



# BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 27.19 Thursday, May 13, 2021

Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

FREE



“Three Dolphins” is at Horizon Park. Artist is Mike Sohikian of Genoa, OH. Cost: \$7,500



“Wings” is at Belleville’s gateway. Artist is Kirk Seese of Lutherville, MD. Cost: \$7,500



“Beau’s Merry Go Round” is in the middle of Five Points. Artist is James Havens of Woodville, OH. Cost: \$20,000



“Cosmic Love” is at the Van Buren Township Hall. Artist is William Walther of Norton Shores, MI. Cost: \$15,000



“Mother Nature with Butterflies” is at the Fourth Street Place on the sidewalk next to the library in downtown Belleville. Artist is Mike Sohikian of Genoa, OH. Cost: \$7,800



“Above the Waves” is in front of Chase Bank. Artist is Michael Angelo Magnotta of East Lansing, MI. Cost: \$11,000



“Little Pink House” is at Harris Park in VBT. Artist is Todd Kime of Ottawa Hills, OH. Cost: \$9,000



“Phoenix” is at the Quirk Road triangle at the north end of the Belleville Bridge. Artist is James Havens of Woodville, OH. Cost: \$18,000

Independent photos by James Otzman



“Free Style” is between McDonald’s and Taco Bell. Artist is Richard Alan Morgan of Wauseon, OH.



“Barrel Chest” is at Belle Tire in VBT. Artist is Jonathan Bowling of Greenville, NC. Cost: \$10,000

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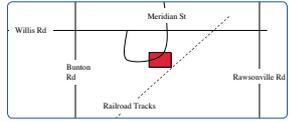


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# SECOND FRONT PAGE

## Female murdered in VBT, found in storage shed in Westland

On Sunday at about 4 p.m., the Van Buren Township Police Department began receiving information regarding a potential homicide that occurred within the township.

VBT Police Chief Jason Wright said after many steps and much investigation, the woman's body was found in a storage unit in the City of Westland.

Chief Wright said police determined that a suspect had shot a female in an apartment at the Westlake Apartments.

The female victim's identity was unknown initially and her body had been moved. However, officers had a suspect's name.

Chief Wright said officers were able to locate the scene of the homicide at Westlake. A search warrant was obtained

and VBT Police requested the assistance of the Michigan State Police Forensic Unit to process the apartment.

Further investigation led VBT Police to Monroe County where the Monroe County Sheriff's Department located and arrested a suspect, 32-year-old, male, who was a VBT resident.

Acting on information, Van Buren

detectives subsequently executed a search warrant on a storage unit in the City of Westland where a 31-year-old, female, victim was found. The victim has been identified by officers and her family is being notified. The case is still active and on-going, Chief Wright said.

## VBT board cancels 2021 fireworks show due to COVID concerns

By Rosemary K. Otzman

*Independent Editor*

The Van Buren Township Board of Trustees voted unanimously against approving a \$10,000 contract with Zambelli Fireworks Company for a June 26 fireworks show from the Beck Road baseball field.

The action was taken after a discussion at the end of the May 4 regular meeting via zoom. The 2021 fireworks show by Zambelli was recommended by the Recreation Committee at its April 13 meeting.

Zambelli has been the vendor for the annual fireworks shows for the last seven years, except for 2020 when it was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I put it on the agenda because I wanted it," said Supervisor Kevin McNamara. "I yield to the brain trust," he said referring to the rest of the board who spoke against it. "Joe Biden says it will be back the Fourth of July," he added.

Recreation Interim Director Jennifer Zaenglein said the Recreation Committee selected Zambelli, but it's up to the board to decide whether the township has the fireworks. She said a lot of local communities have cancelled festivals and fireworks, including Canton, Livonia, and Woodhaven. A lot of communities also are still coming with their decisions.

Supervisor McNamara pointed out the contract with Zambelli has penalties associated with signing the contract and then canceling. He said if they cancel 61 or more days before the performance date, the township has to pay 10% of the total. If it's 31-61 days it is 20% and 5-31 days prior, it is 30%. And, if they cancel less than five days prior, they pay 50%. There also is a fee of 15% if they have to use the rain date on June 27.

"Previously I was a big fat NO," said Clerk Leon Wright. "But, it's possible for an outside show because of the numbers by the governor. I could be open to having it. If everyone does their part." He encouraged everyone to get vaccinated.

Treasurer Sharry Budd said her biggest concern was that other big communities are canceling which would add more

people coming to the VBT show. She said the traffic in that area is already tight for residents who live there.

"I would feel different if others hadn't canceled," she said. "We're sticking out there by ourselves."

Trustee Donald Boynton said he agrees with Treasurer Budd that more would come to the township fireworks. He also is concerned over the cancellation costs.

"I'm concerned with how the prices escalate – 10%, rather than by 5%," he said, adding he would prefer penalties of 5%, 10%, with a 40% cap. He said the penalty for a rain date is steep.

Trustee Boynton said events outside are a little bit better during the pandemic, but he expects the fireworks would draw a crowd possibly 25% heavier than usual.

"I agree with Treasurer Budd and Trustee Boynton," said Trustee Kevin Martin. "We need to err on the side of caution. Many are vaccinated and many are not vaccinated and not wearing masks." He said it would be prudent not to have the fireworks this year.

Trustee Reggie Miller said the Belleville Lake Fest on June 25-27 has scheduled a fireworks display.

Director Zaenglein said she is a part of the Lake Fest committee and they were supposed to have a meeting on the event but have put off their meeting for two weeks.

Trustee Miller asked if the township can limit the number of people at Beck Field.

Supervisor McNamara said police can hold them back from Beck Ball Field, but they end up along the waterfront and throughout the adjoining subdivisions.

"A big crowd is going to swamp the place," McNamara said. "I'm a good Irish politician and I walk and shake every hand I can."

Clerk Wright said he agrees with Treasurer Budd and Trustee Martin, noting he didn't think about drawing people from the other communities. He suggested they have caution and follow what everyone else is doing.

Treasurer Budd said there is a lot of talk going around about Lake Fest and she heard they are going to cancel it.

Zaenglein said they are going to pare it down. The band would draw too many and the Health Department recommended not more than 1,000 in one venue. They have broken the event up into venues, but they may go over that number at the concert.

"We'd be better off not doing it this year," Budd said.

Zaenglein said Canton is considering doing something in the fall and the money set aside for the fireworks could be used in the fall. He said they could discuss it.

Trustee Boynton said all the people he thinks would come would be overtaxing to the police department. He suggested a big Labor Day event or August summertime event. He said possibly Lake Fest will be cancelled or delayed because it would be too much of a challenge.

In other business at the one-hour meeting on May 4, the board:

- Approved the first reading of an ordinance to clarify required minimum useable floor area per dwelling unit in independent senior housing developments and to allow additional signage in senior housing developments. The second, final reading of the ordinance is expected at the May 18 meeting;

- Approved a \$277,163 contract with Davenport Brothers Construction for the French Landing Park Phase 1 Improvement Project. Although the project was advertised, Davenport was the only bid received and it was for \$299,812. Because there was only one bidder, the township engineers had a post-bid review with Davenport to go over the contract in detail and found misinterpretations of the drawings and specifications for this project and the cost was reduced, McNamara said. The main scope of the work includes demo and site work, the pathway system within the park, landscaping, irrigation system, electric work, the shade structure and associated concrete pad and footings, and site furniture;

- Heard Trustee Martin say he visited the new pickleball courts at Denton and Beck roads and, "They are beautiful." He said he may take up pickleball. Clerk Wright suggested they should put a township board team together to play;

- Heard Treasurer Budd announce that Public Service Director Matt Best asked the Civic Fund for \$43,000 for pickle ball court amenities and the fund approved the donation; and

- Heard McNamara announce that the Downtown Development Authority just gave \$1,137,000 for The Cube to be built in the planned community center. He thanked all the DDA members by name. He announced the township held an open house by zoom on the Sumpter Road Corridor and Wayne County Community College on Haggerty Road has walk-ins for the Pfizer vaccine. He said to check the township website or call the township and they'll schedule a time. He also announced they have selected five sites for the four-foot-tall Belleville Bass sculptures: Atchinson Ford, former DNR property north of the Belleville Bridge, French Landing Park, Fire Station #1 at Hull and Sumpter, and Quirk Park near the splash pad. Also, he attended a meeting with Congresswoman Debbie Dingell and the Treasury Department and was told that communities probably won't get the amount announced. VBT was supposed to get \$2.8 million, but it probably will be cut back. He also announced the meeting on sidewalks in Haggerty subdivision will be posted online for all to watch. He said after more input, a plan will come to the board in four weeks for consideration.

### 'Tails and Tales Summer Reading Challenges' set at library June 1-July 31

The "Tails and Tales Summer Reading Challenges" are set for the Belleville Area District Library in June and July. It is for all ages and features virtual shows on the Belleville Library's Facebook page at 11 a.m. Tuesdays, June 1-July 31.

See the website after June 1 for details.

Sign up for Summer Reading Challenge for Read-to-Me's, Independent Readers, and Teens at <https://bellevillemi.beanstack.org> or at the juvenile reference desk on June 1 to begin reading for prizes.

# O P I N I O N S

**Editorial**

## Belleville, VBT getting more arsty

Our latest announcement of art coming to Belleville is the information on the school of fish that has been planted in Horizon Park for the past two summers. It's coming back and all local artists are invited to decorate a wooden fish to be added to the others that will spend the summer in the park to be admired by concert goers and others.

This announcement follows last week's installation of the new round of outdoor sculptures in the city of Belleville and Van Buren Township. There are five in the township and five in the city, all leased from Midwest Sculpture Initiative that provides outdoor sculpture exhibits in "art-underserved" communities for a year at a time.

Of course, you've heard that the ten Belleville Bass, also decorated by artists, will be erected in Belleville and VBT - five in each place. These are intended to be permanent, to be replaced once they wear out or begin to look shabby. They are four feet tall, fiberglass art pieces on cement foundations.

The wooden fish at the park and the fiberglass fish in various locations are courtesy of the Belleville Area Council for the Arts. The Bass idea actually came up at the committee meetings to plan the Belleville Lake Fest and was taken over by BACA. The outdoor sculptures are brought to us by the Downtown Development Authorities of the city and VBT. We probably won't be considered "art-underserved" this summer.

## EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

Kathy Klein, the community relations representative for Waste Management in this area, reported that in March she and more than 40 WM employee volunteers went out to the previous Woodlands golf course in Van Buren Township to rescue and relocate whatever frogs they could to another part of the WM property before the work on the expanded Woodland Meadows Landfill began there.

Due to COVID-19 protocols, this was an employee/family only event and WM families remained outdoors and in their COVID "pods."

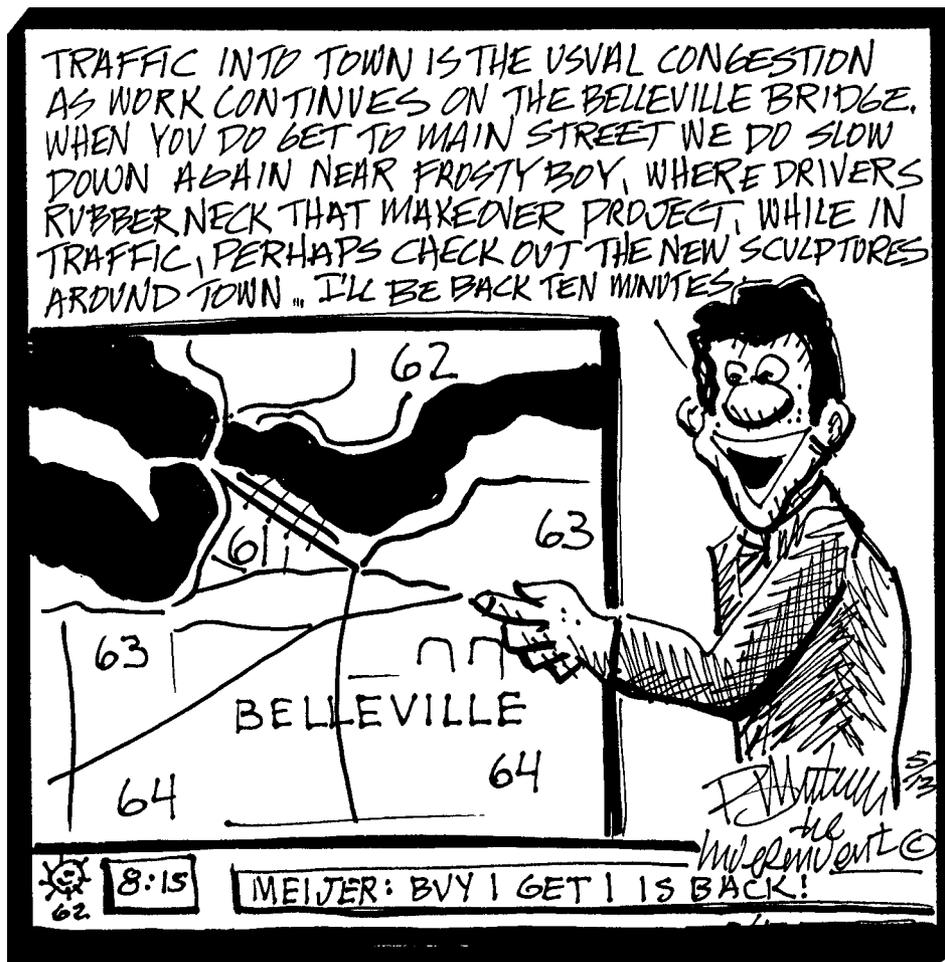
She said they knew it was too early in the spring to see much frog/toad activity but by the end of the day they found one. This Green Frog was relocated to its new home on-site.

"If approved by the DNR, later in the spring/year, WM will be working to relocate any frogs, toads, and other amphibians we find on the property to a new, approved, off-site wetland relocation area," she said. "Even though the event only yielded one frog, they felt that what they were doing was still significant."

\*\*\*

We received some information that came from a church we never heard of: BE church. The address was the same as Church of God Mountain Assembly across from Belleville High School. I asked about it.

Ryan Borden replied: "So they renamed the church BE Church. The sign says BE Church. Everywhere at the church says BE Church now. So, it's, I guess, like a DBA, but nowhere at the church does it say Church of God Mountain Assembly



anymore. So, if someone goes driving by looking for Church of God Mountain Assembly, they won't find it, as it doesn't exist on any signage."

So, I asked what BE stands for and got this reply from Ryan: "They brand it as: BE-lieve, BE-long, BE-come. So, basically it means we are going to BE the church..."

\*\*\*

A reader who regularly takes the North I-94 Service Drive to Hannan Road said he has been watching the site of the road work at Hannan and the South I-94 Service Drive/Northline Road and nothing is happening. He said some of the roadway is dug up and a lot of big machinery is parked around, but there has been no action since the very beginning. It was announced the work would be done in August.

\*\*\*

Our dispatch log for Saturday, May 8, shows a shooting at 1940 (7:40 p.m.) at Hull and Sumpter roads and another shooting at Hull Road at 2052 (8:52 p.m.). I asked Van Buren Township Police about this and Chief Jason Wright replied.

He said he checked the CAD (computer-operated dispatch) reports and found the shots fired at 1940 was checked by patrol and they were unable to locate anything. The second report of shots fired at 2052 was believed to be coming from the large parcel of property (200 acres) across the street according to the officers checking into it after talking with someone in the

area.

"We did not find anything," Chief Wright said of the reported shots.

He was very busy on Monday when he got my question. He was working on a news release about the woman who was shot on Sunday and how her body was traced to a Westland storage unit and a suspect arrested in Exeter Township. When he got done with the report on how they found a lot on the homicide case, he replied to my question on the shots fired. Thank you, chief.

\*\*\*

At Monday's school board meeting, board president Amy Pearce said she saw on Facebook that people are wondering if the district really is going to demolish its former career center on Sumpter Road. School Supt. Kudlak said they had been waiting for DTE to complete what it had to do, but now it is ready and the razing should take place any day now.

\*\*\*

Also at Monday's meeting, Supt. Kudlak said the district had lower than expected kindergarteners last fall and they are hoping that number will grow this fall.

It was discussed and some suggested parents were keeping their kindergarteners safe at home until COVID passed.

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www.bellevilleareaindependent.com  
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**BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT**

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**The Belleville-Area Independent is a free, weekly newspaper published each Thursday in Belleville, MI.**

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**Editor:** Rosemary K. Otzman  
Home phone (NO ADS, PLEASE!): 697-1294

**Advertising Manager:** Bob Mytych

**Sports Editor:** Bob Mytych

**Bookkeeper:** James Otzman

**Production Manager:** James Otzman

**Office Manager:** Janet Millard

**Business Manager:** Gerald McKelvey

**Editorial Cartoonist:** Bob Mytych

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**Letters**

**VFW thanks community for Poppy donations**

To the editor:  
 RE: A Thank You to Our Community  
 Last week, The Veterans of Foreign Wars -- Huron River Post 4434 and Polish Legion of American Veterans Post 167 held the annual Poppies distribution fund raiser. Our community came through in fine fashion and supported us in an unprecedented manner. For this we are grateful, as we distributed close to 4,000 poppies, and received 1 wedding ring donation, that we were able to return to the happy husband.

As many know, American foreign policy has been very good for the VFW business. This area has more 100% disabled veterans living in it than ever before. The battlefield survivability rate has increased and the partially disabled veteran population exponentially. Twenty-two U.S. veterans are committing suicide every day, some in our own community.

Like many organizations in our community, we are still struggling. Our post provides many services, such as Military Funeral Honors, Patriot Pen and Voice of Democracy Scholarships, proper flag disposal, youth activities support for the Scouts USA and the ROTC program, the Belleville free-flag program, Bugles Across America, cemetery clean up and flag services, just to name a few.

Last year alone, VFW Post 4434 provided over \$40,000 in community and VA hospital support. One hundred percent of all donations go to support the mission. The need is greater than we can provide.

If you would like to support our mission, feel free to send donations to P.O. Box 994, Belleville 48112, or if you need a poppy, feel free to call us at (734) 697-0505 and we would be happy to get it to you.

Sincerely,  
 John Blackstone, Commander  
 VFW Post 4434

**Thank you to Law Enforcement Officers**

To the editor:  
 Sunday, May 9, heralded the beginning of Law Enforcement Week 2021. As you read this, it is obvious that we should have planned ahead and written this letter a week ago. However, even though our comments may be a tad late, the sentiments are nonetheless important to note.

Every day in our amazing country, thousands of men and women say goodbye to their families and head off to work. These individuals arrive at their workplace ready to perform a job that the majority of us would probably never entertain as a career of choice. At a moment's notice they could be called on to put their lives on the line to protect any of us. It only takes a few moments to show them the respect they

deserve and to thank them for their service. We would like to thank all Law Enforcement Officers for their dedication and service to the communities in which they serve. Thank you.

Rick and Mary Jane Dawson  
 Belleville

**Thank you for sharing your thoughts of Emily**

To the communities of Belleville, Van Buren, and Sumpter:

My wife Becky and I would like to express our appreciation for the outpouring of sympathy we have received over the past couple of weeks regarding the passing of our daughter, Emily Similo. The number of phone calls, texts, and cards from people in our community that knew her has been overwhelming. Some of you we do not know personally, but the comments about her have been incredibly positive and we are so proud she had such a positive impact on so many people. She worked for 20+ years for Photography by Shannon and many of you knew her by working with Shannon and setting up appointments.

We know that she is in Heaven today with her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and that one day we shall see her again. We want you to know from the Bible: For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. John 3:16

Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts of Emily. They have been a help to our family in this difficult time.

Sincerely,  
 Robert J. White, Pastor  
 Belleville

**Thank you, St. Jude**

To the editor:  
 I want to thank St. Jude for answering my prayers. St. Jude does answer prayer, so do pray...  
 Thank you, C.P.

**Birthdays**

- May 9 – Joe Watkins
- May 15 – Virginia Truran, Phyllis Wolters
- May 16 -- Maryann Watson
- May 17 – Alexis Bobbitt
- May 19 – Josh Fleeson, Marlene Mills, James Otzman
- May 20 – Anna Rope
- May 21 – Selina Stillwagon, Richard Jones
- May 23 – Ed Armatis

**Anniversary**

May 4 – Janet & Jeff Schonscheck

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 – Benjamin Franklin

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# Obituaries



Jeffrey Allen Newton

**JEFFREY ALLEN NEWTON**

(May 9, 1966 – May 4, 2021)  
Jeffrey Allen Newton, “Jumbo,” age 54, a resident of Van Buren Township, passed away on May 4, 2021, at Beaumont Hospital. He was born on May 9, 1966, to Lucille Genevieve Lauzon. “Jumbo” worked as a manager in an automotive collision shop. He also loved to spend time with family, which meant everything to him. His favorite family activities were camping, hunting, four-wheeling, fishing, and boating. He was a member of the Scorpions Motor Cycle Club in Monroe County. Jeffrey adored his three parrots and his dogs, Lil Buddy, Atticus, and Sasha.

Jeffrey is survived by his loving wife of 14 years, Kimberly Ann Newton (Roberts), his children, Joshua (Elizabeth) Newton, Samantha (James) Keating, Shanda Roberts, Eric Scott, and Aaron Scott; loving mother Lucy Knechtel; and his 10 beloved grandchildren.

Visitation was 2-7 p.m. Saturday, May 8, 2021, at David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI 48111-2764, (734) 697-4500, with a service at 7 p.m. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, a maximum of 25 people were allowed in the funeral home at one time. Memorial contributions may be made to the wishes of his family.

[www.davidcbrownfh.com](http://www.davidcbrownfh.com)



Michael Edward Melton

**MICHAEL EDWARD MELTON**

(June 27, 1953 – May 6, 2021)  
Michael Melton, age 67, a resident of Belleville all his life, passed away on May 6, 2021, at St. Joe's Hospital in Ann Arbor. He was born on June 27, 1953, to Eugene Melton and Mary Margaret Hamilton. Michael was an Analyst Engineer in the auto industry at Ford Motor Company for 45 years. Michael was known to be a very generous man. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, and being outdoors, as well as the lake house. Most of all he cherished the grand kids and spending time with his family.

Michael is survived by his loving wife of 46 years, Pamela Melton (Katona); his children, Melissa Colwell and Matthew (Victoria) Melton; four grandchildren Brian and Luke Colwell and Alina and Mira Melton; his sister Judy (Donald) Stamper of Alabama. Michael was preceded in death by his brothers, Jerry Melton and Jimmy Melton, and his parents, Eugene and Mary Melton.

There was visitation 3-8 p.m. on Tuesday, May 11, 2021, at David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI 48111-2764 (734) 697-4500. Contributions may be made to the Wildlife Fund.

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# Obituaries



Patricia Marie Mull

**PATRICIA MARIE MULL**

(January 29, 1952 – May 7, 2021)

Patricia Marie Mull, age 69, lifelong resident of Van Buren Twp., passed away on May 7, 2021, at home surrounded by family. She was born on January 29, 1952, to Raymond and Jean Parent. Patricia worked in retail at Meijer for 20 years. Patricia enjoyed taking vacations. She was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Parish in Whittaker and was on the Council of Catholic Women (CCW), served as a former president for two years, as well as the First Communion teacher. She loved to watch old sitcoms as a pastime.

Patricia is survived by her children, Mark Mull and Marie Mull of Belleville, and her beloved granddaughter, Aria Collins. Patricia was preceded in death by her husband Edward Leroy Mull in 2008.

There was a visitation on Monday May 10, 2021, at David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI 48111-2764 (734) 697-4500. A service took place on Tuesday May 11, 2021, 11 a.m. at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 9425 Whittaker Rd., Ypsilanti, MI 48197. Contributions may be made to the wishes of the family.

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Keith Edward McDonald

**KEITH EDWARD McDONALD**

(October 7, 1940 – May 5, 2021)

Keith Edward McDonald, age 80, a resident of Van Buren Township for 54 years, passed away on May 5, 2021, at home. He was born on October 7, 1940, to Edward Alfonso McDonald and Ruth Leone Martin. Keith was the oldest of five siblings. He was a maintenance custodian in the auto industry. He enjoyed being involved in the Old Engine Club, Hit and Miss Motors, and C & C Milling Machines. He was an avid gardener. Keith was also known to enjoy a cold Budweiser or Bud Light and really enjoyed cookouts with family. He cherished his granddaughter, Sarah, and had a strong bond with her.

Keith is survived by his son Keith Matthew McDonald of Belleville and brother Michael (Berta) McDonald of Chelsea; sisters-in-law Joy of San Jose, California, and Debbie McDonald of Clinton, Michigan; brother-in-law Michael Taddie of Milan, Michigan; cherished granddaughter Sara Elizabeth Ann McDonald of Belleville. He was preceded in death by his loving wife Hazel, Jayne Ann Taddie, Patrick Andrew McDonald, and Robert George McDonald.

Keith's service was Monday, May 10, 2021, at 10:30 a.m., graveside at Union UdeLL Cemetery in Ypsilanti, Michigan. Father John Kiselica of St. Anthony Catholic Church officiated. Arrangements by David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville. Memorial contributions may be made to the wishes of his family. [www.davidcbrownfh.com](http://www.davidcbrownfh.com)



Lucille Iva Dickerson

**LUCILLE IVA DICKERSON**

(May 6, 2021)

Lucille Iva Dickerson, age 95, a resident of Van Buren Township, passed away on May 6, 2021, at home surrounded by her family.

Always a deck of cards at the ready, Mom was an avid, competitive card player, belonging to a couple's pot-luck supper club for years with friends and neighbors, playing Euchre, and playing Pinochle with the Ladies Club. Dice (Wipe Out), we played for hours. She taught all the grandchildren and somehow she could come from behind with a single throw of the dice and win, laughing all the way! Always a good time. She had a vibrant personality, was quick with humor, sassy and wise, witty with words of wisdom, and that wink! Always the jokester, often laughing at her own jokes before she could get out the punch line!

At the family farm, she worked side by side with her love on the dairy farm or in the field for crops. She always said, "Dad was going to put me on a pedestal, just didn't know it was a milk stool." Supper was on the table at 5:30 comprised of good hearty meals including canned vegetables from her garden. Most times an extra kid or two was at the table.

The Strawberry Festival allowed her to share her crafts and Watkins products in the early days.

Lucy (as most of her friends called her) could and would strike up a conversation with total strangers often exchanging recipes and phone numbers. That gift of gab, she definitely had it! Belleville is a small town and everyone knew of the Dickerson Farm, 1 mile south of town, where folks were able to get their fresh vegetables during the summer. Lucy worked as a cook in the schools, Girl Scout leader, Boy Scouts den mother, PTA leader, and prided herself on running honest elections. We sold multiple products out of the home: Amway, Shaklee, hay, straw and dog food. Watkins products being her favorite as it involved food ... again that gift of gab. Truly a family oriented woman who loved her family, people and life.

Lucille is survived by her children, Donna (Donald) Renton, Connie Dickerson, George (Denise) Dickerson of Belleville, Betty (Jim) Easley of East Jordan, Gerald Dickerson of Belleville, Carol (Bill) Barbone of Colorado

and Jane (Alan Elkins) Dickerson of Ypsilanti. Grandchildren Theresa (Johnny) Taylor, Dale (Sheralee) Renton, Amy (George) Snider, Rachel (Rodney) Johnson, Wyatt (Char) Dickerson, Leah Rouse, Heather (Bill) Curl, Leslee (Jason) Faulkner, Matthew Dickerson, Mark (Laura King) Easley, Kelly (Travis) Wood, William Barbone, Donnie Barbone, Amanda Barbone and Steven Dickerson, her brother Bill Thorne, as well as 20 great-grandchildren, and 6 great-great-grandchildren.

Lucille was preceded in death by her husband who was the love of her life for 56 years, Don Miles Dickerson Jr., in 1999; her son Tom and his wife Sherry Dickerson; granddaughters Jennifer Easley and Karen Renton-Reynolds; grandson Allen Rouse, (Leah Dickerson-Rouse's husband); three brothers Oscar, Larry and Ralph Thorne; sisters Mary Allesio and Roberta Shoenrock; and her parents, William and Oda Thorne.

There was a graveside service on Monday, May 10, 2021, at Union UdeLL Cemetery at 1 p.m. Arrangements by David C. Brown Funeral Home.

Well, Mom, we'll be "fine as frog's hair," until we meet again. So long ... never good-bye! Your loving family.

**RUDOLF 'RUDY' FRANZ EBMER, JR.**

(April 30, 1965 – May 2, 2021)

Age 56, after a long battle with COVID-19. He was born in Steyer, Austria. Survived by wife Kimberly, daughter Jackie, father-in-law Albert Obeginski of Belleville, brother Joe, cousin Heidi. David C. Brown Funeral Home.

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**JUDITH LYNN BUSBY**

(February 28, 1947 – May 8, 2021)

Age 74, of Belleville. Survived by daughter Vicky Lynn Martin, granddaughter Holly Abrams, great-granddaughter Jezrielle Abrams. Memorial service via zoom at 2 p.m., May 22. Arrangements by David C. Brown Funeral Home. [www.davidcbrownfh.com](http://www.davidcbrownfh.com)

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Obituaries on  
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# More Letters

## You can help clean up around WM landfill

To the editor:  
 When I first started in this role of Community Relations for Waste Management, I would often run into people who hated the landfill and WM for owning and operating it ... UNTIL ... I reminded them that it is NOT WM's waste – we just have the difficult job of managing it. IT IS THEIR GARBAGE! I watched relationships in the communities improve 100% when people were educated to that little piece of reality. I saw a lot of light bulbs go off in people's heads. If you want landfills to go away, what are you doing to reduce, reuse and recycle?

So, today I share ... another piece of wisdom for how YOU can help keep YOUR waste from getting into the natural environment – especially during the windy season.

Take plastic bags and acceptable “film” back to retail locations that are willing to serve as a collection point – follow their guidelines. But if you must throw plastic bags away, before doing so, tie plastic film, bags, envelopes in knots – it keeps it from filling with air on windy days so we can cover it up before it blows away. Also, if it is plastic bags, cut the handles and tie them in knots, too, so they don't get stuck on the feet of the birds that forage in the landfill.

I do this all the time now, without hesitation, because I know what happens at our sites on windy days, no matter how hard we work and how many fences we put up and move around, and during Covid 19, it is impossible to find paper pickers, even at \$15 an hour. Anyone want to work picking papers? We can direct you to sign up at our temp agency and put you to work helping us take care of the environment and manage your waste.

Yes, you can help keep plastic out of the natural environment. It just takes a little effort.

Please share widely and wildly!

Kathleen Klein  
 Community Relations Representative  
 Waste Management

**Editor's Note:** WM said it uses Job Center in Redford. Below is the hyperlink for the temp agency. Anyone interested can also reach out directly to Joe Read, Site Operations Manager at Woodland Meadows, at (248) 240-6936.  
<https://www.google.com/search?q=job+center+redford&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8&hl=en-us&client=safari#>

## Correction: We misspelled Kathy Klein's name

In the April 29 issue of the *Independent*, we spelled Kathy Klein's name wrong and we apologize. She said “Klein” is correct spelling. It means ‘small’ in German – appropriate, as I have always felt that ‘small’ efforts collectively lead to great cumulative results. That's what I teach our school kids in discussions about waste, recycling and sustainability. We are all in this together.”

Klein is community relations representative for Waste Management, Great Lakes Area.

Rosemary K. Otzman  
*Independent* editor

## COVID-19 deaths in 48111 up to 67, positive tests at 3,319

The number of people who have died from COVID-19 in the 48111 zip code grew to 67 as of Monday, May 10, according to the Wayne County Health Department.

The positive tests for COVID-19 in 48111 totaled 3,319 on Monday, May 10, up from 3,259 the previous Monday, May 3.

On Monday, May 10, the separate totals released by the Wayne County Health Department for the tri-community were: Van Buren Township, 2,206 positive cases, 38 deaths; city of Belleville, 481 positive cases, 21 deaths; and Sumpter Township 632 positive cases, 8 deaths.

“Half of the American people have never read a newspaper. Half never voted for President. One hopes it is the same half.”  
 – Gore Vidal

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

• **Thursday, May 13** – Free food every Thursday from 4 to 6 p.m. at BE Church, 494 W. Columbia Ave., Belleville, <https://bechurchfood.com/>.

• **Tuesday, May 18** – Forgotten Harvest Free Food Give Away runs from 2 to 4 p.m., or while supplies last, every Tuesday at Van Buren Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Rd. Volunteers will load fresh groceries into the vehicle of anyone in need. You can also get food for neighbors and friends/relatives.

• **Tuesday, May 18** – Forgotten Harvest Free Food Give Away at noon every

Tuesday until further notice at Romulus High School, 9650 S. Wayne Rd. Information: Virginia Williams, (734) 673-8396

• **Thursday, May 20** – Free food every Thursday from 4 to 6 p.m. at BE Church, 494 W. Columbia Ave., Belleville, <https://bechurchfood.com/>.

• **Wednesday, June 2** – Food truck and live music on Fourth Street Place, in front of the library in downtown Belleville. Street closed 5-9 p.m.

• **Thursday, June 3** – Red Cross Blood Drive, noon to 5:45 p.m., Van Buren Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Rd.

• **Saturday, June 5** – Flower sale at the Fourth Street Square by the Huron Valley Conservation Association as a fund-raiser for its ongoing conservation projects.



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## Janice Marshall

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 Wednesday classes & clubs 7:00 p.m. Join us on Facebook Live & [bellevillecog.online.church](http://bellevillecog.online.church)

### Ridge Road Church of Christ

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### RIVER OF LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD

16650 Sumpter Rd., Belleville, MI 48111  
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 Wednesday Adult & Youth @ 7 p.m.  
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### Faith Assembly Church

894 E. Huron River Drive, Belleville, MI 48111  
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 11 am – Contemporary Worship  
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I get along with the other cats here at the shelter (including the senior cats when I manage to sneak in their room), so I would love to have a feline sibling or two to hang out with. I haven't met many dogs before, but perhaps I'd get along with an older or calmer dog that isn't too interested in me. I don't think I'd like little kids that want to cuddle and pick me up all the time, but older kids and teens that can give me space would be okay. If you're interested in adopting me, you can go to [friendsofmichigan.org/adoption-application](http://friendsofmichigan.org/adoption-application) to submit an application. I'm spayed, micro-chipped, up to date on my vaccines, and FIV/FeLuk negative.

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## Five Belleville Bass will be displayed at Van Buren Township sites

The Belleville Area Council for the Arts is providing five of its ten Belleville Bass sculptures decorated by artists to be displayed without charge in Van Buren Township. The other five will be in the city of Belleville and their locations have yet to be announced.



In VBT the four-foot-tall, fiberglass sculptures on cement slabs will be placed at:

- Atchinson Ford;
- The former DNR parcel north of the Belleville Bridge;
- Fire Station #1 at Hull and Sumpter roads;
- Quirk Park, near the splash pad; and
- French Landing Park on Haggerty Road.

### Upcoming Meetings

- Thursday, May 13 – Keystone Academy School Board, 6 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township Planning Commission, 7 p.m. Also, Belleville Planning Commission, 7 p.m.
- Monday, May 17 – Van Buren Township work/study session at 4 p.m. Also, Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, May 18 – Van Buren Township regular meeting at 6 p.m.
- Wednesday, May 19 – Belleville Downtown Development Authority, 5:30 p.m. Also, Van Buren Township Environmental Commission, 7 p.m.
- Monday, May 24 – Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, May 25 – Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority, 5:30 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township workshop and regular meeting at 6 p.m.



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## More Letters

### Huge thank you to BYC volunteers for cleanup

To the editor:

A HUGE thank you to everyone who came out for our first BYC Belleville Lake cleanup day of 2021! We had around 35 hard-working and fun folks tackling the

incredible amount of trash on and under the Rawsonville Road bridge. We then teamed up with the DNR to scour trash at the boat launch and then clear brush along their parking lot on this beautiful Saturday.

One down, two to go!

Next date is next Saturday, May 15, when we will converge on the Belleville and Denton Road bridges and lakeshore.

Chris Donley  
Van Buren Township

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## BACA FISH Project continues

The Belleville Area Council for the Arts is bringing back the Community Art FISH Project for the summer of 2021. BACA is asking artists of all ages to decorate a fish cutout for the first time or add a newly designed piece to the past collection.

FISH blanks are now available at the Belleville Area District Library. All artists are encouraged to pick up a FISH, decorate it and return it to the library by June 15.

The school of FISH will again be displayed on the shoreline of Belleville Lake at Horizon Park. This year the FISH will be ready to highlight the Belleville Lake Fest activities, set for June 25-27.

The popular Music Lakeside will resume on Thursday evenings at 7 p.m., June 24-Aug. 19, at Horizon Park. Concert goers at BACA's Music Lakeside enjoy perusing the Community Art Project during intermission.

They will all remain swimming along the lake shore until late October.

Steps to take part in the FISH Art Project:

1. Pick up a wooden FISH at Belleville Area District Library.
  2. Paint, decoupage, add decorative pieces. Be creative!
  3. Sign and date the back of FISH.
  4. Return decorated FISH to the library by June 15.
  5. A donation of \$5 is recommended to support the FISH Project, but it is not required.
- Visit: [www.bacaart.org](http://www.bacaart.org) for more information.

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**Court Watching:**

# Ray Bailey bound over to circuit court for four Sumpter Twp. murders

By Rosemary K. Otzman  
Independent Editor

The night before he shot four people to death in a house on Martinsville Road in Sumpter Township Aug. 15, Raymond Lee Bailey sent a text to his girlfriend, "Feeling like clearing the scumbags out of my house, vigilante-style."

This was one piece of the evidence brought forth at Bailey's April 26, live, day-long preliminary exam before 34<sup>th</sup> District Court Judge Lisa Martin. Since it was being cablecast via YouTube, she asked all witnesses that may be called not to watch or listen to the exam. She also had Sumpter Township Captain Patrick Gannon removed from the waiting room.

More than 569 people watched the exam on YouTube.

After all the evidence was presented, Judge Martin bound Bailey over to circuit court at the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice to face four, first-degree, premediated murder charges and four felony firearm charges. Conviction on just one murder charge could bring life in prison.

His arraignment on the information was set for May 3, at circuit court and then reset at circuit court for May 4. At that time he was referred to pre-trial services for a bond review and a calendar conference set for May 7 before Judge Kelly Ramsey. Later a final conference was set for June 9.

Bailey had been in the Wayne County Jail without bond since his arraignment on Aug. 19.

A preliminary examination at district court is held to see if there is probable cause that a crime was committed and, if so, that Bailey, 37, of Wyandotte, was involved.

Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Tara Math Hindelang's first witness was Christine Shepherd, who is an emergency dispatcher for Huron and Sumpter townships and was on duty at the time of the shootings. She recalled a "unique" 911 call with yelling, a loud noise, and then silence. She called back and there was no answer and she also handled an unrelated

911 hang up.

Shepherd said she got the location of the call and whether there had been contact there before and the name of the phone owner. Then she dispatched officers to 24914 Martinsville Rd.

Next witness was Sumpter Police Officer Sean Hudson and Assistant Prosecutor Carley Koks took over the questioning. Officer Hudson said he was dispatched to the single-family residence and a black Ford Taurus registered to Raymond Bailey was in the driveway. The officer parked on the roadway. He knocked twice at the front door with no response.

Hudson said he walked to the back of the house and found a single female laying on the back deck, with blood around her from her head and arm. There were empty shell casings and an empty clip nearby. He testified he went back to his patrol car to get his rifle. He held the property until help came.

He testified Sgt. Beth Egerer arrived and they waited for the third officer, K-9 Officer Hickman from Huron Township. He said they approached the house and Hudson called out, "Sumpter Police. Make yourself known." Hickman also called out and there was no reply.

Hudson testified they entered the house and found a second female with two gunshots to the head and in the living room there was a male slumped over to the right with a gunshot wound. Then, they found a second male who had been shot. He testified he did not touch the bodies and he found no weapons or guns. Hickman cleared the shed on the property. Paramedics came and checked all four bodies with no pulse on any subject and then they left the scene.

Hudson said he had been to the location before when there was a domestic violence call concerning Raymond Bailey and Laura Tanner, one of the deceased. He said it was Oct. 30, 2019 and a small caliber firearm was involved. On that date he went to a location on Willow Road and Bailey was

*(continued on page 13)*



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# Court watching

(continued from page 12)

there. Bailey turned over the firearm police after retrieving it from beneath a trailer at the back of the property.

Hudson said on Aug. 15 he was directed to go door to door for a surveillance camera and he found none. He then was directed to search for the cell phone that had been used to call 911. It was Neil Sampson's phone, another of the deceased, and Hudson and two other officers from Huron Township searched couldn't find it. It was thought to be somewhere in a half-mile range in the dense brush area between the church on Sumpter Road and the house on Martinsville.

Next witness was Sumpter Police Sgt. Elizabeth Egerer who was in charge of road patrol during that shift and was dispatched to the address. She, too, retrieved her patrol rifle from the scout car because Hudson had seen empty shells outside. She testified the K-9 team from Huron Township arrived and assisted Hudson with the search of the home.

Sgt. Egerer testified that the first female was lying in a pool of blood and there was a bloody footprint. She said another female was halfway between the laundry room and the kitchen and she had a bullet in her face and earlobe. A white male was lying on the couch with no pulse either and a dog over him. She said victim four had no pulse. She testified she took photos and texted them to Detective John Toth.

Egerer said she backed out of the home and the medic unit came to make sure there were no signs of life. She also made arrangements to have the Michigan State Police crime scene unit come out and they

retrieved one of the dogs out of the home to make sure nothing was disturbed. On the dog tags were an address and phone number, a website, and multiple people listed in Detroit.

The car in the driveway was registered to Ray Bailey and since Bailey had been arrested for domestic violence at this location, he became a suspect in the investigation of the murders.

Egerer testified she talked to the neighbor across the street and the woman mentioned that she had heard multiple gunshots around noon that day and she looked out the window and didn't see anything.

Egerer said they received information Bailey was driving a truck. His phone and the truck were registered to Laura Tanner.

Prosecutor Hindelang entered into evidence the post-mortem reports for the four victims, listing multiple gunshot wounds as the cause of death for three, with a shot to the chin listed for Forrest Sampson, and all were deemed homicides.

The fourth witness was Joseph Socia, who testified he had been friends with Bailey since grade school and they were very close. She said Laura Tanner was Bailey's girlfriend about 12 to 13 years and that ended about two years ago and he started dating someone else. There were bad relations between him and his ex, Socia testified.

He said on Aug. 15 he got a phone call at about 5 p.m. from Craig Blankenship who told him about what happened. Socia said he lives in the Upper Peninsula and he was building a barn. He said he drove to the Flint area to look for Bailey.

Socia testified that Bailey drove a four-door, white Chevy Silverado and it was financed through Laura. He said Bailey gave her money for the payments which

were made in her name.

Socia said he called Bailey and he was confused and upset. He said he asked Bailey what he did and he said he is lost and doesn't know where he is. "I told him I'd bring him in to the police," he testified. It was a five-minute phone call and then Socia got on the road and started driving south.

Socia said he called his cousin who is a detective and he advised him to call Det. Toth, which he did, and told him he is Ray's friend, he's made contact and he's going to bring him in so nobody gets hurt.

Socia said Bailey was driving and trying to find a landmark because he was lost and they wanted to get together. Socia testified Bailey said he made a mistake and something bad happened.

Socia said the following day he mentioned what he did and Socia said he told him to stop and not tell him about it. He said Bailey told him he ended up pulling the trigger and killing four people.

Then, Socia became unable to contact Bailey because the phone was dead, lost or gone. Socia said Bailey had told him he would park his truck at Applebee's in Bay City and would meet him at Speedway. Socia said he was aware Bailey carried guns, a small one on him and a .45, usually carried in his Bugout Bag in the back of his locked truck.

While Socia was looking for Bailey, Socia said he was picked up by police in Bay City and Sumpter Township police came in and talked to him from midnight to 1 a.m. and then he went back to the Speedway and didn't find Bailey.

Socia testified that Bailey told him they were harassing him, threatening to take the house and take the truck. He said the house was financed by him but was in her name (because she had better credit). Their agreement had been to give the car and \$10,000 to her and the house would go to him.

"There was a lot of contention over the property," Socia said.

He said after he couldn't find Bailey he left Bay City and went home. He got a call from Bailey from an unknown number and Bailey said he had gone to a hotel and passed out. He said he was ready for Socia to bring him in to the police.

Socia said he picked him up north of Bay

City and took him to the police department. He said he saw an officer walking into the police building and he told the officer he was bringing someone in. That officer said OK, went in and got two more officers, and then spoke to Bailey, grabbed him and arrested him.

He said he waited for two to three hours for the U.S. Marshals to arrive to transport Bailey to Sumpter. He said he's been in communication with Bailey since then.

Socia testified that on the evening before the shooting he had received a phone call from Bailey who said he was upset because, "they were threatening him, would take his house and bike."

Socia said he told Bailey to come upstate, "and I'd give him one of my vehicles. I told him to calm down, come up north. He was a little stressed, but didn't sound that angry. He was overall calm for the most part."

Socia said Bailey told him Laura was at it again and acting stupid and he was tired of it.

Under cross-examination by defense attorney Sharon Woodside, Socia said Bailey and Laura had a number of breakups and then went back together. Socia said now, they were backing out of a deal and Bailey never made threats to harm anybody. After 5 p.m., Aug. 15, Bailey was lost, upset and was crying. Socia said he was concerned Bailey would harm himself.

"I told him there's no forgiveness for this and he had to turn himself in," Socia said.

Fifth witness was Briana Allen, Bailey's current girlfriend who has lived with him in Wyandotte for about a year. She said Bailey also had property in Kinross in the Upper Peninsula. She said Bailey's relationship with Laura was "unwell" and he was trying to get Laura to sell the house, where she was living.

He also was trying to get the white truck out of Laura's name, and an RV also was in her name. They had a dog in common and the dog was with her now. She said on Aug. 14, they were living together and she was going to his sister's house in New Boston. She said Bailey went to the doctor with her and then she went to her sister's house in New Boston. That's the last time she has seen him in person, she testified.

She said she turned her phone over to the

(continued on page 15)



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# Court watching

(continued from page 13)

Sumpter PD and they kept the records of text messages from the evening of Aug. 14 including one that said he wanted to “get the scumbag out of my home, vigilante-like.”

She said she spent the night at her sister’s and then went to her other sister in Milan.

She said she got a message from Bailey’s best friend Socia that told her to stay at her sister’s place.

She said she got a communication from Bailey at 7 p.m. Aug. 15 and she asked what was going on. She testified that Bailey said, “I shot them. Laura and whoever was in the house.” He said he was going to meet Socia and turn himself in. He told her to go get the dog and her stuff from the Wyandotte home where he paid the rent. He left money for her in the top drawer. She said the police came and she spoke with them.

She testified Bailey had told her that some guys were calling and threatening to take the truck and motorcycle. “He hated her and didn’t want to deal with her any more,” Allen said. She said he wanted to sell the house but had to get her out of the house first.

Sixth witness was Sumpter Det. George Salajan, who had been with the department for eight years. He said he was the co-officer in charge of the case and was on the day shift the day of the homicides. He said he was called to the scene and spoke with Alexander Sampson, who showed up at the house. He had a dating relationship with Laura Tanner, Det. Salajan said. He also talked to Ms. Demetrio Bronaugh, who had downloaded videos from their Ring cameras about a mile down Martinsville Road from the murder site. The videos showed a white Silverado pickup with a cap first going northbound on Martinsville and

then two minutes later going southbound quickly.

Det. Salajan said he had traveled to Bay City and the MSP in Bridgeport examined the pickup. They found a small handgun in an area of the driver’s seat and a .45 caliber handgun in the locked truck. Det. Salajan also described what Bailey said during a one-hour-and-seven-minute interview by Det. Toth in Toth’s office.

Salajan said Bailey said he and Tanner had been arguing the night before about the house and selling of the house and Bailey believed Tanner was stringing him along.

He said on the next morning, Aug. 15, he called Tanner. She was supposed to be signing papers and the Realtor said he hadn’t heard from Tanner. Salajan reported Bailey said he just lost it when he found out Tanner wasn’t responding to the Realtor. He drove over to the house.

He said he had been walking around in circles for the last two days. He said on the day of the murders he said he went to the house and he began arguing with Tanner and her sister, Sarah Grupa, when he was attacked by “two big bastards,” Neil and Forrest Sampson, who were cousins of the two females. He said he remembered fighting with one in the hallway. Bailey said the two males said the house was theirs and not Bailey’s and the girls laughed. “Shit got violent,” he told Toth.

Salajan said in November 2020, MSP found clothing, a destroyed cell phone, and concealed pistol license in the area of the Applebee’s in Bay City where the truck Bailey was driving had been parked.

Under cross-examination by defense attorney Woodside, Salajan said Bailey talked about getting a lawyer twice, maybe once more. He said Toth continued to talk to Bailey after the first time a lawyer was mentioned and the second time, Toth said Bailey had invoked his right to talk to an attorney and he stopped asking questions. He said the third mention of an attorney was when Toth asked who his attorney was.

After this information was discussed the prosecutor and defense attorney met at the bench with Judge Martin and when they were done the video of the complete interview was run in the courtroom, but the YouTube video to the public was turned off.

After the courtroom was reopened to the public, Prosecutor Hindelang made a motion to bind Bailey over to circuit court for the four murders and he was bound over.

# School Board approves training to improve district cyber security

By Rosemary K. Otzman  
Independent Editor

The Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education voted unanimously to pay \$25,974 for three years’ worth of cyber security training services from KnowBe4 to keep the district safe.

Sean Garland, the district’s IT Network Administrator, explained his request for the services during Monday’s in-person school board meeting.

He said SET SEG (School Employees Trust / School Employers Group) recently conducted a cyber risk assessment of their education customers to determine the current state of preparedness with regards to phishing attacks, backup, and recovery of critical data and systems access.

He said their initial focus is on staff cyber security awareness. Malware and ransomware attacks are on the rise and insurance payouts to recover data have skyrocketed, he said.

Garland said email phishing campaigns are the most prevalent tactic used to deliver these attacks into a target network. SET SEG has recommended end-user security awareness training be implemented on an ongoing basis as a way to help mitigate these attacks.

Garland said several companies that offered these services were contacted and the three largest responded with demos.

Besides three months for free, KnowBe4 also is including at no charge a home-training course that anyone in the community can use for training in personal internet security. SET SEG recommended KnowBe4 for these services and negotiated a 25% discount for their customers.

The service is scheduled to begin at the start of the 2021-22 school year.

School Supt. Pete Kudlak said 12 school districts in the past 12 months have been cyber attacked with ransomware and had to pay \$12,000 each to get their data back.

Garland said the district has a method now to avoid cyber attacks, but it is manual. He said they need to get the staff alerted, along with the board members. This will not be extended to students.

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

- Approved the Wayne RESA preliminary budget as presented. Finance Director Sara Cortese said the RESA budget is a basic

(continued on page 16)

## BONECUTTERS

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# School Board

(continued from page 15)

rollover from last year because income from the state is in doubt in all the school districts and everyone will be having budget amendments in the future;

- Was informed on details of the two Early Childhood Center technology contracts that total \$216,410 that will be up for a board vote at the May 24 meeting. Rob Kakoczki of Plante Moran CRESA said there were ten bids on the two packages and recommended are low-bidder Digital Age Technologies for the first package

and third-highest bidder Security 101 for the second contract. Garland said the first contract will be for the paging and bells system where the teacher also will have a microphone for voice and music and the superintendent eventually could do district-wide alerts that go into every classroom. The second contract is for the security system;

- Heard presentations from the staffs of McBride, Rawsonville, and Haggerty schools about education during COVID. "We have some kids we haven't seen in a while. That's the bottom line," said McBride Principal John Leroy. Haggerty

Principal Becky Ross said some children don't know learning any other way than by tablet or phone. "That's all they've had," she said of the four-year-old, pre-school students;

- Discussed the COVID-19 Plan Reconfirmation, a procedure required every 30 days by the state; and
- Was informed that the board will be

required to appoint a representative and an alternate to vote in the upcoming Wayne RESA election. The representatives are to be appointed at the May 24 meeting to take part in the June 7 election. Up for election is one, six-year term and those running will be revealed to the board before the next meeting.

## Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

### CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES MAY 4, 2021 ELECTRONICALLY VIA ZOOM

Supervisor McNamara called the meeting to order electronically via Zoom meeting ID: 969 4910 5739 6:00 p.m. Present: Supervisor McNamara, Treasurer Budd, Clerk Wright, Trustee Boynton, Trustee Martin, and Trustee Miller. Absent/Excused: Frazier. Others participating, facilitating and monitoring the meeting: Secretary Montgomery, Public Services Department Director Best, Developmental Services Director Power, Developmental Services Executive Assistant Renaud, Park and Recreation Director Zaenglein, Communication Specialist Nichols and a maximum audience of thirty (30).

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

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA:** Boynton moved, Miller seconded to approve the agenda. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: McNamara, Budd, Wright, Boynton, Martin, and Miller. Absent/Excused: Frazier. Motion Carried.

**ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA:** Martin moved, Budd seconded to approve the Consent Agenda: Board Meeting Minutes of April 20, 2021, Closed Session Minutes of April 20, 2021, Prepaid List of April 22, 2021, Prepaid List of April 29 2021, Voucher List of May 4, 2021] Roll Call Vote. Yeas: McNamara, Wright, Budd, Boynton, Martin, and Miller. Absent/Excused: Frazier. Motion Carried.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** None.

### C O R R E S P O N D E N C E / ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS:

The Van Buren Civic Fund has awarded the Township a grant in the amount of \$43,000 for improvements to the Van Buren Pickleball Courts, the Van Buren Township Downtown Development District has awarded the Township a grant in the amount of \$1.137 million for the development of a theater in the new Recreational Facility, the Belleville Area Council for the Arts fish project will be displayed at Atchinson Ford, The old DNR parcel off Belleville Road, French Landing Park, Fire Station 1 (Sumpter and Hull) and Quirk Park near the Splash pad, thanked Board members for attending the Sumpter Corridor Improvements and Haggerty Subdivision Sidewalk Replacement Program meetings both of which were well attended by the public, additional meetings will be held and the Township continues to accept public comments, the Board anticipates finalizing the Haggerty Subdivision Sidewalk Replacement Program in the next four weeks, Board members attended a meeting with Representative Debbie

Dingell and the U.S. Treasury to discuss the parameters associated with the Biden Recovery money, during the meeting the Township was advised that funds may be decreased from the \$2.8 million they anticipated, Walk-up Covid-19 vaccinations are available for Wayne County residents 16+ at the Ted Scott Campus of Wayne County Community College (9555 Haggerty Rd, Van Buren Township). The vaccine clinic is open from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Appointments are also available by calling 1-866-610-3885 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., and read a correspondence from a resident thanking the Township for holding the informational question and answer meetings regarding the Haggerty Subdivision Sidewalk Replacement Proposal and open forums on the Sumpter Corridor Project.

**PUBLIC COMMENT (Unfinished and New Business):**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Budd moved, Wright seconded to approve the first reading of Ordinance 5-4-21(1) to clarify required minimum useable floor area per dwelling unit in independent senior housing developments and to allow additional signage in senior housing developments. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: McNamara, Budd, Wright, Boynton, Martin, Miller. Absent/Excused: Frazier. Motion Carried.

Wright moved, Miller seconded to approve Davenport Brothers Construction for the French Landing Park Phase 1 Improvement Project in the amount of \$277,163.00. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: McNamara, Budd, Wright, Boynton, Martin, Miller. Absent/Excused: Frazier. Motion Carried.

Budd moved, Miller seconded to approve Zambelli Fireworks Company for the 2021 Van Buren Township Fireworks Show, scheduled for June 26, 2021, and authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to execute the agreement. Roll Call Vote. Nays: McNamara, Budd, Wright, Boynton, Martin, and Miller. Absent/Excused: Frazier. Motion Failed.

**REPORTS:** None.

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

**BOARD COMMENT NON-AGENDA ITEMS:** Board member commented that the Pickle Board courts are beautiful and they look forward to the shade structure and encourage residents to get vaccinated.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Miller moved, Boynton seconded to adjourn at 7:00 p.m. Motion Carried.

Leon Wright, Township Clerk  
Kevin McNamara, Supervisor  
Publish: May 13, 2021

## Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

### CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 20, 2021 ELECTRONICALLY VIA ZOOM

Supervisor McNamara called the meeting to order electronically via Zoom meeting ID: 985 0716 3367 5:00 p.m. Present: Supervisor McNamara, Treasurer Budd, Clerk Wright, Trustee Frazier, Trustee Martin, and Trustee Miller. Arriving at 6:00 p.m. following the closed session Trustee Boynton. Others participating, facilitating and monitoring the meeting: Secretary Montgomery, Public Services Department Director Best, Developmental Services Director Power, Communication Specialist Nichols and a maximum audience of twenty (20).

**CLOSED SESSION:** Miller moved Frazier seconded to go into closed session at 5:06 p.m. pursuant to MCL 5.268 - section (h) To consider the contents of an attorney-client communication. Roll Call Vote: Yeas: McNamara, Budd, Wright, Frazier, Martin, and Miller. Excused: Boynton. Motion Carried.

Miller moved, Frazier seconded to reconvene at 6:00 p.m. Roll Call Vote: Yeas: McNamara, Budd, Wright, Boynton, Frazier, Martin, and Miller. Motion Carried.

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

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA:** Frazier moved, Boynton seconded to approve the agenda. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: McNamara, Budd, Wright, Frazier, Martin, and Miller. Motion Carried.

**ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA:** Boynton moved, Miller seconded to approve the Consent Agenda: Board Meeting Minutes of April 6, 2021, Prepaid List of April 8, 2021, Prepaid List of April 15 2021, Voucher List of April 20, 2021] Roll Call Vote. Yeas: McNamara, Wright, Budd, Boynton, Frazier, Martin, and Miller. Motion Carried.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** None.

### C O R R E S P O N D E N C E / ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS:

Announced the continuation of Forgotten Harvest Food Pantry every Tuesday at 2 p.m. while supplies last. No registration or forms are required and you may pick up food for another family or neighbor. Anyone wishing to volunteer for the food pantry contact the Senior Center at 734-699-8918, beginning the week of April 26<sup>th</sup> the DDA will begin a sidewalk replacement project within the DDA boundaries, the Township will hold a Special Meeting to discuss the Sidewalk Replacement Program in the Van Buren Estates subdivision (a.k.a. Haggerty Sub) on Tuesday April 27, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. via zoom. Interested persons may join the meeting at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89044013105> or calling in at 1 (312) 626-6799, and a walk in Covid-19 vaccination clinic is being held Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. at the Wayne County

Community College (Ted Scott Campus) located at 9555 Haggerty Rd in Van Buren Township. Vaccines are available for ages 16+. For more information or to schedule an appointment call 866-610-3885.

**PUBLIC COMMENT (Unfinished and New Business):** Resident asked if there were any road improvement updates slated for this year. The Supervisor indicated he will find out and post notice on the Township website. The Township was not notified of the closure of the bridge at Haggerty Road however has been advised it will re-open on Monday April 26, 2021.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Boynton moved, Miller seconded to approve the second (final) reading of Ordinance 04-06-21(1) amendments to lot coverage and outdoor industrial storage area related to unenclosed roofed structures. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: McNamara, Budd, Wright, Boynton, Frazier, Martin, Miller. Motion Carried.

Martin moved, Miller seconded to approve the request for excavation, removal and off-site hauling of up to roughly 192,800 cubic yards of soil in order to create two (2) 5-acre irrigation ponds for agricultural purposes on three parcels south of Hull road between Martinsville and Sumpter Road. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: McNamara, Budd, Wright, Boynton, Frazier, Martin, Miller. Motion Carried.

Clerk Wright requested to abstain from discussion and action on item #3 due to role as president of the Andover Farms Subdivision Homeowners Association. Budd moved, Miller seconded to approve allowing Clerk Wright to abstain from discussion and voting on the item. Roll Call Vote: Yeas: McNamara, Budd, Boynton, Frazier, Martin, Miller. Abstained: Wright. Motion Carried.

Miller moved, Frazier seconded to approve the 2021 Memorandums of Understanding with Walden Woods, Charter Club Estates, Andover Farms and Robinson River Park for participation in the Wayne County Local Road Initiative and authorize the Supervisor to execute the Memorandums of Understanding. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: McNamara, Budd, Boynton, Frazier, Martin, Miller. Abstained: Wright. Motion Carried.

**REPORTS:** None.

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

**BOARD COMMENT NON-AGENDA ITEMS:** Director Power announced that on April 28<sup>th</sup> the introductory meeting for the Sumpter Rd. corridor planning webinar, BACA brought a bunch of fish sculptures and want the Township and DDA to purchase a fish sculpture to place around the Township. It was stated this is not a permissible government expense.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Budd moved, Martin seconded to adjourn at 6:54 p.m. Motion Carried.

Leon Wright, Township Clerk  
Kevin McNamara, Supervisor  
Publish: May 13, 2021

# VBT planners spend entire meeting on Sumpter Corridor Plan

By Rosemary K. Oztman  
Independent Editor

Steve Davenport of Davenport Brothers Construction told the Van Buren Township Planning Commission why the Sumpter Road Corridor Plan was important to his company. This was at the April 28 zoom

meeting via zoom completely devoted entirely to the Sumpter Road Corridor.

The plan calls for overlay zoning of commercial over a strip of property along Sumpter Road from the city of Belleville to Bemis Road, where Sumpter Township begins. The township sent out more than 66 invitations to attend this presentation on the plan, seeking input.

Davenport said he has property in the city of Belleville, north of Hull Road. In Belleville there are a lot of marijuana industries. He said they haven't made any decisions, but if they decide to sell property, "We want to keep every one of our tenants local."

He said his company purchased 455 and 515 Sumpter Road and they're talking to the farmer who owns property east of Sumpter Road on Hull.

"Everyone likes to fast-track and you can't do it without zoning," Davenport said. He said the IP zoning in Belleville is flexible.

"I'm certainly for it," he said of the Sumpter Road Corridor Plan. "If I was certain to have the zoning, I could bring more people in."

"We hear what you're saying about businesses nearby and limits to where they are," said Dan Power, VBT director of planning and economic development, who led the discussion period. This followed a 20-minute presentation on the plan by McKenna consultant Adam Cook.

Bill Ellis spoke of the blighted property he bought at the corner of Cheney and Sumpter Road. He said he cleaned it up and is taking the parking lot out of the front for residential use, but the township won't approve residential. Power said it was built as a home and then zoned commercial. Ellis said the house was empty for eight years and the lumber yard nearby empty three years.

Ryan Ellis of Cheney Street said their neighbors were embarrassed by the house before his father fixed it and would give their guests roundabout directions to get to their homes.

Roger King said that house was a house when it was built. "Why isn't it a house? Put some people in there."

Edward Burger said he was happy the township is showing leadership in this corridor. He said he was born on the road in a house that burned down long ago. His family farmed it for 100 years and now there are tenant farmers from Milan who do a great job.

He said north of Hull Road, it was developed over time and then it's a clean slate down to Bemis. He said the Sumpter Road Corridor Plan calls for 400 feet in front in a strip along both sides of Sumpter Road with farms and residences behind that.

"The opportunity is there," Burger said. "They are looking for business places to go where the zoning/master plan allows."

He said the traffic on Sumpter Road is very heavy and noisy and is not a good place for a home.

"You'll be proud of what develops," Burger said, noting he spent 16 years in the commercial real estate business.

Carrie Fry asked if there are any proposed businesses who want to come in to Sumpter Road.

"I'm brand new to the township and I travel into Belleville a decent amount..." she said.

Power said businesses wanting to come in aren't driving the planning process. He said they have to lay the process first.

"Drive into Belleville," said Matt Best, director of public services. "We want to keep people driving into Belleville. We don't want to take away from them... No specific businesses... What do you want?"

"I moved here for rural nature," she said, adding she would like sidewalks. She said she would stop at stores along the way, such as a new bakery or an ice cream shop.

Joy Stevenson said she moved to the township two years ago from Detroit and is living on Sumpter Road at Belle Villa Boulevard. She said when they ride bikes to Belleville it is very dangerous. She said the speed limit is 40, and they are going 50.

"If you extend the sidewalks down and create bike lanes, that would be really cool," she said. "It's not safe riding down Sumpter Road. The more businesses are coming, the more we need a way to get there."

She said when heading to Belleville they have to get to the Plaza sidewalk. They have also tried to get to the Metroparks.

Power read some written commentaries, with the first one from a Bemis Road resident. He said there is a bottleneck at Five Points and businesses won't want to give up on the street parking to widen it. He said on Sumpter Road there will most likely be small businesses with a record of failure. He said there are existing abandoned businesses north from Hull Road and it would be better to renovate. He said the traffic on Sumpter and Bemis already is heavy.

Another written comment was from a man who has lived on Martinsville near Fret for four years. He wanted more elbow room and less hubbub, but misses the

amenities of other cities. He said amenities are limited south of Belleville and improved north of I-94. He said COVID has people rethinking urban living. There is an opportunity for rezoning, he said.

Sean Bellingham of Sumpter Township asked VBT to keep the zonings the same. He moved to Sumpter for the rural atmosphere.

Linda Hogan said there are many empty buildings, 14 or more, including Kmart, the dog groomers. Traffic gets stuck by trains, she said. Traffic has to be addressed.

Four or five neighbors on Cheney street wrote they are so glad to see the eyesore fixed at the corner and it should be residential.

Facebook and chat postings were synopsized by Power: leave it the way it is; traffic; and Steven Dark wrote this is an exciting concept and has so much untapped potential; bike paths; lumber yard an eyesore, home should be rezoned; and Reg Ion said most of the businesses along there fail and the township is wasting a lot of money there on consultants.

VBT Planning Commissioner Medina Atchinson said the plan would help drive businesses to the city of Belleville. She said whatever affects the city of Belleville, Van Buren Township or Sumpter Township affects them all.

Belleville City Councilwoman Kelly Bates agreed with Atchinson, saying the three communities are one.

Power said, "We've been trying to keep the three communities as one."

After the planning commission members commented, Power said they will take the feedback and consider what to do next. Based on the feedback, he said, it looks like they will go forward.

Power said they may have an actual event with social distancing, maybe at the fire station at the corner of Hull and Sumpter. He said there will be other opportunities for the public to reach out and they will continue to develop this with the planning commission.

Reg Ion offered another comment that Power relayed as the township failed to create a downtown in the past and this is their last chance to create a downtown. Ion asked Power to read his comment in full and Power read it again leaving out the part about the planning commission had failed in the past in building a downtown.

## Alexis Vlademar of VBT earns U of Neb. - Lincoln BS degree

Alexis Rae Vlademar of Van Buren Township was among 3,512 graduates who received degrees from the University of Nebraska - Lincoln during commencement exercises May 7 and 8.

Vlademar earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the College of Business.

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## Van Buren Public Schools Public Notice

### VAN BUREN PUBLIC SCHOOLS ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID

Van Buren Public Schools will receive sealed bid proposals until **2:00 p.m. on May 28, 2021**, for **Professional Certification Robotic Arm Programming Class**. Bids will be opened and publicly read aloud immediately following the deadline for submission. Van Buren Public Schools will not consider or accept a bid received after the date and time specified for the bid submission.

Bid documents may be viewed and downloaded at:  
<https://5il.co/sq2w>

Any questions, contact Sara Cortese at [scortese@vanburenschools.net](mailto:scortese@vanburenschools.net) or Jeff Moore at [jmoore@vanburenschools.net](mailto:jmoore@vanburenschools.net).

## Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

*There were 258 dispatch calls reported by Van Buren Township police last week including the following.*

### Sunday, May 2:

0002 – suicidal person, E. Huron River Dr.  
0011 – malicious destruction of property, S. I-94 Service Dr.  
0127 – family trouble, Lighthouse Dr.  
0341 – domestic, Maple Dr.  
0509 – suspicious person/vehicle, S. I-94 Service  
0545 – disorderly, Belleville Rd.  
0805 – property damage accident, Brookside Dr.  
0819 – property damage accident, Belleville/Tyler  
1055 – animal complaint, Village Center Dr.  
1138 – assist other dept., Parkwood Dr.  
1157 – breaking & entering, S. I-94 Service Dr.  
1235 – assist other dept., W. I-94/Haggerty  
1314 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd.  
1333 – assist other dept., S. Bellridge Dr.  
1339 – domestic, Parkwood Dr.  
1354 – neighbor trouble, Meadows Cir.  
1414 – suspicious person/vehicle, S. I-94 Service  
1535 – suspicious person/vehicle, S. I-94 Service  
1821 – road hazard, Belleville Rd./Ecorse Rd.  
1913 – harassment call, Oak Blvd.  
1915 – disorderly, Denton Rd.  
1959 – fraud, Belleville Rd.  
2049 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.  
2115 – suspicious person/vehicle, Chandler Dr.  
2257 – suspicious person/vehicle, Rawsonville  
2326 – assist other dept., Jeremy Rd.

### Monday, May 3:

0432 – disorderly, Parkwood Dr.  
0540 – assist other dept., Assembly St.  
0806 – property damage accident, Ecorse/I-275  
1002 – parking complaint, Ecorse/Haggerty  
1039 – suspicious person/vehicle, Victoria St.  
1050 – juvenile complaint, McBride  
1222 – assist other dept., Kent Ln.  
1341 – fraud, Belleville Rd.  
1348 – juvenile complaint, W. Walden Dr.  
1501 – property damage accident, Haggerty Rd./N. I-94 Service Dr.

1507 – domestic, Pine Dr.

1519 – assault & battery, Parkwood Dr.  
1727 – suspicious person/vehicle, Holly Ln.  
1813 – suspicious person/vehicle, Pebblebrook Dr.  
1913 – follow up by officer, Parkwood Dr.  
2011 – fight, N. Ponderosa Trl.  
2105 – domestic, Kahla Dr.  
2114 – misc. complaint, Mida Dr.  
2148 – 911 welfare check, E. Schooner Dr.  
2214 – suspicious person/vehicle, W. Schooner Dr.

### Tuesday, May 4:

0113 – 911 welfare check, Westlake Cir.  
0918 – family trouble, S. I-94 Service Dr.  
0930 – ordinance violation, Old Michigan Ave.  
0953 – suspicious person/vehicle, Westlake Cir.  
1021 – unattended death, Riggs Rd.  
1121 – suspicious person/vehicle, Tyler Rd.  
1153 – suspicious person/vehicle, Westlake Cir.  
1236 – juvenile complaint, Tyler Rd.  
1258 – juvenile complaint, Tyler Rd.  
1322 – juvenile complaint, Tyler Rd.  
1340 – juvenile complaint, Tyler Rd.  
1407 – juvenile complaint, Tyler Rd.  
1408 – assist other dept., Taco Bell Michigan Ave.  
1421 – juvenile complaint, Tyler Rd.  
1435 – assist other dept., W. I-94/rest area  
1439 – juvenile complaint, Tyler Rd.  
1450 – juvenile complaint, Tyler Rd.  
1502 – suspicious person/vehicle, Bemis/Lohr  
1508 – property damage accident, Michigan Ave. / Denton Rd.

1513 – juvenile complaint, Tyler Rd.

1525 – juvenile complaint, Tyler Rd.  
1528 – suspicious person/vehicle, Maple Dr.  
1557 – 911 welfare check, Revere Dr.  
1621 – fraud, Ventura Dr.  
1634 – threat, Belleville Rd.  
1701 – private property/property damage accident, Belleville Rd.

1723 – noise complaint, Parkwood Dr.

2016 – sexual assault, Oak Blvd.  
2019 – sexual assault, Martz Rd.  
2021 – sexual assault, Martz Rd.  
2025 – disorderly, S. I-94 Service Dr.  
2037 – sexual assault, Oak Blvd.  
2102 – animal complaint, Country Walk Blvd.

2121 – suspicious person/vehicle, S. Prairiegrass Ct.

2149 – 911 welfare check, Van Born

2306 – domestic, S. I-94 Service Dr.

### Wednesday, May 5:

0011 – mental subject, Belleville Rd.  
0410 – domestic, Lighthouse Dr.  
0430 – animal complaint, Sondra Dr.  
0827 – threat, Brandi  
0908 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Richard Run Dr.  
1039 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.  
1055 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, S. I-94 Service Dr.  
1143 – property damage accident, Ecorse/Haggerty  
1135 – assist other dept., S. I-94 Service Dr.  
1528 – neighbor trouble, Parkwood Dr.  
1546 – larceny from auto, Buchanan St.  
1648 – fight, Belleville Rd.  
1651 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.  
1703 – suspicious person/vehicle, Marlowe Ave.  
1727 – domestic, Belleville Rd.  
1755 – suspicious person/vehicle, S. I-94 Service Dr. / Quirk Rd.

1822 – mental subject, Bemis Rd./Elwell Rd.

1911 – animal complaint, Park Estates Dr.

1928 – threat, Sawgrass Ct.

1950 – parking complaint, Amanda Dr.

2044 – neighbor trouble, S. Ponderosa Trl.

2201 – suicidal person, S. I-94 Service Dr.

2249 – suspicious person/vehicle, Anna Dr./Sadie

### Thursday, May 6:

0002 – assault & battery, Rawsonville Rd.  
0227 – suicidal person, N. I-94 Service Dr.  
0342 – assist other dept., Purple Sage Ct.  
0430 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.  
0534 – harassment call, Belleville  
0811 – unattended death, Sumpter Rd.  
1025 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.  
1136 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.  
1258 – animal complaint, S. I-94 Service Dr.  
1324 – private property impound, Victoria St.  
1447 – found property/child, Tyler Rd.  
1449 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, Belleville Rd.

1500 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, Ecorse Rd./Beck Rd.

1543 – noise complaint, Parkwood Dr.

1552 – traffic offense, Rawsonville Rd.

1727 – suspicious person/vehicle, Hickory Woods

1850 – missing person, Belleville

1931 – threat, Senate St.

2001 – property damage accident, Holly Ln.

2045 – assist other dept., Brookview Dr.

2227 – operating while intoxicated, Hull Rd.

2238 – assist other dept., Gilmore St.

### Friday, May 7:

0258 – suicidal person, Westlake Cir.  
0745 – animal complaint, Beck Rd./Van Born Rd.  
0837 – assault & battery, Bemis Rd.  
0838 – assist citizen, Lancaster Dr.  
0854 – hospice death, Pond Bluff Dr.  
0911 – found property/child, Parkwood Dr.  
0938 – suspicious person/vehicle, Quirk Rd.  
1156 – private property impound, W. Archwood  
1231 – animal complaint, Elwell Rd./Reene Dr.  
1300 – fraud, Belleville Rd.

1312 – suspicious person/vehicle, S. I-94 Service Dr. / Denton Rd.

1434 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.

1437 – suspicious person/vehicle, Ecorse

1626 – juvenile complaint, Belleville Rd.

1722 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.

1731 – property damage accident, Ecorse Rd. / Belleville Rd.

1808 – suspicious person/vehicle, E. Archwood

1844 – hospice death, Alden Ave.

1933 – 911 welfare check, Ash Dr.

2003 – family trouble, Oak Blvd.

2010 – suspicious person/vehicle, E. Archwood

2324 – harassment call, Robbe Rd.

2330 – suspicious person/vehicle, Vernon St.

2343 – civil matter, Parkwood Dr.

### Saturday, May 8:

0007 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.  
0037 – family trouble, Birch Dr.  
0102 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belmont Dr.  
0406 – road hazard, Haggerty/E. Huron River Dr.  
1044 – motorist assist, Haggerty/Independence Ln.  
1047 – private property/property damage accident, S. Ponderosa Trl.

1317 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.

1325 – disorderly, Rawsonville/W. Huron River

1333 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville/Ecorse

1436 – suspicious person/vehicle, Haggerty/Ecorse

1456 – suspicious person/vehicle, S. I-94 Service

1526 – property damage accident, Ecorse/Sheldon

1614 – assault & battery, Rose

1940 – shooting, Hull Rd./Sumpter Rd.

2050 – larceny from auto, Belleville Rd.

2052 – shooting, Hull Rd.

2121 – larceny, Oak Blvd.

2141 – 911 welfare check, Cobblestone Ct. / Cobblestone Dr.

2157 – suspicious person/vehicle, Ecorse Rd.

2335 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd. / W. Huron River Dr.

2336 – trespassing, Denton Rd.

Also on this week's log are 24 traffic stops, one of which was on I-94.

## Belleville Police Dispatch Log

### Sunday, May 2:

0200 – traffic stop, Third St./N. Liberty St.  
1040 – traffic stop, First St./Main St.  
1105 – traffic stop, E. Huron River Dr./Main St.  
1137 – traffic stop, Main St./First St.  
1158 – traffic stop, Main St.  
1813 – traffic stop, W. Columbia/Harbour Pointe

### Monday, May 3:

0149 – traffic stop, Main St./High St.  
0251 – traffic stop, Main St./Third St.  
1535 – found property/child, Victorian Ln.  
1651 – private property impound, Sumpter Rd.  
1811 – malicious destruction of property, Fred C.

Fischer

1932 – traffic stop, W. Columbia Ave.

### Tuesday, May 4:

0118 – traffic stop, High St./Main St.  
0157 – domestic, N. Liberty St.  
1637 – trespassing, Main St.  
1828 – harassment call, W. Columbia Ave.

### Wednesday, May 5:

0111 – traffic stop, Main St./First St.  
0810 – intrusion alarm, San Carlos St.  
0918 – traffic stop, Fourth St.  
0951 – traffic stop, W. Columbia Ave.

0959 – traffic stop, Harbour Pointe Dr./W. Huron River Dr.

1009 – traffic stop, South St.

1023 – traffic stop, W. Columbia Ave.

1120 – suspicious person/vehicle, Bedell St.

1444 – traffic stop, E. Columbia Ave.

1659 – traffic stop, E. Huron River Dr./Madelon

1714 – traffic stop, E. Huron River Dr./Madelon

2038 – assist other dept., Main St.

### Thursday, May 6:

0327 – misc. complaint, Sumpter/Davis  
0327 – traffic stop, South St./W. Wabash Ave.  
0439 – traffic stop, Belleville/Quirk  
0829 – traffic stop, W. Huron River Dr./Harbour Pointe Dr.

0920 – traffic stop, Savage Rd./RR track

0933 – traffic stop, Robbe St./Angola St.

0955 – traffic stop, Angola St./E. Huron River Dr.

1017 – traffic stop, E. Huron River Dr./Wexford

1026 – traffic stop, S. Liberty St.

1055 – traffic stop, High St./Main St.

1144 – traffic stop, N. Biggs Ave.

1155 – larceny, W. Columbia Ave.

1643 – traffic offense, Sumpter Rd./Industrial Park

1648 – traffic stop, E. Wabash Ave./South St.

1801 – assist other dept., Carmell St.

2004 – traffic stop, Main St./Roys St.

### Friday, May 7:

0258 – intrusion alarm, Main St.  
0537 – traffic stop, 5 Points  
0759 – suspicious person/vehicle, Carmell St.  
1119 – animal complaint, Harbour Pointe Dr.  
1448 – traffic offense, Church/Third  
1741 – traffic stop, E. Huron River Dr./N. Biggs  
1900 – misc. complaint, E. Huron River Dr.  
1926 – traffic offense, Main St./High St.  
1938 – 911 welfare check, Belle Villa Blvd.  
1943 – intrusion alarm, Main St.  
2011 – misc. complaint, S. Biggs Ave.  
2026 – juvenile complaint, Victory Park  
2349 – traffic stop, Second St./N. Liberty St.

### Saturday, May 8:

0054 – traffic stop, Church St./Roys St.  
0223 – traffic stop, Main St./Denton Rd.  
0859 – warrant arrest, Main St.  
1053 – misc. complaint, Light Tower Dr.

1101 – traffic stop, W. Columbia/St. Anthony's

1108 – traffic stop, W. Columbia Ave.

1409 – civil matter, Main St.

1617 – welfare check, Victorian Ln.

1652 – traffic stop, E. Huron River Dr. / N.

Edgemont Ave.

1714 – traffic stop, E. Huron River Dr./Angola St.

1729 – assist fire dept., Sumpter Rd.

1910 – property damage accident, E. Wabash Ave.

/ South St.

1911 – unattended death, W. Columbia Ave.

2322 – traffic stop, Main St./High St.

There were 41 traffic stops on this week's log.

## Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

### Sunday, May 2:

0531 – alarm, Mulberry Dr.  
0904 – 911 hang up, 44000 bl. Harris Rd.  
1148 – 911 hang up, 22000 bl. Martinsville Rd.  
1827 – traffic complaint, 50000 bl. Willis Rd.  
1907 – fire dept. assist, 42000 bl. Bemis Rd.  
1931 – 911 hang up, 23000 bl. Karr Rd.  
1941 – suspicious vehicle, 19000 bl. Willmot Rd.  
2011 – citizen assist, Sumpter Rd./Arkona Rd.  
2104 – suspicious circumstances, Rustic Ln.  
2131 – suspicious person, Timberlane Dr.  
2210 – 911 hang up, 44000 bl. Wear Rd.

### Monday, May 3:

0938 – suspicious circumstances, 44000 bl. Clay  
0942 – follow-up investigation, Sumpter/Willis  
1022 – fire dept. assist, 48000 bl. Wear Rd.  
1029 – animal complaint, 26000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
1055 – fire dept. assist, Nevada St.  
1133 – follow-up investigation, 20000 bl. Sherwood Rd.

1726 – fire dept. assist, Third St.

1729 – animal complaint, 46000 bl. Wear Rd.

2100 – follow-up investigation, 46000 bl. Wear

2222 – civil matter, 48000 bl. Sully Dr.

### Tuesday, May 4:

0037 – animal complaint, 21000 bl. Elwell Rd.  
0139 – fire dept. assist, Greenmeadow Dr.  
0858 – suspicious circumstances, 44000 bl. Arkona Rd.

1033 – found property, 40000 bl. Judd Rd.

1101 – fire dept. assist, 46000 bl. Willow Rd.

1130 – suspicious circumstances, 27000 bl.

Martinsville Rd.

1207 – fire dept. assist, 22000 bl. Fenster Ave.

1250 – suspicious person, Hampshire Dr.

1429 – fire dept. assist, 43000 bl. Harris Rd.

1602 – traffic complaint, Bemis Rd./Sumpter Rd.

1707 – assist other agency, 17000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

1952 – suspicious circumstances, Rustic/Wayside

2230 – suspicious circumstances, 41000 bl. Willow Rd.

### Wednesday, May 5:

0958 – traffic complaint, Oakville Waltz/Haggerty  
1034 – fire dept. assist, 20000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
1155 – fire dept. assist, 44000 bl. Bemis Rd.  
1458 – citizen assist, 24000 bl. Elwell Rd.  
1508 – 911 hang up, 44000 bl. Clay Rd.  
1552 – suspicious person, 21000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
1715 – follow-up investigation, 2100 bl. Rawsonville  
1736 – mental health call, 19000 bl. Martinsville  
2250 – family trouble, Rustic Ln.  
2316 – suspicious circumstances, 22000 bl. Karr  
2347 – fire dept. assist, 42000 bl. Willis Rd.

### Thursday, May 6:

0551 – 911 hang up, 47000 bl. Judd Rd.  
0600 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
0631 – felonious assault, Rustic Ln.  
0841 – 911 hang up, Sumpter Rd./Willow Rd.  
1029 – fire dept. assist, 22000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
1355 – fire dept. assist, 44000 bl. Judd Rd.  
1401 – suspicious vehicle, 40000 bl. Willis Rd.  
1608 – missing person, Mulberry Dr.  
1748 – assist other agency, Willis/Rawsonville  
2050 – juvenile complaint, Carriage Ln.  
2144 – recovered runaway, 21000 bl. Clark Rd.  
2202 – follow-up investigation, Rustic Ln.  
2207 – family trouble, 21000 bl. Elwell Rd.

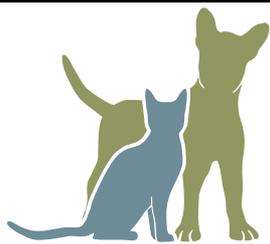
### Friday, May 7:

0943 – fire dept. assist, Rustic Ln.  
1008 – fire dept. assist, 8300 bl. Rawsonville Rd.  
1021 – ordinance violation, Carriage Ln.  
1039 – fire dept. assist, 21000 bl. Clark Rd.  
1109 – 911 hang up, Rustic Ln.

*(Continued on page 19)*

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\*\*\*

Congratulations to the senior class members at BHS who are celebrating their last days at school with a senior prom this Saturday, May 15, at the BHS Tower Courtyard. I'm certain social distancing will be in place, however, they managed to make it happen for themselves. I just know there will be lots of photos of tuxedos and pretty dresses circulating on Facebook this weekend. The weather is supposed to be sunny and 71.

\*\*\*

May 9-15 is National Police Week in the United States and we say thank you to those in our tri-community that keep us safe as we remember those that made the ultimate sacrifice. We appreciate you.

\*\*\*

My nephew Brent of the Wayne County Sheriff Marine Division has already been busy this boating season, conducting boater safety classes in Flat Rock and throughout the county and will conduct a class this weekend here in Belleville. I remember back in the '80s when I took a class in Livonia, conducted by the Coast Guard Auxiliary back then. The test was a piece of cake as I aced it, the only one in the class

**Sumpter Township  
Police Dispatch Log**

(continued on page 18)

- 1405 – follow-up investigation, Rustic Ln.
- 1409 – found property, Sumpter Rd./Willis Rd.
- 1610 – follow-up investigation, Rustic Ln.
- 1643 – 911 hang up, 23000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
- 1719 – 911 hang up, 17000 bl. Lohr Rd.
- 1811 – lost property, 24000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

**Saturday, May 8:**

- 1118 – follow-up investigation, 26000 bl. Sumpter
  - 1132 – fire dept. assist, 39000 bl. Wear Rd.
  - 1641 – ORV complaint, 46000 bl. Traskos Dr.
  - 1910 – suspicious circumstances, 42000 bl. Bemis
  - 1929 – shots fired, New Mexico
  - 2032 – citizen assist, 21000 bl. Clemmons Ct.
  - 2159 – noise complaint, Haggerty/Wear
  - 2316 – suspicious circumstances, Rustic Ln.
  - 2335 – noise complaint, 20000 bl. Martinsville
- Also on this week's log are 49 patrol checks, 12 traffic stops, and 10 misc. details.

with a perfect score. I learned a lot in that class, from the Rules of the Road to rope-tying and I still use that knowledge while tying knots whenever I re-string tennis racquets. I still have my class completion card, too. Some things are never forgotten.

\*\*\*

Happy 47<sup>th</sup> Business Anniversary to Garden Fantasy Greenhouse on Tyler Road in Van Buren Township. We're glad you're a part of our community. Congratulations to owners Walt and Joyce Rochowiak. Be sure to see their ad in today's paper.

\*\*\*

Now through May 18, you can vote for Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue of Sumpter as Channel 4's Vote For The Best Pets in their online contest at [www.clickondetroit.com](http://www.clickondetroit.com). Click Other, then scroll down to FMAR and vote there.

\*\*\*

Crosswinds Marsh and Interpretive Center in Sumpter is gearing up for Nature Fest on Saturday, May 22, from noon until 4 p.m. There will be nature displays, amphibian and reptile exhibits, canoeing, and a nature scavenger hunt. Tickets are free but will be limited with social distancing. Pre-registration is required and can be made at [Eventbrite.com](http://Eventbrite.com). Two sessions are available: Noon to 2 p.m. and 2 to 4 p.m.

\*\*\*

*Do you have a business item you would like to see in this column? Call Bob Mytych at (734) 699-9020. There is no cost to be in this column.*

**Homebound can get  
COVID shots at home  
in Wayne County**

Wayne County Executive Warren C. Evans announced the county is partnering with local municipalities to offer vaccinations to homebound residents in their own homes.

The homebound program is part of Executive Evans' and Wayne County's ongoing efforts to increase vaccine access to residents who may want the vaccination but cannot make it to one of the Health Department's COVID vaccine clinics.

County residents should call the phone number associated with the community in which they live to schedule an in-home vaccination. The program is open to homebound county residents aged 16 years and older.

- If you live in Belleville, call (734) 699-2710;
- If you live in Sumpter Township, call (734) 461-4833; or
- If you live in Van Buren Township, call (734) 699-8910.

*"There is a cult of ignorance in the United States, and there has always been. The strain of anti-intellectualism has been a constant thread winding its way through our political and cultural life, nurtured by the false notion that democracy means that 'my ignorance is just as good as your knowledge.'"*

– Isaac Asimov

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**SAVAGE 1 ACRE SUMPTER TWP \$45,000**

**VACANT VENETIAN 1/2 ACRE LOT \$60,000**

**KARR RD 10 ACRES 661 FRONT \$100,000**

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**44194 ROBSON, VAN BUREN.81AC \$44,000**

**25817 SUMPTER 80X529 .97 AC \$20,000**

**HAGGERTY 1.5 AC VAN BUREN \$70,000**

**KARR RD 20 ACRES ZONED AG \$200,000**

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**00000 SUMPTER 243X687 3.63 AC \$40,000**

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