversity, equity, and inclusion).

The trio received a standing ovation from the audience and the board and had their picture taken with the board and shook their

hands.

In other business at the 46-minute meeting, the board:

- Approved a resolution authorizing purchase of property and signatory on behalf of Van Buren Charter Township for the purchase of 7810 Belleville Rd. for \$602,000 to be paid out of the DDA line item. This was through the eminent domain procedure needed to get property for the widening of Belleville Road. The house is so close to the road it has to be torn down. Supervisor McNamara said the township will probably sell the back part of the property. DDA Executive Director Merrie Coburn said the road-widening project is

to be bid out in August. She said there is a vulnerable bat which is in that area and its breeding season starts in March, so trees for the widening need to be cut down over the winter;

• Heard retired Wayne County commissioner Al Haidous recognize Walter Rochowiak for his more than 15 years of service with the Wayne County Commissioner's office, working on roads for eight years each for both former commissioners Kevin McNamara and Haidous. Rochowiak also served 20 years as a township trustee;

• Approved the management consultant professional services agreement with Carol Towles;

• Approved the supervisor's reappointment to the Recreation Committee of Kimberly Nofz, Charles Coleman, Stacy English, and Mark Woodson with terms to expire Feb. 1, 2026;

• Honored Todd O'Neill who has retired from the Recreation Committee after 15 years of service. He was honored for the research and development work he did on the recreation center to find out what people wanted. Clerk Wright said O'Neill played an important role in the project;

• Approved the supervisor's reappointments to the Downtown Development Authority Board of Craig Atchinson, Christopher Brown, and Dawn Chappell, with terms to expire March 9, 2029;

• Approved the supervisor's appointment of

Angelica Renaud, owner of A Design Line, to the DDA board to fill a vacant position, with a term to expire March 9, 2027;

• Approved the adoption of the report of the 2024 Planning Commission Activities, Public Engagement Activities, and Master Plan Implementation;

• Approved the promotional personal services agreement of Bill Miner as water and sewer director;

• Approved the first reading of a zoning ordinance amendment allowing for added height in the Belleville Road Overlay district from 40' max to 50' max, with additional building setbacks, as recommended by the planning commission;

• Approved the first reading of an ordinance amendment on the Property Maintenance Code to bring it up to the new international code standards, coinciding with new state standards for building, residential, plumbing and mechanics; and

• Learned from Clerk Wright that the results of the Wayne County audit of the November 2024 Presidential Election in Van Buren Township showed the township's election was flawless. He said the county said it was one of the best audits in the entire county. He said the state determines who to audit and the county did it here two weeks earlier. Clerk Wright thanked the staff and poll workers for their outstanding efforts in the election.

City of Belleville Public Notice

2025 MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW

NOTICE TO THE TAXPAYERS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF THE CITY OF BELLEVILLE

The **BOARD OF REVIEW** of the City Of Belleville will be held on the following dates:

March 4th, Tuesday
9:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
(Organizational Meeting)

No Appeals Heard at this Meeting

March 4th, Tuesday
10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.; 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

March 11th, Tuesday
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.; 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

REVIEW IN PERSON IS BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

Taxpayers/Property Owners may appeal by making an appointment to appear before the Board of Review **OR** by letter appeal (personal appearance is not required).

Letters of appeal must be received by noon MARCH 11, 2025.

Appointments to appeal in person may be scheduled by calling the Assessing Office at 734-252-4314 between 8:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. by MARCH 4, 2025.

The tentative ratios and the estimated multipliers for each class of real property and personal property for 2025 are as follows:

Commercial	46.91%	1.065
Industrial	47.89%	1.044
Residential	45.99%	1.087
Personal	50.00%	1.000

Briana Hootman
City of Belleville

Publish: Thursday, February 13, 2025
Thursday, February 20, 2025
Thursday, February 27, 2025

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN BID INSTRUCTIONS FOR:

VAN BUREN PARK: FRONT SECTION CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT DESIGN PLAN

VAN BUREN CHARTER TOWNSHIP

The Charter Township of Van Buren is seeking proposals from qualified contractors to develop a conceptual park design plan and provide an estimate of probable construction costs for the redesign of the front section of Van Buren Park (50901 S. 1-94 Service Dr., Van Buren Township, MI 48111). Sealed bids may be sent to the Office of the Township Clerk, 46425 Tyler Road, Charter Township of Van Buren, MI 48111 and will be accepted up until Thursday, March 20, 2025, at 1:00 p.m., local time. No bids will be received after that time.

Bid documents will be available on MITN, the Township website (www.vbtmi.gov) and at the Office of the Township Clerk. Bids will be accepted only on provided forms. Bids must be sealed in an envelope marked "VAN BUREN PARK: Front Section Capital Improvement Design Plan" and submitted to the office of the Township Clerk. Bids will be publicly opened at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 20, 2025 in the Van Buren Township Hall.

The Charter Township of Van Buren reserves the right to waive any discrepancies or irregularities in the bid. The Township reserves the right to reject any and all bids, and is not required to accept the low bid. Bidders should direct questions and correspondence to Jason Locke, Director of Parks, at jlocke@vbtmi.gov.

Publish date: 2/27/2025

Things to do in the Belleville area...

• **Friday, Feb. 28** – Fish dinner, 5 p.m. until gone at the Van Buren Eagles, 3996, 9961 Beck Rd. Also, DJ/Karaoke Mix Anthony Richendollar at 7:30 p.m.

• **Friday, Feb. 28** – Tacos and Margaritas from 5-7 p.m. or until they run out at Pvt. James D. Donovan/Romulus VFW Post 78, 39270 W. Huron River Dr., Romulus, (734) 941-3030. All welcome. All proceeds to benefit the building fund.

• **Friday, Feb. 28** – Family Bingo Night at 5:45 p.m. at Van Buren Township Community Center. You can register online or at the Community Center.

• **Saturday, March 1** – Tack and Treasures Sale at the Wayne County Fairgrounds from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Proceeds support 4-H Club.

• **Saturday, March 1** – Western Wayne County Quilting Guild quilt show opens at the Belleville Area Museum, noon to 4 p.m. Quilt show continues through Saturday, March 29. The museum is open Tuesdays, 4-7 p.m. and Wednesdays through Saturdays, noon to 4 p.m. Special events on the hour on Saturdays.

• **Saturday, March 1** – BHS Jazz Band performs for the annual spaghetti dinner at the BHS Commons, 5-8 p.m. Spaghetti is \$15.

• **Tuesday, March 4** – It's Fat Tuesday at the Van Buren Eagles, 9961 Beck Rd., and the pre-Lenten meal is featuring a spaghetti dinner for \$10. Paczkis will be available for purchase, along with drinks at the clubhouse bar. Serving starts at 4 p.m. and lasts until there is no more spaghetti. Open to the public. Proceeds will go toward repaving the Eagles' parking lot.

• **Wednesday, March 5** – Denton Faith United Methodist Church, 6020 Denton Rd., is offering imposition of ashes from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Ash Wednesday. You can come inside the church and receive ashes and a prayer or can just come into the parking lot and we will come out to serve you.

• **Friday, March 7** – The Belleville Lacrosse Athletic Association is holding a bowling fundraiser at 7 p.m. at Lodge Lanes on the South Service Drive. \$25 per person includes shoes, two games and pizza. There will be basket raffles and 50/50. Everyone welcome. For information and registration visit bellevillelacrosse.com

• **Saturday, March 8** – Western Wayne County Quilting Guild is holding a Youth Sewing Workshop, at the Belleville Area District Library. Sign up at the library; can sew with six each hour, 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. and 1 and 2 p.m. Make a half-apron to take home.

• **Saturday, March 8, and Sunday, March 9** – "Murder at the Pie Auction" at the Black Box Theater at Van Buren Township's Community Center. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. and the show at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday. Dinner at 1 p.m. on Sunday and the show at 2 p.m. Tickets sold in advance only. (734) 699-8921.

INDEPENDENT CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE

WESTERN SNOWPLOW- 7 ½'. \$500 OBO. (734) 417-3233 3/13

HITCH "FASTWAY" E2 WEIGHT DISTRIBUTION. New in 2022, paid \$1,150. Asking \$250. Max tongue weight 800 lbs. Max trailer weight 8,000 lbs. (734) 699-9153 2/27

FOOD GRADE BARRELS Plastic & metal. Inventory & pictures at www.mattsbarrels.com, call or text (734) 474-5981. Located in Willis. 2/27

FENCE BOARDS 2 x 6 and 2 x 8, reasonable. (734) 461-1414 06/27

YORKIE-PUGS, YORKIES, TEDDY BEARS, and other pups. \$499 & up. Frisky & vet checked. Ypsilanti. View puppies at petcitypets.com. (734) 487-0800 3/06

FOR RENT

FURNISHED ROOM FOR RENT. \$550/month, utilities included. WiFi available. Available March 2 (734) 649-1710 2/27

ONE BEDROOM (RANCH DUPLEX). Gas and water included, city of Belleville. Shared fenced back yard. \$900/month. (734) 697-2483 - Jim 3/13

HELP WANTED

Yanfeng International Automotive Technology US II LLC: Romulus, MI: Continuous Improvement (CI) Manager: Analyze major Key Performance Indicator (KPI)'s, define + achieve CI target. Need M.S. in Industrial Engg.+ 2 yrs. of exp. in CI activities, incl. analyzing major KPI's, implementing World Class Maintenance (WCM) initiatives, implementing Kaizen projects, dvlping. + implementing process + qlty. metrics, + completing 4M audits. Need auth. to work indef. in US. Email resumes to US-HR-Help@yanfeng.com.

COMMERCIAL CLEANING POSITION in Canton. Flexible hours & 7 days/week. Mon-Thurs. 9pm-12. Fri-Sun. 6pm-9pm. Offers competitive pay & a pleasant work environment. (734) 673-2364 or rdunn08@yahoo.com 2/27

"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

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"Trust, but verify."

– Ronald Reagan

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.



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D.K. JUNK CAR BUYERS PAY CASH
We Work
Monday – Saturday.
734-368-5088
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CASH PAID FOR Sports cards and Comic Books. 50s, 60s, 70s. Private collector can come to you. (734) 697-3546 2/27

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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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.

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES -- FEBRUARY 18, 2025

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, Trustee Frazier and Trustee Kelley. Others in attendance: Deputy Supervisor Selman, Recording Assistant Beaudry, Director of Recreation Gerhart, Director of Parks Locke, Director of Public Services Lockett, Director of Municipal Services Akers, DDA Director Coburn, IT Director Barbaza, and an audience of thirteen.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE AGENDA: Supervisor McNamara outlined the

items appearing on the agenda.
ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA: Kelley moved, Boynton seconded to approve the agenda. Motion Carried.
ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA: Wright moved, Martin seconded to approve the Consent Agenda: Board Meeting Minutes of January 21, 2025, Prepaid List of January 22, 2025, Prepaid List of January 23, 2025, Prepaid List of January 29, 2025, Voucher List of February 4, 2025, Prepaid List of February 6, 2025, Prepaid List of February 13, 2025, Voucher List of February 18, 2025, Approval of the Management Consultant Professional Services Agreement with Carol Towles, Approval of the Recreation Committee reappointments of Kimberly Nofz,

Charles Coleman, Stacy English and Mark Woodson with terms to expire February 1, 2026, Approval of the reappointments of Craig Atchinson, Christopher Brown, and Dawn Chappell to the DDA Board with terms to expire March 9, 2029, Approval of the appointment of Angelica Renaud to the DDA Board to fill the vacant position with a term to expire March 9, 2027, Approval of the adoption of the report of 2024 Planning Commission Activities, Public Engagement Activities, and Master Plan Implementation, and Approval of the Promotional Personal Services Agreement of Bill Miner. Motion Carried.
PUBLIC HEARING: None
C O R R E S P O N D E N C E / ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS:

The Board welcomed Angelica Renaud to the DDA Board of Directors; Todd O'Neill was recognized and thanked for his over 16 years of service on the Recreation Committee; Bill Miner was welcomed as the new Water and Sewer Director; Al Haidous recognized Walt Rochowiak for his 15 years of service with the Wayne County Commissioner's Office; Wayne County reported that Van Buren Township did outstanding during their audit of the November 2024 Presidential Election and Clerk Wright thanked the staff and poll workers for their part in the success; Clerk Wright commented on the importance of Black History month; and Belleville Student Council Members Ivana Goff, Morgan Liggins and Braylon Hubbard gave a presentation on Black History.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Unfinished and New Business): None.
UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.
NEW BUSINESS:

Boynton moved, Martin seconded to approve the first reading of ordinance 02-18-2025(1) an amendment to the Township's Zoning Ordinance to allow for added height in the Belleville Road Overlay district with additional building setbacks. Motion Carried.

Boynton moved, Martin seconded to approve the first reading of ordinance 02-18-25(2) an amendment of Article V (Property Maintenance Code) to amend Sec.18-116 to 18-150.2. Motion Carried.

Kelley moved, Frazier seconded to approve Resolution 2025-03: Authorization Purchase of Property and Signatory on behalf of Van Buren Charter Township for the purchase of 7810 Belleville Road to be paid out of DDA line item 248-000-977-002. Motion Carried.

REPORTS: None.
PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: On Friday, February 21st from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. the VBT Parks and Recreation Departments are hosting a nighttime sledding event at the Van Buren Park Sled Hill.

BOARD COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: The Clerk thanked the Parks and Recreation Departments for hosting the sled events and the various other improvements they have made to Van Buren Township Parks.

ADJOURNMENT: Boynton moved, Kelley seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:46 p.m. Motion Carried.

Leon Wright, Township Clerk
Kevin McNamara, Supervisor
Published: February 27, 2025

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN

NOTICE OF ADVERTISEMENT LAWN MAINTENANCE SERVICES

Bid Titled, "LAWN MAINTENANCE SERVICES" may be submitted by U.S. Mail, personal service, or courier service to the Township Clerk's Office at 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, MI 48111. No bids submitted by facsimile will be accepted. Bids are to be delivered in sealed envelopes and clearly marked as "LAWN MAINTENANCE SERVICES – 2025-2027". Thursday, March 20th 2025 at 3:00 p.m., is the deadline to receive for sealed bids. All bids received will be publicly opened and read aloud with total pricing immediately following in the Denton Room.

A mandatory pre-bid tour and meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, March 10, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. at the Charter Township of Van Buren Municipal Center, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, MI 48111. All questions by interested bidders are to be raised at this time.

All bids shall be delivered to the Van Buren Township Clerk's Office in sealed envelopes and titled, "LAWN MAINTENANCE SERVICES". The outside of the envelope containing the bid shall bear the name of the Bidder, their address, license number if applicable, and the name of the project for which the bid is submitted, to include experience, equipment and minimum of three (3) references.

1. Name and address of company
2. Telephone number
3. Name of contact person

The scope of this contract shall include all labor, materials, equipment, supplies, service and insurance by the Bidder to complete the bid entitled: "LAWN MAINTENANCE SERVICES". Bid bonds will be returned to unsuccessful bidders when contract is executed with the approved bidder.

Each bid shall be accompanied by a bid security in the amount of **five percent (5%)** of the bid amount subject to the conditions in the Information to Bidders. A bidder will be permitted to withdraw their bid unopened after it has been deposited, if such request is received prior to the time specified for opening bids and provided that their identity is made known and the responsible party signs for the bid. No bid shall be withdrawn after the opening of the bids without the consent of the Township for a minimum of ninety (90) days from the scheduled time for closing bids.

The Township reserves the right: to accept any or all alternative bids; to award the Contract to other than the lowest Bidder; to waive any irregularities of informalities, or both; to reject any or all bids; and in general, to make the award of the Contract in any manner deemed by the Township, in its sole discretion, to be in the best interest of the Township. Conditional bids will not be considered. The Charter Township of Van Buren is an equal opportunity contractor which does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, creed, or physical disability. All qualified contractors are urged to respond.

THIS ADVERTISEMENT, AS WELL AS SPECIFICATIONS, MAY ALSO BE ACCESSED ON THE VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP WEBSITE AT WWW.VBTMI.GOV

Publish: February 20, 2025
February 27, 2025
March 6, 2025

Upcoming Meetings

- Monday, March 3 – Belleville City Council, 6:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, March 4 – Van Buren Township Board of Trustees, 6 p.m., and workshop at 5 p.m. as needed. Also, Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education will hold a workshop at 6 p.m. at the Administration Building, open to the public.
- Monday, March 10 – Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m., BHS Commons
- Tuesday, March 11 – Sumpter Township board meeting, 6 p.m. Also, Belleville Area District Library, 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, March 12 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 5:30 p.m.

VBPS

(continued from page 12)

be held at the next board meeting when a representative from the state would be present by phone, Kudlak said. After public comment and discussion, the state representative would announce a decision;

- Voted unanimously to cast the district's single vote for Ursula (Wester) Rogers to be the Region 8 representative in the Michigan Association of School Board's board of directors for a three-year term. Rogers works in the Van Buren Public Schools and is on the Romulus School Board. The vote will be sent on by email for the election;
- Learned a board workshop will be held at 6 p.m., Tuesday, March 4, at the administration building. It will be a general discussion on the

operation of the school board, especially for the three new members. The workshop is open to the public;

- Approved the March 2 resignation of teacher Angela Given from Savage Elementary School and the employment of Brooklin Hardiman as English teacher at BHS as of Feb. 3 and Haley Wagner as speech pathologist at the Early Childhood Center as of Feb. 24;
- Approved the termination of Shelly McEven from Food Service after two years of service on Feb. 18; and the resignations of Angela Bragg-Carey from Transportation as of Feb. 4 after less than a year and Kaci Chandler from Food Service as of Feb. 11 after a year of service;
- Approved hiring Daryl Bowen, Jr. as a bus driver and Cory Parks as a bus aide, both as of Feb. 11, and Samantha Wilson as a custodian as of Feb. 24;

- Heard director of student services Julien Frazier note that Connie Testorelli will be honored as Michigan's Special Education Teacher of the Year on Thursday, Feb. 27, in Grand Rapids;
- Heard curriculum director Jeff Moore report that there was a water main break at Edgemont Elementary School last week and the students were picked up by buses because it was too late to stop the pickup and then released to family members shortly thereafter. Supt. Kudlak said he just got word that another water main has broken as they speak and this one is near Owen Intermediate School;
- Learned the BHS Polar Plunge which was set for Feb. 18, to raise funds for unified sports, has been postponed until March 6, because the weather was too polar for the first date. The tank will be outside in the BHS parking lot;
- Heard Pearce remind everyone that the Jazz

Band Spaghetti Dinner will be this Saturday at BHS and the meat will be ground by the Butcher Shop that morning, so "the meatballs should be the best-ever"; and

- Went into closed-door session at 8:07 p.m. to discuss action on possible reinstatement of a student who had been expelled during the 2024-25 school year. After the board came back into open session, it voted to reinstate student 24-25-012 with conditions. The school board meeting was adjourned at 8:38 p.m.



CITY OF BELLEVILLE SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, February 6, 2025 - 6:30 pm

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE

2. ROLL CALL	
Council Member Beebe	Present
Council Member Kissel	Present
Council Member Priest	Present
Mayor Pro-Tem Bates	Present
Mayor Voigt	Present

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Motion Carried.

4. GENERAL BUSINESS DISCUSSION

a. Discussion - Purchase of Property (NOTE: City Council may elect to enter in to Closed Session by majority vote under MCL 15.268(d): *To consider the purchase or lease of real property up to the time an option to purchase or lease that real property is obtained.*)

MOTION: Motion by Priest, supported by Kissel to enter Closed Session at 6:31 p.m.

Motion Carried.

MOTION: Motion by Bates, supported by Beebe to return to Open Session at 6:35 p.m.

Motion Carried.

MOTION: Motion by Priest, supported by Beebe to authorize the City Manager to move forward on executing the offer on the property at 330 Charles St., at a price of \$850,000, with a 60-day due-diligence period, and a \$25,000 earnest money deposit.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

Motion Carried.

5. CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

a. SEMCOG is doing the pacer review this summer at no cost.

b. Will be on vacation from the 14th of February through the 21st.

c. The next regular Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 18th.

6. CITY COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

a. Kissel

i. The Planning Commission will meet on Thursday, February 13th, and Giffels Webster will be presenting.

ii. Originally voted "no" on the property at 330 Charles due to the speed of the decision but now feels it could be a nice building for City Hall.

7. MAYOR'S COMMENTS

a. Feels the purchase of 330 Charles is a historic moment if all goes well.

b. Feels that the building at 6 Main St. has served its purpose.

8. CITIZENS COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

a. Rosemary Otzman

i. Asked if the plan is for 330 Charles St. is to be a permanent City Hall.

9. ACTION ITEMS FOR NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Motion by Bates, supported by Priest to adjourn at 6:46 PM.

No objections were noted.

Motion Carried.

Submitted by Briana Hootman

City Clerk/Treasurer

Published: February 27, 2025

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN

NOTICE OF ADVERTISEMENT LANDSCAPING MAINTENANCE SERVICE

Bid Titled, "LANDSCAPING MAINTENANCE SERVICES" may be submitted by U.S. Mail, personal service, or courier service to the Township Clerk's Office at 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, MI 48111. No bids submitted by facsimile will be accepted. Bids are to be delivered in sealed envelopes and clearly marked as "LANDSCAPING MAINTENANCE SERVICES". Thursday March 27th, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. EDT, is the deadline for sealed bids. All bids received will be publicly opened and read aloud with total pricing immediately following in the Denton Room.

A mandatory pre-bid tour and meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, March 17th, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. at the Charter Township of Van Buren Municipal Center, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, MI 48111. All questions by interested bidders are to be raised at this time.

All bids shall be delivered to the Van Buren Township Clerk's Office in sealed envelopes and titled, "LANDSCAPING MAINTENANCE SERVICES". The outside of the envelope containing the bid shall bear the name of the Bidder, their address, license number if applicable, and the name of the project for which the bid is submitted, to include experience, equipment and minimum of three (3) references.

1. Name and address of company
2. Telephone number
3. Name of contact person

The scope of this contract shall include all labor, materials, equipment, supplies, service and insurance by the Bidder to complete the bid entitled: "LANDSCAPING MAINTENANCE SERVICES". Bid bonds will be returned to unsuccessful bidders when contract is executed with the approved bidder.

Each bid shall be accompanied by a bid security in the amount of **five percent (5%)** of the bid amount subject to the conditions in the Information to Bidders. A bidder will be permitted to withdraw their bid unopened after it has been deposited, if such request is received prior to the time specified for opening bids and provided that their identity is made known and the responsible party signs for the bid. No bid shall be withdrawn after the opening of the bids without the consent of the Township for a minimum of ninety (90) days from the scheduled time for closing bids. Do not include such taxes in the proposal figures. The School District will furnish the successful bidder with tax exemption certificates when requested.

The Township reserves the right: to accept any or all alternative bids; to award the Contract to other than the lowest Bidder; to waive any irregularities of informalities, or both; to reject any or all bids; and in general, to make the award of the Contract in any manner deemed by the Township, in its sole discretion, to be in the best interest of the Township. Conditional bids will not be considered. The Charter Township of van Buren is an equal opportunity contractor which does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, creed, or physical disability. All qualified contractors are urged to respond.

THIS ADVERTISEMENT, AS WELL AS SPECIFICATIONS, MAY ALSO BE ACCESSED ON THE VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP WEBSITE AT WWW.VBTMI.GOV

Publish: February 20, 2025
February 27, 2025
March 6, 2025

City of Belleville Public Notice

POLICE VEHICLE AUCTION

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN BY THE UNDERSIGNED THAT ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5, 2025 at 10AM, at J&T Towing, 287 Industrial Park Drive, Belleville, County of Wayne, Michigan, a public sale of the following vehicle(s) will be held:

2019	FORD EDGE	VIN: 2FMPK4J95KBB28969
2003	FREIGHTLINER SPR	VIN: 1FVABPAK93HK74511
2011	FORD FOCUS	VIN: 1FAHP3FN9BW178644
2011	CHEVROLET IMPALA	VIN: 2G1WF5EK2B1269293
	MINIBIKE GREY	NO VIN (1 OF 2)
	MINIBIKE WHITE	NO VIN (2 OF 2)

BELLEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT
6 MAIN STREET
BELLEVILLE, MICHIGAN 48111

PUBLISH: FEBRUARY 27, 2025

BY KRISTY DOE
BELLEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT
RECORDS CLERK

Haven Group CPAs become part of Belleville community

Haven Group CPAs & Advisors was started in 2019 by Lance Siemen and Susheel Saini with the goal of bringing their decades of experience to organizations and individuals throughout the state of Michigan.

In a statement released to the *Independent*, Haven Group said:

“They have extensive and diverse experience in growth and expansion strategies, fraud examination, budgeting and forecasting, contract negotiations, strategic alliances, forensics audits, mergers and acquisition, due diligence audits, bankruptcy reorganization, business turnaround, corporate and individual taxes, issuing compiled, reviewed, or audited financial statements to privately owned businesses, not for profits and government



Lance Siemen



Susheel Saini

organizations.

Along with their experienced and knowledgeable staff, Haven Group said it can provide services to privately held companies and public sector organizations, as well as individuals, in a cost-effective and efficient manner that is tailored to the clients’ needs.

When the opportunity was presented to continue to grow what Denise Baker and Gayl Parr had built in Belleville, Lance and Susheel knew they wanted to be the ones that would continue to take care of their clients after their first meeting with Denise and Gayl.

They said, “We are excited that Denise and Gayl entrusted us to take care of their clients, and we are looking forward to being part of the Belleville community.”

In a story in last week’s paper, Denise Baker and Gayl Parr said they plan to retire but they and their staff will continue working with their present customers for the next few years. They recently sold the Belleville business to the Haven Group of Taylor.

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice



VAN BUREN
CHARTER TOWNSHIP

2025 MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW

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

The **BOARD OF REVIEW** of the Charter Township of Van Buren will be held on the following dates:

March 4th, Tuesday
2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
(Organizational Meeting)
No Appeals Heard at this Meeting

March 10th, Monday
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.; 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

March 12th, Wednesday
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.; 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

REVIEW IN PERSON IS BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

Taxpayers/Property Owners may appeal by making an appointment to appear before the Board of Review **OR** by letter appeal (personal appearance is not required).

Letters of appeal must be **received by noon MARCH 12, 2025.**

Appointments to appeal in person may be scheduled by calling the Assessing Office at 734-699-8946 between 7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. by **MARCH 4, 2025.**

The tentative ratios and the estimated multipliers for each class of real property and personal property for 2025 are as follows:

Ag – 45.65%	1.0952
Com – 49.83%	1.0034
Ind – 48.33%	1.0345
Res – 45.85%	1.0905
Personal – 50.00 %	1.0000

Leon Wright
Van Buren Charter Township

Publish: Thursday, February 13, 2025
Thursday, February 20, 2025
Thursday, February 27, 2025

**One Call Does It All...
...At The Independent
734-699-9020**

**BONECUTTERS
TREE EXPERTS, LLC**

**STORM DAMAGE &
SPRING DISCOUNTS!**
50% DISCOUNT IF YOU KEEP WOOD/BRUSH!

- Storm Clean Up
- Free Estimates
- Tree Topping & Trimming
- Tree & Shrub Removal
- Stump Removal • Bucket Service

Insured & Senior Discounts

(734) 431-4202

Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

There were 273 dispatch calls reported by Van Buren Township police this week including the following.

Sunday, Feb. 16:

0127 – intrusion alarm, N. I-94 Service Dr.
0749 – assist other dept., E. I-94/Belleville
0838 – property damage accident, S. I-94 Service Dr. / Belleville Rd.
0941 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Briarcliff Dr.
1122 – welfare check, S. Bellridge Dr.
1210 – property damage accident, N. I-94 Service Dr. / Quirk Rd.
1318 – malicious destruction of property, Belleville Rd.
1332 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd.
1507 – family trouble, W. Huron River Dr.
1634 – welfare check, Oak Ln.
1812 – motorist assist, Michigan Ave./Denton Rd.
1927 – assist fire dept., Haggerty Rd./Riggs Rd.
2103 – motorist assist, Haggerty Rd.
2129 – family trouble, S. I-94 Service Dr.
2155 – intrusion alarm, Ecorse Rd.
2239 – road hazard, Lancaster Dr./N. Dartmoor Cir
2325 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Milton

Monday, Feb. 17:

0003 – juvenile complaint, Arcadia Ct.
0419 – domestic, Oak Ln.
0428 – disorderly, N. Ponderosa Trl.
0649 – property damage accident, Ecorse Rd. / Belleville Rd.
0650 – personal injury accident, Michigan Ave. / Denton Rd.
0733 – larceny from auto, Beckley Rd.
0836 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
0838 – assist other dept., Tyler Rd.
0923 – sexual assault, Willow Rd.
0944 – unauthorized driving away of auto, S. I-94 Service Dr.

1146 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1243 – assault & battery, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1347 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
xxxx – civil matter, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1335 – domestic, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1344 – disorderly, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1413 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1414 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1709 – personal injury accident, Hannan/Tyler
1825 – felony assault, Rawsonville Rd.
1850 – intrusion alarm, Ecorse Rd.
1925 – noise complaint, Denton Rd.
1937 – animal complaint, Price Rd.
2144 – civil matter, S. I-94 Service Dr.

Tuesday, Feb. 18:

0023 – warrant arrest, South Huron
xxxx – intrusion alarm, N. I-94 Service Dr.
0855 – intrusion alarm, Stonebridge Ct.
0931 – domestic, Red Oak Dr.
1121 – welfare check, Denton Rd.
xxxx – private property impound, Belleville Rd.
1226 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Riggs Rd.
1457 – private property/property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1509 – 911 welfare check, Outer Dr.
1656 – private property/property damage accident, Grace Lake

1640 – welfare check, W. Archwood Dr.
1746 – animal complaint, Endicott St.
1833 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Harbor Ln.
1838 – civil matter, Daisy Blvd.
1859 – background investigation, Tyler Rd.
2059 – civil matter, Basswood Cir.
2149 – assist other dept., Birch Dr.
2225 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Basswood Cir.
2241 – animal complaint, Jackson St./Jackson Ct.

Wednesday, Feb. 19:

0210 – assist other dept., Rawsonville Rd. / W. Huron River Dr.
0250 – property damage accident, Tyler Rd./Quirk
0331 – intrusion alarm, Ecorse Rd.
0424 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Lincoln St.
0520 – road hazard, Belleville Rd.
xxxx – repossession, N. Cumberland Dr.
1019 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1020 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.

1313 – juvenile complaint, Walden Woods
1342 – intrusion alarm, Hanover Dr.
1413 – fraud, Denton Rd.
1510 – civil matter, Sondra Dr.
1635 – domestic, Greenbriar Dr.
1802 – property damage accident, Bemis/Sumpter
1818 – civil matter, Tyler Rd.
1939 – lost property/child, Packard Ct.
1928 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
2031 – civil matter, S. I-94 Service Dr.
xxxx – fraud, Revere Dr.
2040 – 911 welfare check, N. Ponderosa Trl.
2131 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, Brookside Dr.

Thursday, Feb. 20:

0157 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
0255 – noise complaint, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0639 – trespassing, Belleville Rd.
0647 – property damage accident, Ecorse/Hannan
0717 – property damage accident, Sheldon/Ecorse
0737 – property damage accident, Haggerty Rd.
0905 – vehicle lockout, Lake Villa Dr.
0912 – traffic offense, I-275/Michigan Ave.
0932 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
0935 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Bemis Rd.

0948 – welfare check, Oak Ln.
1008 – warrant arrest, Tyler Rd.
1024 – civil matter, Rawsonville Rd.
1213 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Heatherfield Blvd.
1227 – private property/property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1230 – property damage accident, N. I-94 Service Dr. / Belleville Rd.
1254 – intrusion alarm, Ironwood Dr.
1359 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Van Buren St.

1411 – assist other dept., Martz Rd./Elwell Rd.
1450 – fraud, Revere Dr.
1458 – animal complaint, E. Huron River Dr.
1535 – suicidal person, Republic Dr.
1823 – civil matter, Belleville Rd.
1835 – threat, Belleville Rd.
1802 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Haggerty Rd.
1835 – PPO violation, McKinley St.
1953 – motorist assist, Rawsonville Rd./Bemis Rd.
xxxx – personal injury accident, W. I-94/Belleville
2101 – domestic, Westlake Cir.
2113 – intrusion alarm, Ecorse Rd.
2348 – welfare check, S. I-94 Service/Rawsonville

Friday, Feb. 21:

0142 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Water's Edge
0145 – civil matter, Belleville Rd.
0740 – motorist assist, Belleville Rd.
0903 – trespassing, N. I-94 Service Dr.
0954 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1234 – private property/property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1238 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Andover Dr.
1249 – animal complaint, Sylvia Dr.
1308 – trespassing, Tyler Rd.
xxxx – civil matter, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1339 – welfare check, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1353 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd. / W. Huron River Dr.
1405 – intrusion alarm, Bemis Rd.
1433 – PPO violation, McKinley St.
1449 – property damage accident, Van Buren St.
1522 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Harmony Ln.

1602 – assist other dept., Parkwood Dr.
xxxx – disorderly, Rawsonville Rd.
1859 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Celestine Dr.
1934 – welfare check, Ecorse Rd./Beck Rd.
2023 – malicious destruction of property, Ecorse Rd. / Belleville Rd.
2046 – trespassing, N. I-94 Service Dr.
2124 – civil matter, Basswood Cir.
2250 – assault & battery, Rawsonville Rd.
2351 – domestic, Oak Ln.

2525 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Harmon Dr.
2602 – assist other dept., Parkwood Dr.
xxxx – disorderly, Rawsonville Rd.
1859 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Celestine Dr.
1934 – welfare check, Ecorse Rd./Beck Rd.
2023 – malicious destruction of property, Ecorse Rd. / Belleville Rd.
2046 – trespassing, N. I-94 Service Dr.
2124 – civil matter, Basswood Cir.
2250 – assault & battery, Rawsonville Rd.
2351 – domestic, Oak Ln.

Saturday, Feb. 22:

0303 – road hazard, N. I-94 Service Dr./Oak Ln.
0309 – suicidal person, Kirkridge Park Dr.
0340 – personal injury accident, Van Born Rd. / Haggerty Rd.
0625 – civil matter, Rose
0631 – domestic, Ironwood Dr.

0707 – assist other dept., Lauren Ct./Van Allen
0811 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Rawsonville Rd.
0842 – animal complaint, Oak Ln.
0957 – civil matter, Buchanan St.
1138 – larceny from auto, Beckley Rd.
1140 – disorderly, Rawsonville Rd.
1214 – civil matter, Rawsonville Rd.
xxxx – animal complaint, Belleville Rd.
1514 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Richard Run Dr.
1901 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / N. I-94 Service Dr.
2154 – welfare check, Haggerty Rd./N. I-94 Service Dr.

2206 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, N. I-94 Service Dr.
2219 – family trouble, Tallgrass Ct.
2229 – welfare check, Wildrye Ct.
Also, on this log are 115 traffic stops, 20 of which are on the I-94 and I-275 freeways.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Feb. 16:

0845 – intrusion alarm, W. Columbia Ave.
0918 – ordinance violation – all 7300 MICR codes, N. Edgemont Ave.
1941 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Main St.
1948 – family trouble, Carmell St.

Monday, Feb. 17:

1124 – property check, Davis Addition Sub.
1135 – property check, Victoria Commons Sub.
1141 – property check, Norfolk Southern/Wabash Railway

1233 – property check, Lifepointe Church
1252 – traffic offense, Main St./Roys St.
1715 – property check, Huron Park Subdivision
1753 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, N. Liberty St.
1807 – welfare check, Sumpter Rd./Owen St.
1818 – misc. complaint, Martinsville Rd.
1845 – property check, Henry P. Smith Sub.

Tuesday, Feb. 18:

1006 – juvenile complaint, W. Columbia Ave.
1006 – juvenile complaint, W. Columbia Ave.
1331 – 911 welfare check, Owen St.
1601 – property check, RW Clark Sub.
1603 – property check, Huron Park Sub.
1610 – property check, Randall Park Subdivision
1613 – property check, Highlands Subdivision

Wednesday, Feb. 19:

0934 – parking complaint, Main St.
1028 – misc. complaint, Sumpter Rd.
1122 – intrusion alarm, E. Huron River Dr.
1442 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Sumpter Rd.
1704 – intrusion alarm, E. Huron River Dr.
2229 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, S. Industrial Park Dr.

Thursday, Feb. 20:

1253 – juvenile complaint, Owen St.
1255 – domestic, Bay Pointe Dr.
1532 – property damage accident, South St. / Industrial Park Dr.

1812 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, E. Waterbury Ct.

Friday, Feb. 21:

0257 – welfare check, Main St.
1215 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Main St.
1659 – property check, Life Pointe Church
1701 – property check, Wabash/Norfolk Southern Railway
1706 – property check, Henry P. Smith Subdivision
1754 – welfare check, Loranger's
2145 – assist other dept., N. Liberty St.

Saturday, Feb. 22:

0742 – property check, Davis Addition
0755 – property check, Henry P. Smith Sub.
0836 – domestic, Brain St.
1653 – warrant arrest, N. Liberty St.
1659 – misc. complaint, N. Liberty St.
1712 – warrant arrest, Elwell
1911 – welfare check, E. Huron River Dr.

There are 98 reports on this week's log and 54 of these are traffic stops.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Feb. 16:

0220 – assist other agency, out of township
0529 – fire dept. assist, Rustic Ln.
0629 – property damage accident, Willis/Elwell
1037 – property damage accident, Willis Rd. / Rawsonville Rd.
1758 – fire dept. assist, 39000 bl. Willis Rd.
1920 – fire dept. assist, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2025 – suspicious circumstance, California St. / Washington St.

2251 – family trouble, 5500 bl. Oakville Waltz

Monday, Feb. 17:

0006 – 911 hangup, 5500 bl. Oakville Waltz Rd.
0603 – 911 hangup, Hampshire Dr.
1202 – family trouble, Arizona St.
1219 – death investigation, 41000 bl. Judd Rd.
1534 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1605 – suspicious vehicle, 8100 bl. Rawsonville
1827 – alarm, 20000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2041 – civil matter, Rustic Ln.
2115 – family trouble, 18000 bl. Elwell Rd.
2311 – fire dept. assist, Virginia St.

Tuesday, Feb. 18:

0528 – fire dept. assist, 17000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
0748 – suspicious circumstance, Lohr Rd./Bemis
0936 – fire dept. assist, 41000 bl. Willow Rd.
1157 – fire dept. assist, Tamarack Dr.
1313 – fraud complaint, 46000 bl. Willis Rd.
1621 – family trouble, Magnolia Dr.
2045 – follow-up investigation, 26000 bl. Sumpter
2201 – assist other agency, Birch Dr.
2213 – civil matter, Virginia St.

Wednesday, Feb. 19:

0218 – unauthorized use of vehicle, Rustic Ln.
0307 – alarm, 8100 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
0645 – citizen assist, Wear Rd./Clark Rd.
0810 – follow-up investigation, Kansas St.
0900 – animal complaint, 48000 bl. Harris Rd.
0941 – fire dept. assist, 41000 bl. Harris Rd.
1103 – animal complaint, Rawsonville/Rustic Ln.
1234 – animal complaint, Sumpter Rd./Kozma
1310 – civil matter, Timberlane Dr.
1605 – assist other agency, Birch Dr.
1943 – fire dept. assist, Mulberry Dr.

Thursday, Feb. 20:

0446 – 911 hangup, 47000 bl. Bemis Rd.
0451 – assist other agency, California St.
0539 – follow-up investigation, Birch Dr.
0738 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd. / Arkona Rd.

1035 – malicious destruction of property, Bemis
1151 – welfare check, Knollwood Dr.
1317 – suspicious vehicle, Sumpter Rd./Willis Rd.
1348 – fire dept. assist, 44000 bl. Clay Rd.
1416 – assist other agency, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1557 – fire dept. assist, 42000 bl. Judd Rd.
1626 – juvenile matter, 1 9000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
1730 – civil matter, Redwood St.
2246 – misdemeanor warrant arrest, Rawsonville Rd. / Bemis Rd.

Friday, Feb. 21:

0352 – alarm, 50000 bl. Willow Rd.
0801 – fire dept. assist, 51000 bl. Arkona Rd.
0929 – animal complaint, Martinsville/Harris
0958 – fire dept. assist, 25000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
1122 – assist other agency, Maine St.
1218 – fire dept. assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1233 – assist other agency, 43000 bl. Willow Rd.
1422 – citizen assist, 44000 bl. Arkona Rd.
1429 – assist other agency, 17000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1904 – alarm, 50000 bl. Willow Rd.
1923 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Willow Rd. / Sumpter Rd.
2224 – assist other agency, Oakville Waltz / Rd. / Sumpter Rd.

Saturday, Feb. 22:

0028 – fire dept. assist, 40000 bl. Judd Rd.
0254 – fire dept. assist, Rustic Ln.
0801 – 911 hangup, 44000 bl. Wear Rd.
0905 – mental health call, 45000 bl. Harris Rd.
1038 – civil matter, 17000 bl. Savage Rd.
1041 – 911 hangup, 20000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1329 – C3904 – open alarm, 8200 bl. Rawsonville
1345 – C3904 – open alarm, 22000 bl. Carleton West Rd.
1721 – neighbor dispute, 24000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1724 – traffic complaint/hazard, 43000 bl. Harris

(Continued on page 19)



City of Belleville Public Notice



CITY OF BELLEVILLE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, February 3, 2025 - 6:30 pm

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE

2. ROLL CALL

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

3. PRESENTATIONS & CITIZENS COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

a. Presentations

i. Presentation of Corporal Badge to Officer Sarah Dzagulones

1. Officer Dzagulones was presented with her Corporal badge by Public Safety Director Faull.

ii. Alan C. Young & Associates Audit Presentation

b. Citizen Comments

i. Allen Wilson, the newly elected Wayne County Commissioner for District 11, introduced himself to the Council and audience and spoke about accountability.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Motion by Bates, supported by Kissel to

approve the agenda as presented.

Motion Carried.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

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

a. Approval of Minutes

- i. January 21, 2025 – Regular Meeting
- ii. January 21, 2025 – Closed Session

b. Communications

- i. None.
- c. Council Follow Up List
- d. DPS Report
- e. Special Events

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

Motion Carried.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

a. None.

7. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

a. None.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS DISCUSSION

a. Resolution # 25-003 – Resolution Authorizing City Manager to Execute Horizon Park Grant Award Documents

MOTION: Motion by Priest, supported by Bates to approve **Resolution # 25-003**, as presented.

Motion Carried.

b. Resolution # 25-004 – Resolution of Support – DUWA Amendments and Restated Articles

MOTION: Motion by Kissel, supported by Priest to approve **Resolution # 25-004**, as presented.

Motion Carried.

c. Resolution # 25-005 – Appointments to Boards and Commissions

MOTION: Motion by Bates, supported by Beebe to approve **Resolution # 25-005**, as presented.

Motion Carried.

d. City of Belleville/POAM Revised Agreement (NOTE: City Council may elect to enter in to Closed Session by majority vote under MCL 15.268(c): For strategy and negotiation sessions connected with negotiation of a collective bargaining agreement.)

MOTION: Motion by Beebe, supported by Bates to approve the revised agreement between the POAM (Police Officers Association of Michigan) and the City of Belleville.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

Motion Carried.

e. City of Belleville/GELC Revised Agreement (NOTE: City Council may elect to enter in to Closed Session by majority vote under MCL 15.268(c): For strategy and negotiation sessions connected with negotiation of a collective bargaining agreement.)

MOTION: Motion by Priest, supported by Kissel to approve the revised agreement between the GELC (Governmental Employees Labor Council) and the City of Belleville.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

Motion Carried.

f. Discussion – Purchase of Property (NOTE: City Council may elect to enter in to Closed Session by majority vote under MCL 15.268(d): *To consider the purchase or lease of real property up to the time an option to purchase or lease that real property is obtained.*)

MOTION: Motion by Kissel, supported by Priest to enter Closed Session at 6:59 p.m.

Motion Carried.

MOTION: Motion by Bates, supported by Beebe to return to Open Session at 8:04 p.m.

Motion Carried.

MOTION: Motion by Bates, supported by Priest to move forward on making a purchase offer on a property as discussed in Closed Session.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

Motion Carried.

9. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND DEPARTMENTAL EXPENDITURES

a. Accounts Payable

b. Departmental Expenditures

i. Stryker Sales LLC

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

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

Motion Carried.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

a. Attended the Michigan Municipal Executives Conference last week, and it was very informative.

b. The minimum staffing level and water affordability bills died in the legislature.

c. Approved the our major and local road mileage for Act 51 funding.

d. The city has generated almost \$20,000 this month in interest through Michigan Class.

e. Will be meeting with grant writers this week to button up the Safe Streets for All grant and TAP applications.

f. The installation of new water meters in residents' homes now stands at 40.31% completed.

g. The outdoor warning signal pole will be installed soon, as the original installation attempt was delayed due to a water main break.

h. Does not have the specs on the Liberty St. project yet, as they need to be tweaked due to the water main break.

11. CITY COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

a. Council Member Priest

i. Would like to see options for debris and trash pickup outlined in the city's newsletter.

b. Council Member Kissel

i. No comments.

c. Council Member Beebe

i. It was a great meeting.

ii. Excited to be getting things done.

iii. Happy to hear that the city is fiscally responsible per the financial audit report.

iv. Downloaded the new water meter app; it is fascinating.

d. Mayor Pro-Tem Bates

i. There was a lot of good discussion tonight.

12. MAYOR'S COMMENTS

a. It was a good meeting.

b. Looking forward to the rest of the year.

c. Attended the St. Anthony's Men's Club Chili Cook-Off with City Clerk Hootman on Sunday, and it was a great event.

13. CITIZENS COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEM

a. Assistant Fire Chief Zweng

i. The kitchen remodel at the Fire Hall is now complete, and there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony and dessert party to celebrate, on February 21st from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Everyone is invited.

14. ACTION ITEMS FOR NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING

a. None.

15. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Motion by Bates, supported by Beebe to adjourn at 8:30 PM.

No objections were noted.

Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted by
Briana Hootman, City Clerk/Treasurer

Published: February 27, 2025

Charter Township of Van Buren Downtown Development Authority Public Notice

REQUEST FOR PRICE QUOTES

Charter Township of Van Buren

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Request for price quotes

Cleaning Services at 10151 Belleville Road, Van Buren Township, MI 48111

Quotation Due Date: Time: 10:00 a.m. on Monday, March 17, 2025

Project: The Charter Township of Van Buren Downtown Development Authority (DDA) is accepting quotes for cleaning Services at 10151 Belleville Road, Van Buren Township, MI 48111:

for two (2) years with an option to renew in year three (3)

Commencement Date: As soon as practical upon approval of the DDA Board (tentatively March 27, 2025)

Specifications are attached or the proposal may be downloaded from the Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority website: www.vanburenDDA.com. Or a proposal may be obtained at the Downtown Development Authority Offices, 10151 Belleville Road, Van Buren Township, Michigan 48111 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Submittal: Please submit quotes by e-mail to mcoburn-dda@vbtmi.gov or mail/deliver to the Van Buren Township DDA, 10151 Belleville Road, Van Buren Township, MI 48111 no later than 10:00 a.m. Eastern Time on Monday March 17, 2025.

Quote Review: Quotes will be reviewed at the Regular DDA meeting on March 25, 2025 during the regular meeting @ 3:00 p.m. The DDA reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids and to waive irregularities that are in the best interest of the DDA.

For additional contact: Merrie Coburn, Van Buren Township DDA at 734-699-8941 or by e-mail @ mcoburn-dda@vbtmi.gov.

Publish: February 20, 2025
February 27, 2025



Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

(continued from page 18)

- 1736 – 911 hangup, Arizona St.
- 1747 – 911 hangup, 49000 bl. Willow Rd.
- 1854 – subpoena service, Vermont St.
- 1928 – family trouble, 44000 bl. Willis Rd.

Also on this week's log are 269 patrol checks, 74 traffic stops, and 11 misc. details.

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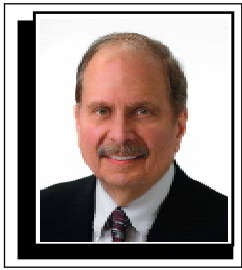
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NEW LISTING



41731 MCKINLEY, VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP
NEW LISTING Features 3 Bedrooms, 1 Bath, Finished Basement, Updated Kitchen, Fresh Paint, Fireplace, 2 1/2 Car Garage. Includes All Newer Appliances. \$239,900



6757 BELLEVILLE RD, VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP
LARGE COLONIAL Features 4 Bedrooms, 2 Baths, 2 Kitchens, On 5.88 Acres and a 2.5 Car Garage and 3.5 Car Garage for the gardener or craft person. \$378,000

OPEN HOUSE SAT MARCH 1st 2-4

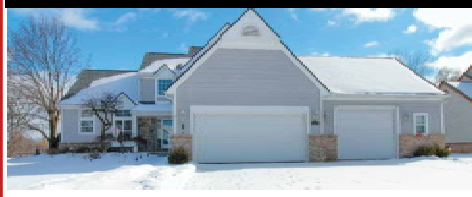


25 POTTER, BELLEVILLE
BELLEVILLE LAKE - NEW LISTING Features 3,200 Sq Ft, 3 Bedrooms, 3 1/2 Baths. Totally Upgraded with Premium Material, Dock, Multi Level Deck 2 1/2 Car Garage. \$779,000



8525 CHERRY HILL, SUPERIOR TOWNSHIP
IN A MOST PRIVATE WORLD. Premium Kitchen, 4 bedrooms (First Floor Master), 3 1/2 Baths, 4,400 Sq Ft, Finished Basement, 40x60 Pole Barn on 5 1/2 Acres. \$1,150,000

COMING SOON



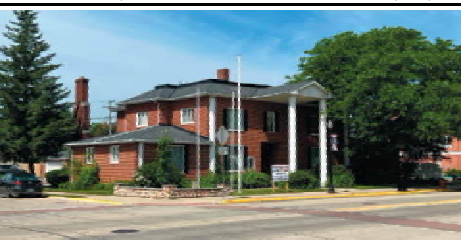
237 HARBOUR POINTE, BELLEVILLE
NEW LISTING 3 Bedroom Colonial with First Floor Master, 2 Full and 2 Half Baths, Full Finished Basement, 3+ Car Garage, 50 Foot Deck, Corner Lot with Lake Views \$425,000



10312 JACKSON, VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP
COMPLETELY RENOVATED Updated Kitchen - All New Appliances. Impressive Bath. New Flooring, Pella Windows. New Siding, Roof, Cement, 2 1/2 Car Garage \$265,000



13300 EDGE DALE, VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP
THIS IMPRESSIVE VICTORIAN home offers an open family room and dining room with Hardwood floors showcasing the arched windows. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms \$269,900



209 MAIN STREET, BELLEVILLE
IT'S A POSSIBLE AIR B&B 7,000+ Square Foot Building on High Traffic Main Street. Large Rooms, Finished Basement and 6 plus Car Garage. \$749,000 or Lease

BELLEVILLE 3 RESIDENTIAL LOTS ONE PENDING
CROSSROADS CITY FROM BELLEVILLE LAKE NOW \$49,000
3 ACRES - COMMERCIAL CORNER AT SUMPTER AND WILLOW NOW \$150,000

GRANT & WAHRMAN 4 ACRES LT IND BY METRO AIRPORT \$250,000
2 P... **SOLD** ...
One Outbuilding and Survey \$315,800 for Both HAGGERTY **SOLD** \$70,000

WILLIS R... **SOLD ... \$60,000**
WILLIS & MARTINSVILLE 1.64 AC \$65,000
JUDD RD **SOLD** ... \$39,500
HURON TWP VAC ASH .87 ACRES \$29,900
GRANT ROMULUS 1.8 AC LT IND \$50,000
50540 BOG RD ONE HALF ACRE \$55,000

4 PARCELS ON THE CORNER OF BEMIS AN... **SOLD ...**
1 PARCEL LEFT
\$50,000 BUILDER SPECIAL for 3 LOTS
VACANT LOUISA DREAM LOT \$55,000
*** BELLEVILLE LAKEFRONT *** 2405 RAWSONVILLE 99X328 .74 AC \$99,900

CORNER OF SHERWOOD & JUDD ROAD SUM... **SOLD ...**
19+ ACRES BREST RD. TAYLOR RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT PROPERTY - PAVED STREET NEAR INKSTER ROAD. \$550,000



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