



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 32.6 Thursday, February 5, 2026

Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

FREE

EGLE issues 10-year hazardous waste license to Wayne Disposal

The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), on Jan. 29 issued a renewed Hazardous Waste Management Facility Operating License to Wayne Disposal Inc. (WDI), following a comprehensive regulatory review and public comment process.

The license, which is in effect for 10 years from this approval, authorizes WDI to store hazardous waste in containers, expand the disposal capacity of the landfill, and continue disposing of hazardous waste, certain radiological materials and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB), at 49350 N. I-94 Service Dr., Belleville, MI [Van Buren Township], subject to updated and strengthened conditions designed to protect the surrounding community and the environment.

This license issuance follows an extended public comment period that spanned from

Aug. 14 to Oct. 31, 2025. EGLE reviewed and considered all comments received.

Changes made to the license to address public concerns are identified in the Response to Comments.

The Response to Comments, the license, and additional information is available at Michigan.gov/USEcologyWDI.

It also is available in person at the Belleville Area District Library, 167 Fourth St., Belleville, MI 48111. Contact the reference desk for an appointment at (734) 699-3291.

Questions concerning the license should be directed to Christine Matlock, Environmental Engineer, MMD, at 517-290-4612; MatlockC2@Michigan.gov; or Brett Cianek, Environmental Engineer, Hazardous Waste Section, MMD at 517-930-7086; CianekB1@Michigan.gov; or EGLE-MMD-HWS@Michigan.gov.



Photo courtesy of Elena Manalp, VBT Communications
Van Buren Township Fire Chief David McInally, left, presents a Life Saving Award to fire fighters Christopher Pierce and Rachel Everett during the Jan. 20 regular meeting of the township board of trustees. Chief McInally said the two were able to enter a home that was on fire at 8124 Belleville Rd. and quickly find and rescue occupant Robert Halabut.

Belleville DPW declares its salt shortage, using only at intersections

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

At Monday's meeting of the Belleville City Council, a resident of Victoria Commons asked what happened to the salt this year. He said the intersection was fine, but then drivers slide into the subdivision on a slight hill there.

Mayor Ken Voigt said there is a shortage of salt statewide and nobody can buy salt.

Department of Public Works director Nathaniel Johnson said in the past, the city's DPW directors had direct contracts with the Detroit Salt Company and they ended up with more than enough because the winters had been mild. There was a lot of salt left over each season.

Johnson said now they are using the MIbid governmental system. He said they have enough to handle the intersections. He said they are minimizing salt use, but make sure to do the intersections for the police and fire fighters can get to where they are going safely.

He said if it's below 20 degrees, salt doesn't work.

Johnson said they could use sand, but then they'd have to suck it out of the sewers and EGLE (Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy) would get after them.

He said the plan is to plow all the streets and keep the salt for major intersections.

The resident thanked them for their explanation and then asked about the hazardous landfill trial that was coming up.

Mayor Voigt said the trial is going on this week and next and he is due to testify on Tuesday afternoon, Feb. 3, before Judge Sean Cox at circuit court in Detroit.

He said EGLE granted a new license for the expanded landfill just four days before the trial was to begin. He said now Wayne Disposal, owned by Republic Services, has the right to go 50' higher than before.

In other business at the 49-minute meeting

on Feb. 2, the council:

- Was introduced to the newest police officer, Norman Brooks, who is retired from the Westland Police Department and earlier had worked as a dispatcher in Belleville. He started work for the city on Jan. 9. His brother, Charlie, is also a Belleville police officer;

- Proclaimed April 2, 2026 as Mildred Elizabeth Baker Day in the city of Belleville on the occasion of her 100th birthday. A proclamation in her honor was read by the mayor and adopted by the council;

- Heard Jay Wilde of Alan C. Young present the city's auditor's report for the last fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, with an unmodified opinion, the highest. He said the revenue went up because of the new public safety millage. Revenue was \$4.4 million and expenditures \$3.6 million, with \$888,000 transferred out of fund balance leaving \$2.9 fund balance at the end of the year, down \$115,849 from the previous year. He reported

\$800,000 was spent to buy the new city hall and \$120,000 went to the cemetery fund. He said fund balance money also was spent on streets;

- Approved the mayor's new appointment of Alexander J. Henry to Parks and Recreation with a term to expire Dec. 31, 2029, and the reappointment of Angela Samyn to the Civil Service Commission with a term to expire Dec. 31, 2031. Mayor Voigt said the Civil Service Commission will hold its first meeting the next afternoon;

- Deferred action on clerk/treasurer Brian Papin's request to raise the rates for using Victory Station since it has been upgraded. She based rates on what it costs each on two, similar rooms at the Van Buren Township Community Center. The current Victory Station fee is \$20 per hour for residents and \$40 for non-residents. She asked for a revised fee of \$75 per hour for residents and \$100 per

(continued on page 3)



The Denton Road bridge has been closed by Wayne County for 1,222 days as of today. (That's 3.35 years or 29,328 hours)



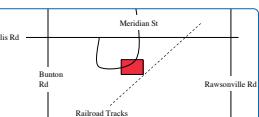
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SECOND FRONT PAGE

City of Belleville

(continued from page 1)

hour for non-residents, or a bundled rental option of \$225 for three hours for residents and \$275 for three hours for non-residents, with up to two hours additional time for \$50 per hour. Mayor Voigt said, "Seems like a big jump";

- Removed from the agenda for the third time, without comment, an item on Tax Incentives for City Economic Development;

- Approved a resolution accepting Wayne County permits to work along county road rights of way, a yearly formality;

- Heard Public Safety Director/Police Chief Kris Faull say she will report on how the fire

department duty crews are going and the status of the search for a new fire chief at the next meeting;

- Heard interim city manager Steve Jones announce the city has to update its fire code. It was pointed out by Van Buren Township. It can be done by ordinance and Jones said he would get a copy for the next meeting on Feb. 17 for the first reading and then on March 1 they could have the second reading and adoption. He said they also need to do the same for the building and electrical codes. The city can't find proof in the files that these had been updated. Mayor Voigt said in the past the city hadn't had good record keeping;

- Heard Mayor Voigt said the father with a gun at Romulus Middle School recently and a suicide in front of the Canton Township

administration building has brought him to the realization that the city needs an Assailant Policy. He said he asked the Canton Township supervisor for a copy of its policy and it has been given to the city attorney for review and options;

- Heard Jones report the city had IT shortcomings and all of its servers are going to be cleaned up and backed up for clean copies to be on the new hardware at the new city hall. They are preparing everything for the move, he said. He reported attending a Wayne County Parks meeting and learned how the city's parks millage can be rolled over for three years if desired to cover bigger projects. He also reported officials sat down with Hennessey Engineers and learned the city currently has seven open projects in the

works;

- Heard councilwoman Julie Kissel report that in her organizational efforts at city hall she discovered the old, folded map of the cemetery being used and they have ordered scanned maps and printed maps; and

- Heard mayor Voigt invite everyone to the Mayor's Ball which will be at 6 p.m., Saturday, April 25, at the BYC. He said it will be a gala event to benefit the Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue. This is reinstatement of the Mayor's Ball that former mayor Kerreen Conley used to have in conjunction with the Romulus mayor to benefit Boys and Girls Clubs. He said donations of baskets for auction will be welcomed.



City of Belleville Public Notice

CITY OF BELLEVILLE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, January 20, 2026 - 6:30 pm

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE

2. ROLL CALL

Mayor Voigt Present

Mayor Pro-Tem Bates Present

Council Member Kissel Present

Council Member Beebe Present

Council Member Priest Present

3. PRESENTATIONS & CITIZENS COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

- Presentations

- i. None.

- Citizen Comments

- i. None.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Motion by Kissel, supported by Priest to approve the agenda as presented, with the removal of item A under General Business.

Motion Carried.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Approval of Minutes

- i. January 5, 2026, Regular Meeting

- ii. January 5, 2026, Closed Session

- Budget report

- i. None.

- Communications

- i. None.

- Council Follow-up list

- i. None.

- Police Stats

- i. December 2025

- Fire Stats

- i. None.

- DPW Report

- i. None.

- Special Events

- i. Tootsie Roll Drive

- ii. Flop E Bunny Candy Hunt

- iii. Third Thursdays in the Ville

- iv. Memorial Day Parade

- v. Belleville Farmers Market

- vi. Taste of Belleville

- vii. Harvest Fest

- viii. Monster Mutt Walk

- ix. Halloween

- x. Photos with Santa

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

Motion Carried.

MOTION: Motion by Priest, supported by Beebe to amend the agenda to add Leaf Vacuum Repairs as

item A under General Business.

Motion Carried.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

a. City Parks and Recreation Plan

MOTION: Motion by Kissel, supported by Beebe to open the Public Hearing at 6:42 p.m.

Motion Carried.

• Giffels Webster presented changes to the city's Parks and Recreation Plan.

MOTION: Motion by Bates, supported by Priest to close the Public Hearing at 6:44 p.m.

Motion Carried.

7. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

- None.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS DISCUSSION

a. Leaf Vacuum Repairs

MOTION: Motion by Beebe, supported by Kissel to approve repair of the leaf vacuum by Kerry Brothers, at a cost of \$12,269.35.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Council Member Priest Aye

Council Member Beebe Aye

Mayor Pro-Tem Bates Aye

Council Member Kissel Aye

Mayor Voigt Aye

Motion Carried.

b. Discussion/Update -- 330 Charles

a. Carpet has been installed in the main office of the administrative side of the building.

b. Interior painting continues on the administrative side of the building

and should be completed by the end of the week.

c. The toilets in the ladies' restroom were deemed to be non-ADA compliant and will need to be brought up to compliance.

d. Most of the doors have been framed in, but some still need to be installed.

e. Bulletproof windows have been installed on the police side of the building.

MOTION: Motion by Bates, supported by Priest to approve the installation of risers in the soon-to-be Council chambers at 330 Charles, at a cost of \$4,100, along with the removal of a closet in the room, at no cost to the city.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Council Member Priest Aye

Council Member Beebe Nay

Mayor Pro-Tem Bates Aye

Council Member Kissel Nay

Mayor Voigt Aye

Motion Carried.

c. Parks and Recreation Plan

MOTION: Motion by Kissel, supported by Bates to approve Resolution # 26-004, as presented.

Motion Carried.

d. Public Safety Director

MOTION: Motion by Bates, supported by Priest to approve the promotion of Interim Public Safety Director Faull to Public Safety Director, along with

an increase in salary of \$2,000 per year, retroactive to her appointment as Interim Director.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Council Member Priest Aye

Council Member Beebe Aye

Mayor Pro-Tem Bates Aye

Council Member Kissel Aye

Mayor Voigt Aye

Motion Carried.

e. Fire Department Bargaining Agreement

MOTION: Motion by Kissel, supported by Beebe to approve a 1-year extension to the current Fire Department bargaining agreement, as well as the addition of two paid holidays for the department.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Council Member Priest Aye

Council Member Beebe Aye

Mayor Pro-Tem Bates Aye

Council Member Kissel Aye

Mayor Voigt Aye

Motion Carried.

f. Resolution # 26-002 -- Board and Commission Appointments

MOTION: Motion by Priest, supported by Bates to approve Resolution # 26-002, as presented.

Motion Carried.

g. Resolution # 26-003 -- Act 51 Street Administrator

MOTION: Motion by Bates, supported by Beebe to approve Resolution # 26-003, as presented.

Motion Carried.

9. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND DEPARTMENTAL EXPENDITURES

- Accounts Payable

- i. None.

- Departmental Expenditures

- i. None.

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

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Council Member Priest Aye

Council Member Beebe Aye

Mayor Pro-Tem Bates Aye

Council Member Kissel Aye

Mayor Voigt Aye

Motion Carried.

10. CLOSED SESSION

- None.

11. CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

- Thank you DPW Director Johnson and his crew for their hard work with plowing and salting the roads, as well as maintenance on the City Hall boiler.

- We made it through the holidays and the most recent water billing.

- Getting things buttoned up for the move, which may occur at the end of February.

- Received a certificate of achievement from the Michigan Department of Treasury for a perfect score on the PA 660 Audit Review.

- Welcome back Rick Michalak, who will be working along the city's DPW crew for a period of 90 days.

12. CITY COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

a. Council Member Bates

- i. Thank you to the DPW Director and crew.

- ii. Loves seeing so many special events on the agenda.

- iii. Excited to move to the new City Hall this year.

- iv. Thank you to the new appointees of the city's boards and commissions.

- v. Found lots of seashells on recent trip to Florida.

b. Council Member Beebe

- i. Thank you to DPW.

- ii. Thank you to all board and commission appointees.

c. Council Member Kissel

- i. Happy belated birthday to Public Safety Director Krisy Faull.

- ii. Expecting an update on the Fire Department next week.

- iii. Tax incentives are going to be discussed at the next regular meeting.

- iv. Looking forward to meeting all of the new board and commission members.

d. Council Member Priest

- i. Thank you to Council Member Kissel for her involvement with the MML.

- ii. Thank you to everyone in attendance.

13. Mayor's Comments

- The lawsuit being brought against Republic Services by the city and other municipalities will be taking place in the next couple of weeks.

- Very pleased with the DPW.

- Thank you Council Member Kissel for her work at City Hall.

- Happy with the board and commission appointments.

- Happy to see the Parks and Recreation Commission being resurrected.

- Glad to be getting the leaf vacuum fixed.

- Participated in a panel session recently along with other local leaders involved in the fight against hazardous waste.

- Was recently elected as Treasurer for the Council of Western Wayne.

14. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

- a. None.

15. ACTION ITEMS FOR THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING

- a. City Council Special Meeting to be held January 22, 2026 at 6 p.m.

16. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Motion by Bates, supported by Kissel to adjourn at 7:39 PM.

No objections were noted.

Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted by,

Briana Papin, City Clerk/Treasurer

Publish: February 5, 2026

OPINIONS

Editorial:

This issue is full of information on data center, salaries

This issue is heavier than the usual paper this time of year because of the data center proposed for Van Buren Township that will be discussed at the 5:30 p.m., Feb. 11 planning commission meeting.

VBT has published many pages of frequently asked questions and VBT's answers. This information is also on the VBT website.

We expect the Feb. 11 meeting to be a barn-burner that may last many hours with all the local opposition to the data center.

The developer of the data center also has added a page of information for our readers to consider before that Feb. 11 meeting.

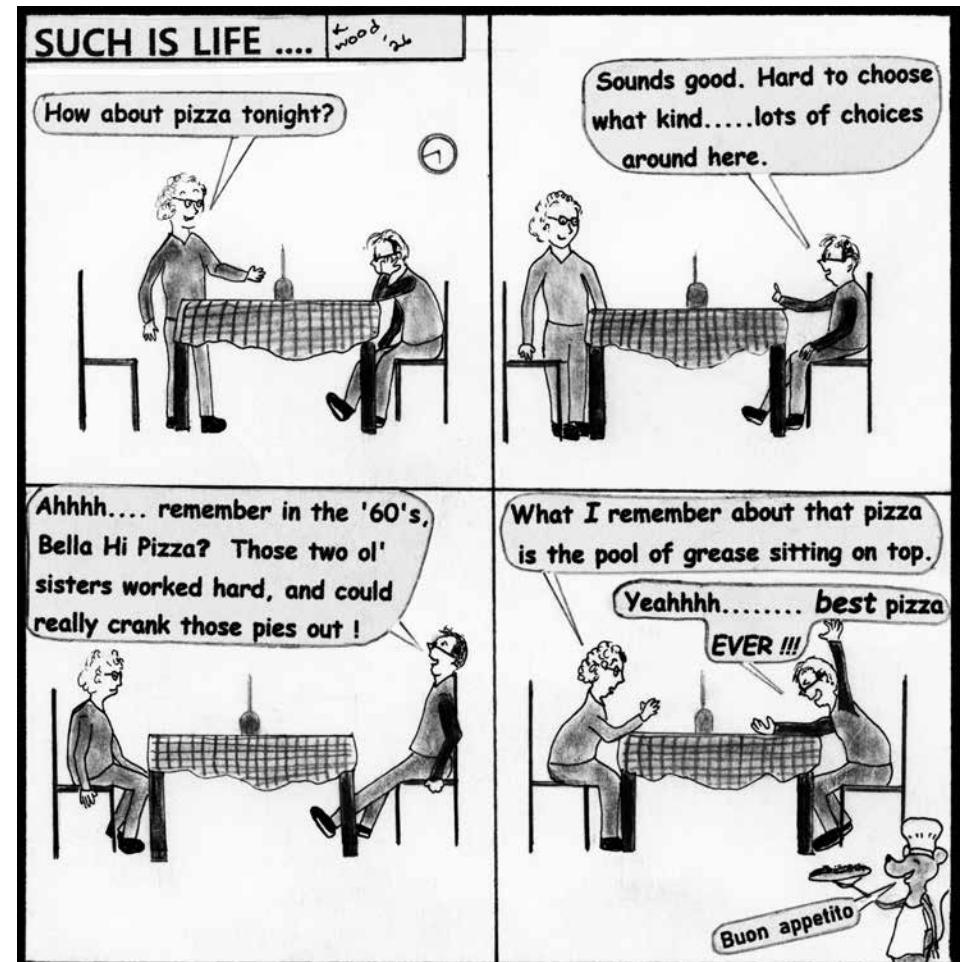
We don't see any detail yet that the planning commission can use to block the data center, unless something new shows up. Otherwise, if the company is unable to use its property under the present ordinances and VBT says no, here comes the big lawsuit.

Also in today's paper is the beginning of our annual transparency report on salaries in the five municipalities, school district, and library district that area taxpayers provide with their hard-earned money.

We have six units that we usually provide information on, but Keystone charter school is opting out again this year, based on the fact its employees are hired by a private company, NHA. Keystone started that opt-out last year after 10 years of cooperating with salary numbers. The salaries we were able to get through FOIA will be printed as space allows.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Oztman



surprised but pleased.

She was in favor of continuing the present method of taking the next candidate down on the returns, who in the last election had the most votes, but not enough for election. She said that way the voters still had a say, instead of a new routine that would set up a procedure where people could apply for the seat and get scores that could bring the council's friends onboard.

At the Jan. 26 meeting, the vote was 4-3 in favor of passing the new ordinance, but they needed five votes to pass an ordinance, so it failed. Sandy had spoken under public comment at the Jan. 26 meeting, again asking the council not to leave the voters out of the decision on a council member. Speaking up can work.

A reader called to voice her frustrations on Ecorse Road. It's that there are no shoulders on Ecorse, between Belleville and Denton roads, but there is a rut along the edge that throws cars into accidents. She said a salt truck tipped over on the edge last week. She said she's talked to Wayne County about this and the township.

About all she can do now is give a safety tip to drivers: If you have to pull over there, slow down before you turn. It could save you. She said she drives that route every day for school and sees what happens. Please, she said. Be careful along that part of Ecorse.

Belleville High School was evacuated at about 12:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 29, for what supposedly was a fire in the kitchen. But School Supt. Pete Kudlak said: "No. There was no fire at all. It was an alarm system fault. It would have worked correctly if there had been a fire. However, the company came out that afternoon and serviced the system. The fire department did a wonderful job clearing the building and getting our students back inside as quickly as possible."

We also heard a fire called in on Peninsular Drive in Van Buren Township at about 11:20 a.m. Sunday. We asked Fire Chief McInally about it and he replied: "No, it was called in as one but did not turn out to be a fire. We did have a small fire Morning Bell (old Twisted Rooster) on Friday morning. It was some rags on top of a freezer, no fire extension problems. This morning [Monday] we had a garage fire behind a house that had a fire last summer on Ecorse just East of I-275 on the North side of the road. Male who lives there is still on site in his camper. Canton, Romulus, Ypsi Twp. responded to the scene, while Belleville FD took a medical call for us."



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Letters

Robotics Boosters seek sponsors for programs

To the editor:

Tiger Robotics Booster Organization (TRBO), a 501(c)3 organization dedicated to Van Buren Public Schools robotics programs at all elementary and secondary grade levels, is still looking for sponsors and donors for the 2026 calendar year.

The Bellevillains, Belleville High School's team, have been hard at work since their season commenced a little over two weeks ago. In mid-March, BHS and TRBO will once again host several teams from the Michigan District at the FIRST Robotics Competition Belleville District Event just one week after Team 6615 participates at the Milford District event.

Later in the spring, the FIRST LEGO League Explore teams at the VBPS elementary schools will compete in their portion of this year's themed events. And while it still seems a long time from now, in August and September, McBride Middle School's TerrorBytes and the nine FIRST LEGO League Challenge teams from Owen Intermediate and all four elementary schools will begin the next season of FIRST competitions.

As you can see, 2026 will be jam-packed with activity for the district's teams. We need sponsors and donors to make this happen. Recognition for our sponsors and donors comes in two ways.

First, our sponsors and donors are recognized on event posters and programs for any events hosted by TRBO, and we are planning to host events at elementary, middle, and high school levels in the coming school year.

Second, our teams acknowledge our sponsors and donors on their pit area posters, on team shirts, and, where space exists (mainly middle and high school levels), on their robots. These displays will be seen by up to a few thousand people who attend the various events in which the teams participate.

TRBO has created sponsorship tiers which play on the "villains" theme made popular on the high school team:

- Super Villain - \$10,000 and above
- Villain - \$5,000 to \$10,000

- Evil Genius - \$3,000 to \$5,000
- Mad Scientist - \$1,000 to \$3,000
- Henchman - \$500 to \$1,000
- Minion - Up to \$500

If you would like to be a sponsor, please do the following:

-- Decide on the sponsorship level. Any amount is welcomed! For those of \$500 or greater, their company logo will be used for recognition, and an electronic version of the logo, in vector format, will need to be sent to TRBO at trboorg@gmail.com.

Sponsorships less than \$500 will have names only listed on all materials.

-- Send your sponsorship payment. Please make out a check to "Tiger Robotics Booster Organization" or "TRBO" and mail it to us at 555 W. Columbia Ave., Belleville, MI 48111.

Also, please include a small note with the name of the sponsor / donor and either a mailing or email address as all sponsors will receive a written acknowledgement of their sponsorship from TRBO. Donations may be tax deductible, and donors should consult with their tax adviser.

Our goal this year is to raise \$50,000 so we can host events and to ensure all teams get the support they need when they need it. So far, we are a little over halfway to that goal. We hope that the community will help us enable all the robotics teams within Van Buren Public Schools to continue their not-so-sinister plan to promote science, technology, engineering, and math!

Mark Laginess
 Tiger Robotics Booster Organization

Lauren Baxendale named to U. of Alabama Dean's List for fall

TUSCALOOSA, AL -- Lauren Baxendale of Van Buren Township was named to the University of Alabama Deans List for Fall Semester 2025.

A total of 15,388 students enrolled during Fall Semester 2025 at the University of Alabama were named to the dean's list with an academic record of 3.5 or above.

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Obituaries



Henry Andrew
Dudek, Jr.

HENRY ANDREW DUDEK, JR.

September 27, 1947 – January 27, 2026

Henry Andrew Dudek, Jr., age 78, of Belleville, MI, passed away at home under hospice care on January 27, 2026. Henry fought a courageous battle with prostate cancer. He was born on September 27, 1947, in Detroit, MI to Henry and Martha (Waldrip) Dudek. Henry lived in Michigan all his life and worked for Ford Motor Company as a set-up man for over 50 years. He worked at the Ypsilanti Plant first and then the Rawsonville Plant. Henry enjoyed classic cars, car shows and driving his grey Ford Mustang. He also loved to spend time with family, vacationing in Florida at his sister Debbie's house and spending time with his sons and their wives. He was a fighter all the way until the end, he will be dearly missed.

Henry is survived by his children, Keith (Sandy) Dudek and Robert (Carrie Boyda) Dudek of Belleville, MI; his siblings Kenneth Dudek of Belleville, MI, Deborah Dyer of Ft. Myers, FL, and Tena (Randy) Smith of Belleville, MI; his niece Karie Smith of Belleville, MI, and his great-niece Ashley Smith of Belleville, MI; his cousins in Cordele, GA, Dayton, OH, and Detroit, MI; as well as many friends and neighbors.

He was preceded in death by his dad Henry Dudek, mom Martha Waldrip, brother Robert Dudek, brother-in-law Ted Dyer, niece Angela Smith, and the mother of his sons, Barbara Kwiecinski.

A visitation was held Saturday, January 31, 2026, and on Sunday, February 1, 2026, from 12 p.m. until the time of the service at 2:30 p.m. Pastor Doug Valentine officiated at The David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Drive, Belleville, MI, 48111. A private family burial will take place at Hillside Cemetery.

If desired in lieu of flowers donations to St. Jude would be appreciated and envelopes will be available at Henry's visitation. www.davidcbrownfh.com

More Letters

Sharon Tontalo sure to be welcomed by heroes

To the editor:

I just read Ms. Sharon Tontalo's obituary of Jan. 29, 2026.

I'm a veteran. It's not about me. It's her, going through what she had to medically deal with, that goes without saying. It's what she found in her life. What a life.

I know heroes. They will welcome her. She will, I'm sure, find time to help them.

She will not have to step aside to anyone. I wish I had met you.

Thanks,

I hope we will still meet, Belleville

More Letters

Invitation to join prospective Lions Club

Dear Prospective Lions Clubs members:

We, LCI, would like to invite you to our next meeting.

Lions Clubs International is a service organization covering 200 countries around the world. We have over 1.4 million members. LCI is a nonprofit organization.

Our global causes are humanitarian, vision, environment, diabetes, disaster relief, childhood cancer, hunger, youth and much more. Our Motto is "Wherever there is a need there is a Lion."

We, -- Lions Clubs International -- would like to start a new club in the area of Belleville, Sumpter, and Van Buren. (Zip code 48111).

As we rotate our meetings, our second informational meeting will be at 4 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 18, at the Van Buren Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Rd., Van Buren Township 48111. Light refreshments will be served.

If you would like to help your community, please join us and bring your ideas too.

Lions Clubs International officers
District 11 A1
Wayne and Monroe counties

IMPORT AND DOMESTIC

Upcoming Meetings

- Monday, Feb. 9 – Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m., BHS Commons

- Tuesday, Feb. 10 – Sumpter Township Board of Trustees, 6 p.m. Also, Belleville Area District Library, 7:30 p.m.

- Wednesday, Feb. 11 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 5:30 p.m.

- Thursday, Feb. 12 – Keystone Academy School Board, 5 p.m. Also, Sumpter Planning Commission, 6 p.m. Also, Belleville Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.

- Tuesday, Feb. 17 – Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education workshop, 6 p.m., administration building. Also, Belleville City Council, 6:30 p.m. Also, Van Buren Township Board of Trustees, 6 p.m., with 5 p.m. work/study as needed.

- Monday, Feb. 23 – Van Buren Public

Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m., BHS Commons

- Tuesday, Feb. 24 – Sumpter Township Board of Trustees, 6 p.m.

- Wednesday, Feb. 25 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 5:30 p.m.

- Monday, March 2 – Belleville City Council, 6:30 p.m.

- Tuesday, March 3 – Van Buren Township Board of Trustees, 6:30 p.m., with 5 p.m. work/study as needed.

- Monday, March 9 – Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m., BHS Commons

- Wednesday, March 11 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 5:30 p.m.

- Thursday, March 12 – Keystone Academy School Board, 5 p.m. Also, Belleville Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.

- Monday, March 16 – Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education workshop, 6 p.m., administration building. Also, Belleville City Council, 6:30 p.m.

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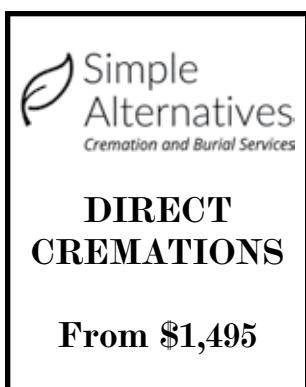


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Obituaries



Nancy J. Rosentreter

NANCY J. ROSENTRETER

October 21, 1939 – January 27, 2026

Nancy J. Rosentreter, a dedicated mother, community leader, and diehard Detroit Tigers fan, passed away January 27, 2026, peacefully after a life defined by hard work and fierce devotion to her family. She was born October 21, 1939 in Ann Arbor, Michigan, the daughter of Albert & Evelyn Rosentreter.

Nancy's greatest legacy is her family. After raising four daughters as a single mother, she became the matriarch of a sprawling and vibrant family. She was a proud grandmother, great-grandmother, and great-great-grandmother, all of whom carry forward her spirit and strength. When she wasn't with her family or serving her community, she could be found cheering on her beloved Detroit Tigers. She was a classic car enthusiast and loved Harleys.

Nancy was a pillar of her community, living across Michigan in Belleville, Ann Arbor, Chelsea, Grass Lake, and Frankenmuth. Her professional life was spent in the banking industry, where she was a familiar and trusted face at First of America Bank and Ann Arbor Bank.

A woman of deep faith and active social engagement she taught Sunday school, attended

services at St. Barnabas Episcopal Church in Chelsea, and St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Dexter, and was a vital part of the Grass Lake community, where she was heavily involved in local voting and election efforts. She maintained lifelong memberships with the Order of the Eastern Star and the Moose Lodge.

She is survived by her four daughters: Teri Lee, Tami Lyn (Scott), Tori Lisa and Todi Laine. In keeping with Nancy's wishes, her family will gather for a private ceremony at Oak Grove Cemetery of Chelsea, to celebrate her life and legacy. Rather than a large public service, she requested that those who knew her take a moment to remember the times they shared. She was preceded in death by her parents Albert and Evelyn, brother Neil, and son-in-law Randall. She is survived by her brother, Albert. Nancy asked that her friends and family remember her for her Independent Spirit, the strength she showed raising her four daughters on her own, and giving support for her grandchildren. Her Work Ethic: The friendly face they met during her years at Ann Arbor Bank and First of America.

Nancy's daughters wish for her to be remembered as she lived: with a strong heart, a love for her community, and a spirited "Go Tigers!" for every season.

The family suggests that in her memory, you might watch a ball game, cast your vote in the next election, or share a story of her wit and resilience with a loved one. Memorial Contributions can be made to Alpha House, <https://www.alphahouse-ihn.org/>.

"O Lord, support us all the day long, until the shadows lengthen, and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then in your mercy, grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and a peace at the last."

Arrangements were entrusted to Cole Funeral Chapel in Chelsea.

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Obituaries



Stella Endicott

STELLA ENDICOTT

September 12, 1927 – February 1, 2026
 Stella Endicott, age 98, went home to be with the Lord on February 1, 2026, at her daughter's home in Willis, MI, surrounded by loved ones. She was born on September 12, 1927 in Buffalo, KY, the daughter of Roland M. and Lockie B. (Endicott) Blackburn. She married Otto Endicott in Prestonsburg, KY, on July 12, 1945.

Stella spent most of her life in the Ypsilanti area, where she built a home filled with love, faith, and hard work. She dedicated 36 years of service to Ford Motor Company in Saline, MI, before retiring in 1987. Stella was a devoted member of Trinity Free Will Baptist Church in Ypsilanti, where her faith and church family were a steady and meaningful part of her life. She taught Sunday School there for many years. Stella found happiness in life's simple pleasures. She loved working in her yard and garden, canning the harvest, sewing, and spending afternoons exploring yard sales. She was rarely still, always creating, tending, or preparing something for someone she loved. Her home was a place of warmth, generosity, and welcome.

She is survived by her children, Haskell (Linda) Endicott of Belleville, Louie (Janet) Endicott of Ypsilanti, Gary Endicott of Ypsilanti, and Kathy (Gary) Dwornik of Willis; her sister, Zella Mae (Sally) Flavell of Westland; her grandchildren, Haskell (Tammy) Endicott Jr., Carolyn Gotte, Jennifer (Lonnie) Ingle, Jason (April) Endicott, Joshua (Angie) Endicott, Jeremy (Tammy) Endicott, Troy (Lydia) Adams, Jonathon (Lindsey) Endicott, Christopher Endicott, and Jacob Dwornik; 18 great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren, with twin girls on the way. Her family was her greatest joy, and she took deep pride in each new generation.

Stella was preceded in death by her husband, Otto Endicott; her parents, Roland M. and Lockie B. Blackburn; her brothers, William M. Blackburn, Roland (Sam) Blackburn, Thurman Blackburn; Haze Blackburn, and Roy Blackburn; and her step-grandson, Donald Brown.

Funeral services will be held 12 p.m. Thursday, February 5, 2026 at Trinity Free Will Baptist Church in Ypsilanti with Pastors Mike Tomblin and Calvin Brown officiating. Visitation will begin at 10 a.m. and last until time of service. Burial will follow at Knollwood Memorial Park in Canton.

Memorial contributions may be made to Trinity Free Will Baptist Church.

Stella will be remembered for her strong work ethic, steady faith, and the deep love she showed through the care of her family, her home, and her garden. She leaves behind a legacy of warmth, resilience, and devotion that will continue to grow for generations.

BHS at-home games

- Thursday, Feb. 5 – Boys Swimming vs. Fordson 6:30 p.m.
- Friday, Feb. 6 -- Co-ed Bowling vs. Stevenson, 3 p.m. at Lodge Lanes; Boys Basketball vs. Stevenson Freshman, 4 p.m.; JV, 5:30 p.m.; Varsity, 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, Feb. 10 -- Boys Basketball vs. Wayne Memorial, Freshman at 4 p.m., JV at 4 p.m., Varsity at 5:30 p.m. Girls Basketball vs. Wayne Memorial, JV at 5:30 p.m., Varsity at 7 p.m.

- Wednesday, Feb. 11 -- Wrestling MHSAA Team Districts - BHS, Saline, John Glenn, Wayne Memorial, at 5 p.m.

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Belleville Area District Library 2025 Wages and Benefits

	Wages	Benefits	Total
ADMINISTRATION:			
Suchy, Mary Jo	\$102,225.91	\$30,389.92	\$132,615.83
Savage, Hilary	\$79,883.14	\$38,502.93	\$118,386.07
McCann, Tara	\$71,977.23	\$25,640.40	\$97,617.63
Greschaw, Amy	\$64,247.90	\$45,894.86	\$110,142.76
Lore, Lindsay	\$59,223.53	\$22,361.61	\$81,585.14
Johnson, Carol	\$7,935.00	\$1,516.59	\$9,451.59
Pickeral, Nicole	\$41,182.15	\$19,099.74	\$60,281.89
LIBRARIANS:			
Lewis-Yarbrough, Nakanya	\$53,784.96	\$46,374.33	\$100,159.29
Skinner, Kelly	\$16,592.43	\$5,949.25	\$22,541.68
Dubke, Karen	\$51,321.02	\$9,553.52	\$60,874.54
Richardson, Jennifer	\$48,841.42	\$42,714.16	\$91,555.58
Corcoran, Crystal	\$2,590.71	\$198.19	\$2,788.90
Davies, Rachel	\$32,686.20	\$12,741.69	\$45,427.89
Green, Debra	\$736.93	\$56.38	\$793.31
Richards, Jonathan	\$6,687.00	\$511.55	\$7,198.55
Spiteri-Zaidel, Theresa	\$31,880.74	\$2,438.88	\$34,319.62
LIBRARY INTERNS:			
Barbato, Maria	\$24,408.06	\$1,867.22	\$26,275.28
Castle, Claire	\$15,903.80	\$1,216.65	\$17,120.45
LIBRARY ASSISTANTS:			
Blevins, Chesney	\$51.00	\$3.90	\$54.90
Campbell, Trinity	\$4,027.38	\$308.10	\$4,335.48
Green-Husted, Jessamy	\$7,733.24	\$591.59	\$8,324.83
Kelly, Amber	\$3,150.30	\$241.00	\$3,391.30
Moody, Gail	\$19,055.90	\$1,457.78	\$20,513.68
Najduk, Lori	\$24,083.78	\$1,842.40	\$25,926.18
O'Brien, Amy	\$37,409.01	\$2,861.79	\$40,270.80
Reynolds, Kamron	\$39,613.60	\$31,065.92	\$70,679.52
Robles, Solina	\$13,776.38	\$1,053.90	\$14,830.28
Shannon, Samantha	\$11,721.50	\$896.69	\$12,618.19
Tabatowski-Bush, James	\$14,895.25	\$1,139.49	\$16,034.74
LIBRARY CLERKS:			
Carr, Mary	\$6,337.80	\$484.84	\$6,822.64
Cannon, Micaya	\$5,796.75	\$443.45	\$6,240.20
Elliott, Jennifer	\$7,533.75	\$576.33	\$8,110.08
Foley, Tatiyana	\$13,688.23	\$1,047.15	\$14,735.38
Garascia, Judy	\$4,619.16	\$353.37	\$4,972.53
Gregoire, Sully	\$6,428.78	\$491.80	\$6,920.58
Harrison, Kali	\$11,491.68	\$879.11	\$12,370.79
Klotz, Harper	\$3,881.25	\$296.92	\$4,178.17
Leads, Heidi	\$2,703.75	\$206.83	\$2,910.58
Lebron, Tatiana	\$3,093.75	\$236.67	\$3,330.42
Martin, Leandro	\$9,990.00	\$764.24	\$10,754.24
Powers, Cecilia	\$10,878.87	\$832.23	\$11,711.10
Serini, Alexi	\$6,022.50	\$460.73	\$6,483.23
Shetler, Lavonne	\$12,742.21	\$974.78	\$13,716.99
Smith, Karrie	\$14,955.49	\$1,144.09	\$16,099.58
Valicenti, Elizabeth	\$20,263.20	\$1,550.14	\$21,813.34
Willson, Lori	\$11,150.31	\$853.00	\$12,003.31
Yates, Grace	\$12,316.05	\$942.18	\$13,258.23
LIBRARY MONITORS/ASSISTANTS:			
Fuller, Gwendolyn	\$24,333.20	\$1,861.49	\$26,194.69
Reed, April	\$318.75	\$24.38	\$343.13
LIBRARY SHELVING ASSISTANTS:			
Althizer, Ariana	\$185.94	\$14.23	\$200.17
Carr, Brendan	\$3,609.68	\$276.14	\$3,885.82
Foley, Tierra	\$6,227.74	\$476.42	\$6,704.16
Losey, Carolyn	\$5,545.64	\$424.24	\$5,969.88
O'Brien, Ross	\$5,558.16	\$425.20	\$5,983.36
LIBRARY COMPUTER TECH:			
Kelley, George	\$60,236.15	\$22,647.39	\$82,883.54
FACILITIES:			
Decker, Nancy	\$5,425.03	\$415.01	\$5,840.04
Miller, Bob	\$5,279.63	\$403.89	\$5,683.52
Prince, Jason	\$36,464.00	\$18,199.42	\$54,663.42
Seefeld, Haylee	\$10,820.73	\$827.79	\$11,648.52
	2025 Total	\$1,622,547.54	
	2024 Total	\$1,553,358.11	
		+ \$69,189.43	

2025 employees total wages & benefits had approx. 4.26% increase over 2024.

Musings

By Janet Millard
Independent
Advertising Director

Fat Tuesday is early this year and the Bake Shoppe is ready to bring you the best Paczkis at no change in price from last year. See their ad in the paper with all the selections and the opportunity to do your important pre-order.

February is Black History Month and our fabulous library has you covered. See their ad in the paper today with the programs they have scheduled for you and the community children.

There is a clothing donation bin at Faith Community Church, 894 E. Huron River Drive. What makes this one special is that it's for AMVETS. As you begin your spring cleaning and have clothing to give (you can give small home goods – pillows, blankets, etc.) please use this bin for your donations. They pick up every Tuesday so remember that if it is full.

Some of our local non-profits offer scholarships each year to graduating seniors. See the ad in today's paper from the Belleville Rotary. Also, have your child, grandchild, friend's child check for a listing with their high school guidance counselor because not all organizations put an ad in the paper.

Just a small rant this week but it is more than annoying! It is those bright car headlights. My daughter tells me that the newer cars have headlights that

are supposed to dim when approaching another car. Well, obviously, that doesn't always happen, but what is more disturbing is when they are behind you with lights so bright (I swear some have the brights on intentionally) that I have to put my hand over the side mirror. There is no reason to have bright lights on during daylight hours and I have to blame the car companies for even making this a thing. The automatic setting has never worked for me. There are many around here who work for GM or Ford so, please, if you can tell the powers that be to do something about those horrible headlights I'm sure there are many who would be most grateful.

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



Feb. 5 – Cheryl Martin
Feb. 6 – Connie Sixby
Feb. 9 – Patty Riemer
Feb. 12 – Aiyana Rein Owens

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

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Things to do in the Belleville area...

• **Friday, Feb. 6** – Fish Fry and Music Bingo (free to play) starts at 7:30 p.m. at the Van Buren Eagles, 9961 Beck Rd., Van Buren Township. Membership promotion – public welcome. Karaoke and dancing to follow.

• **Monday, Feb. 9** – Healthy Habits class is at First United Methodist Church, 417 Charles St., downtown Belleville, at 11:15 a.m. Free and open to the public. Susan Rizzo-Melidosian, who coaches six different Weight Watcher workshops, will speak on accountability and support tools Weight Watchers has available. She will discuss the new GLP-1 receptor agonist weight-loss drugs now available through Weight Watchers.

• **Thursday, Feb. 12, and Friday, Feb. 13** – Calling all Belleville High School Alumni for a two-night event. The Hall of Fame night is from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Feb. 12 and Alumni Night is 5:30 to 6:30 on Feb. 13 in the BHS Athletic Hall. Join in for a light strolling reception each night before the basketball game which starts at 7 p.m.

• **Saturday, Feb. 14** – Valentine's Day at the Van Buren Eagles, 9961 Beck Rd., Van Buren Township. Smoked Pork Chop Dinner at 5:30 p.m., \$20 per person. For tickets, call Lisa Ochalek, (734) 732-3809. Entertainment by Anthony Richendollar to follow.

• **Tuesday, Feb. 17** – Fat Tuesday Dinner starts at 5 p.m. at the Van Buren Eagles, 9961 Beck Rd., Van Buren Township. Spaghetti Dinner, \$12 each. Paczkis for sale too.

• **Wednesday, Feb. 18** – Denton Faith United Methodist Church, 6020 Denton Rd., Van Buren Township, will have drive-thru available from 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. on Ash Wednesday for those seeking

(continued on page 11)

Notice to Advertisers – private gun sales:

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

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.

INDEPENDENT CLASSIFIED ADS

AUCTION

PUBLIC AUCTION

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6130 Rawsonville Rd., Belleville, MI 48111
(734) 482-1502

Notice is hereby given that on 2/18/26 at 12:00 P.M. thru 2/25/26 at 12:00 P.M. contents of the following storage unit(s) will be sold online at:

Bid13.com

SPACE #G18, Tracy Robertson; #F57, Michael Davis; # F41, Litree Walker

Unit(s) may or may not include the following: household items, recreational items, appliances, furniture, seasonal decorations, and tools.

Publish: Feb. 5 & Feb. 12, 2026

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MICHIGAN MEMORIAL – 2 grave sites for sale. Catholic section 540, Block 23. (734) 699-4048

02/12

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02/12

WESTERN SNOWPLOW - 7 1/2'. \$500 OBO. (734) 417-3233

02/19

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

03/12

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

06/04

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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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04/03

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PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:

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

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.



EQUAL
HOUSING
OPPORTUNITY

More Letters

Steve Jones should be considered for city mgr.

To the editor,

I was disappointed to read last week's article regarding the mayor of Belleville's recommendation to hire an external consultant to search for a new city manager, at a projected cost of \$7,000 to \$14,000.

In my view, this expense is unnecessary given that we already have a highly qualified and proven candidate within our community. A candidate who would likely serve the community for years, unlike the last four who have used the job as a stepping stone to a better opportunity

elsewhere.

Steve Jones has served as interim city manager for the past two years, following the departure of the previous city manager amid a significant budget shortfall. During this time, Mr. Jones has demonstrated strong leadership, integrity, and a genuine commitment to Belleville. He is a long-time resident who knows our community, its needs, and its people.

Mr. Jones has successfully managed the responsibilities of city manager while also serving as assistant city manager. His accomplishments include overseeing the conversion of the former post office into the new city hall, coordinating the repaving of High Street and Liberty Street, and resolving challenges associated with renovations to the former hardware store building -- all while continuing to handle

the city's day-to-day operations.

Given his experience, dedication, and proven track record, I believe Mr. Jones should be seriously considered for the city manager position without the added expense of an external search firm. Our city would benefit from recognizing and retaining capable leadership already in place.

Terri Morioka

Lives in Van Buren Township
Works in city of Belleville

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Public Notice

OFFICE OF THE WAYNE COUNTY DRAIN COMMISSIONER

WALLACE DRAIN

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO ABANDON AND VACATE A PORTION OF A DRAIN AND RELEASE OF EXCESS EASMENT

DATE: Tuesday, February 17, 2026
TIME: 10:00 a.m.
LOCATION: Office of the Wayne County Department of Public Services
 3600 Commerce Court, Building E
 Wayne, Michigan 48184
QUESTIONS: (313) 536-0355

A public meeting will be held at the above date, time and location pursuant to Section 391 of Public Act 40 of 1956, as amended, for the purposes of hearing objections and determining whether the portion of the Wallace Drain to be abandoned and vacated has ceased to be of public utility and is no longer necessary or conducive to the public health, convenience, or welfare.

The portion of the Wallace Drain proposed to be abandoned and vacated is all segments of the Wallace Drain located entirely on the property identified as Parcel ID No. 83-014-99-0004-704. The legal description for that property is recorded with the Wayne County Register of Deeds at Liber 52779, Page 703.

If the Drain Commissioner determines that the portion of the Drain has ceased to be of public utility and is no longer necessary or conducive to the public health, convenience, or welfare and that the private rights of persons, acquired by reason of the establishment and construction of the portion of the Drain will not be interfered with or impaired by the abandonment and vacating of the portion of the Drain, the portion of the Drain will be ordered abandoned and vacated.

Proceedings conducted at this public hearing are being conducted pursuant to the provisions of the Michigan Open Meetings Act. Information regarding this meeting may be obtained from the Wayne County Drain Commissioner's office located at 400 Monroe, Suite 400, Detroit, Michigan 48226.

If you have questions prior to the meeting, you may call the Drain Commissioner's Office at (313) 536-0355. Written public comments may be submitted to the Drain Commissioner's Office prior to the meeting.

Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation in the meeting should contact the Drain Commissioner's Office at (313) 536-0355 (voice) or through the Michigan Relay Center at 7-1-1 (TDD) at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting to request mobility, visual, hearing, or other assistance.

The Drain Commissioner, on behalf of the Wallace Drain Drainage District, intends to release an excess easement to a fee owner located within the Wallace Drain Drainage District. The excess easement being released is located on Parcel No. 83-014-99-0004-704.

Any property owner or governmental unit within the Wallace Drain Drainage District may protest this release of excess easement by March 7, 2026, in writing or by appearing at: Office of the Wayne County Department of Public Services, 3600 Commerce Court, Building E, Wayne, Michigan 48184.

Things to do in the Belleville area...

(continued from page 10)

the imposition of ashes. People can come inside or receive the ashes in their car.

• **Wednesday, Feb. 18** – Informational meeting for Lions Clubs International is at 4 p.m. at the Van Buren Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Rd., Van Buren Township. Lions is seeking to organize a club for the 48111 zip code. It had an organizational meeting in Sumpter recently and now in VBT.

• **Friday, Feb. 20** – Van Buren Public Schools Education Foundation is holding a Disney Trivia Night at the Belleville High School Commons (cafeteria). Doors open at 6 p.m., trivia starts at 7:15 p.m. Tickets at \$10 per person for those ages five and up include four rounds of play. This fundraiser will include a raffle for a Disney Trip, prize for trivia winner, mini games, raffle baskets, and a special prize for best-dressed Disney Group. Pizza, drinks and snacks available for purchase.

• **Friday, Feb. 20** – Fish Fry starts at 5 p.m. at the Van Buren Eagles, 9961 Beck Rd., Van Buren Township, every Friday until Easter. Public welcome. Menu includes cod, shrimp, hush puppies, French fries, chicken wings, onion rings, more. DJ Anthony Richendollar.

• **Saturday, Feb. 21** – The Van Buren Community Players present "Journey into Narnia the Musical" from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. for ages 12-17 years. Free creative youth class. Explore musical theater. Build performance confidence. Sing, dance, act. At Van Buren Community Center, 46425 Tyler Rd. Information: (734) 699-8921

• **Friday, Feb. 27** – Taco & Margarita Night from 5 to 7 p.m. at the James D. Donovan/Romulus VFW Post 78, 39270 W. Huron River Dr., Romulus, (734) 941-3030. Proceeds support the auxiliary.

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The small print says, "DO SOMETHING nice WITH YOUR body". Lee Hermann of Van Buren Township is a role model for taking care of yourself and keeping active. Hermann, at age 87, was the only one to show up at the WiHn cardio drumming class on a recent, below-zero Monday morning. She was wearing this shirt and she agreed to be the advertisement for an upcoming Healthy Habits class to be offered at Belleville First United Methodist Church, 417 Charles St., downtown Belleville, at 11:15 a.m., Monday, Feb. 9. Susan Rizzo-Melidosian, who coaches six different Weight Watcher workshops, will speak about accountability and support tools Weight Watchers has available. She also will speak a bit about the new GLP-1 receptor agonist weight loss drugs now available through Weight Watchers. The public is welcome to attend.



Rotary Club of Belleville, Michigan

Belleville Rotary Club Scholarship

Multiple \$5,000 Scholarships Available

Calling all graduating students. The Belleville Rotary Club is proud to offer multiple \$5,000 scholarships to support students pursuing higher education and career training.

Eligibility
Scholarships are available to graduating students who reside in Belleville, Sumpter Township, Van Buren Township

Take the next step toward your future. Do not miss this opportunity to help fund your educational goals.

Deadline for Submission
April 6, 2026

Application Details
<https://www.bellevillerotary.org/sitepage/belleville-rotary-scholarship-applications/belleville-rotary-scholarships>

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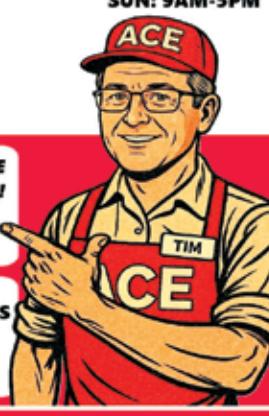
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Photo courtesy of Elena Manalp, VBT Communications Dept.

More Letters

Friends of Library hold annual meeting

To the editor:

On Jan. 31, the Friends of the Belleville Area District Library held their Annual General Membership Meeting, honoring their amazing volunteers.

Officers for 2026 were elected. Pictured from left are Theresa Hall, Facebook facilitator; Katie Cook, outgoing membership chair; Cheryl Owen, secretary; Katerina Tyner, vice-president; Manny Lavin, treasurer; and Donna Gilkey-Lavin, president.

President Gilkey-Lavin reviewed the expenditures of the Friends to tell "What the Friends of the Library do": Maintain the three rooftop beehives and support summer reading and other library programs, including the Classic Movie Series, Jazz Nights and Memory Café.

Jennifer Richardson, librarian in charge of outreach, showed slides of participants

in the new Memory Café program, held on the third Wednesday of the month at 11 a.m.

Nikki Pickeral, library director assistant, designed a video of staff members thanking the Friends for all they do for the library. Mary Jo Suchy, library director, and Sharon Peters, board of trustees chair, gave testimonials on the video to express their thanks.

Elaine Gutierrez
Friends of Belleville Area District Library

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PROJECT CANNOLI

A Responsible Investment in Van Buren Township

Project Cannoli is a modern data center campus proposed for Van Buren Township, designed to support the digital infrastructure driving our community's biggest industries while delivering long-term economic and community benefits.

WHAT THIS PROJECT MEANS FOR THE COMMUNITY

STRONG LOCAL REVENUE

Once complete, the project is projected to be the largest taxpayer in Van Buren Township and among the top five in Wayne County, helping fund local infrastructure and essential services, without adding demand on housing or classrooms. Data centers generate as high as \$26 in taxable revenue for every \$1 in services consumed.*

BENEFIT TO UTILITY RATES

Power is delivered through transmission-level infrastructure built for large users, independent from neighborhood lines. The project will contribute more than the costs of any required upgrades, with no impact to residential or small business rates under state law. In regulatory filings, DTE projects a project of this size will generate more than hundreds of millions in benefit to ratepayers.**

JOBs AND ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

Approximately 1,500 construction jobs are expected during build-out, supporting local contractors, trades, and suppliers. Project Cannoli has already hired Walbridge, a local general contractor with more than 110-year history and project team is committed to continuing to hire locally.

DESIGNED TO BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR

Data centers are quiet, clean facilities with no public access and limited daily activity. Independent studies confirm sound levels for Project Cannoli will be below existing ambient noise in Van Buren. Long-term operations are low traffic, low population, and place minimal demand on Township services.

ENVIRONMENTAL CARE AND OPEN SPACE

Nearly half of the site will remain preserved open space, including wetlands, wildlife corridors, and tree buffers. Water will be supplied by GLWA, with no groundwater use and no process water discharge to Belleville Lake.

PROUD TO CALL VAN BUREN HOME

Project Cannoli is made up of people who live and work here. Walbridge, the general contractor, has 23 employees who call Van Buren Township home and has been operating for 110 years in Michigan. We expect hundreds more Van Buren residents to work on this project as we continue hiring local contractors and working with our local labor unions. You will see our employees in your restaurants and stores, supporting your businesses.

Delivered by experienced Michigan-based and national partners in data center development, engineering, and construction.



ORPHAN OF THE WEEK **BUSTER**



MEET BUSTER!

Buster is a gentle, sweet soul who may be a little shy at first, but do not let that fool you. Once you reach in to give him some love, he absolutely melts. He lives for butt scratches and happily soaks up any attention you are willing to give.

While Buster is not a fan of being picked up, he is still a total cuddle bug in his own way. He loves staying close, leaning into pets, and enjoying quiet moments with his favorite people.

Buster is very food motivated and will never say no to a tasty treat. Toss him a snack and you will have his full attention, especially if it is a tube treat. Those are his absolute favorite.

If you are looking for a soft, affectionate companion who just needs a little patience at first, Buster could be the perfect match for you.

**Friends of Michigan
Animals Rescue**
51299 Arkona Road
Belleville, MI 48111
734-461-9458
www.friendsofmichigan.org



Photo courtesy of Elena Manalp,
VBT Communications

On Jan. 28 the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce welcomed Divine Grace & Lace Bridal Boutique to the Belleville community with a ribbon cutting at 518 Main St. Paws and Roary are in front. From left are Belleville mayor Ken Voigt, owner of Garden Fantasy Collette McClinton, interim city manager Steve Jones, store co-owner Kristina Morgan, chamber director Sarah Warring, store co-owner Michelle Lynn, chamber director Randy Brown, Belleville city councilwoman Julie Kissel, 34th District Court Judge Lisa Martin, Van Buren Township Trustee Kevin Martin, and Belleville Chamber President Dinara Strikis.



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More Letters

Another car wash on Belleville Road?

Editor's Note: Mike Suliman has retired from running the family's Water Works Auto Wash businesses in Van Buren Township and moved to Florida. His son Bryan, an attorney, has been running the businesses and wrote a statement to present to the Van Buren Township Planning Commission at the Jan. 28 public hearing on the request for a new car wash on Belleville Road. Bryan did not wish to appear in person at the public hearing, so Mike flew up from Florida the night before the meeting so he could appear on behalf of their businesses. But, the public hearing and two other items on the agenda were removed from the agenda by the applicant before the meeting. Mike's flight from Florida was in vain and so he brought a copy of the statement to share with the public through the *Independent*.

Jan. 26, 2026

To: The Van Buren Township Planning Commission
RE: Comment on Proposed Zoning Change 25-025 – Proposed Car Wash

My name is Bryan Suliman and I am the managing member of Water Works Auto Wash. I am a third-generation car wash operator, and our family has operated car washes in Van Buren Twp. and the City of Belleville since 1966. I apologize for my absence this evening, but I cannot bear to watch what will be very likely the beginning of the end of our family business.

In short, should this special land use be permitted and yet another car wash be built in our community, Van Buren Twp. and the City of Belleville will have more car washes per capita than any other community in Southeast Michigan, if not the entire state. *Please see attached Exhibit A for a list of car washes in 91 communities that make up Wayne, Washtenaw, Oakland, and Macomb counties.*

The addition of another new car wash in our area goes beyond competition. It will be a clear over-saturation of the market in terms of customer base needed to support so many car washes. It is common knowledge within the car wash industry that there should generally be no more than one car wash per approximately 15,000 people in a geographic area to ensure a healthy business. Coincidentally, this is approximately the average per capita amount of car washes per person in Southeast Michigan (14,289). Please see Attached Exhibit A.

Based on the recent 2024 US Census survey data, the City of Belleville and Van Buren Twp. have a combined population of 33,367, which has remained relatively consistent for the past two decades. As of the date of this comment, the two

(continued on page 17)

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

Project Cannoli Data Center Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) 1/6/2026:

Project Cannoli is a proposed data center project which is located near the I-94/Haggerty Road area. Over the past several weeks the Township has been asked several questions regarding the project and we wanted to provide responses to those questions so our residents had the opportunity to review them prior to the Planning Commission meeting. Please see below for specific questions and answers to those questions related to the development.

For more information about the data center project please visit the Van Buren Township website www.vbtmi.gov. On the home page there is a link to a dedicated data center page which has information about the project including the site plan.

Who is the developer?

A: Panattoni is a private, family-led industrial real estate developer established in 1986. Since inception, the company's approach to all projects has been to focus on long-term quality, efficient site planning, and alignment with the priorities of each community they build in.

Who is the end user?

A: Per the Developer, Panattoni is developing this project for a Fortune 50-company with data center operations worldwide. The company has been consistently rated as one of the top companies to work for in America and would be an ideal long-term partner to the community.

What type of data center will this be?

A: This will not be a bitcoin or crypto mining operation. The proposed data center could be used for a number of applications, varying from cloud computing to machine learning.

When will Project Cannoli be before the Planning Commission for consideration?

A: The proposal will be before the Planning Commission on Wednesday, February 11, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. for preliminary site plan approval consideration. The meeting will be at Van Buren Township Hall.

What is Township Staff's Role in Interacting with Prospective Developers?

A: In the Planning & Economic Development department it is our job to communicate with and advise prospective businesses/developers, residents, and homeowners regarding utility needs, zoning regulations, building codes, economic development requirements, approval processes, and other relevant development guidelines. It is very common for us to have substantial discussions with a developer or a homeowner which span over extended periods of time, prior to them deciding if they will be submitting an application for that project. Under the same scenario it is common for a developer to consider several different options for a development and layout of a site prior to moving forward with a proposal.

How Long Has the Township Been Interacting with Panattoni About This Project?

A: The Township has been in communication with Panattoni about this property since at least January 2024. We have been having discussions with Panattoni regarding different development options, uses, and layouts on the site since January 2024 and have seen a variety of options and proposals for this property. The initial proposals were for an industrial park which would have accommodated warehousing uses and high tech manufacturing. Further proposals focused more on larger warehousing users which were considering sites within the area.

The Township answered questions regarding height and zoning requirements for data center developments in late 2024/early 2025. The Township did not have conversations about a potential data center development attached to a specific end user until summer 2025 and the Township was not aware that there would be any formal submissions for this development until late October/November of 2025 and once we knew this we began working with them to plan for the open house in December 2025.

Can the Township just make data centers illegal?

A: No, MCL 125.3207 (Michigan Zoning Enabling Act) prohibits a municipality from having the effect of totally prohibiting the establishment of a land use within a local unit of government unless the use is unlawful. The link to that text can be found here: <https://www.legislature.mi.gov/Laws/MCL?objectName=mcl-125-3207>

Can the Township enact a moratorium to stop or slow down this proposed data center development like other communities in the State have?

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A: Not without significant potential for liability. Other communities have enacted moratoriums prior to a site plan being submitted for review. The majority of requests in other communities were applications to rezone property to a zoning district which would allow for the submittal of a site plan tied to a data center development. When a site plan is submitted the plan is locked into the standards that are in place at the time of submission.

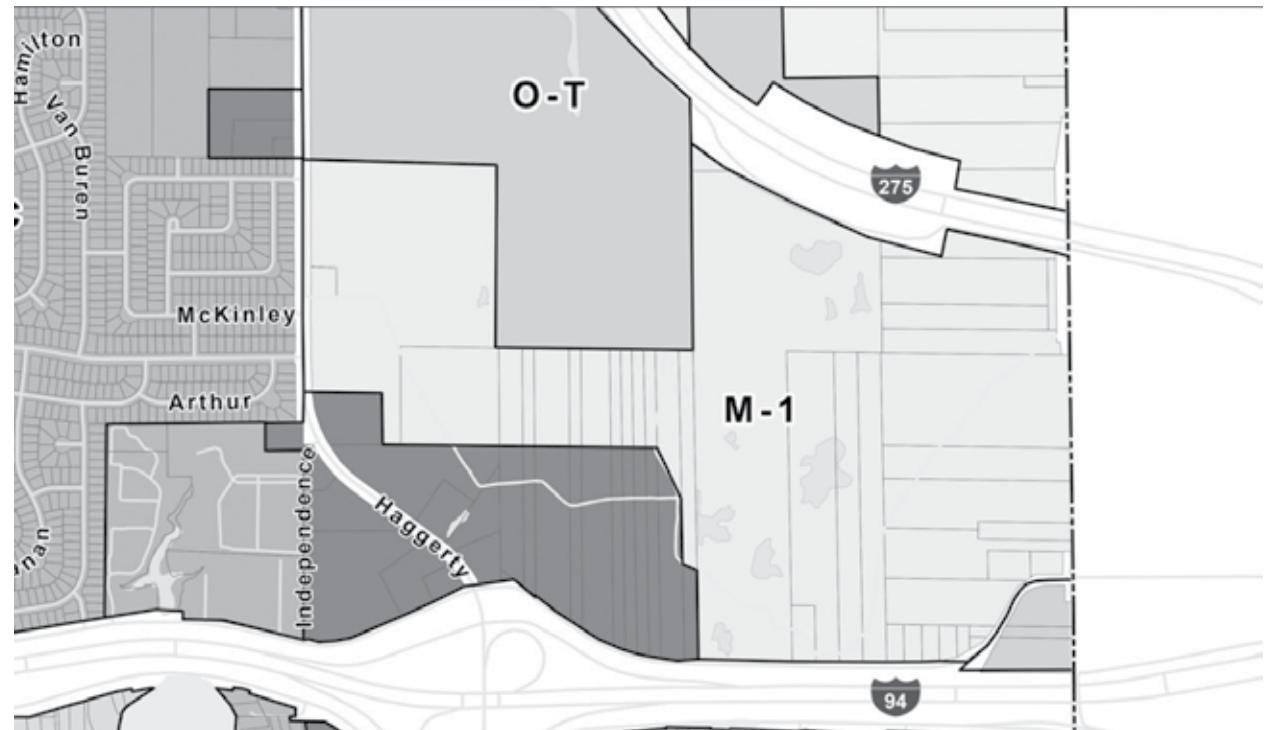
To delay a proposed development and change the regulations that they submitted plans under, would open the Township up to liability and would likely limit our ability implement any of those changes that would have been enacted. Applicants generally have a protected interest in being considered under the existing regulations if the application is submitted prior to the moratorium being enacted. Township staff did consult with our legal counsel regarding this question.

Based on the public feedback received on the project it is likely the Township will evaluate our existing standards to see if they meet current best practices. Any changes to the Township zoning ordinance from this effort would have no impact on the current submittal for the proposed development, but may have impact on future site plan submittals.

Zoning

What is the Zoning of the Property and Does It Allow Data Centers?

A: Most of the property is zoned M-1, Light Industrial, with a portion of the property being zoned C-1, General Commercial. The M-1 zoning district allows "High Tech, Data Processing, and Computer Centers" as a "Permitted Use" in the district. The proposed data center buildings are located within portions of the property zoned M-1. There is a proposed area for an office building and a substation in the C-1 portion of the property. Both are allowable uses in the C-1 district. Please see below for an image from the Township's zoning map.



When was the Zoning of the Property Changed?

A: The property has been zoned M-1 Light Industrial since at least 2005. Prior to this in the late 90's the property was under a different designation called, "Business Office District." The Township's Zoning Ordinance was amended in 2018 to allow "High Tech, Data Processing, and Computer Centers" as a permitted use in the M-1, Light Industrial and M-2, General Industrial zoning districts. The use was allowed as a permitted use in the OT, Office Technology zoning district since the early 2000's.

What is a "Permitted Use"?

A: There are two types of land use designations in the Township's zoning ordinance. These are "Permitted Uses" and "Special Land Uses." A "Permitted Use" is sometimes referred to as a use by right in a zoning district. It is a use which is automatically allowed in a zoning district if it meets the standards of the zoning ordinance. A "Special Land Use" is a land use which generally fits the zoning districts purpose, but needs discretionary review and approval because of its unique features which may be more impactful on neighboring properties. "Special Land Uses" also

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communities currently have a total of five car washes for an average of one car wash per 6,673 residents. This places us fourth per capita in car washes per resident in all Southeast Michigan. For some perspective, our neighbor, Canton Twp., has three times the population of Belleville and Van Buren Twp. with six car washes, for an average of one car wash per 16,632 residents.

If the special land use and proposed new car wash is ultimately approved, we will have one car wash per 5,561 residents – a greater per capita total than any municipality in Southeast Michigan. We will also have more tunnel car washes (three) in a closer proximity to each other (1.12 mi.) on a single road (Belleville Rd.) than anywhere else in the region. We will have three times more car washes than the average amount per capita in Wayne County. We will have almost five times as many car washes per capita than Washtenaw County. It is further worth noting that there are an additional five car washes within $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of the borders of Van Buren Twp. The population will not sustain the number of car washes in the community.

The Planning Commission has it within its jurisdiction to not grant this special land use request based on the reasons as set forth in Section 12.305 & 12.306 of the Charter Township of Van Buren Zoning Ordinances. Van Buren Township is obviously aware of the glut of car washes in our area, hence the recent moratorium on new applications while a zoning ordinance can hopefully be enacted. The members of the Planning Commission should ask themselves if having more car washes than any other municipality in the County, Southeast Michigan, and likely the State of Michigan benefit its residents in a way that supports the special land use request. I submit that it does not.

A car wash is not a typical retail property. Meaning, a car wash cannot easily convert to host a different type of business in the manner that a standard retail outlet would. Unfortunately, if one car wash fails due to the excessive number of car washes in our community, that site may sit vacant for years, even decades. There are examples of this in both Ypsilanti Twp. and Saline. This is not out of the realm of possibility for our site. We will not operate a business that no longer remains profitable. Should it come to it, and I cannot tell you how many nights I lay awake thinking about it, we will be forced to shut the doors and end a business that has been in the community for three generations over the past 60 years. The Planning Commission's decision in this matter will have a direct impact on whether one of its longest-running family businesses continues to exist.

It is in the purview of the Commission to determine land use for the best interest

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of its residents and community at-large. Should the rezoning request be approved, the Tri-Community will have more car washes than:

- Grocery stores – 3
- Pharmacies – 5
- Urgent cares – 2
- McDonalds, Wendys, Burger Kings, and Taco Bells combined – 6

I sincerely hope that the members of the planning Commission take the above facts and circumstances into account and vote no to the proposed special land use. There simply will not be enough of a population base to support the number of car washes in the area if the special land use is approved. While it may be easy for those on the Commission to see this rezoning request as just another opportunity to develop a vacant parcel, it is much more than that to us and our employees as our livelihoods are impacted in a way that is hard to put into words.

There is a stark difference between competition and over-saturation. We currently have more car washes than almost anywhere else in Southeast Michigan. Please do not add more. Being number one is not always a good thing.

Bryan M. Suliman
Water Works Auto Wash

Tri-community planning commissions meet to discuss mutual issues

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

Members of planning commissions from the city of Belleville and townships of Sumpter and Van Buren met for an hour-long session on Jan. 29 at Belleville High School to discuss their individual projects and to speak on local issues.

Four members of each commission attended the meeting and Van Buren Township Planning Commission Chairman Brian Cullin was chosen to lead the meeting.

The next joint meeting for the three communities was set for 5 p.m., July 29, at Belleville's new city hall at 330 Charles St.

The meeting began with public comment by a man who did not identify himself but wanted to talk about the dangers of the data center planned in Van Buren Township.

Chairman Cullin asked Ron Akers, director of municipal services in Van Buren Township, to explain.

Director Akers said the information that the township has is on the township website for the public to study. It also will be published in the *Independent* in the Feb. 5 issue.

He said the developer will be before the Van Buren Township Planning

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allow for certain conditions outside of the zoning ordinance to be placed on the approval.

What Other Uses are Allowed in the M-1, Light Industrial Zoning District?

A: Please see below for the list of allowable uses in M-1:

Article 3: Zoning Districts and Permitted Uses

Section 3.115 M-1, Light Industrial District

(A) STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

In the M-1 District, it is intended that limitations placed upon the degree of noise, smoke, glare and other features of light industrial operations shall make such uses compatible with nearby commercial and residential uses. It is further intended that some light industrial uses shall act as a transition between heavy industrial uses and non-industrial uses and shall not require railroad access or major utility facilities. Certain commercial uses which are desirable to serve the employees and visitors of the industrial uses are also permitted in this district.

(B) PERMITTED USES	(C) SPECIAL LAND USES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wholesale Sales • Warehousing (excluding Distribution Centers) • Manufacturing and Processing (Light) • Laboratories, Minor • Laboratories, Major • Retail Dry Cleaning Plants and Laundries • Public utility buildings, telephone exchange buildings, electric transformer stations and substations and gas regulator stations and including storage yards, when necessary to serve the immediate vicinity. • High Tech, Data Processing, and Computer Centers • Accessory Outdoor Industrial Storage • Accessory structures and uses customarily incidental to the above permitted uses • Indoor Recreation • Small Off-site BESS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Automobile Wash Establishment, Automatic • Drive-In Theaters • Private Clubs • Recreational Vehicle Storage Yards • Regulated Uses (Tattoo establishments, pawnshops, pool and billiard halls, and massage parlors) • Outdoor Storage of Building or Contracting Equipment and Supplies • Instructional Services, Outdoor • Truck Repair and Maintenance Facility, Minor • Accessory Caretaker Dwelling • Medium and Large Off-Site BESS

The above list is a summary of uses permitted by right or special land use approval in the district. Refer to Section 3.104 (including footnotes) for standards and requirements applicable to permitted and special land uses. In case of a conflict between the above list and the uses listed in Section 3.104 (including footnotes), then Section 3.104 shall prevail. Refer to Article 2 for definitions of uses and refer to Article 5 for development standards for specific uses.

(D) PERMITTED RETAIL AND SERVICE ESTABLISHMENTS THAT ARE INTENDED TO SUPPORT AND PROVIDE SERVICES TO OTHER USES AND VISITORS TO THE DISTRICT

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restaurants (Sit-Down or Take-Out), provided no single business shall occupy more than five thousand (5,000) sq. ft. and no structure housing more than one (1) business shall exceed ten thousand (10,000) sq. ft. • Service Establishments, Personal Service • Veterinary Clinics and Hospitals • Automobile Wash Establishment, Self-Serve • Retail (Food, Beverage, and Convenience Items) with no on-premise consumption. No single business shall occupy more than a three thousand (3,000) square foot gross floor area and no structure having more than one (1) retail business shall exceed ten thousand (10,000) square feet.
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Where can I find the Township's Zoning Ordinance and Zoning Map?

A: Here is a link to the Township's webpage with the most recent versions of our Zoning Ordinance and Master Plan:

https://vbtmi.gov/departments/public_services/building_planning_economic_development/community_plans.php#outer-304

Is the Data Center Project considered a Planned Unit Development (PUD)?

A: No, the data center proposal is not proposed as a PUD. Due to this it was not subject to the standards of that section of the Zoning Ordinance.

Did the PUD Zoning Ordinance amendment change the Zoning Ordinance to allow more Data Centers?

A: No, the PUD zoning ordinance amendment is a tool that could be used to allow for flexibility in zoning guidelines on any eligible property in the Township. In order to be used, an application would need to be submitted by an applicant and any exceptions to the zoning would need to follow the guidelines in Article 6, Chapter 5 of the Township's zoning ordinance.

The amendment to the zoning ordinance created the language and guidelines for the tool, but that tool and those provisions were not used by Panattoni for this development nor does it expand data centers use in the Township. The property under consideration for Project Cannoli was already zoned M-1, Light Industrial which allowed for data centers as a permitted use.

Does this data center match up to the current definition of a data center in the Zoning Ordinance?

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Commission at 5:30 p.m., Feb. 11, with a site plan request.

The man made comments that the power needed to run this data center would power one million family homes. He complained about pollution, noise, and air pollution he saw coming.

Akers said it will use a lot of water, but it will be getting its water from a distribution line directly from the Great Lakes Water Authority, from which it will purchase the water.

He said the sanitary sewage line also will go directly to downtown.

Akers said the electricity will come directly from the ITC line to the substations through a buried line.

"It's not going to impact us at all?" the man asked. "I'm amazed it can be allowed in a residential area. The humming can drive you crazy."

Akers went over to the table where the man was sitting to get his contact information and talk quietly with him as the meeting continued. But their conversation was too loud and disturbed the meeting. Finally when those in the meeting protested, Cullin asked the two to move into another part of the room to talk and they did.

Belleville city councilwoman/planning commission vice-chairperson Julie Kissel gave a report on Belleville's projects. She started by saying the new city master plan is out for its 63 day review period. She asked them to look over the master plan and tell the city what they think.

Kissel said there are printed copies of the hefty master plan at city hall and at the district library for people to review. It is expected back on the planning commission agenda in March.

Belleville's interim city manager Steve Jones listed seven open projects going on, including putting the final touches on the new city hall.

Cullin asked about the empty CVS and hardware store on Main Street and Jones said they tried to put pressure on CVS to sublease the store, but the rent is being paid to the store owner in California, so there is no loss to the owner if it stays vacant.

He said the details of the hardware store, now owned by the Downtown Development Authority, is now in the hands of a new committee that had been formed and is meeting regularly.

Van Buren Township was next on the agenda to tell its story and township DDA director Merrie Coburn told of the Belleville widening project now on hold, the work to find a plan for the 180 acres owned by the township at the northwest corner of Tyler and Belleville roads. She described other projects under way.

Coburn said they are looking at how to increase connectivity for the three communities. She described a minigrant and a SEMCOG grant that could be applied for to fund a sidewalk from Owen School to downtown Belleville.

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She said they knew they needed to get the school involved and NewTech at Belleville High School is helping to get information on the students that would use the sidewalk.

Coburn said she is working on getting support staff in her office and that will help with moving forward.

Director Akers went over a long list of projects under way, including the Denton Road Bridge, the paving of Morton Taylor north of Tyler, providing building services to the city of Belleville, the occupation of Clover Community building on Belleville Road, senior housing on the north side of Tyler which will be 24 single-story units for rent only with garages, overlay districts, coming completion of Tractor Supply at Sumpter/Hull roads, reconstruction of McDonald's, construction at U.S. Signal and Ashley Capital, and a car wash that was tabled by the planning commission the night before.

Belleville commissioner John Juriga asked about the erosion going into the lake. Akers asked where specifically and Juriga said you have to get on a board to see it, but some is on property owned by Van Buren Township.

Akers said the township's parks people are looking at it presently to find options. He said the township has hired a firm, Progressive, to look at solutions for the lake, including invasive species. The study will be completed in the spring.

Sumpter Township trustee Matt Oddy, who is liaison to the planning commission, gave Sumpter's report.

He said the township had a lot of turnover, with the township manager, DPW director, and finance director changing. Oddy said they brought on Carlyle Wortman to run the building department. They are working on a moratorium on data centers and already have a moratorium on wetlands.

He said wetlands are being declared by the state and it is taking prime farmland and making it wetlands. He said they took property next to a mobile home park and didn't have to tell anybody but the park owners. Nobody in the township knew it was happening, he said.

He said State Rep. Reggie Miller is working on legislation on this.

He said the township is working with the county on Judd Road paving from Bohn to Rawsonville, as an emergency in the community. Fire trucks are delayed on getting to the Rawsonville Woods area, when a large number of calls originate.

He described 1.6 miles of water main being replaced on Willow Road and a sewer pump station to get back up on Martinsville.

Also, currently a house on Savage Road is being remediated since it had been given a landfill permit in 1972 or 1980 and the property is contaminated. He said you can see the house and property is taped off from the public.

Oddy said, among other things, the

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Will the Data Center Project Use Surface Water, Ground Water, or Water from an Aquifer?

A: No, the project is not proposed to take any water from the ground. This cannot be done without first obtaining approval from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) and Wayne County Environmental Health. There are extensive studies and permitting procedures required to do this.

Will there be any additives used in the process water?

A: Per the developer, the cooling water will use trace chemicals to optimize system performance which we review with the utility to ensure that no harm will come to the municipal wastewater treatment system or downstream receiving body as a result of their use in our system.

Sewer

Will the Data Center Discharge Any Water to Edison Lake/Belleville Lake, or Any Surface Water, Ground Water, or Aquifers?

A: No, there is no proposal for the data center to discharge any water to Edison Lake/Belleville Lake or to any surface water, ground water, or aquifer. It was discussed as a potential option and there was a meeting with residents who live along Edison Lake to discuss this early in December, but the developer made the decision to not pursue this due to concerns raised by the residents at that meeting. Any waste water from the site will be discharged into the Township's sanitary sewer system which will transport the water to a waste water treatment plan in Brownstown Township near Gibraltar, MI.

Will the Amount of Water Going into the Sewer Cause Any Issues?

A: No, the Township recently completed an assessment of our sewer system where we evaluated our capacities and our current flows during dry and wet weather circumstances. We have limited the applicant's sewer discharge to approximately 750,000 gallons per day and we will monitor the volume to ensure they do not exceed this limit. This number in coordination with some storage during wet weather events will allow us to maintain our commitments to provide sewer services to other properties in the Township without issues.

Stormwater

Will the Development Create Flooding Issues in the Area?

A: No, all new commercial/industrial development sites are required to develop infrastructure to manage stormwater on their own property. These systems are designed to store excess rainwater from storms and slowly release this water into drains and waterbodies to ensure that those drains do not become flooded with too much water at one time. These systems also promote water quality by filtering out any sediment as well.

Will Any Cooling Process Water Enter the Storm Water System?

A: No, the storm water system is separate from the process water discharge which goes into the sanitary sewer. These systems do not mix or combine their water as it is not allowed by Township Ordinance or State law.

Sound & Other Environmental Performance Concerns

What are the Township's Ordinances for Noise & Other Environmental Performance Standards?

A: Article 8 of the Township's Zoning Ordinance includes environmental performance standards that we apply to any industrial properties. These standards include gases, exterior lighting, noise, odors, smoke, vibration, and tree removals. A link to the Township's Zoning Ordinance can be found here:

[https://cms9files.revize.com/vanburentwp/Document_Center/Department/Municipal%20Services/ADOPTED%20ZONING%20ORDINANCE%20\(Effective%202017_06_02;%20Amended%202025_08_27\).pdf](https://cms9files.revize.com/vanburentwp/Document_Center/Department/Municipal%20Services/ADOPTED%20ZONING%20ORDINANCE%20(Effective%202017_06_02;%20Amended%202025_08_27).pdf)

What are the Township's Noise Standards in the Zoning Ordinance?

A: The following are the Township's Noise standards in the zoning ordinance:

(K) Noise. The pressure level of sounds shall not exceed the following decibel levels when adjacent to the following types of uses:

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Sound Level	Adjacent Uses	Where Measured
67 dBA	Residential / Agricultural	Boundary Property Line *
75 dBA	Commercial / Office	Boundary Property Line
80 dBA	Industrial / Other	Boundary Property Line

*except where normal street traffic noise levels exceed sixty-five (65) dBA, the use noise level may equal but not exceed the traffic noise level.

- (1) The sound levels shall be measured using a weighted decibel measurement and with a type of audio out meter approved by the National Institute of Standards and Technology.
- (2) Objectionable noise as determined by the Board, of an intermittent nature or high frequency sounds, even if falling below the aforementioned decibel reading, shall be muffled so as not to become a nuisance to adjacent uses. This shall particularly apply to loading and unloading areas in commercial or industrial districts adjacent to residential districts.

Will the Noise Survey Be Made Available to the Public?

A: Yes, the developers noise survey is available on the Township website.

What are the Township's Standards for Vibration?

A: The following are the Township's standards for vibration in the Zoning Ordinance:

(O) Vibration. All machinery shall be so mounted and operated as to prevent transmission of ground vibration exceeding a displacement of .003 inches as measured at any property line of its sources.

What are the Township's Standards for Exterior Lighting?

A: The Township's Exterior Lighting standards are in Section 8.105 of the zoning ordinance. A link to the Township's Zoning Ordinance can be found here:

[https://cms9files.revize.com/vanburentwp/Document_Center/Department/Municipal%20Services/ADOPTED%20ZONING%20ORDINANCE%20\(Effective%202017_06_02;%20Amended%202025_08_27\).pdf](https://cms9files.revize.com/vanburentwp/Document_Center/Department/Municipal%20Services/ADOPTED%20ZONING%20ORDINANCE%20(Effective%202017_06_02;%20Amended%202025_08_27).pdf)

The standards are too long to post in this document, but the zoning standards limit the amount of light and glare that extend beyond property lines and the standards require the light fixtures to direct their light toward the ground. The effect of these standards is limiting "light trespass" onto adjacent properties.

What are the requirements for Diesel Generator Exhaust?

A: The Township's zoning ordinance limits the noise and vibration from the backup generators as described above. Backup diesel generators are required to meet emission standards set by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and may require an Air Permit from the Michigan Department of the Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE).

Per the developer, the client will use Ultra-Low Sulfur Diesel (ULSD) and high-performance exhaust scrubbers that remove 90%+ of particulates. At the property line, there is no detectable odor or smoke. Furthermore, the generators are Tier 4 Final compliant—the EPA's highest standard for clean air.

Wildlife & Wetlands

What is the Developer Doing to Limit Impacts on Wildlife?

A: The developer is only planning on developing 150 of the 282-acre property. They are also ensuring that security fencing is being brought tighter to the buildings to ensure that wildlife can maneuver around the property. The applicant has also designed their site around existing creeks and drains on the site.

What is Being Done About the Eagles Nest on the Property?

A: We have received reports that there was an eagle's nest on the property. On the most recent site plan submittal, there is a 200' separation buffer on the most recent site plan submittal for the location of the eagle's nest, with a note that indicates the contractor will need to maintain this buffer during construction. EGLE is also aware of the

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township is revisiting the solar ordinance so large projects will be only in the industrial zone.

Cullin said the joint sub-committee of the large tri-community group will meet again in March.

Akers was asked about Camping World and he said the business has had its certificate of occupancy for several months and said it wants to open in the spring.

VBT planners give final site plan approval to huge Stellantis project

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

At its Jan 28 regular meeting, the Van Buren Township Planning Commission unanimously approved the final site plan for the 2,111,200-square-foot Stellantis warehouse on Ecorse Road between Denton and Beck roads.

Vidya Krishnan, planning consultant from McKenna Associates, said the preliminary approval of this project, dubbed Project Venture, was last July and the recommended changes have been incorporated.

The guard house is prefab and while it is utilitarian, planners would like to see some added features. She said the Zoning Board of Appeals approved the wall and monument signs.

Krishnan said all the barbed wire fencing has been removed and a special mesh is part of the fence so employees can't pass anything through openings in the fence. There will be 670 new trees planted on the site.

Fishbeck engineer Paul Kammer announced, after meetings with the county, that all the trucks exiting the warehouse have to head west to Michigan Ave. There will be 690 employees and 100 trucks per day. There is employee and emergency access to Denton Road and an emergency access to Beck Road. The Ecorse Road access is for trucks only.

Kammer said there will be four detention ponds and Wayne County has allowed dry detention ponds, along with the township board so they won't have to be so deep to be wet.

A member of the public said the township residents deserve more than one engineering firm – Fishbeck – and one planning consultant – McKenna – to look over the plans for this huge facility.

"I drive through my township and see the apocalypse," she said. "We should have second consultants."

Director of municipal services Ron Akers said the township hires these outside consultants for their expertise. He said Fishbeck has a lot of experience and McKenna has a large number of consultants and the township relies on their expertise.

In other business at the Jan. 28 meeting,

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VBT Plan

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the commission:

- Heard two residents speak on the data center being considered, but not on that night's agenda. The first speaker thanked the township for putting information on the website and the other said there should be a moratorium in place for hyperscale data centers. She said the township residents have asked for a moratorium. She said while other communities are enacting moratoriums in a proactive manner, Van Buren is being reactive;

- Was informed that the day before removed from the agenda at the request of the applicant was the public hearing, the special land use request, and the preliminary site plan approval for El Car Wash and Commercial Development at 10525 Belleville Rd., 10501 Belleville Rd., and 10401 Belleville Rd. The applicant was seeking to provide express (automatic) exterior automobile wash services and self-serve vacuuming, along with a 7,108 square-foot building comprised of four restaurant tenant spaces, including one offering drive-through service;

- Voted to direct consultants to draft an amendment to the ordinance on Cul-De-Sac length. Akers said a question had come up on this when Pulte was planning a residential development at Tyler and Morton Taylor roads. The amendment would shorten the cul-de-sac from the present 1,200' to a reduced 600' as a matter of safety. Commissioner Jeff Jahr asked if emergency crews can get in there and if 1,200' feet is a problem, shorten it;

- Heard Akers announce the only item on the Feb. 11 planning commission meeting will be the data center. Frequently asked questions are answered on the township's website and will also be published in the Independent. He also reported a national scam where residents are asked to pay municipalities for legal action or fees. "VBT does not demand money by email. USA.com is not legitimate. Do not respond or send payment. The township never asks you to wire money to it," he stressed;

- Heard commissioner Jahr comment that he is angry at comments that say the township's staff is not the most proficient group. He said the township doesn't look like a wasteland. "I do this job because I feel I have to give back. I don't appreciate it and I don't believe it's true," he said of comments criticizing the work of the planners. "I believe Van Buren Township cares dramatically about planning. We have the best consultants in the state. They have resources to see what other communities are doing. We ask tough questions from highly selected professionals," he said;

- Heard treasurer Sharry Budd, the board's liaison to the planning commission, say the board reviewed several planning and engineering consultants before selecting these. "We all live here. I live here. My kids live here," she noted, saying she wants the best for the township;

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eagle's nest location as well.

Who is Responsible for Regulating the Wetlands on the Property?

A: The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) requires an applicant to obtain a permit if they are proposing to fill in any regulated wetlands. These submittals undergo extensive reviews and the developers are required to replace the wetlands they remove at a minimum 2:1 ratio. For more information about EGLE's program please see the following link:

<https://www.michigan.gov/egle/about/organization/water-resources/wetlands>

Is the Developer Getting Rid of Wetlands on the Property?

A: The developer is proposing to fill in approximately 10 acres of wetlands on the property. Of the 282 acres of property, approximately 130 acres will remain undeveloped. The developer will need to replace the wetlands they fill in and are required to go through permit reviews with EGLE.

Where Can I Find More Information About Wetlands & The Developer's Permit Application?

A: EGLE has information on their website related to this request. The information can be found at the following link:

<https://mienviro.michigan.gov/nsite/default/map/results/detail/51474518/2789>

There is an Eagle's Nest on the Property. What is Being Done to Protect the Eagle's Nest?

A: The applicant has proposed at 200' buffer around the location of the Eagles Nest to avoid disturbing them during construction. This will be on the updated site plan once it is submitted.

Power/Electricity

How Much Electricity Will This Data Center Use?

A: Per the developer this project is being developed as an approximately 1 gigawatt data center.

Can DTE Provide That Much Power to the Site?

A: DTE has provided the developer with a "will serve" letter for the project confirming they can provide power to the site. A "will serve" letter is a document that provides a commitment from a utility to provide the project with service at the specified load. Power will be delivered via a dedicated substation, paid for by the customer, connected to the existing high-voltage transmission lines.

How Will This Project Affect Utility Bills and Power Reliability?

A: DTE made the following statements in a letter to the Township for the project:

"During the community open house, residents raised understandable concerns regarding reliability and affordability. We take these concerns seriously and believe it is important to clarify that state law and Michigan's regulated utility market offers protections to DTE customers from bearing any costs associated with data centers. In fact, existing customers are positioned to benefit when these large energy users join the electrical system that serves southeast Michigan.

Michigan's bipartisan law that is attracting data centers to the state requires that projects pay their own way, ensuring residential customers are not subject to higher costs or subsidized rates when these projects are developed. Moreover, investments in utility infrastructure are not unlike investments made into municipal infrastructure. When large, energy-intensive users become part of DTE's customer base, costs to improve and maintain the system are spread more widely, creating an affordability benefit for all customers. Given the scale of infrastructure investments DTE is making on behalf of its customers, the timing of these projects coming to our electric service territory is fortuitous.

In recent years, DTE Energy's electric company has invested significantly to improve the reliability of the local electric distribution grid serving Van Buren Township. This includes upgrading out-dated infrastructure and trimming trees to reduce both the frequency and duration of power outages. Our grid improvement work is happening across southeastern Michigan to improve reliability during severe weather events and meet the electricity needs of our customers for decades to come.

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Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

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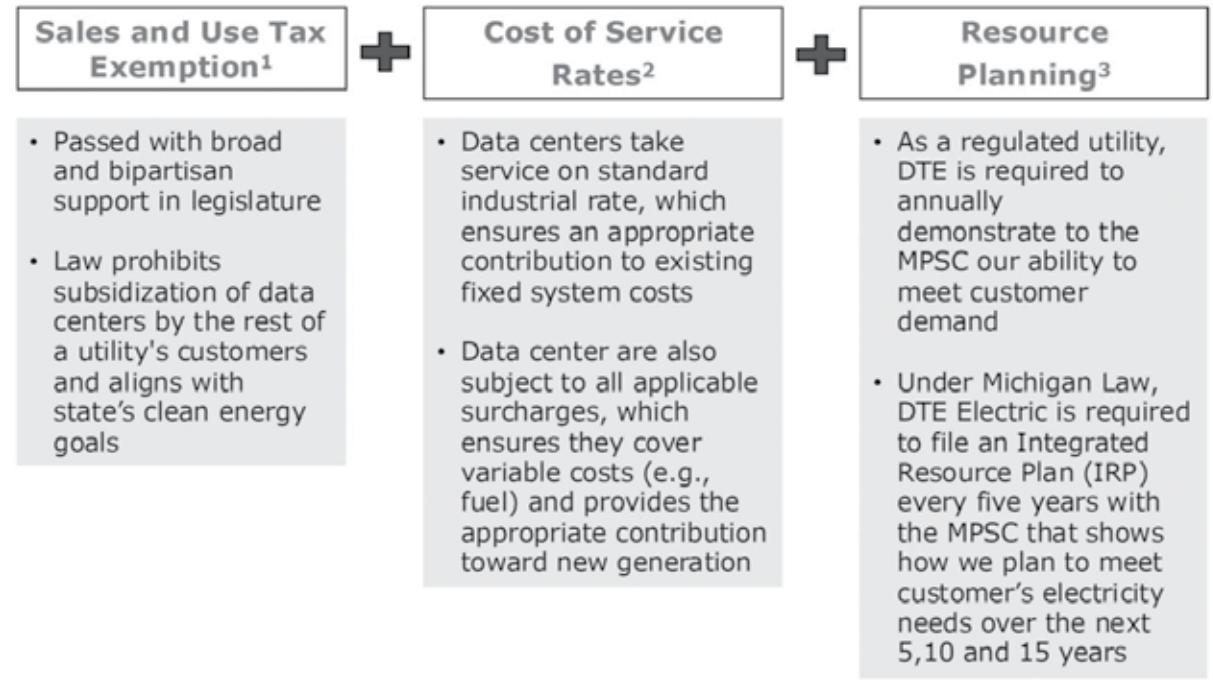
While we are improving the reliability of our poles and wires, DTE is also transforming the way we generate electricity by retiring power plants that have reached their natural end-of-life and replacing them with assets like natural gas, renewables, and battery storage to maintain the reliable supply of electricity that our state's economy demands.

In total, DTE Energy is investing \$25 billion over the next five years in our state's electric and natural gas infrastructure, creating and sustaining thousands of Michigan-based jobs and generating millions of dollars in tax revenue for Michigan's local municipalities.

Data centers – and specifically the one proposed in Van Buren Township – will become major contributors to the investments DTE is already making in the distribution grid and our generation fleet, helping make our electric system more stable and resilient for everyone. Moreover, any costs associated with infrastructure unique to the data center will be paid for by the project and not passed on to DTE's existing customers."

DTE has also provided this graphic which offers greater detail:

Michigan has key laws and regulations in place that protect customer affordability and reliability as data center join DTE's electric system



What is the Law That Prevents DTE From Passing Data Center Costs Along to Residential Customers?

A: The law is Public Act 207 of 2024. This law specifies the provisions for the sales and use tax exemptions, which were passed in late 2024. The link to the law can be found here:

<https://www.legislature.mi.gov/Bills/Bill?ObjectName=2023-HB-4906>

What Does Public Act 207 of 2024 Say About Clean Energy?

A: The Public Act requires that a data center procure clean energy to 90% of the data center's forecasted electricity usage on an annual basis. Clean energy is defined in the Clean and Renewable Energy and Energy Waste Reduction Act (PA 295 of 2008) and can be found at this link:

<https://www.legislature.mi.gov/Laws/MCL?ObjectName=mcl-460-1003>

Who Holds DTE Accountable?

A: DTE is accountable to the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC). You can find more information on their website at: <https://www.michigan.gov/mpsc>

What is the length of the contract with DTE? (In regards to taxpayers not being responsible to subsidize the project)?

A: Per the developer, the ratepayer protection is in perpetuity, with no expiration. The contract length between DTE and the client will likely be 20+ years. When this is finalized it will be made public in a Michigan Public Service

VBT Plan

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• Heard commission chairman Cullin say he agreed with Jahr. He said he has been on the board for five years and members attend planning conferences to gain knowledge. He said his great-grandfather was treasurer of the township at one time. Cullin said the township is going to have problems, but "driving through Canton is a nightmare... We try to control what we see in Canton. Try Rochester." He said the consultants give 100% and, "Thank God they're here";

• Heard Jahr continue his comments, with, "Data centers are a big project ... I have worked in the data center industry. The change in the last 10 years is very profound ... The power density is much higher by ten times. He said it's like suddenly running ten refrigerators in a house. Would need more air conditioning. This is change that happened recently, less than 10 years... Technology is changing quickly ... and we have to act to protect the residents...";

• Heard McKenna consultant Krishnan say that what is in words in the zoning ordinances can't be taken away. The commercial and industrial uses named can't be denied because then it is taken to court and the residents pay. She said planners are going to look at the ordinance and part of that is to look at what other communities are doing; and

• Heard Akers say the zoning ordinance is never going to be perfect and "upgrading is what we're doing." Budd said the township is looking at a moratorium for other data centers. "The first one is on track," she said.

Absent from the Jan. 28 meeting were commissioners Medina Atchinson and Bernie Grant.

Sumpter Township sells two properties it owns on 5-2 split vote

By Rosemary K. Ozmam
Independent Editor

After a heated discussion at its Jan. 27 meeting, the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees voted 5-2 to sell two pieces of township owned properties to the same person, who was not announced.

The 67 acres on Rawsonville Road (81-122-99-0007-701) went for \$300,000 and the smaller parcel on Martinsville Road (81-102-99-0006-000) went for \$200,000.

Voting no were trustee Matthew Oddy and treasurer Bart Patterson. Yes votes came from supervisor Tim Bowman, clerk Don Laporte, and trustees James Frazier, Tim Rush, and John Honey.

After the vote, supervisor Bowman announced: "Done deal!"

"We were willing to take \$450,000 on that," Oddy said. "\$300,000 is 60% of what we wanted." He said the township should advertise it as such if it would give

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a land contract.

Treasurer Patterson said the township had owned the Rawsonville property since 1984. He said he asked himself what he would do if it was his property. He said it took him two and a half hours to find out information on the parcel. He wondered if it was a treed lot, with oaks? The value of the trees could be taken into account, he said.

Oddy said they sold the Moose Lodge on land contract and that fell apart. He said the Martinsville Road property had extensive environmental contamination.

Clerk Laporte said both property sales should be on one contract, so if one fails, they both do. The board agreed to this.

In other business at its Jan. 27 meeting, the board:

- Under open floor discussion, heard Gary Lloyd of 21187 Sherwood Rd. tell the board again that he and his wife has to pay \$4,000 for a study that wasn't necessary after someone from the township called the state to say they were building on wetlands, which wasn't true. This halted construction of their barn and he wants the township to make them whole and reimburse them the \$4,000. Township attorney Rob Young said the township doesn't have the authority to reimburse. Lloyd said this cost was caused by the township. The planner didn't call and he said he thought it was ordinance officer Pete Gregory who was getting back at them. Lloyd said after Gregory "mouthed off" to his wife, he threw Gregory off their property. Two weeks later their construction was stopped, although they had all the permits needed. Attorney Young said there was nothing they could do by law and it was just speculation that Gregory called the state. But Lloyd said they had insurance for making bad decisions. He said he would file a Freedom of Information Act request to find out who called and the state said it was the building department, but wouldn't tell him who. "I'm a licensed builder and I've never seen anything like it before," he said;

- Heard Cheryl Norden of The Bake Shoppe complain about Sammy's Auto Sales next door in what used to be the Hughes business. She said he has blocked the traffic so her deliveries can't leave. She said owner Hassan Nassar said she brought in two semis of dirt to fill in the county ditch for access. She said that didn't happen. She said she filled in the drive in front with gravel from the back of her property. She said the county installed that for her years ago, with a county ditch and two basins. That's because her property flooded when they bought it after it was vacant for ten years. She said Sammy said she installed 20 cameras to watch him, but for the past 21 years she has had an "observation deck" to tend to equipment on the roof and she can see for a great distance. She said she climbs a five-step ladder to get there. She does have cameras, as well. She showed a

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Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

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Commission (MPSC) filing.

What size power lines will be feeding the project, and will there be any redundancy to minimize the use of generators? How frequent do you anticipate the generators will run in order to provide needed power to the project?

A: Per DTE, two 345 KV transmission lines will be cut in to provide four feeds to the new transmission substation on site. In at least the past 10 years, there has not been an instance where both lines were out at the same time. This suggests unlikely use of on-site backup generation.

Infrastructure Improvements

Is the Township Paying for Infrastructure Upgrades for this Project?

A: No, the Township is not funding any of the improvements for this project. The applicant will be responsible for the costs of installing infrastructure to the site. The only thing the Township may pay for is a meter pit for the new connection to the GLWA transmission main. Details of this are being discussed currently.

Public Health Concerns

What Are Common Public Health Concerns Related to Data Centers?

A: Nationally data centers have been getting a lot of attention from news outlets related to public health concerns. These public health concerns have been related to well water contamination, noise, use of chemicals in cooling processes, and air pollution from back-up generators. Additional details about how these concerns will be mitigated are below. The developer has stated that while the scale of data centers is new, the technology used to manage their impact is often more advanced and more regulated than traditional industrial manufacturing sites.

What is Van Buren Township Doing to Protect Its Residents from Noise Related Issues?

A: As a part of the site plan review process, Van Buren Township has required the applicant to provide a noise study which indicates how much noise is generated from the mechanical equipment on the property and what impact that would have on adjacent properties. As mentioned above the Township has standards in the Zoning Ordinance that limit the amount of noise (dBA) at a property line adjacent to a residential property. We will review this study to ensure that it is compliant with the Township's zoning standards related to noise.

What is Van Buren Township Doing to Protect Its Residents from Water Related Issues?

A: For this project, the water will not be taken from any groundwater, surface water, or aquifer but it will be purchased from the Township through a Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) Transmission Main. This is also required under Senate Bill 237 (SB 237) and House Bill 4906 (HB 4906) which requires the use of municipal water at the time the facility is placed in service. The water would be obtained from the Southwest Treatment Plant which sources its water from the Detroit River. Additionally, there is no process or sanitary sewer water proposed to be treated on site and discharged to any groundwater, surface water, or aquifer. Any sanitary sewer or process water will be discharged to the Township's sanitary sewer system which will outlet back to the Detroit River through the South Huron Valley Utility Authority Waste Water Treatment Plant in Brownstown Township near Gibraltar, Michigan.

There will be onsite stormwater detention for paved areas which will outlet to existing drains on and/or adjacent to the property, but it would be illegal per Township Ordinance, County Ordinance, and State Law for this water to be connected to the process water or other sanitary sewer water in any way.

There are no proposals to draw water from or discharge any cooling water to ground water, surface water, or aquifers on site. If there were any future proposals after the development of the site, they would require substantial environmental review, permitting, and public outreach by EGLE to obtain a permit to do so.

What is Van Buren Township Doing to Protect Its Residents from Air Pollution Related Issues?

A: There is no fulltime onsite power generation proposed as a part of the project. The only power generation items that are proposed on-site are a series of on-site backup generators which are intended to be used during outages. The Township does not have specific guidelines for air emissions and our zoning ordinance refers to federal clean air standards and the state provisions in the Michigan Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act of 1994 (NREPA). EGLE has a permit process and guidelines to review air emissions. To see more information about EGLE's

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Sumpter Twp.

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display of pictures from Sammy's business. Norden complained about Sammy calling her names at a public meeting and asked the attorney if he couldn't have struck that from the record. Trustee Rush said this was a private problem and she should meet with the supervisor. Supervisor Bowman said to call his secretary;

- Received and filed all department reports without mentioning their contents;
- Approved developing a Tri-Community Planning Commission with the city of Belleville and Van Buren Charter Township;
- Approved text amendment to Section 5.3, Accessory Buildings, Structures and Uses;
- Approved the planning commission's recommendation to rezone 24473 Sumpter Rd. from C-2, General Commercial, to R-1, Country Home Residential;
- After discussion, approved posting, accepting applications and conducting interviews for a part-time ordinance officer for a weekend shift;
- Approved hiring Darrin Moore and Landon Hall as paid-on-call fire fighters, contingent upon passing a physical and drug test;
- Approved hiring Wyatt Behrendt

as permanent part-time DPW/Water Department employee at \$23.80 per hour for no more than 29 hours a week;

- Approved the employment contract for Jamie Goode, Sumpter Township Fire Chief;

• Approved Public Safety Director/Police Chief Eric Luke and three command officers to attend the MACP Winter Professional Development Conference in Grand Rapids on Feb. 4-6. Cost of conference is covered by state-provided training funds; and

- Went into closed-door session to discuss the AFSCME contract and the attorney's written opinion on another matter.

Before the Jan. 27 board meeting at 6 p.m., the board held a special 5 p.m. meeting to discuss Judd Road improvements with Wayne County Commissioner Allen Wilson. The other officials from Wayne County expected to be present did not attend. They had been told the 2.3 miles of paving would cost \$1.7 million. The agreement appeared to be that the township and the county would share the cost 50-50 and the county would pay no more than \$1 million. The township was asked for \$1 million

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Air Quality Rules please see the following link:

<https://www.michigan.gov/egle/about/organization/air-quality/laws-and-rules>

Generator Operation & Environmental Impact

How often do the generators run and will there be smoke or odor?

A: Per the developer, the onsite generators are strictly for emergency backup and are only 'active' during power outages. Monthly testing will occur. These tests are scheduled during daylight hours to minimize disruption. At most, two generators will run simultaneously for one hour per month as part of maintenance operations. The end user will use Ultra-Low Sulfur Diesel (ULSD) and high-performance exhaust scrubbers that remove 90%+ of particulates. At the property line, there is no detectable odor or smoke. Furthermore, the generators are Tier 4 Final compliant—the EPA's highest standard for clean air.

What is the lifespan of the facility and how is equipment disposed of?

A: Per the developer, the building infrastructure has a 30- to 50-year lifespan. While the servers inside are refreshed every 3–5 years, the facility itself remains a permanent, tax-paying asset.

Disposal: Per the developer, the end user has zero-waste to landfill goal and a robust electronic waste program - prioritizing reuse, refurbishment and recycling. Its commitment also extends beyond hardware to include all operational waste, such as packaging and even food waste. Outdated IT equipment is wiped of data and recycled off-site for precious metal recovery.

Other Questions

How Does This Project Benefit the Community?

A: Some benefits that the community can see from the development include:

- Creation of approximately 1,500 construction jobs and 51+ permanent jobs.
- The developer and project user have indicated that they are committed to recruiting locally for employment.
- Adding a large volume water user to the system is a benefit to the customer base because it adds large amount of revenue to the system which has a positive effect on overall customer rates.
- Large increase in property tax revenue related to the project.
- The addition of a new Fortune 50 company to the community that has a track record in other states of engaging with local schools and being an active community member.
- The installation of large berms along Haggerty Road will limit any visual impacts of the project from Haggerty Road. Other buildings have large setbacks from roads adjacent to the property.
- The use does not have any trucking associated with it. It will have a limited impact on adjacent roadways.
- A large amount of the property (approximately 47%) will be left as undeveloped open space.

Who Do I Contact If I Have Additional Questions?

A: Please contact Ron Akers, Municipal Services Director via email at rakers@vbtmi.gov with any additional questions that you may have.

For more information please visit the Township website at www.vbtmi.gov, there is an FAQ webpage on the site that we will be updating regularly with information.

Court Watching

Richard Wayne Parks

Richard Wayne Parks, 43, of Van Buren Township was video-arraigned in custody on Oct. 29 on a charge of domestic violence on Oct. 26 in Van Buren Township. He was set for a remote pretrial by zoom on Nov. 12. Personal bond was \$2,000. On Nov. 12, a final pretrial was set for Nov. 26 and at that time the prosecution was unable to proceed and the case was dismissed.

Lynn Hope Gordon

Lynn Hope Gordon of Detroit and previously of Van Buren Township was arraigned out-county on Nov. 11 on a charge of domestic violence on Nov. 6 in Van Buren Township. Personal bond is \$5,000. Remote pre-trial was set for Nov. 19. The final pretrial was Dec. 10 and the complaining victim had to appear. A live bench trial was set for Jan. 20.

At that time a plea deal was reached and she pled guilty to a reduced charge of disturbing the peace. She was fined \$825. There are 12 months of probation and she shall engage in anger management and follow all recommendations with all documentation to probation.

Austin Roy-Carl Pilmer

Austin Roy-Carl Pilmer of Van Buren Township was video-arraigned in custody on Nov. 19 on a charge of assault with intent to do great bodily harm less than murder/strangulation on Nov. 16 in Van Buren Township.

He was scheduled for a probable cause conference on Dec. 3 and a preliminary exam on Dec. 10. Bond is \$5,000/10%. On Dec. 3, the exam date was removed from the calendar and his probable cause conference was adjourned until Dec. 17. On Dec. 22, he waived his exam and was bound over to circuit court for a Jan. 5 arraignment on the information. At that time a calendar conference was set for Jan. 12 and final conference for Feb. 20. Jury trial is April 14.

Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

There were 328 dispatch calls reported by Van Buren Township police this week including the following.

Sunday, Jan. 25:

0130 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Denton Rd.
0251 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Brookside Dr.
0411 – assist other dept., Oak Ln.
0612 – welfare check, S. I-94 Service Dr./Village Green Ln.
0628 – domestic, Milton Dr.
0731 – family trouble, Nautica Dr.
1036 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd.
1010 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd. / Bemis Rd.
1051 – indecent exposure – all 3600 MICR codes, Rawsonville Rd.
1220 – fraud Belleville Rd.
1246 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, Haggerty Rd. / E. Huron River Dr.
1601 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1658 – welfare check, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1937 – disorderly, S. I-94 Service Dr.
2002 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Parkwood Dr.

Monday, Jan. 26:

0340 – suicidal person, Ecorse Rd.
xxxx – intrusion alarm, Rawsonville Rd.
xxxx – missing person, Riggs Rd.
0823 – neighbor trouble, Deanna Dr.
0848 – intrusion alarm, Van Born
0947 – assist fire dept., Haggerty Rd.
1058 – property damage accident, N. I-94 Service Dr. / Beck Rd.
1155 – unauthorized driving away of auto, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1311 – parking complaint, Briar Dr.
1307 – fraud, Kirkridge Park Dr.
1423 – intrusion alarm, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1451 – welfare check, Harmony Ln.
1602 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / Westlake Cir.
1635 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1704 – welfare check, Tompkins St.
1708 – threat, Alden Ave.
1935 – welfare check, Ironwood Dr.
2015 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Bradley Dr./Morton Taylor Rd.
2054 – noise complaint, Mission Pointe
2129 – welfare check, Denton Rd.
xxxx – repossession, S. I-94 Service Dr.
2259 – 911 welfare check, Country Walk Blvd.
xxxx – repossession, Parkwood Dr.

Tuesday, Jan. 27:

0252 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Denton Rd.
0252 – domestic, Parkwood Dr.
0434 – civil matter, Hanover Dr.
0510 – intrusion alarm, Morton Taylor Rd.
0457 – welfare check, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0734 – intrusion alarm, Morton Taylor Rd.
0714 – road hazard, W. Huron River Dr./Hoeft Rd.
0714 – road hazard, Rawsonville Rd./Martz Rd.
0810 – motorist assist, Rawsonville Rd./Martz Rd.
1003 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, Michigan Ave./Denton Rd.
1040 – intrusion alarm, Marlowe Ave.
1120 – assist fire dept., Belleville Rd.
1131 – PPO violation, Quirk Rd.
1143 – suicidal person, Maurice Dr.
1204 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1209 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
xxxx – private property impound, Ecorse Rd.
1231 – parking complaint, Belleville Rd.
1321 – Liquor/all 4100 MICR codes, Belleville Rd.
1329 – assist fire dept., Riggs Rd.
1409 – hospice death, Linda Vista Ct.
1411 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Bemis Rd.
1519 – welfare check, Michigan Ave./Denton Rd.
1550 – fraud, Jackson St.
1631 – assist other dept., Richard Run Dr.
1643 – road hazard, Denton Rd./Ecorse Rd.
1828 – family trouble, Bemis Rd.
2000 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, S. I-94 Service Dr.
2013 – domestic, Lighthouse Dr.
2032 – domestic, Bemis Rd.

2107 – civil matter, Lake Villa Dr.
2304 – property damage accident, Haggerty/Alden
2328 – felony assault, Oak Ln.
xxxx – intrusion alarm, Sumpter Rd.
xxxx – assist other dept., Sumpter Rd.

Wednesday, Jan. 28:

0220 – intrusion alarm, Hull Rd.
0300 – property damage accident, America
0420 – 911 welfare check, W. Huron River Dr.
0451 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Belleville Rd.
0843 – property damage accident, Michigan Ave. / Denton Rd.
0856 – warrant arrest, Tyler Rd.
1026 – assist other dept., E. I-94/Belleville Rd.
1103 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1115 – animal complaint, S. Ponderosa Trl.
1217 – animal complaint, Belleville/Ecorse
1222 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1255 – family trouble, S. Ponderosa Trl.
1325 – assist fire dept., Ayres Ave.
1409 – civil matter, Parkwood Dr.
1431 – assist citizen, Savage Rd.
xxxx – private property impound, Ironwood Dr.
1529 – 911 welfare check, Denton Rd.
1531 – juvenile complaint, Maple Dr.
1614 – welfare check, Kirkridge Park Dr.
1722 – civil matter, Fret Rd.
1904 – motorist assist, Belleville/Tyler
1951 – road hazard, Tyler/Morton Taylor Rd.
2116 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd. / Martz Rd.
2147 – 911 welfare check, Peachtree Ln.
2209 – road hazard, N. Dartmoor Cir./Lancaster
2318 – larceny, Robson Rd.
2305 – personal injury accident, S. I-275/Tyler Rd.
xxxx – personal injury accident, S. I-275/Tyler

Thursday, Jan. 29:

0050 – intrusion alarm, Tyler Rd.
0221 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Oak Ln.
0337 – warrant arrest, Michigan Ave./Belleville
0505 – intrusion alarm, Lake Point Pass
0524 – parking complaint, Ecorse Rd.
xxxx – repossession, Ecorse Rd.
0850 – welfare check, Holly Ln.
0916 – property damage accident, Haggerty/Riggs
0955 – welfare check, Sumpter Rd./Hull Rd.
1026 – property check, Westlake Cir.
1036 – assist other dept., S. Ponderosa Trl.
xxxx – welfare check, Edwards Rd.
1205 – larceny, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1228 – vehicle lockout, Belleville Rd.
1446 – suicidal person, N. Ponderosa Trl.
1634 – welfare check, Kirkridge Park Dr.
1700 – welfare check, Maurice Dr.
1709 – larceny, Ecorse/I-275
1725 – overdose, Robson Rd.
1841 – larceny, S. I-94 Service Dr.
2044 – 911 welfare check, Brookside Dr.
2046 – welfare check, Elwell Rd./W. Huron River
2207 – assault & battery, Holly Ln.
2325 – parking complaint, Purple Sage Ct./Sage Cir.

Friday, Jan. 30:

0035 – intrusion alarm, Sumpter Rd.
0042 – civil matter, S. Woodbury Dr.
0131 – 911 welfare check, Red Oak Dr.
0203 – assist citizen, Bradley Dr.
0238 – property check, Salem Ct.
0309 – property check, Florence Ln.
0327 – property check, Crowley Ave.
0333 – property check, Edgedale
0335 – property check, Edgedale Dr.
0350 – intrusion alarm, Morton Taylor Rd.
0405 – assist other dept., Belleville Rd.
xxxx – intrusion alarm, Ecorse Rd.
0645 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
0939 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Hannan Rd.
0939 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Van Born Rd./Belleville Rd.
1028 – family trouble, N. Ponderosa Trl.
1101 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, McBride Ave.
1154 – misc. complaint, Tyler Rd.
1315 – welfare check, Ecorse Rd./Denton Rd.
1422 – property damage accident, Tyler/Belleville
1549 – road hazard, South St./E. Wabash Ave.
1643 – private property/property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1657 – welfare check, Belleville Rd.
1700 – welfare check, Westlake Cir.
1911 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Mott Rd.

1916 – property check, Belleville Rd.
1928 – assist citizen, Belleville Rd.
2013 – traffic offense, Ecorse Rd./Denton Rd.
2028 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
2045 – welfare check, Morton Taylor Rd.

Saturday, Jan. 31:

0016 – juvenile complaint, Jackson Ct.
0025 – mental subject, Maple Dr.
0133 – welfare check, Hamilton Ct.
0231 – property check, Belleville Rd.
0417 – property damage accident, Van Born Rd. / Morton Taylor Rd.
0434 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Haggerty Rd.
1120 – assist fire dept., S. I-94 Service Dr.
1125 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / E. I-94
xxxx – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / S. I-94 Service Dr.
1229 – fraud, Venetian Ave.
1249 – civil matter, E. Schooner Dr.
1324 – welfare check, Van Buren St.
1339 – welfare check, Village Green Ln.
1443 – family trouble, E. Sadie Ln.
1444 – animal complaint, Tyler Rd.
1515 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1531 – intrusion alarm, Reene Dr.
1548 – welfare check, Dewitt Rd.
1558 – vehicle lockout, Ash Dr.
1610 – vehicle lockout, Chandler Dr.
1624 – assist fire dept., Kirkridge Park Dr.
1650 – parking complaint, Stamford Dr.
1827 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / Brookview Dr.
1842 – civil matter, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1848 – welfare check, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1927 – juvenile complaint, N. I-94 Service Dr.
2039 – welfare check, Hamilton Ct.
2151 – property damage accident, Ecorse Rd. / Belleville Rd.
2210 – domestic, Sheldon Rd.
2243 – welfare check, Birch Dr.
2343 – disorderly, Belleville Rd.
2359 – domestic, Sunrise Ln.

Also, on this log are 139 traffic stops, 19 of which are on the I-94 and I-275 freeways.

Saturday, Jan. 31:

1921 – welfare check, N. Liberty St.
2101 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, N. Liberty St.
2250 – disorderly, N. Liberty St.

There are 55 reports on this week's log, 23 of which are traffic stops.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Jan. 25:

0308 – animal complaint, Oakville Waltz Rd. / Elwell Rd.
0706 – alarm, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
0710 – fire dept. assist, Texas St.
0847 – family trouble, Utah St.
1142 – follow-up investigation, 41000 bl. Judd Rd.
1531 – welfare check, Third St.
1804 – neighbor dispute, Montana St.
1815 – follow-up investigation, Montana St.
2104 – follow-up investigation, Martinsville Rd. / Judd Rd.
2127 – property damage accident, Martinsville Rd. / Judd Rd.

Monday, Jan. 26:

0040 – fire dept. assist, 48000 bl. Wear Rd.
0633 – assist other agency, Second St.
1027 – property damage accident, Willis Rd. / Rawsonville Rd.
1128 – alarm, 43000 bl. Arkona Rd.
1723 – suspicious person, Rawsonville/Judd
1737 – fire dept. assist, 47000 bl. Harris Rd.
1805 – property damage accident, 21000 bl. Bohn Rd.
1833 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd. / Willis Rd.
2026 – suspicious circumstance, 50000 bl. Willow Rd.
2059 – suspicious circumstance, 28000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2221 – civil dispute, 21000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2307 – fire dept. assist, Rustic Ln.

Tuesday, Jan. 27:

0435 – fire dept. assist, Brookview Dr.
0801 – alarm, 50000 bl. Willow Rd.
0810 – felony warrant arrest, California St. / E. Arizona St.
0959 – civil dispute, Delaware St.
1551 – fire dept. assist, Birch Dr.
1726 – family trouble, 41000 bl. Judd Rd.
1913 – 911 hangup, 24000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2206 – suspicious circumstance, 49000 bl. Willow Rd.
2338 – citizen assist, 47000 bl. Wear Rd.

Wednesday, Jan. 28:

0406 – suspicious circumstance, 26000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
0745 – 911 hangup, Carriage Ln.
0919 – property damage report, 41000 bl. Judd Rd.
0934 – felony warrant arrest, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1341 – follow-up investigation, Birch Dr.
1537 – juvenile matter, 21000 bl. Clark Rd.
1552 – assault, 41000 bl. Judd Rd.
1652 – follow-up investigation, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1810 – welfare check, Birch Dr.

Thursday, Jan. 29:

0222 – family trouble, Birch Dr.
0500 – property damage accident, 17i000 bl. Savage Rd.
0519 – citizen assist, 44000 bl. Harris Rd.
1011 – welfare check, Wyoming St.
1355 – assault, Wyoming St.
1409 – follow-up investigation, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1440 – welfare check, Country Club Blvd.
1706 – welfare check, 43000 bl. Willow Rd.
1940 – suspicious vehicle, Harris/Savage
2029 – fire dept. assist, 48000 bl. Judd Rd.

Friday, Jan. 30:

0102 – welfare check, Brookview Dr.
0314 – fire dept. assist, Virginia St.
0951 – mental health call, 46000 bl. Willow
1006 – assist other agency, 21000 bl. Sumpter
1144 – suspicious circumstance, Sumpter Rd. / Oakville Waltz Rd.
1221 – assist other agency, Arizona St.
1448 – fire dept. assist, New Mexico St.
1638 – citizen assist, Birch Dr.
(Continued on page 27)

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Jan. 25:

0332 – assist citizen, Santa Clara St.

Monday, Jan. 26:

0638 – vehicle lockout, Henry St.
1201 – intrusion alarm, W. Columbia Ave.
1435 – neighbor trouble, E. Thornhill Ct.
1501 – neighbor trouble, W. Columbia Ave.
1844 – private property/property damage accident, Fourth St.
2350 – assist fire dept., E. Huron River Dr.

Tuesday, Jan. 27:

1137 – assist fire dept., Harbour Pointe Dr.
1707 – harassment call, Belle Villa Blvd.
1931 – welfare check, Main St.

Wednesday, Jan. 28:

0026 – assist other dept., Sumpter Rd.
0101 – assist fire dept., Menlo Park Dr.
0114 – domestic, Belle Villa Blvd.
0158 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, South St.
0851 – welfare check, Bedell St.

1137 – property damage accident, Main St.
1447 – harassment call, Belle Villa Blvd.
1638 – welfare check, Main St.
1922 – threat, Belle Villa Blvd.
2227 – intrusion alarm, E. Columbia Ave.

Thursday, Jan. 29:

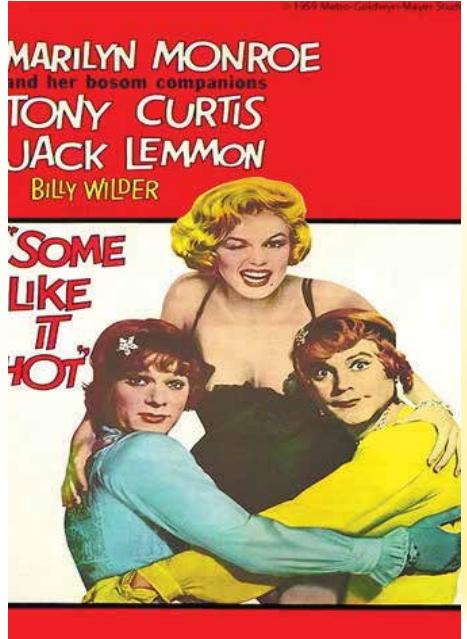
0744 – welfare check, W. Columbia Ave.
0907 – civil matter, South St.
0954 – private property impound, E. Huron River
1212 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
1556 – civil matter, Victorian Ct.
1630 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
1941 – parking complaint, Santa Clara St. / Menlo Park Dr.

Friday, Jan. 30:

0914 – assist other dept., Light Tower Ct.
1313 – fraud, Potter Dr.
1508 – civil matter, S. Industrial Park Dr.



CLASSIC MOVIE NIGHT



SOME LIKE IT HOT

DIRECTED BY: BILL WILDER

STARRING: MARILYN MONROE, TONY CURTIS, JACK LEMMON, GEORGE RAFT, JOE E. BROWN

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2026

6:00 PM



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Cast members for "The Senior Speed Date" from left in front are Debbie Matt and Lynn Tate. In back, from left, are Nick Szczerba, Samuel Bingle, Martin Jacobs, Jeff Tate, and Frank McCay.

'The Senior Speed Date' dinner theater is Feb. 14, 15 at Community Center

Come enjoy food and fun as Van Buren Community Players present "The Senior Speed Date," a one-act comedy by Jeff Bray, in the Aspen Room of the Van Buren Township Community Center on Saturday, Feb. 14 and Sunday, Feb. 15.

Recently separated from her husband, Joan has been persuaded by her daughter to attend a speed dating evening. She is confronted by a procession of highly unsuitable candidates, which is certain to provoke laughter.

"The Senior Speed Date" is packed with sharp humor and unexpected moments," said director Emily Lange. "Jeff Bray's script comes alive through a fearless, playful, and incredibly skilled group of actors who make every scene pop.

"The comedy is fast, smart, and full of delightful surprises that will have you

laughing all night long. Don't miss your chance to make live theatre a part of your Valentine's Day weekend this year!"

The cast of this show includes the following local actors: Debbie Matt of Van Buren Township, Lynn Tate of Allen Park, Samuel Bingle of Belleville, Jeff Tate of Allen Park, Nick Szczerba of Trenton, Frank McCay of Canton and Martin Jacobs of Van Buren Township.

Performances are Feb. 14 at 6:30 p.m. and Feb. 15 at 1 p.m. in the Aspen Room of the Van Buren Township Community Center at 46425 Tyler Rd.

This show will be presented as a dinner theatre-in-the-round. A 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. The buffet is included with each ticket.

Tickets to the performances are \$43-\$47 each and can be purchased online at <http://vbvbcludus.com> or in person at the Community Center desk Monday-Friday, 6 a.m.-8 p.m.; Saturday 8 a.m.-6 p.m.; and Sunday, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. For ticket assistance by phone, call (734) 699-8921. Online ticket sales will close one week prior to performance. For group sales (10 or more tickets) use code, Buy10 on general tickets to receive a discounted rate of \$42 per ticket before fees. All tickets are pre-sale only and must be ordered by Feb. 7. There will be no tickets sold at the door. Tickets are not refundable.

The Senior Speed Date is presented by arrangement with Lazy Bee Scripts.

For more information on this show and all upcoming shows, visit [www.vanburencommunityplayers.com](http://vanburencommunityplayers.com), or email vanburencommunityplayers@gmail.com or call (734) 796-7900.



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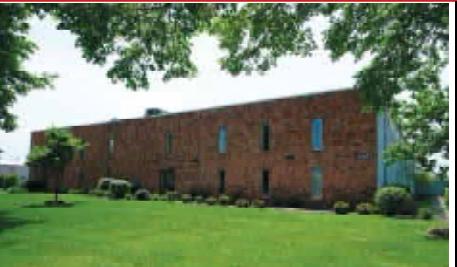
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3 PARCELS 22530 Bohn Road Sumpter Twp One is 10.7 Acres at \$120,000 and 2.37 Acres at \$45,000 and 1.87 at \$45,000 **SHERWOOD** **SOLD** Acres \$60,000

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