



# BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 32.14 Thursday, April 2, 2026

Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren FREE



Independent photo by Rosemary K. Otzman

The Van Buren Township Planning Commission poses with senior planning consultant Vidya Krishnan of McKenna Associates on her last meeting with the commission on March 25 after 27 years of service to the township. From left are recording secretary Christina Harman, chairman Brian Cullin, vice chairman Jeff Jahr, commissioner Medina Atchinson, township treasurer and commissioner Sharry Budd, Krishnan with flowers, municipal services director Ron Akers, commissioner Bernie Grant, and planning and zoning specialist Britney Williams.

## Planning consultant Vidya Krishnan retires after 27 years at VBT

By Rosemary K. Otzman  
Independent Editor

“I gave it my everything,” said Vidya Krishnan in her final farewells to the Van Buren Township Planning Commission on March 25 after 27 years of service.

“After 27 years, I want to do other things in my life,” she said, as she accepted a bouquet of flowers from the commission at the end of the meeting.

She has been employed by McKenna Associates and assigned as senior planner for Van Buren Township. She said she has attended more than 2,000 night meetings in the time with Van Buren Township.

“It’s been a pleasure working with you and I’m sorry to see you go,” said Van Buren Township treasurer Sharry Budd, who sits on the commission. Other commission members echoed her comments.

“You can tell she knows what she’s doing and she does,” said commissioner Bernie Grant, a professional architect.

Krishnan said “I’ve always taken the responsibility of being a planning consultant seriously. I know the decision and the recommendations we make impact the people who live here, people who drive past what they see every day, people who have to live near it. I’ve never taken that

responsibility lightly. I’ve also always had it in my mind that I have to balance that responsibility with what happens if you do not follow the law.

“What happens? What are the consequences to the same people? I have seen that also happen in one of my communities where based upon emotion the decision was made and the penalty was

*(continued on page 8)*

## Country living at its finest: ‘That’s bull crap’ says Sumpter supervisor

By Rosemary K. Otzman  
Independent Editor

“Country living at its finest? That’s bull crap,” said Sumpter Township supervisor Tim Bowman referring to the township’s motto at the March 24 board meeting.

He said the dirt roads in Sumpter have so many potholes that they “beat your

guts out” when you drive on them. He proposed a town hall meeting on April 10 so township residents can come tell their stories about the roads.

“I want to hear first-hand how it affects residents,” he said. He retold the story of his mother, who recently turned 91, and how she waited “one hour and ten

minutes” for an ambulance while she bled into a pillow on the floor. He said it took 45 minutes for the fire department to get there.

Bowman said Wayne County is responsible for the roads in Sumpter and he wants to go after them. The township declared an emergency on the roads, but the county barely responded, he said. Bowman said,

besides just occasional grading, the roads need gravel instead of dirt and crowns so the water will drain, along with cleaning the ditches.

Trustee Matt Oddy said there are 61 miles of dirt roads in Sumpter Township.

Bowman said the speakers at his town

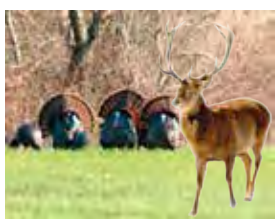
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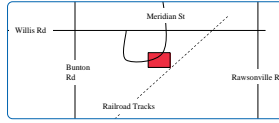
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# SECOND FRONT PAGE

## VBT DDA approves \$72,407.50 more for new pathway along Tyler Rd.

By Rosemary K. Otzman  
Independent Editor

At its March 24 meeting, the Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority approved spending \$72,407.50 more for the Tyler Road Non-Motorized Pathway Design from Quirk Road to east of Morton Taylor Road.

DDA executive director Merrie Coburn explained the situation.

On Sept. 24, 2024, Wade Trim was approved for \$162,082.90 worth of final design for the pathway. The initial alignment of the pathway was designed to be entirely within the Wayne County right-of-way.

After review by the Wayne County Engineering Department, revisions were requested in several areas due to impacts with the McClaughry Drain, including near Charter Club. These revisions have resulted in the need for additional services, Coburn said.

About 550' of the route is open drain and the county asked the township to move the trail over, away from the drain, following specific criteria from the county. The path will have to cross the drain in one location. A lot of extra work is involved, including 18 mostly-private easements now needed, she said.

She noted the Charter Club sidewalk is sinking in that area and the township work will fix it for them. The president of the homeowners association is taking the information to his board, she said.

In other business at the March 24 meeting, the DDA:

- Witnessed the swearing in of new DDA member Christine McCarley by township clerk Leon Wright;
- Unanimously reelected all the officers for the 2026 year: chairman Craig Atchinson, vice-chairman Mark Laginess, and secretary Chris Brown;
- Heard a lengthy report by Chris

Girdwood on the work of the Detroit Region Aerotropolis and then unanimously approved \$25,000 to pay Van Buren Township's Aerotropolis dues for 2026. He said Aerotropolis focuses on attracting only three industries and only for sites of 25 acres or more, north of I-94. Van Buren Township supervisor Kevin McNamara said the township doesn't pay money for an economic development director, since Girdwood does that work for them and the township is very particular about what it will accept. Girdwood said thousands of trees have been knocked down in the median of I-94 as they work to make Ecorse an exit to the freeway, which should open up that end of the township for Van Buren;

- Heard supervisor McNamara explain the Aerotropolis Enterprise Zone that the township will use to raise funds for improved infrastructure for new development as current businesses grow in value north of I-94 over the next 15 years;

- Approved the quote from Pacesetter Painting to repaint the gazebo, the pergola, and the eight trash cans in Harris Park in the amount of \$2,100;

- Approved \$3,000 to advertise the VBT DDA with the Belleville Area Council for the Arts at Music Lakeside and \$560 to advertise with the Belleville Central Business Community 2026 events. The CBC allocation includes \$60 for a full-page picture in the coloring book;

- Approved the Revize proposal for a website design refresh in the amount of \$9,174, including the AI Chat Bot Tier 2 at \$3,400 annually and the annual software subscription of \$2,800;

- Heard executive director Coburn say the bat-breeding season runs from April 1 through Aug. 31, and any tree cutting, canopy removal, and vegetation clearing is prohibited. But paperwork and other details can be accomplished on the Belleville



Independent photo by Rosemary K. Otzman

Van Buren Township Clerk Leon Wright poses with new Downtown Development Authority member Christine McCarley after he swore her in at the March 24 DDA meeting. She was appointed by the supervisor, confirmed by the township board, and will serve until March 9, 2029 to fill a vacancy. McCarley was introduced to the township board as branch manager of Genisys, with 37 years of credit union experience;

Road widening while they can't disturb the site. "We'll work while they're breeding," she said;

- Was advised Coburn is working on a banner design to mark the country's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary to replace the business banners damaged by the weather that the businesses don't want to replace;

- Learned a new business in the district is Kayrouze Jewelry at 11792 Belleville Rd. in the Van Buren Plaza. A new coffee shop also is opened in the plaza. Also, the newly rebuilt McDonald's opened earlier that day. Chick-fil-A plans to break ground sometime in April;

- Heard Chamber of Commerce president Dinara Strikis announce several chamber events including a Belleville Area Business Bash at 6 p.m., April 11 at the Diamondback, Tractor Supply ribbon cutting at 1 p.m. April 18, Small Business Education Session at 8:30 a.m. April 29 at the Van Buren Community Center, and Morning Networking at Next Level Cart at 8 a.m., May 9.

DDA chairman Atchinson was absent from the meeting, which was led by vice-chairman Laginess.

## Belleville DDA agrees to spend \$3,500, plus, for Civic Duty Ed. Day

By Rosemary K. Otzman  
Independent Editor

Trische Duckworth, director of Survivors Speak, presented her proposal for a Civic Duty Education Day in Belleville sometime this spring. This was at the regular meeting of the Belleville Downtown Development Authority on March 18.

After the presentation and a discussion, the DDA voted to expend an amount not to exceed \$3,500 for the day, plus extra funds for a second play station.

DDA member Valerie Kelley-Bonner recused herself from the vote because she is a part of the program through SOOAR, which Duckworth called "our BIG SISTER organization" with contacts at the middle

school and high school.

SOOAR is an acronym for Strategies to Overcome Obstacles and Avoid Recidivism with an office on South Street.

Duckworth described the Civic Duty program as an interactive education series to help community members understand how government works at every level and how their voices can influence policy.

The Civic Duty Education Day features local officials, activists, and educators and has interactive stations and question-and-answer opportunities to build comfort with civic processes. Voter registration is a big part of the program.

Duckworth said she would talk to the school to find the best way to target the 11<sup>th</sup>

and 12<sup>th</sup> graders for this. They discussed whether it should be during the school day, where transportation wouldn't be a problem, or at the library after school,

where transportation could be a problem.

Duckworth, who has been putting on this program for years, said she would invite

(continued on page 13)

## 'Belleville Three' to make special appearance at Diamondback in VBT

"The Belleville Three," a group of three Belleville High School students who are credited with inventing Detroit Techno music, will return to town for a May 22 performance at the Diamondback Music Hall in Van Buren Township.

Juan Atkins, Derrick May, and Kevin

Saunderson will be present for a rare joint reunion, performing individual and group DJ sets. Tickets range from \$45 to \$149 in price, with 10% of gross ticket sales going to the BHS Robotics Club. Contact Diamondback for tickets.

# O P I N I O N S

**Editorial:**

## What a great time of year: Sunshine, flowers, Easter

The bright-yellow daffodils are in bloom along the side of the Smith house next door to where we park at the newspaper office in Belleville. Richard Smith's late mother planted those daffodils and every year they herald the coming warm weather.

We may have some storms and tornadoes and other wild spring events coming, but slowly and surely the warm weather is creeping in and with it the blooming trees and colorful ground flowers.

This weekend brings the marking of the death of Jesus on Good Friday and then his lying in the tomb on Saturday and on Sunday the miracle of the resurrection. Easter is Christianity's big day.

Other religions celebrate in freedom in our country, too, but 250 years ago, America began as a Christian nation.

There are many problems these days, with wars and violence and elected officials ignoring their jobs, but still this is the greatest country in the world. The public is watching – some of the people, anyway – and we won't let this country fail.

And, the seasons don't stop rolling on because of our problems. The sun fills our hearts with promise and the rain nourishes our good, green earth.

This is a good weekend to be alive as we look forward to better weather – and a more peaceful world.

## EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

The new Tractor Supply store will open to the public at 8 a.m., Saturday, April 18. The Chamber of Commerce's grand-opening/ribbon-cutting is scheduled for 1 p.m. that day with lots of festivities. The store is open until 9 p.m.

It's at 15455 Sumpter Rd. at the corner of Hull Road in Van Buren Township, across Hull Road from the township's south fire hall.

\*\*\*

Belleville city hall at Five Points will be closed from Thursday, April 9, through Monday, April 13, and reopen at its new location at 330 Charles St. on April 14.

Interim city manager Steve Jones said all of the online services will stay in play. While the current city hall is closed, they will be moving from that building to the new building and setting up.

Jones said a sign will be put on the door of the current city hall so the public will know what is going on.

\*\*\*

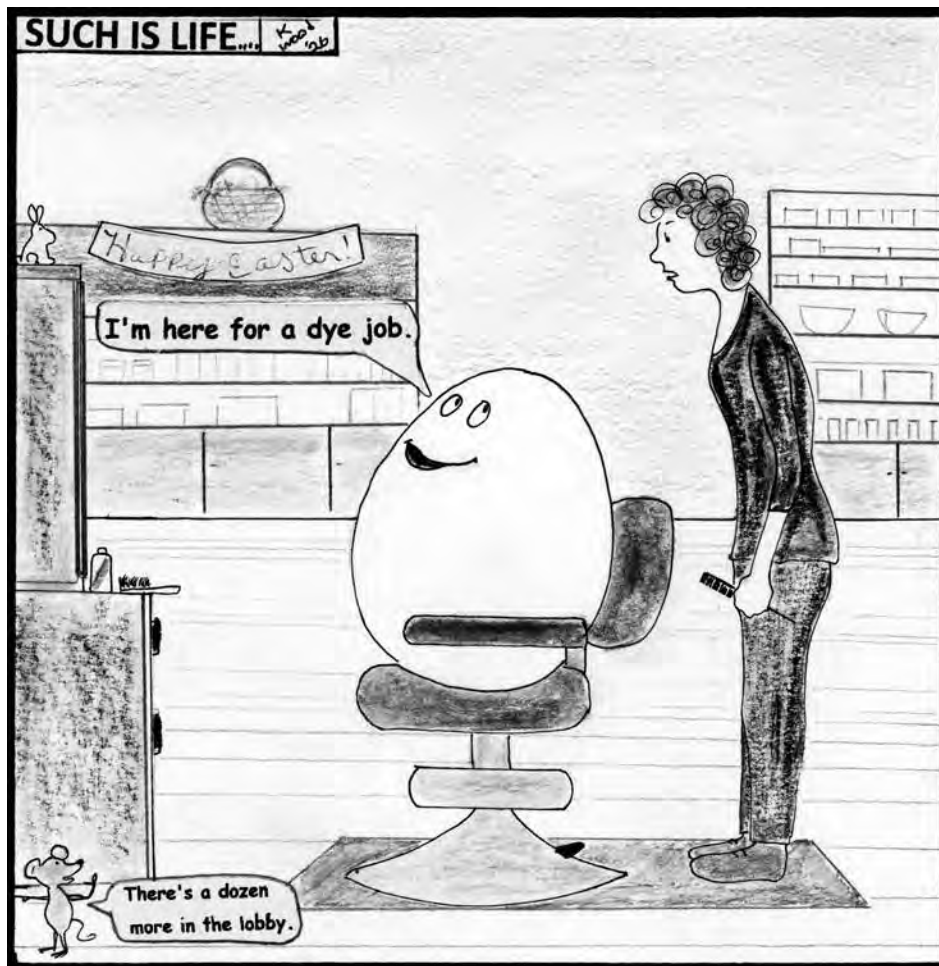
On Saturday morning, March 21, I heard a dispatch from the Van Buren Township police reporting a semi-truck was stuck under the I-275 bridge on Van Born Road between Haggerty and Hannan roads. Police said they were alerting Michigan State Police and the Michigan Department of Transportation. The area was shut down while the truck was extracted and the condition of the bridge checked and then repairs done.

\*\*\*

Another dispatch call was at 6:53 a.m., Saturday, March 28. Van Buren Police reported a pedestrian that had been hit by a vehicle was on the ground and not moving. This was at the I-94 exit to Belleville Road.

\*\*\*

We received a call on our answering



machine from a woman who wished to remain anonymous. She said the round-about planned for Third Street at Main Street sounds wonderful. She said in the East there are lots of roundabouts and they work very well. She's looking forward to having this one in place to help traffic move along more smoothly.

\*\*\*

Another caller asked about the two new restaurants that had opened in the former Twisted Rooster building at 9729 Belleville Rd. in Van Buren Township. We had to tell her the Blue Porch Bar & Grill and the Morning Belle had opened, but now they have closed. Sorry to report that. The two restaurants shared that building and were open at different times.

\*\*\*

Sumpter Township is divided into several school districts and two of those districts have elections on May 5. Sumpter residents in the Huron School District and Monroe County Schools Intermediate School District will be voting.

In the Huron School District, on the ballot is a general obligation unlimited tax bond proposal for building and site purposes in the amount of not to exceed \$65,830,000.

In the Monroe County School Intermediate School District there is a regional enhancement millage renewal proposal. It is for .9866 mill for five years, 2027-2031 inclusive. The estimate of the revenue the intermediate school district will collect if the millage is approved and levied in 2027 is

approximately \$7,636,841.

If you are new to Sumpter Township, you might want to check what school district you are in so you can vote on your school taxes. Be sure to register.

\*\*\*

The special meeting on March 26 of the Belleville City Council at its new address at 330 Charles St. was not recorded or zoomed.

City clerk Briana Papin sent me this explanation: "Last night's meeting was not recorded due to technical issues resulting from the storm." I'm sure she took notes for the minutes.

\*\*\*

Jim Graham shared a paper from Belleville published in 1976, "The Belleville Lake Shopping News," that had a middle spread on the garden behind 100 N. Liberty St., now the home of the mini park with flowers just in front.

The Grahams lived next door in those days and William Graham got permission from the city to clean up the property and spruce up the abandoned pump house. He created a beautiful flower garden on the lake side, from the pump station down the hill to the lake. The photographer for the paper said the view was "breathtaking." She showed swans in the background. He spent hours every day tending to the garden, his son said.

Jim said he will give the 1976 paper to the museum.



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**Letters**  
**City officer supports public safety director**  
 To the editor:  
 As a 35-year veteran of law enforcement and the newest member of the Belleville Police Department I would like to take the opportunity to address some comments, and or opinions, previously published by a former disgruntled employee. First, in my short tenure with the agency the director has been nothing but professional and respectful, not only with myself but all employees that I have witnessed interact with her.  
 Additionally, I would like the readers of this paper, as well as all of the residents, that a large part of my decision to come out of retirement and serve this community was due to the leadership and the professionalism of the director. I have served for many chiefs during my career, as well as having served in command positions myself. This director welcomes input from myself, as well as other officers, concerning issues that we may be more well versed in then she herself may be.  
 The fact that the director chose to complete a process for a position, regardless of how promotions have been handled in the past, is an example of putting the needs of the community first and getting proven leaders in positions they are qualified for and that will only enhance services and thus better the quality of service for the residents. If someone arrives to an interview possibly not dressed professionally or fails to outperform other candidates, the rational and mature response would be to ask how I can better myself as a candidate.  
 I want the residents of this community to know and understand that I have seen nothing but quality leadership and decision making from your public safety director and you have no need for concern. The director will always do what is right for all of you.  
 Norm Brooks

**Meijer 'Simply Give' is back to help food pantry**  
 To the editor:  
 The Emergency Food Closet housed at Belleville First United Methodist Church, 417 Charles St., will be partnering with the Meijer "Simply Give" program in their Spring Campaign at our local Meijer store located at 9701 Belleville Rd.  
 The campaign begins on Sunday, March 29, and runs through Saturday, June 27. There will be one DOUBLE DAY on Saturday, June 20. If one PURCHASES a \$10 Simply Give card on this day, Meijer will match with \$20, for a total donation of \$30. If we can raise \$5,000 locally on June 20, Meijer will match with \$10,000 for a total donation of \$15,000! The cards are located at the end of end-cashier check-out lane.  
 From Jan. 1 - March 18, 718 bags were distributed and we had 45 new clients. We distributed 116 more bags during this time than during the same time period in 2025. We also had 16 more new clients.  
 This is the Emergency Food Closet's biggest fund raiser of the year and helps put food in many, many bags! As food and gas prices continue to rise, more and more families are struggling to buy food.  
 Marilyn Wood, coordinator  
 Emergency Food Closet  
 Belleville First United Methodist Church

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**The annual Mayor's Ball for 2026 is coming up quick, at your local Belleville Yacht Club, on Saturday April 25.**

With procedes benefitting Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue, this cause is *personal* for Jasper — who became a therapy dog only after he himself was adopted from FMAR.

Jasper will be coming to this ball, during the first hour only (in black tie, of course).



Say hi to Jasper, for a most worthy fundraiser!  
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**Tired of complaints about the name we have**  
 To the Editor,  
 As a resident in the area now for close to 20 years, I'm getting a little tired of hearing complaints about the name of where we live exacerbated by the petty issues involved in managing a city and a township. Belleville or Van Buren. Frankly I could care less, but the drama around these issues seems to be increasing every year.  
 The city of Belleville and its problematic council, fire department and issues could easily be integrated into Van Buren. But would I want to live in a township named after a man who was possibly a Slave Owner and a terrible president and a township board that seems determined to develop every square inch of the township. Maybe we should have a referendum and just name Belleville "A Lake Town" and Van Buren "A Big City". It would be better than driving over the bridge and seeing Van Buren plastered all over the new bridge. And then we could all just say we live in "A Lake Town inside A Big City" Done!  
 Or Maybe I should move up north to a more stable community with less drama. Maybe Flint!  
 A resident of "Belleville" (I guess)

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## More Letters

### Michigan Against Atomic Waste appeals EGLE approval

To the editor:

On Jan. 29, 2026, the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) issued an operating license approving the expansion of a hazardous waste landfill accepting radioactive materials under standards that many experts believe are fundamentally flawed.

Notably, the license permits the use of onsite "background" radiation levels -- an approach that may mask contamination and underestimate risk to public health and the environment.

The license was issued despite widespread, unified opposition from local residents, community leaders, and stakeholders who voiced significant concerns during the public comment process.

The timing of this decision raises serious concerns. The license was issued just two business days before the start of trial in *Case No. 24-013420 - CH* (Belleville and surrounding communities vs. Wayne Disposal Inc.), which addresses the disposal of FUSRAP TENORM (Manhattan project radioactive waste) from the Niagara Falls Storage Site. That case resulted in a preliminary injunction on August 5, 2025, prohibiting the disposal of radioactive FUSRAP TENORM waste from any FUSRAP site.

But there is a path forward.

On March 24, Michigan Against Atomic Waste (MAAW), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, filed an administrative appeal challenging EGLE's decision. This appeal seeks to ensure that regulatory decisions are grounded in sound science and to protect communities from unnecessary radiological exposure.

MAAW has engaged technical experts, reviewed thousands of pages of environmental data, and mobilized a growing network of more than 1,300 concerned residents. The organization is prepared, informed, and committed to holding regulators accountable.

The risks are real:

- Groundwater contamination: Radioactive materials such as Lead-210 and Radium-226/228 can migrate and threaten drinking water sources.

- Airborne exposure: Dust and radon emissions may impact nearby neighborhoods and schools.

- Flawed baseline data: Use of improper "background" levels can conceal contamination and lead to unsafe regulatory decisions.

- Property impacts: The presence and expansion of a radioactive waste facility can negatively affect property values and community investment.

Michigan Against Atomic Waste is dedicated to protecting public health and

Michigan's environment through stronger safeguards in hazardous and radioactive waste management.

As stewards of approximately 20-21% of the world's freshwater, Michigan communities deserve policies that prioritize clean water, safe air, and long-term environmental protection.

Michigan Against Atomic Waste has already achieved meaningful progress -- helping secure a preliminary injunction in related litigation and bringing statewide attention to the risks associated with radioactive waste disposal.

The organization continues to work alongside attorneys, scientists, and policymakers to ensure decisions are driven by credible science and transparent data.

"We do this because our families deserve clean water, safe air, and a future free from preventable harm," said Michigan Against Atomic Waste. "Together, we can make a difference."

Support the effort:

Make a tax-deductible donation today at [michiganagainstatomictwaste.org](http://michiganagainstatomictwaste.org).

Donations directly support legal action, technical review, and community advocacy. Michigan Against Atomic Waste Jeneen Rippey, president and co-founder [maawjeneen@gmail.com](mailto:maawjeneen@gmail.com) Chris Donley, vice-president and co-founder [maawchris@gmail.com](mailto:maawchris@gmail.com)

### Sumpter public safety director Luke corrects information in story

Sumpter public safety director and police chief Eric Luke sent the following email message on March 26.

"I'm reaching out to correct information reported in the *Independent's* March 26 story titled, 'Jordan Winn arraigned in shooting death of Sumpter Twp. Woman'.

"Several regional media outlets, along with the *Independent*, have picked up on an on-camera interview conducted by a media outlet at the scene shortly after the incident. In this interview, the neighbor who made the initial 911 call said officers arrived on scene 15 minutes after her call.

"Her statement was incorrect. We understand that time can feel distorted during stressful situations, and do not believe this statement was made with ill intent. However,

it is important to correct any misinformation, especially of this magnitude.

"The truth is that the first officer arrived on the scene within 5 minutes after our dispatch center received the initial 911 call," director Luke concluded.

### Accurate Dental a good place to support

To the editor:

Just wanted to give a big shout-out to Accurate Dental in Belleville. First time there and definitely not my last.

As soon as you walk in, it smells good and looks like it could be the inside of your own living room. Real plants, pictures painted by Sue, and no white walls, all very colorful along with very pleasant and friendly doctor and assistants.

Please patronize this place and show support. You won't be disappointed. Shirley Hurt, Romulus



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# Obituaries



Sharon Leigh Thiel

**SHARON LEIGH THIEL**

December 12, 1961 – March 22, 2026  
 Sharon Leigh Thiel passed away at the early age of 64, on March 22, 2026, at her home in Belleville, MI.

Sharon was born on December 12, 1961, in Flint, MI, and was welcomed into the lives of her parents, Nevada Jean Thiel and Donald Lee Thiel. She was the first of three adopted children, along with Robert and Linda Thiel.

She lived her entire life in Michigan. After graduation from Pioneer High School, she earned an associate degree from Washtenaw Community College with honors and was accepted to the University of Michigan. In 1986 she married Edward E. Sharp. They had a son Edward, and daughter Brianna. Three grandchildren: Kayden Cooley, Connor Cooley, and Aria Sharp. Sharon lived in Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti, and finally moved to Belleville in 2012 where she continued as a stay-at-home mother to both her children and grandchildren. She loved being a mother and never quit giving her motherly advice to all those she loved. Protecting her loved ones with fierce emotions and a sharp tongue.

Sharon loved to cook, sew, quilt, drive her jeep (Jeep Life), watch her grandkids, play with her dog Tula, and most of all creating those family gatherings where she could feed your stomach and your heart, along with her giving thoughts on living life.

She is survived by those who loved and will cherish her memories, parents Jean and Don Thiel of Chelsea, MI; husband of 40 years Edward Sharp and son Edward E. "EJ" (Thao) Sharp II, both of Belleville, MI; daughter Brianna Leigh Sharp of Ypsilanti, MI; three grandchildren, Kayden, Connor, and Aria; brother Robert (Cathy) Thiel of Jackson, MI; sister Linda (Mark) Charboneau of Ann Arbor, MI; nephew Samuel Thiel; nieces Hannah and Megan Thiel; her beloved dialysis dog Tula; also a host of cousins, extended family and friends. She was preceded in death by her grandmother-in-law Ethel Sharp.

A memorial gathering was held Saturday,

March 28, 2026, at David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI 48111-2764, (734) 697-4500. Memorial contributions may be made to the Huron Valley Humane Society and would be appreciated. [www.davidcbrownfh.com](http://www.davidcbrownfh.com)



Andrew James Dodge

**ANDREW JAMES DODGE**

(September 20, 1962 – March 25, 2026)

Andrew James Dodge, age 63, lifelong Belleville resident, passed away Wednesday, March 25, 2026, at University Hospitals, Ann Arbor, MI, after a courageous battle with esophageal cancer. He was born September 20, 1962, in Belleville, MI, son of Stewart Adam Alexander Dodge and Rev. Nola Patricia "Patsy" (Fischer) Dodge. Andy graduated from Belleville High School, class of 1980. He was a heavy equipment operator for EQ, formerly Waste Management, for many years. He was a member of the Operating Engineers Local #324. He enjoyed riding motorcycles, bowling, and shooting pool. Andy was a talented musician who played piano by ear. Most of all, he was proud of his children and grandchildren.

Mr. Dodge is survived by daughter Jennifer (Mark) Kowalski of Belleville, MI; two sons Christopher (Kimberly) Gamache of Howell, MI, and Brandon Dodge of Belleville, MI; 4 grandsons: CJ, Joshua, Asher and Colton Gamache; also many cousins, extended family and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, also a brother S. Peter Dodge.

A Memorial gathering will be 1-3 p.m. Saturday, May 16, 2026, with a 3 p.m. Celebration of Life Service at David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI 48111-2764 (734) 697-4500. Interment will be Hillside Cemetery, Belleville, MI, with his family.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Guiding Harbor or SOOAR and would be appreciated. [www.davidcbrownfh.com](http://www.davidcbrownfh.com)

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Raymond Pokerwinski

**RAYMOND POKERWINSKI**

(September 12, 1935 – March 25, 2026)

If it had a motor or mechanical parts of any kind, Raymond (Ray) Pokerwinski was your man. With a lifelong knack for finding out how things work and tinkering with them, Ray could repair, assemble, construct, wire, overhaul, or otherwise improve upon most anything. Ray passed away peacefully Wednesday, March 25, surrounded with love, after suffering a head injury in a fall eleven days earlier. He was 90. Born in Detroit to parents Raymond and Mary (Chrzanowski) Pokerwinski, Ray always felt a connection to the city. After the family moved to Belleville, Ray adapted to rural life and made good friends, attending Belleville High School. His happiest days involved hot rods and drag strips. In adulthood, Ray worked at Fort Park Chevrolet as a mechanic for 11 years, then spent 33 years as a maintenance supervisor at Ford Motor Company. When Ray married Nancy (Nan) Ross-Flanigan in 1997, he became a beloved member of the Sanders and Flanigan clans. Two years later, Ray retired from Ford Motor Company and kept busy with remodeling projects, woodworking, car club events, motorcycling, bicycling, and road trips with Nancy by motorcycle, truck, and RV. Favorite destinations were National Parks, including Alaska's Denali. Harley Davidson motorcycles and Corvettes were particular passions, and Ray was shopping for one last Corvette up until his accident. In 2008, Ray and Nan bought a log and timber frame home -- their dream -- in Newaygo County, where they moved permanently in 2012, adding hiking, snowshoeing, and other outdoor activities to their recreational repertoire and finding a community of kindred spirits. A highlight of Ray's weeks was breakfast with his "bros" at Hit the Road Joe in Croton. He will be missed. Throughout their years together, Ray was unfailingly encouraging and supportive of Nan's writing, photography, and other endeavors. Ever the romantic, Ray wrote her love notes out of candy wrappers, folded laundry, and whatever else he had at hand. Ray is survived by his wife Nancy (Nan); his children Raymond Scott Pokerwinski (Christy), Michael Craig Pokerwinski (Gail), Mark Roy Pokerwinski, and Michelle Mary Block (Frank Noonan); grandchildren Andrea Joseph (Joel),

Tiffany Pokerwinski, Robert Block (Leah), and Raymond Tyler Pokerwinski; great-grandchildren Alec Gorham, Brian Gorham, Kristjan Gjoka, and Avery Buluran Block; and brothers Robert Pokerwinski and Richard Pokerwinski (Sharon). He was preceded in death by his parents and his sister Elizabeth (Betty). In keeping with Ray's wishes, there will be no funeral, but a memorial service will be held in autumn. The family is requesting that no flowers be sent at this time. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Newaygo County Council for the Arts --Artsplace, 13 East Main St., Fremont, MI 49412; Michigan Nature Association, 2310 Science Parkway, Suite 100, Okemos, MI 48864; North Country Trail Association, 229 E. Main St., Lowell, MI 49331; Camp Newaygo, 5333 Centerline Rd., Newaygo, MI 49337; or Corewell Health Hospice and Palliative Care, West Michigan, 25 Michigan St. NE, Suite 4100, Grand Rapids, MI 49503. The family thanks the Butterworth Neurology Critical Care team and all who cared for Ray in his final days.



Raymond John Gronemeyer

**RAYMOND JOHN GRONEMEYER**

(March 21, 1948 – March 24, 2026)

Raymond John Gronemeyer, age 78, passed away on March 24, 2026. He was born on March 21, 1948, in Detroit, Michigan, to Raymond and Virginia (Reinke) Gronemeyer. After being raised in Commerce, Michigan, Ray built a life defined by being generous, hard-working, honest, humorous, and kind-hearted, leaving a lasting impression on all who knew him.

Ray served his country as a Military Police officer in the U.S. Army and served in the Vietnam War. Following his military service, he dedicated 31 years to Ford Motor Company, working as a Job Setter before retiring after a long and steady career marked by commitment and pride in his work.

On October 6, 1973, Ray married Nancy Romej in Monroe, Michigan. Together, Ray and Nancy welcomed two children, daughter Lisa and son RJ, and built a family life rooted in love and perseverance. Ray and Nancy also lived and raised their children on a farm in Belleville, Michigan, where the family operated a vegetable stand from their farm for many years—work that reflected Ray's steady nature and the value he placed on providing for others. Ray found joy in simple pleasures and time well spent. He loved hunting as one of his favorite pastimes, and he also enjoyed watching old movies, especially westerns with John Wayne.

Ray is survived by his wife of 52 years, Nancy; his daughter, Lisa (John) Edmonds; his son, RJ Gronemeyer; and his grandchildren, Bryson and Brianna. No services for Ray are scheduled at this time.

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## VBT Plan

(continued from page 1)

paid by all of the taxpayers because it was distributed in their tax bill.

"That's what happens. So it is a very tight rope to walk. You want to do right by the community but you have to follow the rules and the laws. So I've taken that responsibility really seriously and in my heart I'm confident I did my best.

"So, I'm happy about what we have accomplished and I will miss all of you so much. But, I'm excited to focus on my kids. Like I said, I'm probably reaching about 2,000 night meetings at this point. So it'll be nice to be home in the evenings," she said.

The commission was introduced to its new senior planner from McKenna, Lauren Sayre, who has been with McKenna for 3.5 years and previously was working at CDM Smith in Macomb County. She said she has a GIS background, among other specialties.

Sayre holds a Master of Urban Planning from Wayne State University and a Bachelor of Science in Geography and Sustainable Planning from Grand Valley State University.

She said she is glad to be working locally, since her family is from Van Buren Township.

"I've got big shoes to fill," she said of Krishnan.

She said she personally grew up in Pittsfield Township, her family is from Van Buren Township and many still live in the Belleville area. Her grandparents, Jim and Joan, had a farm on the corner of Ecorse and Morton Taylor, where my dad and uncles grew up. My dad is Ron Sayre, who is the fourth son out of five.

In other business at the 47-minute meeting on March 25, the commission:

- Heard Ron Akers, director of municipal services, introduce a Pond and Soil Mining/Removal zoning ordinance he is working on. He said that hasn't been updated since the 1980s and he will have a draft for them to discuss in about a month. Currently the township board approves mining projects and the planning commission approves ponds, but often they are both part of the same project. He is working it into a zoning ordinance, as well as creating a process for filling property. Commission vice-chairman Jeff Jahr referred to a property fill in Sumpter Township that now is an EPA issue. He said Van Buren didn't want anything like that;

- Heard director Akers explain the township's Public Participation Plan which was adopted in 2018. Commissioners went over the pages which guide the township to be open to the community members with information. The plan is up to date, he said, and is the current policy, unless it gets changed. "Not too many communities do this," said Krishnan. "Van Buren Township actively seeks out public comment." In the plan, the state law is in bold type and the rest of the steps the township takes is not bold, Jahr pointed out. He told commissioners if

they hadn't read the document, it's a good document to read;

- Heard resident Steven Dart say he would like to see a sign put up on a site that is up for special approval or rezoning. "I'd like to see more of that," he said, noting some residents don't pay attention to what is happening in their local government and are shocked when something changes right next door. He said he agrees with commissioner Grant who has said he would like to have earlier notice of prospective developments;

- Discussed a "Guide to Development" that wasn't on the agenda but was presented by Brittney Williams, planning and zoning specialist. She said it is a guide directed to developers that gives them all the information they need to work their way through the requirements of the township, from A to Z. She said it was updated about a year ago. Jahr said this is another good document to read and commissioners can mark off each step the developers make to make sure they do everything right. He said the staff does this, but as commissioners they should be checking too. Williams said it is on the township website under "miscellaneous" and commissioner Medina Atchinson said it shouldn't be under miscellaneous and it should stand alone. Commissioners questioned whether "Guide to Development" was a good name and Akers said they can name it anything they want;

- During the public comment portion of

the agenda at the beginning of the meeting, heard Steven Dart say he has noticed debris in front yards in the township and the township should mirror what the city of Belleville does that limits that. He also complained about the Metro Park Party Store at the corner of Haggerty and East Huron River Drive. He said it put up its new gas station part first, but has not completed work on the building after several years. Another resident questioned the "preliminary site plan approval" for the new data center and whether it was approved or not. She also said information

is hard to find on the township website; and

- Heard Williams list the items expected to be on the agenda of the April 8 meeting: potential for U.S. Signal's final site plan for expanding its data center, public hearing on fireworks temporary land use zoning ordinance, the data center Industrial definition discussion, AI car wash public hearing for special land use and preliminary site plan, a possible discussion on the hotel development, and temporary land use for the 734 Hibachi food truck, if they decide to go through with it.

## Keystone Academy sets appreciation treats for up to 70 employees

By Rosemary K. Oztman  
Independent Editor

At its regular meeting on March 12, the Keystone Academy Board of Directors approved spending money for gift cards and a food truck to honor up to 70 employees at the school during their Appreciation Weeks.

Office Staff Appreciation Week is April 20-24 and seven members of the staff and administrators each will get a \$100 Amazon Gift Card.

May 4-8 is Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week and the board allocated \$75 Amazon Gift Cards for each of them, plus up to \$25 each for a yet-to-be-determined kind of

food truck on Friday, May 8.

National Heritage Academy sent a message that May 11-15 is National Charter Schools Week and is a week to celebrate schools of choice and the charter school movement.

Each of the NHA schools are encouraged to come up with their own special ways to celebrate the appreciation weeks.

The NHA video series, produced every other month for boards, this month features special messages of gratitude from J.C. Huizenger, NHA chairman and founder, and NHA's executive leadership team for

(continued on page 17)



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# Tianna Pearse, Gregory Smith marry In March 20 ceremony

Dusty and Karla Pearse, along with proud grandparents Sonny and Rosie Hall, announce the marriage of their daughter/granddaughter Tianna Pearse to Gregory Smith.

Tianna and Greg were united in marriage on March 20 in a winter wonderland ceremony in Livonia surrounded by family and close friends. A native of Belleville, Tianna celebrated her special day alongside many who are from or still reside in her hometown.

The bridal party consisted of Michelle Meadows, Christina Bossick, Shauna McCall, Khloe Moore, and Audrey Smith. Groomsmen were Freddy Tondreau, Danny Sveller, Mike Feltner, and Wyatt Smith. Sara Rochon officiated.

Adding a unique touch to the ceremony, Tianna's grandparents Sonny and Rosie Hall, served as the flower girl and ring bearer -- making the day even more meaningful and memorable for all in attendance.

Following the wedding, Tianna and Greg celebrated their honeymoon in Punta Canta. They reside in Novi.



Tianna Pearse and Gregory Smith.



March 30 – Kaitlyn Beals  
April 4 – Ania Felder  
April 9 – Dandy Maier  
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Dell and Janet Deaton brought their therapy dog Jasper to the March 16 meeting of the Belleville City Council at its new city hall at 330 Charles St. They introduced Jasper who was adopted from Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue and then trained for therapy. When wearing his Canines for Christ vest he comforts people in schools and hospitals. When the vest is off, he is just a dog, said Janet, who runs the Dogs by Janet service. Janet said they saw a dog named "Levi" in the Aug. 15, 2024 edition of the *Independent* in the FMAR column. They fell in love with him, brought him home, renamed him Jasper, and trained him for therapy.

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Mr. Rodgers is FIV positive, which means he has a weakened immune system. The good news is that FIV+ cats can live long, happy, normal lives with proper care. He would do best as the only cat or with another FIV+ companion.

And he is absolutely worth it. Mr. Rodgers is incredibly affectionate and loves butt scratches, cheek rubs, and curling up in your lap. Once he feels safe, he'll be your constant, loving companion. After everything he's been through, he's ready for a cozy home and someone to love him as much as he'll love you. FMAR felines are spayed/neutered, microchipped, and up to date on age-appropriate vaccines. Mr. Rodgers is FIV+.

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**School Board honors K-12 students excelling in music program**

The following students were honored by the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education at the March 23 meeting for excelling in the K-12 music program this school year.

They are Griffin Behnke, AJ Smith, Cooper Mears, Austin Cook, Hayden Waldo, Eugene Johnson, Xander White, Ava Horchem, Nevaeh Iacovacci, Angelita Daniels, Namasa Amen-Ra, Bellamy Holzheuer, Parker Davenport, Syanna Ramirez, Hayden Dickerson-Lacey, Arthur Simmons III, Kameron Jackson, Isaiah Akins, and Avery Warner.

Those who could attend the school board meeting shook hands with board members, were photographed by family, and received certificates.

**Samantha Pause named to President's List at Saginaw Valley Univ.**

UNIVERSITY CENTER, MI -- Samantha Pause of Van Buren Township is one of nearly 700 students from Saginaw Valley State University whose academic excellence earned them a spot on the fall 2025 semester President's List.

To be eligible for the President's List, a student must take at least 12 credit hours and earn a 4.0 grade point average.

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Photo courtesy of Elena Manalp, VBT Communications Dept. U.S. Congresswoman Debbie Dingell poses with two former Rosie the Riveters during a March 14 event at the Michigan Flight Museum at Willow Run Airport. The Rivets and Rosie event featured a demonstration of riveting.



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# Belleville DDA

(continued from page 3)

lected officials at all levels, who would have their stations. Students who get their "passports" stamped at all of the stations would be entered into a drawing for a Play Station.

The amount the DDA is paying for the program would allow just one Play Station, but the motion provided for purchase of a second Play Station.

The date will be determined after Duckworth talks to school officials.

She was invited to the DDA meeting by Kelley-Bonner who had attended Duckworth's programs in the past and thought it would be good for Belleville.

DDA treasurer Sabrina Richardson-Williams had been working on an event for high school students, possible in the alley next to the library, and \$5,000 was allocated by the DDA for that. But, that didn't work out because volunteers from the school weren't available.

Kelley-Bonner was impressed with Civic Duty Education Day and proposed that as a way to reach out to students. She asked Duckworth to come up with a program for

\$2,500 and she did, cutting the food that usually is offered and other "bells and whistles."

Duckworth will report back with specific plans at the next DDA meeting on April 15.

In other business at the one-hour-25-minute meeting on March 18, the DDA:

- Re-elected the present officers for 2026. John Winter is chairman, Chris Donley is vice-chairman, Denise Baker is secretary, and Sabrina Richardson-Williams is treasurer;

- Decided to table and not to hear the two proposals on the agenda for a new DDA website. KSpringer Media and NeonGoldfish were scheduled. DDA member Whitney Beaubien said at the last meeting, they paused action on the DDA website to see where they were with the current company. Mayor Ken Voigt agreed they were going to clarify the commitment. DDA manager/interim city manager Steve Jones said there are two more years in the agreement with the current company, but there are no management services. Mayor Voigt said what they really need is a proposal for design and that should be made clear before the proposals, so proposals are "apple to apple". Donley said the city of Belleville website should be redesigned with a page for the DDA. The actual duration and amount they are spending monthly on this is important to know, Donley said;

- Postponed action on the proposed full-time position of DDA Director. There was discussion on setting up an evaluation of the current director and creating a job description. Mike Gatteri asked why they would evaluate the current part-time director if they want to hire a full-time director. Beaubien said Jones is stretched very thin in his roles at the city and it would be unfair to evaluate him. Gatteri agreed. Jones suggested they figure out how much they want a part-time or full-time person to do and put a salary for each. Then decide what you can afford, he said. The DDA now pays \$35,700 of Jones' total salary for the work he does for them. They discussed the budget and the upcoming bond payment. Gatteri said the subcommittee will meet and determine duties for part-time and cost and fulltime and cost and look into what other communities are doing;

- Took no action after a discussion on 458 Main St., the former hardware store. Beaubien said the subcommittee met and is getting a quote on flooring, dialed down the bathroom plans, and ordered an appraisal on the true value of the building. As another option, mayor Voigt said he and Jones met with the Michigan Economic Commission and took them to the "warehouse" to see what they can do. Also, they are meeting with Tech Town on Friday. Tech Town has new information that was just rolled out that week. He said if the DDA wants to sell the place, they should put out a call for proposals and not sell it to the first person who offers. He said that's why they bought it in the first place to make sure the right business goes in. "It would be nice if you invited the committee to these meetings," Beaubien said, and Jones invited them to the Friday meeting;

- Heard Kelley-Bonner thank everyone for their condolences after her 13-year-old relative committed suicide. She said she is setting up a "You Matter, Belleville" with training on how to talk to those speaking of suicide and a suicide hotline, among other things. The program is moving forward in Washtenaw County and Inkster. She said the day before this meeting a person committed suicide at the Dollar General in New Boston. She said she will try to put something together, like lighting up the town in purple to mark Suicide Awareness Month in September;

- Heard Donley give a marketing report, noting they kicked off the Easter program with their Peeps search, which has been very successful. He also said they plan a May 12 reveal of the stainless steel statue to go up in Horizon Park. Baker said they are working on the budget and Richardson-Williams reported the art committee picked out the sculptures to be placed in the city and township for the next year;

- Heard Gatteri say the light is falling down at CVS and he is looking for a resolution to the hardware store situation;

- Heard mayor Voigt promote his Mayor's Ball at the BYC on April 25 to earn funds for the no-kill shelter Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue. He said tickets are on the FMAR website. He also said Chamber of Commerce president Dinara Strikis was key to getting Atwater Tacos to lease the former Bayou Grille property; and

- Approved disbursements of \$48,136.29, which included a land contract payment for April of \$5,311.05, water bill for 458 Main St. of \$65.70, water bill for 51 Fifth St. of \$317.57, and Midwest Sculpture Initiative of \$6,625.

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

- **Friday, April 3** – Game On at your library, 2-5 p.m., Belleville Area District Library, 167 Fourth St., Belleville. Socialize and strategize. Learn a new board game from the collection. Most games ages 8+. Please register. Refreshments provided.

- **Saturday, April 4** – Flop E Bunny will be at Victory Park in Belleville from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Lots of activities and free pictures with the Bunny.

- **Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, April 10, 11, 12** – Sumpter Township Spring Craft Show and Vendor Market at the Sumpter Community and Senior Center Gym, 23501 Sumpter Rd., 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Bake Sale, crafts, more. Call coordinator Maryann for information at (734) 461-9373 and leave a message.

- **Wednesday, April 15** – Bingo fundraiser to benefit Blue Star Service Dogs – Rescuing One to Heal Another – doors open at 6 p.m., food served at 6:30 p.m., Bingo starts at 7 p.m. Location is the Fellows Creek Golf Course, 2936 S. Lotz Rd., Canton. Cost is \$40 per person (18 years and older only), includes taco bar and soft drink, Bingo cards and markers. Cash bar available. April 1 deadline for tickets. Call Sharon Hagerman, Canton Newcomers and Neighbors, at (734) 624-4380 for tickets.

- **Thursday, Friday, Saturday, April 16, 17, 18** – "The Addams Family" musical will be performed by Tiger Drama at the Belleville High School Auditorium. Curtain time is 7 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, and 2 and 7 p.m. on Saturday. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for those under 18. At the door, through GoFan or cash.

- **Saturday, April 18** – The doors open to the public at 8 a.m. at the new Tractor Supply store at 15455 Sumpter Rd. at the corner of Hull in Van Buren Township. The chamber of commerce will help cut the grand-opening ribbon at a 1 p.m. ceremony.

- **Saturday, April 18** – Sumpter Township Michigan Association of Fire Fighters' pancake breakfast fund-raiser, 9 a.m. to noon, at the fire station, 20550 Sumpter Rd. Breakfast for \$6 includes pancakes, sausage links, juice, coffee. Support your first responders.

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## Amtrak train to Chicago hits truck at Van Buren Township crossing

A railroad crossing in Van Buren Township was closed off to traffic Monday morning, March 23, due to a crash involving a train and a pickup truck.

The crash happened at the railroad crossing on Sheldon Road between Van Buren and Yost roads. It involved an Amtrak train and a pickup truck hauling a trailer.

Police said no one was injured, but a stretch of Sheldon Road was closed to traffic that morning while police cleared and investigated the scene. The roadway reopened just before noon.

Some people riding the Amtrak train, headed to Chicago, told channel 4 they didn't feel a major impact beyond the train stopping, and many passengers were told they could take a bus to Chicago.

One passenger told channel 4 that the accident happened about 20 minutes after they left the station on the Dearborn to Chicago trip. While Amtrak was trying to get people on a bus to Chicago, there was about an hour and a half wait for the bus to arrive, the passenger said.

She said since she had a plane to get on at O'Hare airport in Chicago, she said she bought a \$400 ticket from Detroit Metro to O'Hare so she wouldn't miss her flight.

### Notice to Advertisers – private gun sales:

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

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# Sumpter Twp.

(continued from page 1)

hall could sign up for public comment and the meeting would be recorded.

Trustee Oddy said he let county commissioner Allen Wilson know about the town hall.

When board members asked what Bowman would do after everyone at the town hall agreed the roads were terrible, he replied, "File a lawsuit. Whatever it takes." He said they possibly could use the names of the residents who complained in the township law suit.

Treasurer Bart Patterson said such a meeting in Sumpter could conflict with a meeting being planned by several communities and elected officials on the same issue.

Trustee James Frazier suggested the township invite the news media and channels 2, 4, and 7 and the others agreed.

On March 26, however, a special meeting for March 30 was posted with the only item on the agenda being to cancel the April 10 meeting. They did not cancel it but postponed it until April 28, the second board meeting in April.

In other business at the March 24 meeting,

the board:

- Considered approval of the final budget amendments for the 2025-26 fiscal year and approval of the original fiscal year budget for 2026-27 after public hearings were held in a session before the regular meeting. The final budget amendments were passed unanimously and the new budget passed on a 4-2 vote (with clerk Don LaPorte absent). Oddy and Patterson voted against the new budget because bids on that night's agenda would deplete the available funds and unless they cut something else it would not be a balanced budget. It passed without changes;
- Heard Dan Huber ask, under public comments, if the board looked at the packet of information he provided them at the March 10 meeting, with details on the EPA cleanup of his property on Savage Road. Oddy said, "There's nothing we can do and you have to go through the township manager." Huber said he got another report from the EPA last Thursday. Oddy said the township manager talks to the EPA all the time. Later in the meeting, the township manager reported his latest report from the EPA was March 9 and since then there is nothing new that he's aware of;
- Heard treasurer Patterson make a motion to pause the \$140,500 project in the superintendent's office until the board can be sure selection of the vendors is being handled fairly. There was no second, so the meeting proceeded;
- Discussed whether to put a moratorium on data centers while the township studies the matter. Attorney Rob Young said that would make the people think one is coming to Sumpter and upset them when there is no data center pending in Sumpter. The planning commission already asked its consultant for a moratorium to be written up. Township manager Ken Marten said this is a good time to amend parts of the zoning ordinance;
- Approved the March 16 resignation of Nicole VanAssche as chairperson of the Parks and Recreation Committee with regrets and the assignments of Mary Ann Rowland as chairperson, Anita Honey as co-chairperson, and Michelle Baughman as secretary, and striking out the vacant treasurer's position because trustee Tim Rush, liaison to the committee, says they don't need a treasurer;
- Approved a resolution adopting the 2025 Wayne County Hazard Mitigation Plan;
- Approved the Acrisure MTPP Liability-related insurance coverage effective April 1 at an annual cost of \$200,444;
- Approved seeking requests for proposals for exterior infrastructure repairs to the police department, community center, DPW building, and library as determined needed on brick replacement, mortar, tuck pointing, window ledges/sills and porches/ramps;
- Approved seeking requests for proposals for the same buildings for new steel or aluminum siding, fascia, trim, soffits, and gutters. Patterson wanted prices on vinyl as well and that was included. He said he has installed vinyl siding in the

past and "there is vinyl and there is vinyl," referring to the quality;

- Heard no motion on an agenda item to consider approval of Special Land Use review for 25891 Sumpter Rd., and then moved on without action when no one offered a motion;
- Approved a collective bargaining agreement with Sumpter Township Fraternal Order of Police Labor Council from April 1, 2026 through March 31, 2030, with no report on any changes; and
- Went into closed-door session to update and discuss strategy for preliminary negotiations with AFSCME, FOP, and COAM bargaining units and then came into open session to direct the township manager and attorney to move forward as directed in closed session.

## Belleville council selects Romulus fire fighter John Thiede as chief

At a half-hour special meeting on Thursday, March 26, John Thiede, who is retiring as a full-time captain from the Romulus Fire Department, was unanimously approved at the city's new fire chief.

A committee consisting of Belleville public safety director Kris Faull and two fire professionals interviewed and scored seven of the nine who had originally applied for the position. The committee agreed on the top score for Thiede on the second round of interviews and recommended him to the council.

Director Faull said Thiede has 40 years of fire experience and had been a union official, actor, sports broadcaster and owns the Hook & Ladder Theatre Company in Romulus. She said he also has the reputation of being a comedian.

As a rookie fire fighter in 1987, he is credited with pulling the only survivor – a four-year-old girl -- out of the wreckage of Northwest Flight 255 near Metro Airport. He said he has stayed in contact with her over the years and attended her wedding in Texas.

In other business at the brief meeting, a representative of Plante Moran presented a proposal on water and sewer rates. No action was taken. At the council's March 16 meeting, a representative of Waterworth gave a lengthy zoom presentation on a proposal on water rates.

An agenda item to accept an offer on the sale of the city's Savage Road property was deferred.

### Upcoming Meetings

Monday, April 6 – Belleville City Council, 6:30 p.m.

- Tuesday, April 7 -- Van Buren Township Board of Trustees, 6:30 p.m., with 5 p.m. work/study as needed.
- Wednesday, April 8 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 5:30 p.m.



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# More Letters

## Annual March Quilt Show was a success

To the editor and friends of the Belleville Area Museum:

Thank you so much to everyone who has made the Annual Quilt Show a success this year!

We have already had almost 200 visitors. It is always a pleasure to hear everyone discuss this beautiful art form and to see the variety of local talent on display. A special thank you as well to the Wayne County Quilt Guild for their hard work and commitment to serving this community. If anyone is interested in hearing about their meetings and other events this year, let me know, and I will get you in contact with them!

If you haven't made it yet, tomorrow (March 31) is the last day to visit from 4-7 p.m. Starting on Saturday (April 4), we

will return to our regular hours.

This upcoming month, we begin our annual lecture series at the museum. For our first lecture, we are bringing back Andrew Kercher, who shared with us the history of Michigan Lighthouses last year. This year, he will be talking about the history of museums, in his lecture "Behind the Velvet Rope."

The lecture will be from 6-7 p.m. on Thursday, April 23. As is always the case, if you are interested in joining us, please respond to this email or call us to reserve a seat, as our seating is limited. We will also have pizza available (for free!) at 5:30 p.m. before the lecture.

We are very excited to see you and to reopen our regular exhibits this coming month. Enjoy the beautiful spring weather!

Mary Utz, curator  
Belleville Area Museum  
Van Buren Charter Township  
E: mutz@vbtmi.gov  
P: (734) 697-1944

# Belleville DDA approves funding requests from CBC, Chamber

By Rosemary K. Otzman  
Independent Editor

At its regular meeting on Feb. 18, the Belleville Downtown Development Authority met with a bare quorum of five and approved funding requests from the Belleville Central Business Community and the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce and Chamber Foundation.

The CBC asked for \$8,149 for marketing of its nine events for 2026. CBC director Janet Millard said last year the DDA funded all nine. Mayor Ken Voigt, who was chairing the meeting, said they would

make a motion to pay not to exceed \$8,500. The CBC marketing included print ads, social media, website, and signage at the events and the DDA logo was included on all of these.

No one was present from the chamber, but the DDA approved marketing funds totalling \$16,500 for the chamber's events in 2026.

In other business at the 50-minute meeting, the DDA:

- Deferred the election of 2026 officers until the next meeting when more members should be present.

## City of Belleville Public Notice

### CITY OF BELLEVILLE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT MASTER PLAN

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN**, following the public review period of at least 63 days, a public hearing will be held in person at the Belleville Planning Commission meeting on Thursday, April 9, 2026, at 6:30 p.m., at City Hall, 330 Charles St., Belleville, MI 48111, in accordance with the Michigan Planning Enabling Act, Act 33 of 2008, as amended (MPEA) and the Open Meetings Act, PA 267. The purpose of the public hearing is to discuss the City's draft Master Plan. After holding the public hearing, the Planning Commission may adopt the Master Plan.

A copy of the draft Master Plan will remain available for review at City Hall, the Belleville Area District Library, and online at: <https://bellevilleonthelake.com/>

All interested persons are invited to attend and will be given opportunity for public comment. The public may appear in person or be represented by counsel. Should you have any public comments on the draft Master Plan, please email comments to Steve Jones, Interim City Manager, at [sjones@belleville.mi.us](mailto:sjones@belleville.mi.us) with the subject line "Master Plan Public Comment" or mail written comments to Steve Jones, 6 Main St. Belleville, Michigan 48111. Written comments may be submitted in person at the same address. Written comments will be received up to close of business (4:00 pm) preceding the hearing.

Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services at the meeting should contact the City Clerk's office at least 2 days prior. The agenda and pertinent documents will be available at <https://bellevilleonthelake.com/meetings/>.

For additional project information or questions, please contact Steve Jones at 734-252-4317 or e-mail [sjones@belleville.mi.us](mailto:sjones@belleville.mi.us).

Briana Papin  
City Clerk/Treasurer

## City of Belleville Public Notice

### City of Belleville PUBLIC NOTICE SPRING LEAF PICKUP SCHEDULE

The City of Belleville Department of Public Works will conduct a special citywide leaf pickup beginning March 30, 2026, and continuing through April 10, 2026.

Due to equipment failure during the fall season, some leaf pickup was unable to be completed at that time.

To address this, crews will make one final pass through the entire city over this two-week period. Once this collection period concludes, the city will consider the 2025 fall leaf pickup program complete.

Residents are asked to follow the same placement guidelines as in previous seasons. Leaves should be placed as close to the curb as possible, but not in the gutter line. Keeping leaves out of the gutter allows proper drainage and helps our equipment collect materials more efficiently.

Because leaves remained on some lawns over the winter, there may be areas where grass has been affected. If damage occurs, city staff will return at a later date to apply topsoil and grass seed as needed to help restore affected lawns.

The City of Belleville appreciates residents' patience and cooperation as we complete this final collection effort.

Please contact the Department of Public Works with any questions (734) 697-9323 ext. 7027.

Briana Papin,  
City Clerk/Treasurer

# Keystone

(continued from page 8)

the employees' continued dedication and partnership.

In other business at the one-hour meeting, the board:

- Learned the bench has been ordered to celebrate the many years now-retired Vesta Losen had served on the Keystone Board. Principal Jorvonna Drain said they will wait until it is warmer to lay the cement for the bench and then there will be a celebration yet to be determined. The board allocated \$1,000 for the bench and NHA is funding part of the cost;
- Was advised the board could roll over the \$900 from last year's budget that had been set aside for board members to attend the NHA Board Symposium in 2025, but no one went;
- Heard principal Drain say the PTO has set aside \$10,000 for various outdoor amenities for students and she is checking with NHA on the proposals. One includes an area of low-to-the-ground hammocks for students to read outside. Another proposal

is a covered, shady area for reading. Drain said they have a lot of ideas and there are few shady areas for reading since trees are sparse;

- Approved the 12 board meetings for the fiscal year, for July 9, 2026 through June 10, 2027 on the second Thursday of each month at 5 p.m. The board must schedule 12 meetings under its charter with Bay Mills Community College and if it cancels a meeting for any reason, there is a demerit from Bay Mills;
- Was asked to fill out the NHA 2025-26 Board Satisfaction Survey. Comments are anonymous but bring information to NHA to strengthen how they work together. NHA representative Andrew Roth said this gives board members a chance to say whether they like him or not;
- Was presented with the 2025-26 Annual Education Report that every public school must file. It is available on line at <https://www.nhaschools.com/schools/keystone-academy/en> and clicking on "Annual Education Report." It is also available at the school office;
- Was introduced to DeAmo Murphy who

is in training with NHA. He said he has attended ten school board meetings in the past month. He is shadowing NHA board representatives to learn how everything works;

- Heard board vice president Steve Harsant report that that morning he was parked on Bemis Road waiting to turn into the "snake" in the parking lot to deliver his grandsons to Keystone, when his vehicle almost got hit by a car. He asked if the school was in compliance with the law with its traffic system that spills out into the roadway. NHA Roth said the police are there regularly and don't say anything. He said the township knew the procedure when the school was planned more than 20 years ago;
- Heard principal Drain report that 461 people attended the school's recent Sunrise Social, that was extended over two days because of how many wanted to sign up. The students started the day together with family and had a light breakfast before the students headed off to class. She said parents usually don't get to walk into the school with their students and this was very well received;

- Heard Drain announce the Keystone has been designated a Green School at the Evergreen Certification Level by the Michigan Department of Education – the highest level to achieve. Last year it earned Emerald Certification. To earn this Evergreen honor, Keystone documented 20 or more activities that support the environment by reducing waste, using resources sustainably, and conserving energy;
- Was informed the middle school students competed in their second Science Olympiad regional competition at Wayne State University. The team competed in 23 different STEM events against other schools in the Wayne-Monroe region and placed fifth overall. They received 25 event medals. Bryan D. and Matthew G. placed first in the Scrambler event and will represent Keystone at the State competition for that particular event; and
- Learned Jasper L. won the Keystone Third and Fourth Grade Spelling Bee. Jasper and Gala A., who placed second, will advance to compete in NHA's Regional Spelling Bee in May.

## City of Belleville Public Notice

### City of Belleville PUBLIC NOTICE

#### Hillside Cemetery Spring Clean-Up



**The City of Belleville will conduct its semi-annual clean-up at Hillside Cemetery from April 13, 2026 through April 17, 2026, in accordance with Section 5 (General Maintenance) of the Hillside Cemetery Rules and Regulations.**

Section 5 provides that:

*"There will be a minimum of two (2) scheduled clean-ups at the cemetery to remove holiday decorations which shall generally be in November and April. The city will give notice in the city newspaper of general circulation two (2) weeks prior to the date selected. At the clean-up times, those holiday decorations which have not been removed will be removed by the city without further notice."*

**In preparation for this clean-up, all lot owners and visitors are respectfully requested to remove all holiday decorations, including grave blankets, no later than April 12, 2026.**

Please be advised that any items remaining on graves after this date will be removed and disposed of at the discretion of the City of Belleville, in accordance with the Rules and Regulations.

Your cooperation is appreciated as we work to maintain the beauty and upkeep of Hillside Cemetery.

Briana Papin  
City Clerk

PUBLISHED: Mar. 26, Apr. 2, Apr. 9, 2026

## School Board approves \$914,583 to replace air handling unit at McBride

By Rosemary K. Otzman  
Independent Editor

The Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education at its regular meeting on March 9 unanimously approved spending \$914,583 from the sinking fund to replace the McBride Middle School air handling unit this summer.

The unit is original to the building and an associated condensing unit was added in the mid-1980s as part of a mechanical upgrade. Over time, the condensing unit has failed, along with other mechanical components, resulting in reliability concerns and reduced system performance.

Board president Amy Pearce said to hope for a cool spring because the classrooms get hot with the failing system.

Work is expected to begin on June 15 and be done by Sept. 1. Granger Construction is general contractor.

Rob Kakoczki of Plante Moran Realpoint said the project presents unique logistical challenges and in order to complete the work, a section of the roof will have to be temporarily removed.

He said they will cut a hole in the roof and fly out the old unit. At the end they will fly in a new unit. He said there are two identical units at the school and the other one will have to be done eventually. He said this unit serves all the classrooms.

Board trustee Wade Fields asked them to look into putting in a roof hatch since they will have to be going through the roof for future repairs and Kakoczki said they could look into that.

This project was presented for the first time on Monday and its approval was requested immediately instead of waiting until the next meeting for approval, the

usual procedure. Kakoczki said this was so they could get started sooner.

In other business at Monday's 50-minute meeting the board:

• Approved the commissioning consultant proposal from JMK Engineering for \$27,500 for the Series 1 New Operations Building, as discussed at the last school board meeting;

• Approved the contract with Integrated Design Solutions for \$263,285 for technology design services for the duration of the 2025 bond program, as discussed at the last school board meeting;

• Was given information only on a proposal to hire low-bidder Palmer Moving Management at a cost of \$41,375 to move contents out of Rawsonville Elementary School so 22 classrooms could be renovated this summer, June 15-Sept. 1. This is in the general fund budget. The proposal will be voted on at the next board meeting;

• Approved the possible trip to Houston, TX of the Robotics team for participation in the FIRST Robotics World Championships, if it is eligible to attend. Last year the team had two weeks' notice to get to Houston and this year they want to be ready in advance, with all the approvals in place, said teacher Aaron Lang. He said the event in Houston is April 29-May 2. Cost per student is \$800-\$1,000 and is paid by the student; and

• Accepted the retirement of Rawsonville Elementary teacher Virginia Bogle-Hogg on March 4 after 31 years of service; the retirement of Tyler Elementary teacher Michelle Kirkwood as of June 12 after less than a year of service; and the resignation of Tyler teacher Sofia Dixon as of June 12 after three years of service.

## Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

*There were 350 dispatch calls reported by Van Buren Township police this week including the following.*

### Sunday, March 22:

0026 – road hazard, Ecorse Rd./Beck Rd.  
0100 – disorderly, Maple Dr.  
0110 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Filmore St.  
0207 – traffic offense, S. I-94 Service Dr./Ryznar  
0219 – family trouble, Union St.  
0315 – domestic, Parkwood Dr.  
xxxx – intrusion alarm, Denton Rd.  
0413 – parking complaint, Peninsular Dr.  
0926 – animal complaint, E. Huron River Dr.  
1113 – mental subject, Chinkapin Dr.  
1116 – mental subject, Bemis Rd.  
1203 – assist fire dept., Country Walk Blvd.  
1307 – domestic, Village Green Ln.  
1504 – fraud, Westlake Cir.  
1522 – misc. complaint, E. Main St.  
1706 – larceny, Oak Ln.  
1903 – disorderly, N. I-94 Service Dr.  
1849 – robbery, N. I-94 Service Dr.  
2117 – threat, Shagbark Ln.  
2238 – larceny from auto, S. I-94 Service Dr.

### Monday, March 23:

0058 – civil matter, N. I-94 Service Dr.  
0529 – assist other dept., Linda Vista Ct.  
0532 – assist other dept., W. I-94/Belleville Rd.  
0534 – assist other dept., S. Bellridge Dr.  
0804 – found property/child, S. I-94 Service Dr.  
0926 – background investigation, Tyler Rd.  
0932 – larceny from auto, E. Archwood Dr.  
0932 – larceny from auto, W. Archwood Dr.  
0956 – neighbor trouble, S. Woodbury Dr.  
1018 – property damage accident, Sheldon Rd. / Van Born Rd.

1107 – property damage accident, Haggerty Rd.

1333 – threat, Rawsonville Rd.

xxxx – assist citizen, Tyler Rd.

1524 – welfare check, Purple Sage Ct.

1540 – property damage accident, Ecorse/Hannan

1553 – private property/property damage accident, Belleville Rd.

1720 – harassment call, Colony Ln.

1841 – civil matter, Tyler Rd.

2034 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Lohr Rd.

2147 – assault & battery, Belleville Rd.

2320 – civil matter, N. I-94 Service Dr.

### Tuesday, March 24:

0129 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Rawsonville Rd.

0513 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / E. I-94

0745 – property damage accident, S. I-94 Service

xxxx – personal injury accident, S. I-94 Service

0950 – background investigation, Tyler Rd.

1009 – intrusion alarm, Oak Ln.

1052 – fraud, Pond Bluff Dr.

1054 – property damage accident, Haggerty/Ecorse

xxxx – intrusion alarm, Oak Ln.

1106 – 911 welfare check, Meadows Ct.

1436 – juvenile complaint, Quirk Rd.

1323 – domestic, W. Adams

xxxx – lost property/child, Belleville Rd.

1414 – ordinance violation – all 7300 MICR codes, Sheldon Rd.

1513 – neighbor trouble, Maple Dr.

1517 – assist fire dept., Sylvia Dr.

1538 – trespassing, Belleville Rd.

1611 – animal complaint, Freedom Way

1617 – domestic, Belleville Rd.

1652 – threat, Parkwood Dr.

xxxx – animal complaint, Haggerty Rd.

xxxx – misc. complaint, Denton Rd.

1842 – larceny, Vernon St.

1843 – noise complaint, Oak Ln.

1940 – welfare check, S. I-94 Service Dr.

1951 – 911 welfare check, S. I-94 Service Dr.

2046 – civil matter, Village Green Ln.

2055 – property damage accident, Haggerty Rd. / Savage Rd.

2223 – welfare check, Belleville Rd.

### Wednesday, March 25:

0131 – disorderly, Westlake Cir./Belleville Rd.

0209 – 911 welfare check, Denton Rd.

xxxx – repossession, S. I-94 Service Dr.

1142 – fraud, Lighthouse Dr.

1057 – welfare check, Ecorse Rd.

1057 – welfare check, S. I-94 Service Dr.

1116 – property damage accident, Tyler Rd.

1353 – animal complaint, Belleville Rd.

1409 – misc. complaint, Bog Rd.

xxxx – private property impound, S. Woodbury Dr

1446 – animal complaint, Belleville Rd.

1441 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Peninsular Dr.

1447 – misc. complaint, Owen St.

1502 – animal complaint, Hull Rd.

xxxx – repossession, Van Born Rd.

1716 – assist other dept., N. Biggs St.

1731 – mental subject, Freedom Way

1907 – malicious destruction of property, Brandi

1744 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.

1857 – 911 welfare check, Purple Sage Ct.

1929 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Bak Rd./Hull Rd.

xxxx – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.

2020 – motorist assist, E. I-94/Belleville Rd.

2225 – malicious destruction of property, Belleville Rd.

### Thursday, March 26:

0016 – domestic, Water's Edge Ln.

0109 – parking complaint, Cobblestone Ct.

0129 – warrant arrest, Michigan Ave./Wyoming

0300 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Bradley Dr.

0738 – domestic, Denton Rd.

1021 – domestic, Westlake Cir.

1059 – lost property/child, Belleville Rd.

1241 – vehicle lockout, S. Ponderosa Trl.

1349 – shooting, Hull Rd./Sumpter Rd.

1402 – trespassing, Belleville Rd.

1507 – property damage accident, W. I-94/N. Belleville I-94 ramp W.

1519 – trespassing, Cherry Ln./S. Ponderosa Trl.

1555 – domestic, N. I-94 Service Dr.

1846 – traffic offense, Dewitt Rd.

2034 – suicidal person, Wildbrook Dr.

2036 – disorderly, Belleville Rd.

2107 – civil matter, S. I-94 Service Dr.

2310 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Belleville Rd.

### Friday, March 27:

0040 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Brookside Dr.

0102 – parking complaint, S. Dartmoor Cir. / Churchill Dr.

0145 – intrusion alarm, Ecorse Rd.

0353 – parking complaint, Parkwood

0400 – parking complaint, Parkwood

0413 – parking complaint, Parkwood

0419 – parking complaint, Parkwood

0422 – parking complaint, Parkwood

0434 – assist citizen, Haggerty Rd.

0520 – domestic, Parkwood Dr.

0533 – welfare check, Belleville Rd.

xxxx – repossession, Lancaster Dr.

0803 – property damage accident, S. I-94 Service

xxxx – repossession, Village Green Ln.

1132 – traffic offense, Denton Rd./Ecorse Rd.

1152 – misc. complaint, McBride

xxxx – private property impound, W. Schooner

1215 – intrusion alarm, Pinewood Ln.

1226 – PPO violation, Marina Dr.

1301 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Westlake Cir.

1327 – fraud, Togowtee Pass

1326 – family trouble, McKinley St.

1329 – private property impound, Haggerty Rd.

1342 – trespassing, N. I-94 Service Dr.

1358 – welfare check, Oak Ln.

1417 – traffic offense, Filmore St.

1634 – civil matter, Salem Ct.

1827 – intrusion alarm, Haggerty Rd.

1833 – parking complaint, Lake Villa Dr.

xxxx – misc. complaint, Tyler Rd.

1844 – welfare check, Michigan Ave.

1922 – welfare check, Van Buren St.

1937 – intrusion alarm, Tyler Rd.

2025 – animal complaint, Tyler Rd.

2155 – intrusion alarm, Ventura Dr.

2200 – road hazard, Haggerty Rd./Van Born

2258 – mental subject, Rawsonville Rd.

### Saturday, March 28:

0149 – 911 welfare check, Parkwood Dr.

0308 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Parkwood Dr.

0403 – assist citizen, Michigan Ave.

0434 – intrusion alarm, Rawsonville Rd.

0654 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / W. I-94 Belleville ramp

0713 – intrusion alarm, Ecorse Rd.

0838 – parking complaint, Country Walk Blvd.

1008 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Tyler Rd.

1023 – parking complaint, Wildbrook Dr.

1030 – parking complaint, Marina Dr.

1100 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, McBride Ave./Quirk Rd.

1207 – intrusion alarm, Ecorse Rd.

1214 – animal complaint, Ecorse Rd.

1323 – civil matter, Sumpter Rd.

1330 – welfare check, S. I-94 Service Dr.

1402 – animal complaint, Peninsular Dr.

1423 – animal complaint, Peninsular Dr.

1553 – domestic, Parkwood Dr.

1748 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Parkwood

1909 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.

2046 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Harbor Ln.

2125 – assist other dept., Bemis Rd.

2141 – welfare check, Hardwood Dr.

2335 – civil matter, Oak Ln.

Also, on this log are 173 traffic stops, 24 of which are on the I-94 and I-275 freeways.

## Belleville Police Dispatch Log

### Sunday, March 22:

1048 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Main St.

1123 – misc. complaint, Main St.

1123 – misc. complaint, Main St.

1438 – welfare check, Charles St.

1824 – intrusion alarm, W. Columbia Ave.

2058 – intrusion alarm, W. Columbia Ave.

### Monday, March 23:

0812 – assist fire dept., N. Liberty St.

1342 – misc. complaint, Main St.

1406 – assist fire dept., Carmell St.

### Tuesday, March 24:

1121 – juvenile complaint, W. Columbia Ave.

1121 – juvenile complaint, W. Columbia Ave.

1121 – juvenile complaint, W. Columbia Ave.

1949 – ordinance violation – all 7300 MICR codes, Wexford Ave.

### Wednesday, March 25:

0058 – assist fire dept., Menlo Park Dr.

1600 – fraud, Potter Dr.

1605 – fight, W. Columbia Ave.

1914 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Savage/tracks

1714 – missing person, N. Biggs St.

1821 – assist fire dept., Sumpter Rd.

### Thursday, March 26:

0933 – welfare check, Santa Clara St.

1118 – juvenile complaint, W. Columbia Ave.

2103 – domestic, Church St.

### Friday, March 27:

0132 – intrusion alarm, W. Columbia Ave.

0206 – intrusion alarm, S. Edgemont Ave.

2309 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.

### Saturday, March 28:

0541 – domestic, Menlo Park Dr.

1257 – civil matter, Main St.

1318 – property damage accident, Main St. / E. Huron River Dr.

1514 – vehicle lockout, South St.

1910 – intrusion alarm, South St.

2249 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Main St.

There are 98 reports on this week's log, 68 of which are traffic stops.

## Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

### Sunday, March 22:

0019 – larceny report, Carriage Ln.

0119 – welfare check, 50000 bl. Willis Rd.

0249 – suspicious circumstance, 41000 bl. Harris Rd.

0529 – fire dept. assist, Wyoming St.

0910 – 911 hangup, Rustic Ln.

1023 – follow-up investigation, out of township

1220 – fire dept. assist, 46000 bl. Bemis Rd.

1316 – 911 hangup, 43000 bl. Willis Rd.

1445 – follow-up investigation, out of township

1717 – shots fired, Sumpter Rd./Willow Rd.

1729 – welfare check, 48000 bl. Willis Rd.

1805 – fire dept. assist, 51000 bl. Willis Rd.

1951 – fire dept. assist, 39000 bl. Judd Rd.

2110 – assault, Magnolia Dr.

### Monday, March 23:

0000 – suspicious circumstance, Magnolia Dr.

1040 – civil matter, 45000 bl. Clay Rd.

1227 – animal complaint, Wyoming St.

1230 – civil matter, 18000 bl. Savage Rd.

1251 – assist other agency, 41000 bl. Harris

1332 – assist other agency, Rawsonville Rd. / Bemis Rd.

1423 – suspicious circumstance, 18000 bl. Martinsville Rd.

1432 – assist other agency, Oregon St.

1458 – suspicious person, 8700 bl. Rawsonville Rd.

1639 – welfare check, 21000 bl. Clark Rd.

1641 – welfare check, 45000 bl. Bontekoe

1703 – assault, 40000 bl. Harris Rd.

1711 – welfare check, 44000 bl. Willis Rd.

1731 – suspicious circumstance, Brookview

1740 – open burning, 50000 bl. Willis Rd.

1928 – citizen assist, 41000 bl. Harris Rd.

2111 – juvenile matter, 41000 bl. Clark Rd.

2235 – suspicious circumstance, 44000 bl. Harris Rd.

2257 – welfare check, 20000 bl. Haggerty Rd.

2302 – fire dept. assist, Rawsonville Rd. / Rustic Ln.

2311 – fire dept. assist, Rustic Ln.

### Tuesday, March 24:

0029 – welfare check, Rustic Ln.

0104 – assist other agency, 20000 bl. Wilmot

0229 – 911 hangup, Oregon St.

1000 – alarm, 21000 bl. Clemmons Ct.

1056 – assist other agency, 410

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LOVED ONE  
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**CONTACT:  
(734) 770-7236**

**Musings**

By Janet Millard  
Independent Advertising Director



Check out the new advertisers this week: We have been waiting a long time, but Camping World has scheduled their grand opening starting on April 9, China City in Van Buren Plaza will have a space for the next weeks, and the Belleville Lions Club will be meeting with the Canton Club on April 20 to continue signing up new members.

See you Easter Saturday when Flop E Bunny shows up at Victory Park for the candy hunt and pictures. Pictures with the bunny from 11:30 a.m. to noon for special needs and then noon to 2 p.m. The candy hunt starts at 12:15 p.m. with four different age groups.

Another long wait is going to be over soon. Tractor Supply's first ad will be in the paper on April 9 and their grand opening and ribbon cutting is scheduled for Saturday, April 18. Now we just have to get the bridge open!

If you read the Things to Do column weekly you know that the Van Buren Eagles have lots of excellent dinners that are open to the public. Well, they also do fundraisers for many worthy causes. On April 11 at 6 p.m. they are holding an ALS fundraiser. Tickets are available for \$25 but if you don't plan on eating you may attend just for the fun – silent auction, raffles, 50/50 and DJ Richendollar will be spinning your favorite tunes.

April is the time for the spring musical at BHS. The Tiger Drama team will be presenting “The Addams Family Musical” on April 16 and 17 at 7 p.m. and April 18 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. These kids work so hard and the sets are so impressive that you should put this on your calendar and certainly bring the whole family. BHS has a wonderful auditorium and there is not a bad seat in the house.

This month also brings the Mayor's Ball at the BYC on Saturday, April 25. Formal attire and masks are encouraged and best of all proceeds are benefitting Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue. I think you know by now that FMAR is one of my favorite non-profits. This should be quite the gala with dignitaries from Romulus and Belleville. Better get your tickets through FMAR before they are gone.

**Sumpter Township  
Police Dispatch Log**

(continued from page 18)

- Saturday, March 28:**  
0304 – suspicious circumstance, 48000 bl. Sully Dr.  
1018 – citizen assist, 44000 bl. Paris Dr.  
1235 – 911 hangup, Alaska St.  
1315 – civil matter, Walnut St.  
1346 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd. / Willow Rd.  
1448 – suspicious person, 22000 bl. Martinsville Rd.  
1449 – damage to property, 21000 bl. Clark  
1519 – civil matter, Rustic Ln.  
1742 – motorist assist, Elwell Rd./Harris Rd.  
1826 – juvenile matter, 19000 bl. Martinsville  
1949 – welfare check, Rustic Ln.  
1956 – neighbor dispute, 25000 bl. Sumpter  
2020 – assault, Rustic Ln./Rustic Ln.  
2137 – follow-up investigation, 42000 bl. Bemis Rd.  
2214 – fire dept. assist, Kansas St.  
2353 – fire dept. assist, 44000 bl. Clay Rd.
- Also on this week's log were 126 patrol checks, 51 traffic stops and 15 misc. details.

**BHS at-home games**

- **Saturday, April 4** – Varsity baseball vs. Sand Creek HS, double header, 10 a.m.
  - **Monday, April 6** – Varsity lacross vs. Lincoln, 6 p.m.
  - **Tuesday, April 7** – Girls varsity tennis vs. Fordson HS, 4 p.m.; Boys varsity baseball vs. Franklin HS, 4:30 p.m.; Girls junior varsity softball vs. Ann Arbor Pioneer HS, 4:30 p.m.; Girls junior varsity soccer vs. Dearborn HS, 5:30 p.m.; Girls varsity soccer vs. Dearborn HS, 7 p.m.
  - **Wednesday, April 8** – Girls junior varsity softball vs. Franklin HS/double header, 7 and 5 innings, 4 p.m.; Boys junior varsity baseball vs. Franklin HS, 4:30 p.m.; Boys varsity lacrosse vs. Canton HS, 6 p.m.
- Jamie Cichowski, Athletic Secretary  
Belleville High School

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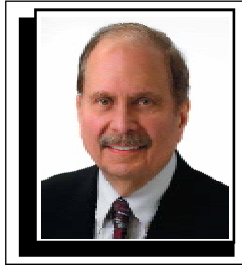
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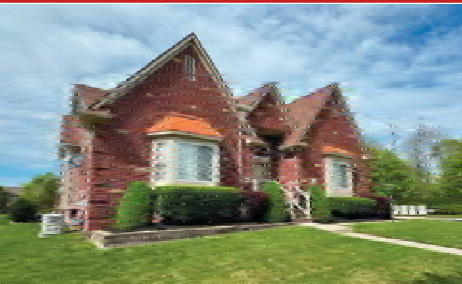
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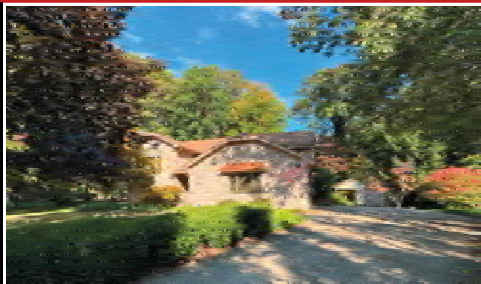
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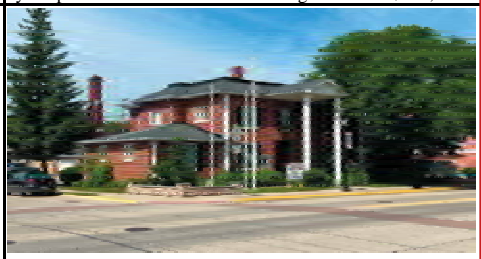
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