



# BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 32.23 Thursday, June 4, 2026

Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

FREE

## Top Ten Belleville High School Graduates



Cooper Mears, Valedictorian



Tristan Bullard, Salutatorian



3. Ethan Sulea



4. Jeffrey Graves



5. Nidianny Grullon



6. Aiden Tulik



7. Kaylee Rupnow



8. Vincent Castellani



9. Collin Glimpse



10. Lucas Bryan

## Belleville Council considers more taxes to balance new budget

By Rosemary K. Otzman  
*Independent Editor*

Interim city manager Steve Jones gave a brief report on the city's preliminary budget at Monday's regular meeting of the Belleville City Council.

He said the financial consultant was working on final details and the final copy of the budget will be ready for the June 15 public hearing.

Jones said there are three options for the estimated \$242,000 deficit: with option two being favored which is revenue from the Savage Road property sale of \$121,000 plus an increase of one more public safety

mill of \$121,000.

Option one was two new public safety mills. Option three is no new taxes and cuts of proposed purchases in the new budget.

In other business at Monday's regular meeting, the council:

- Heard a presentation by Beck Barber of Verkada on security cameras for city hall. Verkada is the manufacturer and Barber is based in Phoenix. Sehi in Jackson would install and maintain the cameras. It would be about a \$15,000 total cost for the five-year option;

- Approved the annual city-wide yard sales for Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 12

and 13. Residents will not have to pay for permits to hold sales those days;

- Approved the 2026 Tax Rate Request of 8.4396 operating mills to be levied on July 1 and 11.25 mills for police and fire protection on Dec. 1;

- Heard a presentation on the Civic Duty Education Day set for 1 to 3 p.m. on Saturday, June 6, at Fourth Street Place with the Belleville Downtown Development Authority, SOOAR, and Survivors Speak as cooperating sponsors. Free food and entertainment. The council set June 6 as Civic Duty Education Day in the city of Belleville;

- Approved purchase of police gym equipment with a five-year warranty, which will be used by all city employees. Total cost is \$9,790. City councilman Randy Priest showed interest in using it, as well, and was told he was welcome;

- Delayed action until the next meeting on the proposed Blue Care Network new insurance options for employees. Mayor Voigt wanted the council to get a look at the charts presented as part of the budget study before action;

- Heard Jones report that the first car

*(continued on page 3)*

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# SECOND FRONT PAGE

## City Council

(continued from page 1)

show of the season went off with a large crowd that afternoon and the Farmers Market has expanded and was holding its first session of the season that afternoon. He also reported the Horizon Park bids are out, but there have been slight changes and the opening of bids will be June 23 and the work will be delayed a couple of week into mid September;

- Heard Mayor Voigt say the city's plan to upgrade the intersection at Main and Denton has the same contractor as the bridge. He said he has told them that they shouldn't delay the opening of the bridge for the intersection work and the intersection can be done after the Fourth of July. He also said he enjoyed meeting the Belleville 3 who founded Techno Music in the early 1980s. He reported 10% of their income from the event was to go to the school district's robotic club;

- Heard councilwoman Julie Kissel say she took part in a two-hour zoom session that day on updates on the state legislature and she passed on information to the council. She said the \$350,000 still not paid on the city's Horizon Park grant could be in jeopardy.

## City council narrows field of city manager candidates to four

After an hour-long special meeting in closed-door session on Friday, May 29, the Belleville City Council narrowed the list of 19 candidates for city manager to four — including present interim city manager Stephen Jonesg.

Mayor Ken Voigt said the four candidates will be interviewed in public starting at a special 8 a.m. meeting on Saturday, June 13, at city hall, 330 Charles St.

- 8:15 a.m. -- Krystina Laslo
- 9:10 a.m. -- Darwin McClary
- 10:05 a.m. -- Brady Peck
- 11:00 a.m. -- Stephen Jones

**Circuit Court grants permanent injunction in Wayne Disposal case.**

See page 9



Independent photo by Rosemary K. Otzman

Angela Mears of Van Buren Township was presented with a surprise award at the May 26 meeting of the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education. School Supt. Pete Kudlak, right, announced it was a brand-new award that was developed to honor her years of service to education while her sons were in the district. She seldom missed a school board meeting and supported the district in every way. Supt. Kudlak said they may present the new award to others who qualify in the future. From left are Mears, trustee Calvin Hawkins, vice president Dionne Falconer, and Supt. Kudlak.

## School Board honors senior killed in crash

By Rosemary K. Otzman  
Independent Editor

The Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education held a moment of silence at the beginning of its May 26 meeting in memory of a Belleville High School senior who died May 23 just days before he was to graduate.

Aiden Dombos, 18, was in the back seat of a vehicle driven by school board secretary Darlene Loyer Gerick, the mother of Marina Gerick, who was dating Aiden. Marina and her mother were both in the front seats and injured in the crash in Kawkawlin Township near Bay City.

Bay County sheriff's deputies determined a white 2020 Chevrolet Equinox had been heading north when it crossed the center line and collided head-on with the southbound blue 2018 Chrysler Pacifica, driven by Gerick.

Secretary Gerick attended the May 26 school board meeting in a wheelchair with her leg elevated and did not sit at the board table. She was wheeled out after the BHS top-ten seniors were honored at the beginning of the meeting.

She privately told those at the meeting that she and Marina were in the process of determining what rehabilitation they would need for their injuries.

Aiden was commanding officer of the BHS NJROTC and was due to be in a Navy nuclear program after graduation, which

was set for May 28.

BHS student Arturo Green said a lot of students went to see the counselors provided for them earlier that school day.

School Supt. Pete Kudlak said it was incomprehensible that this happened on the week of graduation.

It was explained that school board president Amy Pearce was not present at the school board meeting because of a family emergency. She had to go overseas and would also miss commencement ceremonies. Vice president Dionne Falconer presided at the meeting.

In other business at the May 26 meeting, the board:

- Honored the top-ten Belleville High School graduates of 2026, although only three were present to be honored: valedictorian Cooper Mears, sixth-place Aiden Tulik, and ninth-place Collin Glimpse;

- Presented a special engraved wooden and metal plaque to parent Angela Mears for her years of promoting education in the district. Supt. Kudlak said this is the first such award for the district, but they may continue the award for others in the future;

- Approved the 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade social studies curriculum that had been discussed at the last meeting. The Teachers Curriculum Institute Social Studies program will cost about \$147,709 over five years;

- Approved spending \$143,961 on a BHS

Band Tower for the football field which was discussed in detail at the last meeting;

- Approved the Wayne RESA budget proposal that was discussed at the last meeting;

- Approved the list of 50 non-affiliated salaries, as required by the state. Supt. Kudlak said he had to do some corrections since they were presented at the last meeting. He said the three highlighted in red were \$4,000, which is higher than normal raises, two in yellow were corrected because the military pays for the JROTC teachers, and five others were pushed to slightly more than the \$2,000 general raise to comply with the layout of the state chart;

- Heard reports from the principals of Rawsonville, Savage, and Edgemont elementary schools. Tyler school was on the list of those to present, but was removed and Tyler will present at the next meeting;

- Approved the retirement of Kathy Yates, a paraprofessional at Owen, after 30 years of serving the district, as of June 30. The board also approved the hiring of paraprofessional Meghan Harple to serve Edgemont school as of May 20;

- Approved the resignations of Tyler teachers Courtney Schweer, with no years of service, as of May 11; Michelle Kirkwood, with less than one year of services, as of May 19; and instructional tech coach Nichole Consiglio, after five

(continued on page 12)

# O P I N I O N S

**Editorial**

## Much turmoil over VBT projects

Recently, there was radioactive waste in the Wayne Disposal landfill in Van Buren Township. Big uproar and lawsuit. Now, it appears to be over, but Republic Services, owners of Wayne Disposal, are appealing the latest judicial order. Wayne Disposal said they were following the rules.

Then, there's the new Google data center that is heading into reality step by step, with Van Buren Township board saying it is following the rules.

The VBT board's action has brought death threats from throughout the U.S.

Who knows if data centers are good or evil? The board is doing the best it can with the information it is given.

But, death threats are a bit much. They are also being threatened with recall, which is more reasonable.

Now, the Waverly Apartments proposal to expand with more apartments and a housing development in what was supposed to stay a golf course is riling people up. Some say they moved out to the country and now the golf course they loved next door has been allowed to die for more development.

The paperwork that would head off the buildings has been lost by VBT over the last 50 years. Not good. More turmoil.

## EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

We've learned that members of the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees are getting death threats over their unanimous approval of tax abatements for the new data center. Some of the threats are coming from as far away as Tulsa. The internet carries lots of nonsense.

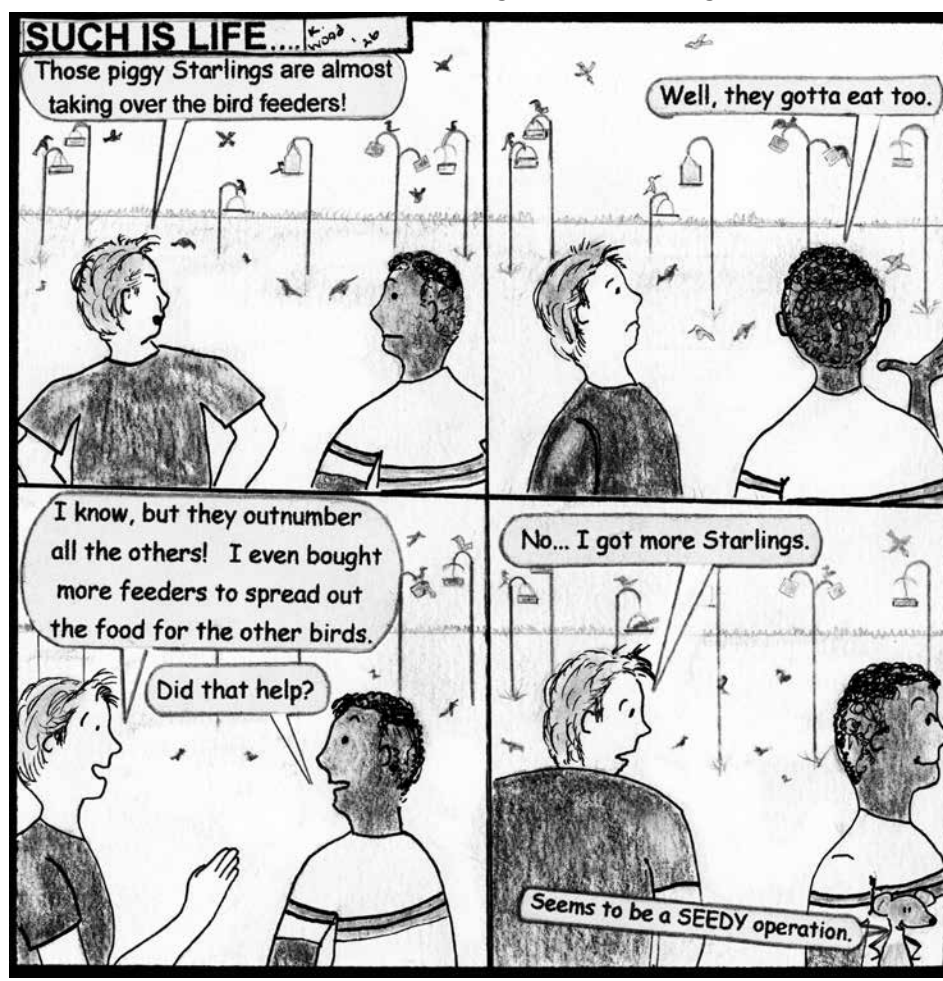
The state of Michigan will grant the 50% tax abatements for the project if the township didn't. Then, the township would lose all its power to get things changed this way or that and would have to accept what the state approved.

The board members said they felt they were making the best decision for the township when it approve the abatements. The changes to suit the township were explained in detail at that township board meeting, but those in the audience threatened them with recall.

Well, recalls are one thing and the residents can do that if they have a mind to. But, death threats are quite another thing.

\*\*\*

We received a letter to the editor for publication from a person who reeled off a lot of things the VBT board did that just weren't true. He said at that meeting, you could only talk for 2 minutes or the police came for you. Not true. I was in the front row and saw every move at the lectern. The chairman only called for police assistance when the woman at the microphone refused to stop talking well after the 3-minute limit. The police asked her to come with them and then they put a hand on her arm and she started screaming not to



touch her. She finally was walked out of the meeting room and later got to come back in. She was the only one approached by police at the microphone that night.

There were other things in that letter that were in error, as well, so I decided not to print it. Hope this disrespect for each other ends soon, but it doesn't look like it is letting up.

\*\*\*

We've been informed that St. Anthony Catholic Church is one of the Catholic parishes that is likely to be involved in the changes in this area. They are considered as part of the Metro Huron family of parishes, grouped with St. Stephen's in New Boston and St. Aloysius in Romulus. Weekend masses could be eliminated at two of the three. Although St. Stephen's building is smaller than St. Aloysius, St. Stephen's has a school so it probably will be chosen to continue weekend masses. The other churches in the family group would be encouraged to attend masses at St. Stephen's.

We'll see what happens with St. Anthony next as the Archdiocese of Detroit considers over 50 parishes to reorganize.

\*\*\*

I received a call from a person I haven't seen for 50 years. Kendall Wingrove said it was the Bicentennial summer in 1976 and I was the managing editor of the Richmond Review, Marine City Independent, and the Algonac Courier Journal. He was a college student at age 18 and was interning with us that summer. He remembers making \$25 a week and started this week, 50 years ago.

He said I trained him, taught him a lot that summer and I was very kind. Nice memories. He worked at the Algonac paper during the week where he wrote mainly feature stories for editor Jay Jackson. But, when it was time to lay out the papers he came to Richmond, the main office, and worked with me. We used scissors to cut out the stories and a waxer to place the stories where we wanted them on the layout pages which were on light tables. The ladies who input our typewritten stories into hot lead were in the back of the large production room. The printing presses were next door so we carried the lead pages next door when it was our turn on the presses.

Anyway, Kendall said he didn't intern for the next few years and so what I taught him was very valuable. He said he went on to a life in communications and has retired. He'll be 69 this year. He said he and his wife mentor journalists and so he is writing a book to tell them what it was like for him at the beginning of his career. He wondered if I was still around and he googled my name. Nice to hear from him.

I told him I especially remembered 1976 because that's the year on April 5, my oldest son Jerry died of cancer at age 17. Kendall remembered that and said he recalls that Jerry's picture was on my desk and he said he was startled to see he looked a lot like Jerry - blonde with glasses.



www.bellevilleareaindependent.com  
 baindependent@ameritech.net  
**BELLEVILLE-AREA INDEPENDENT**  
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Rosemary K. Otzman
- Advertising Manager:**  
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Yvette Gorecki
- Editorial Cartoonist:**  
Kathryn Wood

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**Letters**

**Waverly development a danger to environment**

To the editor and neighbors:  
 RE: The potential Waverly Apartment development at 49000 Denton Rd., Van Buren.

Through personal efforts and research, we've discovered prior EGLE findings in the area. The area in question is a high-erosion risk. It is on wetlands with a high-water table and flooding zone. Further development would exacerbate, increasing flooding and erosion, and pollution that would run off straight to Belleville Lake.

The large-scale development could cost many of us neighboring homeowners and possibly even the State substantial damage expenses.

Furthermore, construction on the property in question could lead to higher maintenance needs and expenses that could be neglected, or not in the foreseen budgeting plans, leading to possible property abandonment, by ownership. And even uninsurable damages to buildings, tenant property, neighboring properties etc., etc., etc.

In addition, the irreparable damage this development may have to the endangered, threatened and special concern species, that inhabit and / or hunt on the property in question.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** June 10, 2026, at 5:30 p.m., held at 46425 Tyler Rd., Van Buren Twp.

**REZONING REQUEST:** from Single Family Residential (R-1B) to Multiple Family Residential (RM).

Please find more specifics below on endangered and special-concern species as well as impacts to high erosion risk, wetlands at 49000 Denton Rd.:

Grasshopper Sparrow (special concern)  
 Bald eagle (special concern) has been seen in area, and a nest is located in close proximity to identified property.

Red shoulder hawk (threatened) has been seen hunting the identified property.

Indiana bat (endangered) has been seen on identified property and neighboring properties.

Evening bat (threatened) again seen on identified property as well as neighboring

properties.

Wood turtle (special concern) has been seen on identified property near bodies of water.

The presence of these species indicates a functional eco system, that is relatively undisturbed, and thus attracts other species such as Barred Owls, Scott's Oriole, and Blue Herring, indicating a clean, healthy and self-functioning eco system that further development would displace, disturb and destroy, further putting these species at further risk of endangerment.

And in our honest opinion allowing this type or any development on this property, NOT Pure Michigan...

Donald Kroeker  
 Van Buren Township

**Tri-community Lions Club getting slow start**

To the editor:

Lion Ron has asked you before and it's just time to remind you that our communities are still open for you.

We're hoping that you might see your way clear to step up and Serve as a Lion!

The Tri-Community Lions Club is getting off to slow but sure start with just two new Lions: Kelie Fuller and Rich Pietrogallo

We need three more to have five for a club branch with Canton but we need 18 for a Charter Lions Club that you folks will name!

Please come contact me and bring a friend or family member to help Serve in the 48111!

Lions Ron Coleman & Roshni Patel for DG Kim Hooper, DGE Larry Wegrzyn, FVDGE Deborah Jameen Love & SVDGE Daniel Rathbun, PhD

**Olivet University honors VBT student Bailee Robinson on dean's list**

Bailee Robinson of Van Buren Township has been named to the University of Olivet dean's list for the Spring 2026 semester, with a grade point average of 3.5 or higher.

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## More Letters

### Thanks for comfort on Doreitha's passing

To the editor:

On behalf of myself and my whole family, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who came to pay their respects and celebrate the life of my beloved wife, Doreitha Armstrong.

To those who attended her funeral, reached out with kind words, sent prayers, offered support, or simply stood beside our family during this difficult time, please know how deeply grateful we are. Your love and kindness have meant more than words can express.

I would also like to give a special thank you to Doreitha's sorority, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, for honoring her and showing such beautiful support.

Thank you to Angel Food Catering for doing such a wonderful job catering our dinner. Thank you to Brown's Funeral Home and Shelly Brown for the care, compassion, and professionalism shown to our family. We are also grateful to Rev. Greg Buchner for his comforting words and for helping us celebrate her life in such a meaningful way.

A special thank you as well to church staff member Terri Morioka for her kindness, support, and help during this difficult time. Your care meant so much to our family.

We would also like to thank the Belleville Police Department and the Van Buren Township Police Department for their assistance with traffic during our procession. Your support helped our family and loved ones move safely and respectfully as we honored Doreitha.

Doreitha was loved by many, and our family truly appreciates everyone who helped honor her memory. We are especially thankful for this community, where we chose to live our lives, raise our family, and build our family business, Armstrong's Funland.

Your support has brought comfort to our family, and we will always be grateful.

With sincere appreciation,  
Leonard Armstrong and family  
Van Buren Township

### 'Underground Railroad' next lecture at museum

To the editor and friends of the Belleville Area Museum,

Thank you to everyone who came out to Tyler Moll's lecture on "Lost Film and Media." I learned a lot and had a great time talking to and seeing everyone.

Our next lecture will be "Midnight: Detroit and the Underground Railroad," presented by Catherine Waldecker of the Detroit Historical Society. The lecture will be at 6 p.m. on June 11, with pizza at 5:30. As usual, if you are interested in joining us, please email or call us at (734) 697-1944.

June brings the return of Belleville's

weekly farmer's market and car show! From June through August, the museum will be open on Mondays from 4-7 p.m. for the participants of the event to explore (especially our own antique vehicle, Dr. Robb's 1919 Ford Model T). Starting at the car show today, we also began a summer drawing for a LEGO Ford Model T set! Every donation helps support the Belleville Area Museum's mission to preserve and share the stories of Van Buren Township, Belleville, and Sumpter Township for future generations.

The winner will be announced at 6 p.m. on Saturday, June 27, during Lake Fest. Our hours on that Saturday will be 12-6 p.m.

This month, we will also be starting a bi-monthly Museum Coffee Hour that will take place every first and third Saturday from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Come join us for a time of sharing coffee and the history of the tri-community.

Our temporary exhibit on Belleville Businesses is now up in the front area, as well as a collection of technology from Roxann Baker, who donated her Tandy 1000 SL and its amenities to us to be sold to support the museum. If you are interested in taking a look at it or purchasing it, stop by!

Have a wonderful start to your summer,

Mary Utz  
Belleville Area Museum curator  
Van Buren Charter Township  
[mutz@vbtmi.gov](mailto:mutz@vbtmi.gov)  
(734) 697-1944

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## Court Watching

Jaizon Amir Brooks of Ypsilanti was video-arraigned in custody on May 22 at 34<sup>th</sup> District Court on a charge of malicious destruction of personal property, \$1,000-\$20,000 on May 21 in Van Buren Township. His personal bond was set at \$5,000. His probable cause conference was set for June 2 and his preliminary exam for June 9. He is not to be released without a GPS tether.

The defendant had been sentenced on May 15, to original charges of assault with intent to do bodily harm less than murder / strangulation, assaulting a police officer, and domestic violence/assault of a pregnant individual-2<sup>nd</sup> offense notice on Feb. 28, 2026 in Romulus. He pled guilty to a reduced charge of police officer assault and guilty to domestic violence and the first assault charge was dismissed by the party.

He was sentenced to a fine of \$1,365, eight days on the work program and 18 months of probation and tethers for alcohol and GPS were removed.

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**Obituaries**



Anthony Stephen Kuchta, Sr.

**ANTHONY STEPHEN KUCHTA, SR.**  
 (April 18, 1931 – May 23, 2026)  
 Anthony Stephen Kuchta, 95, Ft. Pierce, FL, passed away peacefully on May 23, 2026 in his home in Ocean Village surrounded by family members.

Tony Kuchta was born on April 18, 1931 in Cleveland, Ohio to Stephen and Marion Kuchta. He grew up in Belleville and graduated from Belleville High School in 1949 where he was the captain of the football team.

He married the love of his life, MaryLee Virginia Schaffer on October 15, 1949 in Belleville and shared a beautiful marriage of 72 years and raised a large and loving family blessed with 8 children.

Tony was a graduate of University of Michigan and a member of Pi Tau Sigma, Tau Beta Pi and Alpha Sigma Lambda.

He worked as an Engineer for 36 years and continued to climb the corporate ladder at Ford Motor Company where he achieved the executive position in Advanced Engineering and Technology, including overseas assignments in Brazil and England.

Tony was a devoted husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather who cherished every moment with his family. He was also known for his amazing qualities of strong faith, intelligence, patience, kindness, sense of humor, wisdom, work ethic and his ability to adapt to many different circumstances.

Tony and MaryLee traveled to nearly 100 countries, often spending time with family and friends around the world.

He remained totally independent, active and engaged with family well into the last few days of his life.

Tony was preceded in death by his brother Stephen J. Kuchta Jr., sister Ann Martin, sons Anthony S. Kuchta Jr. and Jeffrey Kuchta and his loving wife.

He is survived by their 6 children: Christine, Eileen, Bradley, Joanne, Michelle and James; 17 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and his sister Rosemary Otzman.

A Funeral Service will be held on Wednesday, June 10, at 11 a.m. at Notre Dame Catholic Church in Ft. Pierce, FL.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Treasure Coast Hospice in honor of a life well-lived and a marriage that stood the test of time.



Susan Mary Little

**SUSAN MARY LITTLE**  
 (April 13, 1946 – May 29, 2026)

Susan Little, age 80, of Allen Park, Michigan, passed away on May 29, 2026, at Angela Hospice in Livonia. Born in Detroit, Michigan, alongside her beloved twin sister, Susan entered the world with significant medical challenges that affected her vision, speech, and development, yet her life would come to be defined by resilience, warmth, and quiet strength. At just 10 years old, she moved from her family home in Detroit to the Caro State Hospital when specialized care was not available locally. Though her early years were shaped by institutional care, Susan's enduring spirit carried her forward through decades of change, including her transition into a group home setting later in life.

In her home in Allen Park, Susan truly flourished, forming meaningful connections with her housemates and caregivers over many years. She was known for her radiant smile, bright blue eyes, and the joy she brought to those around her. Susan loved music, dancing, movies, and especially time spent with family during meals and holidays -- Christmas being her favorite. She had a special fondness for coffee and treasured those simple, shared moments with friends and staff. In her final weeks at Angela Hospice, caregivers came to know her gentle spirit and warm presence.

Susan will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered by all who were fortunate enough to experience her joy and unwavering light. She is survived by her twin sister, Patricia (Alberto) Gutierrez of Sumpter Twp., MI, her niece, Theresa (Ryan Kaltenbach) Gutierrez of Plymouth, MI, and her nephew, Peter Gutierrez of Sumpter Twp., MI, as well as her friends and caretakers at Willow Cove Group Home in Allen Park and her newest caretakers, the staff of Angela Hospice in Livonia, and many extended family members and friends.

A visitation will take place at David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Drive, Belleville, MI, 48111, on Friday, June 5, 2026 from 4 p.m. until 8 p.m. A Funeral Mass will be on Saturday, June 6, 2026, at 9 a.m. at St. Anthony Catholic Church, 409 W. Columbia Ave., Belleville, MI 48111 with Father Bryan Shackett as Celebrant. The family will greet guests from 8:30 a.m. until the Mass begins at 9 a.m. Burial will be at 11 a.m. at Mt. Olivet Cemetery, 17100 Van Dyke, Detroit, MI, 48234.

In lieu of flowers, if desired, donations to Angela Hospice would be appreciated and donation envelopes will be available.

**LESLIE WALTER NEINAS**  
 (January 7, 1943 – December 31, 2025)

A memorial service will be held at 10:30 a.m., June 19, 2026 at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 201 N. River St., Ypsilanti, followed by a 12:30 p.m. Celebration of Life at the Belleville Yacht Club, 831 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville. Memorials to Salvation Army, Lutheran High School Association, Dawn Farm, or Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue.

**LOUIS R. PIETROWSKI**  
 (January 29, 1931 – May 24, 2026)

Age 95, of Westland. Served in U.S. Army in Korean War. Survived by children Patricia, Gary, Greg, Peggy, Carol and Ronny; 15 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren. Service was May 29 at David C. Brown Funeral Home.  
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# Obituaries



Karen Lynn Means

## KAREN LYNN MEANS

(May 25, 1959 – May 27, 2026)

Karen Lynn Means, age 67, of Van Buren Township, MI, passed away Wednesday, May 27, 2026, at her home, surrounded by her family. She was born May 25, 1959, in Ypsilanti, MI, daughter of Charles Edward Henry and June Larose (Schoen) Henry.

Karen was a bus driver for Van Buren Schools for 19 years before her retirement. Her favorite bus routes were the elementary school kids, and she made sure they had a treat bag with themed goodies for every single holiday. She cherished being a grandmother and as of recently, a great-grandmother. Her favorite place to be was tucked away in her secret garden house on a cozy dead-end street with her husband. She filled their sanctuary with beautiful flowers that attracted every kind of wildlife that could be admired on a quiet morning. Known to blast her current favorite musicians at top volume on a Saturday morning, Karen was always remodeling and redecorating in her spare time to create the perfect space, fit for a magazine spread. And after all was said and done, you'd find her curled up for a good nap with a fuzzy friend and even fuzzier slippers.

Karen is survived by her devoted husband of nearly 40 years, Robert Wayne Means; four children: Aimee (Bo) Borders of Cleveland, TN, Andrea (Jason) McPherson of Allen Park, MI, Ashley (Matthew Horgan) Means of Wayne, MI, and Bobby (Corey Mercier) Means of Romulus, MI; 6 grandchildren: Carson (Nicole) Gorham, Cooper Borders, Drake Antaya, Madison (Evan) Saunders, Bobby Means Jr., and Riley Means; 3 great-grandkids: Oakley, Grayson, and Ryder; a brother Jerry (Gail) Henry, a sister Kathy (Ron) Smith, both of Romulus, MI; also numerous nieces, nephews, extended family and friends. She was preceded in death by her father Charles Henry, also a brother David Henry.

A Celebration of Life is being held at the Romulus Senior Center (36525 Bibbins St, Romulus, MI 48174) on June 18 from 1-4 p.m. Arrangements by David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville, MI (734) 697-4500.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association and would be appreciated. Or better yet just give someone you love a hug. Karen loved hugs.

## SUSAN A. ULRICH

(September 15, 1944 – May 26, 2026)

Age 81, of Willis. Survived by children Charles and Anne; grandchildren Amelia and Maxwell. A June 6, 11 a.m., memorial set at David C. Brown Funeral Home, on Saturday, June 6. Service at 12:30 p.m. Cremation rites have been accorded. [www.davidcbrownfh.com](http://www.davidcbrownfh.com)

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Constance Lumetta Peterson

## CONSTANCE LUMETTA PETERSON

(July 12, 1929 – May 23, 2026)

Constance Lumetta Peterson, long-time resident of Belleville, was born on the Tyler Road farm. She went to school at Haggerty and Tyler and graduated from Belleville High School in 1947. She managed Hoots on High Street for years. She is survived by sons Fred (Deb) and Paul (Linda); grandchildren Dan and Sandra Peterson; brother-in-law Thomas Guilstorf (Beth).

She was preceded in death by husband Robert (Bob) Peterson; her parents Salvatore and Caloria (Trupiano) Lumetta; siblings Ninfa (Delise) Sam, Tony, Lawrence, Frank, William, Joseph, Steve, Elizabeth (Grabowski), Caroline (Vandecar), Thomas, and Paul.

Her last few years were spent at The Gilbert Residence in Ypsilanti where she received great care from a wonderful, kind staff. We are grateful for their assistance.

*To build a better world, start in your own community!*

# More Letters

## New garden club forms in New Boston-Huron

To the editor:

We would like to introduce ourselves and welcome any new members to the Huron Tulips & Thyme Garden Club. We are a newly organized club who meet at the American Legion, 37060 Huron River Dr., New Boston 48164, on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. At our meetings we enjoy learning, community service, fellowship and snacks.

The mission of this group is to stimulate the love of gardening, encourage home and community beautification, promote sound horticultural practices, encourage all forms of conservation, and to affiliate with the Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. and the National Garden Clubs, Inc.

We have organized our first fundraiser which will be a Garden Tour in the New Boston area on Saturday, July 18, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The tour starts at Grass Roots Pond and Garden, 27465 Bell Rd., New Boston. Tickets for this event are available onsite at Grass Roots for \$10 cash only. Proceeds will be used for community beautification and education opportunities.

To learn more about us you can follow on Facebook at Huron Tulips & Thyme

Garden Club. Please direct any questions through Facebook messenger.

Wendy Barth

Huron Tulips & Thyme Garden Club

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# Circuit Court grants permanent injunction in Wayne Disposal case

On May 27, Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Kevin Cox granted a permanent injunction prohibiting defendant Wayne Disposal, Inc. (WDI) from accepting any TENORM (radioactive waste) from the Niagara Falls Storage Site (NFSS) in Lewiston, NY, and formerly utilized sites remedial action program material (FUSRAP) from any other site.

The lawsuit was filed on Sept. 16, 2024, jointly by the City of Belleville, Canton

Township, the City of Romulus, Van Buren Charter Township, and the Van Buren Township Fire Chief. On Oct. 3, Wayne County subsequently joined as an intervening plaintiff.

The court's written opinion addressed concerns regarding public health, environmental impact, transportation, and the facility's proximity to residential neighborhoods, schools, waterways, and public infrastructure.

"Judge Cox's ruling made it clear that the communities and citizens that fought against the disposal of any sort of atomic waste in a highly populated area contiguous to the Huron River watershed which feeds into the Great Lakes were right to be opposed to this foolish idea," said Belleville mayor Ken Voigt.

"By fighting this issue, our communities made it clear that we would not quietly accept the importation of atomic waste in our backyard which by its proximity to 21% of the world's fresh water is in truth, everyone's backyard. We appreciate the efforts of everyone who stood together on this issue," Mayor Voigt said.

"We are absolutely overjoyed by this ruling!" said Canton Supervisor Ann Marie Graham-Hudak. "This victory belongs to the residents, Wayne County communities, and leaders who spoke up as one voice. It shows the incredible power we have when we stand up for our environment and our

health. Safe fresh water is our legacy, and we will stay strong together to protect it.

"The coalition expresses immense gratitude following Judge Cox's favorable ruling," Supervisor Graham-Hudak continued. "This outcome stands as a testament to the robust collaboration between Wayne County residents, local municipalities, and elected leadership. Moving forward, the group remains dedicated to protecting Michigan's freshwater infrastructure and ensuring long-term environmental safety." she said.

"This is an important moment for each of our communities and residents who worked tirelessly to make their voices heard," said Van Buren Township Supervisor Kevin McNamara. "I want to thank the hundreds of residents, community organizations, and neighboring communities who stood together throughout this process. Your advocacy, persistence, and commitment truly made a difference."

Supervisor McNamara also expressed appreciation for the efforts of community

advocates, including Jeanine Rippey, Chris Donley, and members of Michigan Against Atomic Waste, as well as the many residents and organizations who supported the legal effort over the past several months.

"This victory reflects what can happen when communities come together and remain engaged," McNamara added. "We are grateful to everyone who participated, attended meetings, shared concerns, and helped support this effort from beginning to end."

A copy of the Court's Final Opinion and Order is available through Wayne County Circuit Court records.

*This press release was released jointly by the City of Belleville, Canton Township, City of Romulus, and Van Buren Charter Township.*

**Editor's Note:** Republic Services, owner of Wayne Disposal, has announced it will appeal Judge Cox's order.



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## State Rep. celebrates permanent injunction on radioactive waste

On May 27, Judge Kevin Cox of the Third Judicial Circuit Court in Wayne County granted a permanent injunction that blocks Wayne Disposal from accepting radioactive waste from Manhattan Project-era cleanup sites managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

After the order, state Rep. Reggie Miller, D-Van Buren Township, issued the following statement:

"Today's ruling is a major victory for the people of Van Buren Township, Belleville, Romulus, Sumpter, Canton and communities across Wayne County who stood up and made it clear that we are not a dumping ground for dangerous radioactive waste. The court recognized what residents and local leaders have been saying all along, which is that this waste posed a real threat to public health, environmental safety and the shared resources our communities rely on every day.

"I have been closely working on this issue from the beginning, and I made it clear that our communities deserve better than being forced to carry long-term risks tied to decisions made outside of Michigan.

"This outcome did not happen by accident. It happened because residents spoke up, local governments took action, advocates stayed engaged and people refused to back down when faced with a dangerous status quo. This ruling is very powerful because the courts validated what residents and elected officials have been saying. This wasn't just a permitting controversy; it was a public health and community protection issue.

"For far too long, families in western Wayne County have had to shoulder risks that no community should be forced to carry, especially near neighborhoods,

*(continued on page 10)*

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# Sen. Darrin Camilleri applauds permanent end to Manhattan waste

In the aftermath of the Third Judicial Circuit Court's May 27 ruling in favor of Western Wayne County communities and blocking the disposal of potentially dangerous atomic waste from the Manhattan Project, State Sen. Darrin Camilleri, D-Trenton, offered the following statement:

"For nearly two years, leaders across our Western Wayne communities have fought to oppose toxic materials from being

dumped into our backyards. Today, as a result of their tenacity and tireless efforts, a ruling has been made to permanently halt this waste from reaching Wayne Disposal in Van Buren Township. This decision is a tremendous victory for our region and residents, and an important step in curbing the shipment of further hazardous materials into Michigan.

"While we celebrate this ruling, we must also continue our fight to pass sweeping hazardous waste reform in our state's capital. Senate Bills 246 and 247 would raise tipping fees, create oversight on our

landfills, and ensure that no community is put in harm's way due to the disposal of toxic materials. It's imperative that leadership in our House of Representatives take action on this legislation immediately and do what's right to keep Michigan clean and safe.

"I'm incredibly grateful to every elected official, community leader, and neighbor who used their voice to help make this ruling possible. There is much more work to be done, and I look forward to furthering our collaborative efforts to ensure that stronger regulations are put in place."

# State Rep.

(continued from page 9)

schools and daycares, senior living facilities, and critical waterways connected to the Huron River and the Great Lakes. This ruling is an important and hard-fought affirmation that public health and community safety still matter.

"While today is a major win, the work is not done. Michigan still needs stronger laws and safeguards to ensure that no community is ever put in this position again. We need lasting protections that prioritize people over corporate profits and convenience as well as ensuring transparency, accountability and long-term safety.

"I will continue pushing for legislative action that protects our residents, our water, and our future. Our communities deserve nothing less," Rep. Miller concluded.



The Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs has named Daniel Besson as Fire Chief of the Year. Besson has been Leland Township Fire Chief since 2017 when he moved north from his Belleville home. Over more than 30 years of public service, Chief Besson has served as a firefighter, fire lieutenant, fire inspector, battalion chief, dispatcher, and police officer for the Van Buren Department of Public Safety and the City of Flat Rock before being named part-time Van Buren Fire Chief in 2012 and served for 4½ years in that position before leaving for Leland Township.

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Because of his size and occasional excitement (he can get a little jumpy when he's happy), Benny would do best in a home with older children who can handle his gentle but big presence.

Benny is currently heartworm positive and undergoing treatment with us at FMAR. Because of this, he's looking for a foster-to-adopt home—a family who can welcome him in now, love him through his treatment, and make things official once he's heartworm-free. His treatment is expected to be completed by this fall.

If you're looking for a loyal, laid-back companion who will stick by your side and remind you how special the quiet moments are, Benny might just be your guy!

**Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue**  
 51299 Arkona Road  
 Belleville, MI 48111  
**734-461-9458**  
[www.friendsofmichigan.org](http://www.friendsofmichigan.org)



Photo courtesy of Jennifer Camilleri

A Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce ribbon-cutting was held on May 28 for the grand opening of 734 Beauty Lounge at 990 Sumpter Rd., Belleville. The ribbon was cut by owner Brittany Gonczy with lots of supporters around her.

**Upcoming Meetings**

- Monday, June 8 – Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m., BHS Commons
- Tuesday, June 9 – Sumpter Township Board of Trustees, 6 p.m. Also, Belleville

Area District Library Board, 7:30 p.m.

- Wednesday, June 10 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 5:30 p.m.
- Thursday, June 11 – Keystone Academy School Board, 5 p.m. Also, Sumpter Planning Commission at 6 p.m. Also, Belleville Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- Monday, June 15 – Belleville City

Council, 6:30 p.m.

- Tuesday, June 16 – Van Buren Township Board of Trustees, 6:30 p.m., with 5 p.m. work/study as needed.
- Monday, June 22 – Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m., BHS Commons
- Tuesday, June 23 – Sumpter Township Board of Trustees, 6 p.m.
- Wednesday, June 24 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 5:30 p.m.
- Monday, July 6 – Belleville City Council, 6:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, July 7 – Van Buren Township Board of Trustees, 6:30 p.m., with 5 p.m. work/study as needed.
- Wednesday, July 8 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 5:30 p.m.
- Thursday, July 9 – Keystone Academy school board, 5 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township Planning Commission at 6 p.m. Also, Belleville Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- Monday, July 13 – Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m., administration building

**May SPA DAY 2026**  
 - FREE Teeth Brushing  
 - Upgraded Shampoo & Conditioner  
 (A \$50 value with any Full groom or Full bath booking)  
 Mention "MAYSPA26"  
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Meet **"Gracie"**  
 Our May 2026 Showcase Winner!  
 Book Now!  
**MAIN STREET PUPS Inc.**  
 100% GROOMERS

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 OF VAN BUREN

**ANIMAL MEDICAL CENTER of VAN BUREN**  
 Scott Driscoll, DVM      Keri Dasher, DVM  
 491 Sumpter Road, Belleville, MI 48111  
**734-699-6510**  
[www.amcvanburen.com](http://www.amcvanburen.com)

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 Call Joe (734) 664-9285  
**10% OFF MENTION AD**  
 Call Tom (734) 864-2243

# VBPS

(continued from page 3)

years of service, as of June 12;

- Approved the employment of Sara Smith as a CI-teacher at Rawsonville as of May 22;

- Heard director of building and grounds James Williams report on Rawsonville and McBride upgrades which will be done during the summer. He also said they are finalizing the design of the Operations Facility on the Haggerty Elementary site and will get it to the board in the next month or so;

- Heard human resources director John Leroy say they are negotiating with VBEST and secretary unions. He said they set a retirement planning meeting on April 19 and 80 people showed up in two sessions. He said he hopes that doesn't mean a whole lot of people plan on retiring at once;

- Heard instruction/curriculum director Jill Malvaso say two semi trucks showed up earlier that day with items from the \$35 million grant for materials for kids to take home this summer. She said there were 225 phonics kits for K-2 students in two elementary schools. The rest of elementary schools will get theirs in the next few days. She said the kits hopefully will make it so the students don't see that "summer slide";

- Heard Kudlak say Jonathan Richards, a teacher at Owen Intermediate School and in charge of the media center, earned a state award for the school library's 21<sup>st</sup> century scoring system. This is the second time Owen has received the award, Kudlak said. It was to be officially presented at 9 a.m., June 1, at the media center by State Rep. Reggie Miller and State Senator Darin Camilleri;

- Learned the Techno Music Group that performed last week at Diamondback was to give 10% of ticket sales to the district's Robotics program. A robotics demonstration was presented at the event;

- Was informed the state track meet was coming up that week and BHS student Peyton Trammer is the top sprinter in the state and is expected to do well; and

- Heard parent Jessica Radcliff, who also teaches at McBride, explain her problems with the Gifted and Talented program that she said has no real policy and those involved are making it up as they go along. This involved her seven-year-old daughter and five-year-old daughter, who are both in the program. She said the testing seems to show how well students take an exam, not how much they know. She asked the school board to review the district's GT policy. Later board member David Shall said he supports the GT program.



Independent photo by Rosemary K. Otzman  
Just three of the top-ten graduates of the Belleville High School Class of 2026 were present to be honored at the May 26 meeting of the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education. From left are Valedictorian Cooper Mears, #6 Aiden Tulik, and #9 Collin Glimpse.



The Veterans of Foreign Wars and Polish Legion of American Veterans provided a ceremony for a new flag dedication at the Camping World store opening in April. The American Flag that was put up on the 130-foot pole was a hand-sewn flag measuring 40 by 80 feet. VFW Commander John Blackstone said it is the company's goal to have one million square feet of American Flags in front of their stores throughout the United States.

To the long time old owners of

# CHINA CHEF

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www.ZywickiGreenhouse.com

# More Letters

## A REMINDER: June 14 is Flag Day

To the editor:  
A REMINDER: June 14 is Flag Day. Americans celebrate the adoption of the first national flag. Also known as the "Stars and Stripes" or "Old Glory," the first American flag was approved by the Continental Congress on June 14, 1777.

In 1818, after five more states joined the Union, Congress passed legislation fixing the number of stripes at 13 and requiring that the number of stars equal the number of states.

June 14, Flag Day 2026 is fast approaching and we are attempting to have a Flag displayed at every home in the city. **FREE FLAGS**

Thanks to a very generous donation of supplies from manager John Vredevelde of Manns Lumber, and many hours of labor from owner Tom Tinsley of Contract Welding, the VFW is proud to offer free, refurbished flags (12" x 18") to all. All

these flags are from Hillside Cemetery and others where they were previously flown over a Veteran's grave.

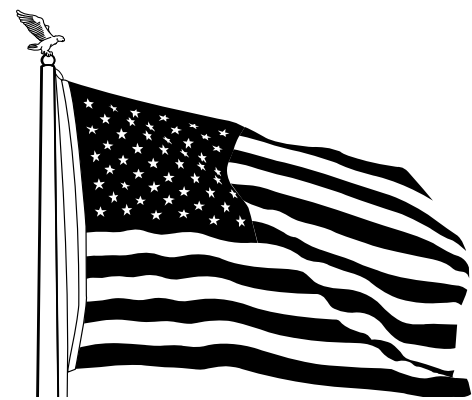
Let's remember these Veterans once again by re-displaying their U.S. Flag at your home. Stop by and pick up one at 48 S. Biggs (street side pick-up).

Also, we can have your old torn, dirty and faded flags properly disposed; drop them off in the box provided (on porch) when you pick up a FREE new one.

Pete Pitzen, chairman  
Veterans of Foreign Wars Flag Program  
Don't let Flag Day go by without acknowledging our GREAT COUNTRY.

P.S. Thank you to the many who picked up FREE flags over Memorial Day and left a monetary donation. It was not necessary

but it is very much appreciated. These donations will be given to VFW Post 4434.



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



**BELLEVILLE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
*Moving forward in Christ together!* 417 Charles Sunday 10am  
bellevillefirstumc.org 734.697.9288

**lifepointe CHURCH**  
Our Mission is His Message!  
discoverlifepointe.com . 45170 Hull Road  
Services: Sunday @ 11 . Wednesday @ 7

**BELLEVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
11900 Belleville Road  
Service and Sunday School 10:00 a.m.

**MT. CALVARY Baptist Church**  
Sunday Worship Service @ 10:30  
AWANA - Wednesday Night @ 6:00  
42682 Ecorse Rd. Belleville

**BELLEVILLE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST**  
Saturday Mornings  
Bible Study 10:00 Worship 11:30  
89 South Edgemont  
bellevillesda.com

**NEW BOSTON CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
19350 Sterling Street, New Boston, MI 48164  
Sunday Bible Study 10am  
Worship Service 11am  
Wednesday Bible Study 7pm  
(734) 606-5525

**BETHANY BIBLE CHURCH**  
810 E. HURON RIVER DR. BELLEVILLE, MI | 734.697.7456  
Sunday | Adult Bible Fellowship & Children's Sunday School 9:45am | Morning Worship 11am  
Wednesday | Kids & Teens 6:45pm | Bible In Action 7pm  
Visit [bethanybiblechurch.com](http://bethanybiblechurch.com) for more info

**Ridge Road Church of Christ**  
1770 Ridge Road, Ypsilanti, MI 48198  
Sunday Bible Study 10 AM, Worship Service 11 AM  
Sunday Evening Worship 6 PM and  
Wednesday Bible Study 7:30 PM  
[www.ridgeroadcoc.org](http://www.ridgeroadcoc.org) (734) 485-2930

**Bethlehem Baptist Church**  
Join us this Sunday 10:00 am Study | 11:00 am Worship  
Join us this Friday 7:00 pm Prayer  
960 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI 48111  
[bbcbelleville.com](http://bbcbelleville.com) | 734-697-0566

**RIVER OF LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD**  
16650 Sumpter Rd., Belleville, MI 48111  
Sunday Morning Worship 9 a.m. & 11 a.m.  
Wednesday Adult, Youth & Children @ 7 p.m.  
Visit [rol-ag.com](http://rol-ag.com) (734) 699-6700

**faith Community Church**  
SUNDAYS @ 10 A.M. Connect Classes 11 a.m. Sunday Worship  
WEDNESDAYS @ 6 P.M. S.O.S. Recovery & Support Group  
WEDNESDAYS @ 7 P.M. Bible Study & Youth Groups  
894 E. Huron River Dr. Belleville

**ST. ANTHONY CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
409 W. Columbia Avenue (734) 697-1211  
Saturday Mass: 6:00pm  
Sunday Masses: 8:30am & 10:30am  
Mondays: 6:30pm Adoration  
[www.stanthonybelleville.com](http://www.stanthonybelleville.com)

**FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
6020 Denton Road  
Belleville, MI 48111 (734) 483-2276  
[www.faithchurchdenton.org](http://www.faithchurchdenton.org)  
Sunday Worship at 9:30am. Bible Study & refreshments after Worship.

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE YOUR CHURCH LISTED IN THIS DIRECTORY? CALL ADVERTISING MANAGER JANET MILLARD AT 734-699-9020 TODAY!**

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Cell: (734) 730-9733



## They're reading the *Independent* Everywhere

Carolyn Dutton and her friends just got back from Rome and they took this picture of them reading the *Independent* at the Colosseum. From left are Sharon Tylutki, Gary Kaschynyc, Kim Kaschynyc, Carolyn Dutton (holding "Flat Nancy" School), Karen Kaiser, and Cary Kaiser.

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

If you aren't going to an exotic location, just send us \$55 for postage to an address inside Michigan or \$60 out of state, and we'll provide mail delivery of the *Independent* so you won't miss a single, exciting issue.

# INDEPENDENT CLASSIFIED ADS

## RUMMAGE SALE

### MEGA RUMMAGE SALE

at  
**BELLEVILLE**  
**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
11900 Belleville Road  
**Friday and Saturday,**  
**June 12-13 • 9am - 4pm**  
**Tons of Treasures,**  
**Bountiful Bargains**  
**Don't miss it!!!!!!**

## GARAGE/YARD SALE

NEIGHBORHOOD GARAGE SALES –  
2 houses / 10 + families.  
18856 Savage Rd, Belleville. Thursday,  
June 18 & Friday, June 19, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.  
Great prices, 20 + tables of treasures.  
Household goods, clothing, toys,  
sporting goods, tools, electronics. 06/18

BARN SALE 44805 Hull Rd. Belleville.  
9 a.m. – 5 p.m., Thursday, Friday &  
Saturday June 4, 5 & 6. Everything must  
go! Reasonable offers accepted. Round up  
nearest dollar. Ex - \$1 + .80 = \$2 06/04

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE.  
Wood cabinet with shelves and glass  
door, household items, toys, tools,  
stationary bike stand. 20215 Elwell,  
Belleville. 9 a.m.- 5p.m., June 5, 6, & 7.  
Unless it rains. 06/04

GARAGE SALE. Tools, gardening &  
collectibles. Friday, Saturday, & Sunday  
June 4, 5, & 6 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.  
14909 Elwell, Belleville. 06/04

HUGE SUB-WIDE garage sale at  
"GREENBRIAR." Thursday, Friday  
& Saturday, June 4, 5, & 6, from  
9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Located at Belleville  
& Van Born Roads. Deals on furniture,  
clothes, electronics, home décor,  
tools, books, toys & much more. Rain  
or shine – see you there! 06/04

HE-MAN YARD SALE. Hunt,  
fish, camp-decor, glass, vintage,  
Christmas, hats & more. 44652 Ecorse.  
June 4 - 7, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. 06/04

MULTI-FAMILY SALE. 47449 Belmont  
Dr., VBT. 6/4 & 6/5, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and  
6/6, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Furniture, power  
washer, kayak trailer, wicker bassinet,  
collector Barbies, toys, clothes, shoes,  
household items galore, artwork, home  
décor, holiday decorations & much,  
much more. 06/04

1184 GEORGINA DRIVE., Ypsilanti. 2  
carports & basement full. All summer on  
Saturday and Sunday. From 10 a.m. – 5  
p.m. Saturday: 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday.  
Rain or shine. TFN

## FOR SALE

1999 HARLEY DAVIDSON  
SPORTSTER, 1200 custom, black,  
nice, low milage. (734) 740-7721  
\$3,500 06/18

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available pups at Petcitypets.com  
Ypsilanti. (734) 487-0800 Come see the  
difference. 06/04

WESTERN SNOWPLOW - 7 ½'.  
\$500 OBO. (734) 417-3233 07/09

FOOD GRADE BARRELS Plastic  
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[www.mattsbarrels.com](http://www.mattsbarrels.com), call or text  
(734) 474-5981. Located in Willis. 06/04

FENCE BOARDS 2 x 6 and 2 x 8,  
reasonable. (734) 461-1414 HAY,  
round bails (708) 646-7595 06/04

## HELP WANTED

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
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**Immediate Positions.**  
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**Local Excavating Company**  
**has a full-time position for a**  
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Company**  
**Call (734) 461-6838**  
**or (734) 645-0100**

## FREE

FREE MANURE. Sumpter Township,  
no deliveries. Call (734) 701-2833  
for directions. 06/11

FREE FILL. Delivery available.  
(734) 697-1183. Yost Sand & Gravel.  
Belleville. TFN

FIREWOOD & KINDLING. You cut.  
(734) 941-9567 06/11

"We hang the petty thieves and appoint  
the great ones to public office."

– Aesop

## SERVICES

**A&L SERVICES**  
**Home Improvement &  
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**Serving Belleville Since**  
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DEPENDABLE LAWN SERVICE.  
Commercial & residential lawn cutting,  
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sod & seeding. (734) 587-2410 or  
(734) 693-4712 09/24

INTERIOR / EXTERIOR  
MAINTENANCE. Painting, roof leaks,  
cleaning & gutter repairs, landscape  
maintenance, and power washing.  
(734) 796-3628 06/04

A-1 QUALITY MOBILE HOME  
SERVICE. Licensed over 50 yrs. Seniors,  
Veterans, 1<sup>st</sup> Responders & Educators  
10% off. (734) 397-2615 12/31

## FOUND

CANE left at 45545 Bemis during  
a yard sale on May 15. Please call  
(734) 301-9225 06/04

"Government's view of the economy  
could be summed up in a few short  
phrases: If it moves, tax it. If it keeps  
moving, regulate it. And if it stops  
moving, subsidize it.."  
– Ronald Reagan

### Notice to Advertisers:

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

### Notice to Advertisers – private gun sales:

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

## WANTED

### ADVANCED H & W PAYING CASH

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**Licensed.**  
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**(517) 605-6388**

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**We Work**  
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**734-368-5088**  
**734-545-5195**

LOOKING FOR NON-WORKING  
motorcycles, minibikes, atvs, 4 wheelers.  
Cash paid. (734) 340-7807 07/23

WANTED TO BUY – Standing timber.  
Sawmill office. (517) 254-4463 06/30

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

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

### READ THE NEWSPAPER ONLINE!

**The Belleville-Area  
Independent Website  
is Online! Visit us @  
[bellevilleareaindependent.com](http://bellevilleareaindependent.com)**

### PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:

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

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



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

- **Saturday, June 6** – Civic Duty Education Day, 1-3 p.m., Fourth Street Place in Belleville. Meet elected officials, raffle giveaway for PS5, face painting and balloon twisting, animals. Sponsored by Survivors Speak, SOOAR, and Belleville DDA.
- **Tuesday, June 9** – An event to honor people’s pets that have died will begin at

- 6:30 p.m. at Horizon Park, hosted by David C. Brown Funeral Home. Bring pictures and/or keepsakes of your beloved pets and faithful companions you have lost.
- **Saturday, June 13** – Kids Fishing Derby from 10 a.m. to noon at Banotai Park, 24598 Sherwood Rd., Sumpter Township. No fishing license required (State free-fishing weekend). Ages 17 and under. Awards at noon.
  - **Saturday, June 13** – Steak Cook Out from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Pvt. James D. Donovan VFW Post, 39270 W. Huron River Dr., Romulus. Cost is \$22 for New

- York strip steak, potato, vegetable, salad, roll and butter. Proceeds benefit the building fund.
- **Sunday, June 14** – The public is invited to a Flag Retiring ceremony at noon at the Pvt. James D. Donovan VFW Post 78, 39270 W. Huron River Dr., Romulus. If your personal, municipal, business flag is worn, tattered, faded torn or not in perfect condition, it should be retired and replaced with a new one. Please join the VFW afterward for light meal at the Post.
  - **Friday, June 19** – A Night of Family Feud starts promptly at 7 p.m. at the Pvt.

- James D. Donovan VFW Post 78, 39270 W. Huron River Dr., Romulus, (734) 941-3030. Doors open at 6 p.m. Up to 6 players per team, \$5 per player. Bring snacks to share at your table.
- **Friday, June 26** – Red Cross Blood Drive, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Denton Faith United Methodist Church, 6020 Denton Rd., Van Buren Township. Sign up for donation at the June 26 event by calling the church at (734) 483-2276 during office hours from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Monday or Thursday.
  - **Friday, June 26** – Tacos and Margaritas from 5 to 7 p.m. or until they run out at the Pvt. James D. Donovan VFW Post 78,

*(continued on page 16)*

# Public Notice

## STATE OF MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY

27700 Donald Court, Warren, MI 48092

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TAKE NOTICE that the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy, (EGLE) Water Resources Division (WRD) will hold an online public hearing on June 16, 2026, at 6:00 PM.

The purpose of this hearing is to secure the views of interested persons concerning the following application for permit:

Application for, 82-10385 Haggerty Rd-Van Buren Twp (submittal number HQH-Q48N-1818Y) under Part 303, Wetlands Protection and Part 301, Inland Lakes and Streams of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, by Panattoni Development Company, Inc. The applicant proposes permanent and temporary wetland impacts including placing wetland fill and excavation of material, installing road culverts within regulated streams, constructing storm water treatment and detention ponds, constructing storm water pipes with outfalls to regulated streams, installing utilities above and below regulated streams, and placing permanent fill in a stream for partial abandonment. The purpose of the project is to construct a data center and the supporting infrastructure.

#### How to attend the Online Meeting:

To attend the online public information meeting register at <https://bit.ly/WRD061626>. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. If you do not have internet access and would like to join by PHONE ONLY, please use the following phone number: 855-758-1310, and meeting ID 830 3568 5694 #. Pre-registration is not required to attend the meeting. Individuals interested in participating can click the link above at the start of the event (6:00 p.m.).

The application is available for review at the EGLE Web site: <https://mienviro.michigan.gov/ncore/external/publicnotice/info/2034297312979257401/details>. The public hearing record will remain open for ten days after the public hearing date. Any written comments should be submitted for the public hearing record by June 26, 2026.

To submit comments, access The Public Notice search at: <https://mienviro.michigan.gov/ncore/external/publicnotice/info/6599205977917684381/details>. You do not need an account to add a comment to the Public Hearing comments. Use the search tool on the Public Hearing Search to find the public hearing announcement. It is most easily searched using the submission number. Once you find the submission using the search engine at the above link, you can review related documents to the application and click the “Add Comment” tab to enter your comment. You will have the option to either type your comment or upload it as an attachment.

The hearing will be held pursuant to Section 30105 of Part 301, Inland Lakes and Streams; and Section 30307 of Part 303, Wetlands Protection of the NREPA. The hearing will not be a legal proceeding, witnesses will not be sworn, and there will be no cross examination. Public hearings are primarily informational and are held to encourage the expression of views and presentation of facts.

A copy of the decision on this application can be reviewed on MiEnviro, using Site Explorer, once a decision has been made.

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY  
Water Resources Division

Date: 6/1/2026

**NOTE:** Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation in this meeting should email Joel Roseberry, [RoseberryJ@Michigan.gov](mailto:RoseberryJ@Michigan.gov) one week in advance to request mobility, visual, hearing, or other assistance.

## INDEPENDENT CLASSIFIED ADS

### HELP WANTED

#### HELP WANTED: Freelance Writers & Community Contributors

The Belleville Area News Foundation is seeking freelance writers and community contributors to cover local events, community life, schools, nonprofits, history, arts and culture, and other stories reflecting our community’s character.

This flexible, assignment-based opportunity is ideal for writers, retirees, students, educators, photographers, and community members who enjoy storytelling and staying connected to local events. No formal newsroom experience is required.

Responsibilities may include:

- Writing community news and feature stories
- Covering local events and activities
- Conducting basic interviews
- Meeting agreed-upon deadlines
- Working with editors and production staff

The ideal candidate is dependable, curious, community-minded, and able to communicate clearly in writing. Journalism, photography, social media, or interviewing experience is helpful but not required.

Assignments may range from short event recaps to feature stories and human-interest pieces.

Compensation may include per-story payments, stipends, or volunteer opportunities depending on assignment type and experience.

To apply, please submit a brief statement of interest, any writing samples (if available), and areas of interest or preferred coverage topics.

Send inquiries and applications to:  
**152 Main St., Ste. 9, Belleville, MI 48111 or email to [emanalp@gmail.com](mailto:emanalp@gmail.com)**

# Things to do

(continued from page 15)

39270 W. Huron River Dr., Romulus, (734) 941-3030. Everyone welcome.

• **Thursday, July 16** – Belleville Newspaper Foundation fundraiser to keep the *Independent* publishing is 6-8 p.m. at the Belleville Yacht Club. Tickets are \$50 each and available through *Independent* advertising director Janet Millard, (734) 699-9020.

• **Friday, July 17; Saturday, July 18; and Sunday, July 19** – Thunder over

Michigan Air Show at Willow Run Airport, 3 p.m. to 10 p.m.  
thunderovermichigan.org

**READ THE NEWSPAPER ONLINE!**  
**The Belleville-Area Independent Website is Online! Visit us @ [bellevilleareaindependent.com](http://bellevilleareaindependent.com)**

## Belleville Area District Library Public Notice

### Belleville Area District Library Notice of Public Hearing

The Belleville Area District Library (167 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Belleville, MI 48111) will hold a public hearing at the Library Board meeting on Tuesday, June 9, 2026, at 7:30 pm, to consider the proposed 2026-2027 Library Budget.

**The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing. The debt service millage rate proposed to be levied for the repayment of the bonds for the new library will also be a subject of this hearing.**

A copy of the proposed budget is available on the library's website ([www.belleville.lib.mi.us](http://www.belleville.lib.mi.us)) and at the Library during open hours (Monday – Thursday, 9:30 am – 9 pm, Friday & Saturday, 9:30 am – 6 pm, and Sunday, 1 pm – 5 pm).

Published: June 4, 2026

## City of Belleville Public Notice

### Seeking Applicants City of Belleville Summer Youth Employment Program



The City of Belleville is accepting applications for the 2026 Summer Youth Employment Program.

Applicants must be between the ages of 14 and 24. Individuals younger than 18 years of age, and at least 16 years of age must provide a Work Permit/Age Certificate (CA-6). Individuals younger than 16 years of age must provide a Work Permit/Age Certificate (CA-7). These forms may be obtained through the Belleville High School front office, or online through the State of Michigan.

The applications for Temporary Summer Help are available at City Hall, 330 Charles Street, Belleville or online at [www.bellevilleonthelake.com](http://www.bellevilleonthelake.com).

The City of Belleville is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Briana Papin  
City Clerk/Treasurer

Publish: May 28, June 4, 11, and 18, 2026

## Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

### CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN ORDINANCE 05-05-26(2) NOTICE OF ADOPTION

Notice is hereby given that on Tuesday, May 19, 2026 at the regular meeting of the Charter Township of Van Buren Board of Trustees, the second reading of the following proposed amendment to the Van Buren Township Zoning Ordinance 5-2-17(2) was approved and is hereby adopted:

**Ordinance 05-05-26(2): Temporary Land Use Firework Stands / Tents.** The zoning amendment is for Article 2. Definitions, Section 2.02 to add a new definition for Firework Stand and Section 7.120 Temporary Land Uses, to amend the language of approval for prior consecutively approved Firework stands/tents.

A true copy of the proposed Ordinance may be viewed and inspected at the office of the Township Clerk located at 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, Michigan during recent business hours, Monday through Thursday, 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The adopted Zoning Ordinance amendment will be effective seven (7) days after the date of publication.

Adopted: May 19, 2026  
Published: June 04, 2026  
Effective: June 12, 2026

**For Classified Advertising, Display Advertising or News Tips.  
One call does it all: 734-699-9020  
*The Belleville-Area Independent***

## Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

### CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN

#### NOTICE OF ORDINANCE ADOPTION AND POSTING

TO THE PEOPLE OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN:

Pursuant to Section 8 of the Michigan Charter Township Act (MCL 42.8) PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the following ordinances were adopted by the Township Board of Trustees on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of May 2026:

**Ordinance 05-05-26(1): AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 86 ARTICLE IX – YPSILANTI COMMUNITIES UTILITIES AUTHORITY SEWER USE REGULATIONS, OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN TO INCORPORATE REQUIRED ADDITIONAL INDUSTRIAL DISCHARGE STANDARDS FROM YCUA.** An ordinance to amend section 86 of the Township's General Code of Ordinances to adopt additional standards to enact the necessary legal authority for YCUA to implement a Special Alternative Limits (SAL) Program. A SAL Program allows YCUA to allocating available capacity directly to permitted discharges. The proposed Sewer Use Ordinance revisions also incorporate reevaluated local limits for toxic pollutants with inclusion of local limits for certain Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAs -PFOS, PFOA, PFBS, PFNA and PFHxs).

A true copy of the proposed Ordinances may be viewed and inspected at the office of the Township Clerk located at 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, Michigan, during regular business hours, Monday through Thursday, 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. These ordinances will go into effect upon publication.

Posting Date: May 27, 2026  
Date of Publication: June 04, 2026  
Effective: June 04, 2026

**Musings**  
 By Janet Millard  
 Independent  
 Advertising Director



Congratulations to Michigan Against Atomic Waste (MAAW) for helping to win the lawsuit to keep the New York toxic waste out of the landfill on the North Service Drive.

\*\*\*

The Belleville Farmers Market (see ads in paper every week) and Egan's Classic Car Show have started and both are bigger than ever. This should be everyone's destination on Mondays into October. Not to take away from Budd's or Moe's but you certainly can shop at all for your favorite produce. The market has a wide selection

of farms, crafters, vendors, and non-profits with gifts for every occasion and a variety of produce, food and drinks. That's where I get my dinner on Mondays. See you at the market!

\*\*\*

Crafted Gift Shop & Beanery at 381 Main St. is holding its annual Purge Day on Saturday, June 20, from noon until 4 p.m. So much to do in those four hours – carnival games, face painting, inflatables, crafts and so much more! Fun for the entire family.

\*\*\*

Also, don't forget that June 6 at 10 a.m. is the first Frank Rochowiak's Car, Tractor and Semitruck show. \$20 pre-sale or \$25 at the gate.

\*\*\*

It appears the Belleville Area Museum is holding its lecture a little early in June.

They have scheduled Catherine Waldecker of the Detroit Historical Society to give a presentation on "Midnight: Detroit and the Underground Railroad" for June 11 at 6 p.m. Better register quickly and enjoy the pizza at 5:30 p.m.

The Museum also will be having a monthly Museum Coffee Hour every first and third Saturday from 10:30 a.m. to noon. If you are new to the area this is a good way to meet people and learn about the history of our tri-communities.

\*\*\*

Need also to give a shout out and congratulations to Hometown Thrifts & Gifts on their one-year anniversary on June 1. Sorry I was too busy to get over there for the treats. Wish you many more years in the city.

\*\*\*

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

# Missoula Children's Theatre is coming back with July 20 auditions

The Belleville Area Council for the Arts is calling all students entering first grade through high school to come to audition on Monday, July 20.

Missoula's tour team arrives in our town in their red truck loaded with a set, lights, costumes, and props, everything it takes to put on a play...except the cast.

The team holds an open audition and casts local students to perform in the production and no experience is necessary.

The show is rehearsed throughout the week and two public performances are presented at the end of the week.

Last year, Missoula's little red truck brought "The Jungle Book" and there were around 40 student participants.

This year, they're bringing "Rapunzel." This program is offered by the Belleville Area Council for the Arts and is no cost to parents or the students.

Audition is Monday, July 20, from 1 to 5 p.m. at the McBride Middle School cafeteria.

Those interested in participating, are invited to email BACA/Missoula at [cvangelde@comcast.net](mailto:cvangelde@comcast.net) with questions and/or we'll put you on a reminder list. Reminder email will be sent out the first week of July.

*To build a better world, start in your own community*

## City of Belleville Public Notice

CITY OF BELLEVILLE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
 Monday, May 18, 2026 - 6:30 pm

### 1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE

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

### 3. PRESENTATIONS & CITIZENS COMMENTS

- Presentations
  - i. Alex Kingley – Successful Completion of Fire Academy
  - ii. Ray Martin – Successful Completion of EMT Test
    - 1. Both presented by Public Safety Director Faull
- Citizen Comments
  - i. None.

### 4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

### 5. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Approval of Minutes
  - i. May 4, 2026 – Regular Meeting Minutes
- Budget report
  - i. None.
- Communications
  - i. None.
- Council Follow-up list
  - i. As of May 14, 2026
- Police Stats
  - i. As of May 4, 2026
- Fire Stats
  - i. None.
- DPW Report
  - i. None.
- Special Events
  - i. None.

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

### 6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- a. None.

### 7. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

- None.

### 8. GENERAL BUSINESS DISCUSSION

a. **Resolution # 26-028 – Approval of CLEMIS Authority Public Agency Agreement**  
**MOTION:** Motion by Kissel, supported by Beebe to approve **Resolution # 26-028**, as presented.  
**Motion Carried.**

b. **Resolution # 26-029 – Authorization to Transfer Delinquent Water Bills to Summer 2026 Tax Roll**  
**MOTION:** Motion by Beebe, supported by Kissel to

approve **Resolution # 26-029**, as presented.  
**Motion Carried.**

### 9. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND DEPARTMENTAL EXPENDITURES

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

### ROLL CALL VOTE:

- Council Member Priest Aye
- Council Member Kissel Aye
- Council Member Beebe Aye

### Motion Carried.

### 10. CLOSED SESSION

- None.

### 11. CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

- The milling portion of the Liberty St. project should be finished today, with paving to begin on Wednesday. The tentative completion date is Friday, May 22nd.
- Horizon Park project bids are open until June 9, 2026 at 10 a.m. The project is expected to begin September 1st, with a target completion date some time in November.
- The Memorial Day parade will be held on Monday at 10 a.m., with an event at the war memorial to follow.

### 12. CITY COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

- a. **Council Member Beebe**
- i. Attended the Harper's Wings memorial last week, it was a nice event; great to see the community's support.
  - ii. Looks forward to the Memorial Day parade and war memorial event.
  - iii. Loves the use of space at City Hall; glad to see it.
- b. **Council Member Kissel**
- i. The Planning Commission met last week and began developing the city's sign ordinance.
  - ii. The DDA meeting will be held this Wednesday, at 6 p.m.
  - iii. The Huron River Watershed Council meeting was held at City Hall last week.

### 13. Chair Comments (Council Member Priest)

- Impressed with the achievements of the Fire Department.
- Happy Memorial Day; let's honor our veterans this weekend.

### 14. CITIZENS' COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

- c. None.

### 15. ACTION ITEMS FOR THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING

- None.

### 16. ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION:** Motion by Kissel, supported by Beebe to adjourn at 6:50 PM.  
 No objections were noted.  
**Motion Carried.**

Respectfully submitted by,  
 Briana Papin, City Clerk/Treasurer  
 Publish: June 4, 2026

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

## City of Belleville Public Notice

CITY OF BELLEVILLE SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
 Friday, May 29, 2026 - 6:00 pm

### 1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE

### 2. ROLL CALL

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

### 3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

### ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

### Motion Carried.

### 4. GENERAL BUSINESS

a. Review Applicants for the Position of City Manager

*Council may enter Closed Session to review candidates that request confidentiality per MCL 15.268(1)(f)*

**MOTION:** Motion by Bates, supported by Priest to enter Closed Session at 6:01 PM.  
 No objections were noted.

### Motion Carried.

**MOTION:** Motion by Bates, supported by Beebe to end Closed Session and resume the regular meeting at 6:56 PM.

No objections were noted.

### Motion Carried.

### 5. ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION:** Motion by Bates, supported by Beebe to adjourn at 6:56 PM.  
 No objections were noted.

### Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted by,  
 Briana Papin, City Clerk/Treasurer  
 Published: June 4, 2026

## City of Belleville Public Notice

CITY OF BELLEVILLE SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
 Tuesday, May 26, 2026 - 6:00 pm

### 1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE

### 2. ROLL CALL

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

### 3. PRESENTATIONS & CITIZEN COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

a. **Presentations**

i. 2026-27 FY Proposed Budget  
**MOTION:** Motion by Bates, supported by Kissel to move forward with "option 3" for the FY 2026-27 Budget, as presented.

### ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

### Motion Carried.

### b. Citizen Comments

- i. None.

### 4. ACTION ITEMS FOR THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING

- a. None.

### 5. ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION:** Motion by Bates, supported by Kissel to adjourn at 7:43 PM.  
 No objections were noted.

### Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted by,  
 Briana Papin, City Clerk/Treasurer  
 Publish: June 4, 2026

## Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

There were 322 dispatch calls reported by Van Buren Township police this week including the following.

### Sunday, May 24:

0100 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.  
0113 – 911 welfare check, Haggerty Rd.  
0122 – property damage accident, Bog Rd.  
0541 – noise complaint, Lake Villa Dr.  
0711 – malicious destruction of property, Pinewood Ln.  
0848 – private property/property damage accident, Belleville Rd.  
0847 – welfare check, Outer Dr.  
0944 – motorist assist, Belleville Rd. / N. I-94 Service Dr.  
1003 – private property/property damage accident, Westlake Cir.  
1027 – domestic, Outer Dr.  
1132 – missing person, Westlake Cir.  
1246 – private property/property damage accident, S. Bellridge Dr.  
1456 – road hazard, Beacon Trl.  
1500 – welfare check, Fret Rd.  
1544 – unauthorized driving away of auto, S. I-94 Service Dr.  
1606 – assist other dept., Ash Dr.  
1827 – property damage accident, E. I-94 / Belleville Rd.  
1901 – assist fire dept., N. I-275/Ecorse  
1955 – malicious destruction of property, Oak Ln.  
2001 – civil matter, Belleville Rd.  
2002 – assault & battery, Westlake  
2017 – property damage accident, Dartmoor Cir.  
2039 – property damage accident, S. I-94 Service Dr. / Village Green Ln.  
2135 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, N. Cumberland Dr.  
2140 – 911 welfare check, S. I-94 Service Dr.  
2326 – malicious destruction of property, Haggerty  
2342 – assist fire dept., Oak Ln.

### Monday, May 25:

0348 – misc. complaint, Tyler Rd.  
0352 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, S. I-94 Service Dr.  
0425 – domestic, Castell Blvd.  
0734 – motorist assist, Ecorse Rd./Hannan Rd.  
0935 – property check, N. I-94 Service Dr.  
0937 – warrant arrest, Tyler Rd.  
1139 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Morton Taylor Rd.  
1142 – domestic, Freedom Way  
1215 – abandoned auto, Morton Taylor Rd. / Van Born Rd.  
1238 – traffic offense, Briarwood Ct.  
1301 – trespassing, N. I-94 Service Dr.  
1414 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd. / S. Grove St.  
1416 – neighbor trouble, S. Timberview Dr.  
1636 – assist fire dept., Quirk Rd./McBride Ave.  
1649 – property damage accident, Haggerty Rd.  
2249 – threat, Oak Ln.  
2317 – 911 welfare check, Kirkridge Park Dr.

### Tuesday, May 26:

0734 – mental subject, W. Huron River Dr.  
0803 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Ecorse Rd./Haggerty Rd.  
0832 – fraud, Park Estate  
0838 – assist citizen, Bemis Rd.  
xxxx – repossession, Kirkridge Park Dr.  
0930 – neighbor trouble, Oak Ln.  
1021 – animal complaint, Belleville Rd.  
1044 – welfare check, Locust Dr.  
1039 – assist citizen, Dewitt Rd.  
1103 – larceny, N. I-94 Service Dr.  
xxxx – private property impound, Ecorse Rd.  
1141 – assist fire dept., S. Ponderosa Trl.  
1419 – civil matter, Assembly St.  
1320 – welfare check, Lake point Blvd.  
1305 – fight, Parkwood Dr.  
1357 – neighbor trouble, Quirk Rd.  
1339 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Sondra Dr.  
1444 – ordinance violation – all 7300 MICR codes, Harbor Ln.  
1609 – ordinance violation – all 7300 MICR codes, Harbor Ln.  
1614 – welfare check, Pebblebrook Dr.  
1646 – family trouble, Parkwood Dr.  
1702 – vehicle lockout, Belleville Rd.

1714 – welfare check, Alden Ave.  
1757 – lake emergency, Tyler Rd.  
1814 – runaway, Quirk Rd.  
1822 – welfare check, W. Adams  
1931 – welfare check, Belleville Rd./Stephanie Dr.  
2016 – neighbor trouble, Arlene Ln.  
2021 – domestic, Beck Rd.  
2028 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.  
2141 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, N. I-94 Service Dr. / Morton Taylor Rd.  
2155 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, N. I-94 Service Dr.

### Wednesday, May 27:

0015 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Tyler Rd. / Walden Blvd.  
0033 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Belleville Rd.  
0149 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, S. I-94 Service Dr. / Monterey Dr.  
0316 – civil matter, S. Sadie Ln.  
0755 – animal complaint, Barkley St.  
xxxx – repossession, Chatsworth Dr.  
0910 – ordinance violation – all 7300 MICR codes, W. Huron River Dr.  
0950 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Colonial Rd./Chester Ct.  
0950 – welfare check, Michigan Ave./Denton Rd.  
1002 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.  
1012 – motorist assist, Belleville Rd. / N. I-94 Service Dr.  
xxxx – repossession, Denton Rd.  
1139 – trespassing, Samuel Barton Dr.  
1208 – assist other dept., N. Ponderosa Trl.  
1223 – assist other dept., N. I-94 Service Dr.  
1300 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Belleville Rd.  
1403 – assault & battery, S. I-94 Service Dr.  
1504 – ordinance violation – all 7300 MICR codes, Dorchester Dr.  
1519 – ordinance violation – all 7300 MICR codes, Belleville Rd.  
1519 – private property/property damage accident, Belleville Rd.  
1652 – property damage accident, Hannan Rd. / Huron River Dr.  
1833 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.  
1929 – traffic offense, S. I-94 Service Dr./Denton  
1854 – misc. complaint, Beck Rd./Ayres Rd.  
1901 – civil matter, Union St.  
2001 – animal complaint, Tyler Rd.  
1950 – noise complaint, Arlene Ln.  
2013 – mental subject, Dewitt Rd.  
2020 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.  
2047 – welfare check, Belleville Rd.  
2057 – welfare check, N. I-94 Service Dr.  
2102 – 911 welfare check, Anna Dr.  
2215 – animal complaint, Daisy Blvd.  
2238 – property damage accident, Tyler Rd. / Haggerty Rd.  
2315 – assist fire dept., Michigan Ave. /Denton  
2339 – welfare check, Tyler Rd.

### Thursday, May 28:

0201 – warrant arrest, E. Huron River Dr.  
0412 – mental subject, Oak Blvd.  
0753 – welfare check, N. I-94 Service Dr. / Morton Taylor Rd.  
0850 – welfare check, holly Ln.  
0859 – road hazard, Rawsonville Rd./Martz  
0932 – welfare check, Oak Blvd.  
1148 – welfare check, Oak Ln.  
1245 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Revere Dr.  
xxxx – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Holly Ln.  
1317 – assist fire dept., Tyler Rd.  
1330 – family trouble, Kirkridge Park Dr.  
1432 – 911 welfare check, Kirkridge Park Dr.  
1448 – larceny, Belleville Rd.  
1506 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, McKinley St./Pierce St.  
1521 – civil matter, Van Born Rd.  
1627 – civil matter, E. Adams  
1653 – found property/child, Belleville/Tyler  
1742 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, S. Ponderosa Trl.  
1819 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Van Born Rd.  
1847 – road hazard, Ecorse Rd./Haggerty Rd.  
1844 – property check, Beck Rd./Ayres Ave.  
2058 – welfare check, Westlake Cir.  
2115 – assist citizen, S. Bellridge Dr.  
2118 – assist citizen, Westlake Cir.  
2223 – noise complaint, Robson Rd.  
2217 – juvenile complaint, Alden Ave.

xxxx – repossession, Ladonna Ln.  
2228 – juvenile complaint, Forestdale Dr.  
2259 – animal complaint, S. I-94 Service Dr.  
2329 – noise complaint, Briarwood Dr.  
**Friday, May 29:**  
0037 – warrant arrest, Tyler Rd.  
0046 – welfare check, S. Bellridge Dr.  
0147 – domestic, rest area  
0515 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.  
0729 – intrusion alarm, Haggerty Rd.  
xxxx – misc. complaint, Tyler Rd.  
0824 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Pinewood Ln.  
0922 – larceny from auto, Westlake Cir.  
1015 – animal complaint, Ash Dr.  
1014 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.  
1125 – welfare check, W. Huron River Dr.  
1452 – PPO violation, N. I-94 Service Dr.  
1452 – suicidal person, Pebblebrook Dr.  
1529 – family trouble, Parkwood Dr.  
1612 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, W. Huron River Dr.  
1618 – intrusion alarm, S. I-94 Service Dr.  
1633 – fight, Parkwood Dr.  
1654 – assault & battery, N. I-94 Service Dr.  
1703 – intrusion alarm, S. I-94 Service Dr.  
1718 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, Belleville Rd.  
1725 – fight, Oak Blvd.  
1822 – property check, S. I-94 Service Dr.  
1820 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.  
1815 – road hazard, Belleville Rd. / S. I-94 Service  
1922 – mental subject, Parkwood Dr.  
2006 – juvenile complaint, Berkdale/Lancaster  
2252 – assist other dept., Oak Ln.  
2320 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Michigan Ave. / Dellor St.

2344 – intrusion alarm, Samuel Barton Dr.  
2350 – assist other dept., Brandi Dr.  
**Saturday, May 30:**  
0106 – juvenile complaint, Parkwood Dr.  
0154 – intrusion alarm, Water's Edge Ln.  
0740 – parking complaint, Van Buren St.  
1012 – property check, Beck Rd.  
1125 – assist citizen, Belleville Rd.  
1213 – neighbor trouble, Pinewood Ln.  
1227 – property check, Beck Rd.  
1230 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Crowley Ave.  
1246 – indecent exposure – all 3600 MICR codes, Kirkridge Park Dr.  
1331 – lost property/child, Van Buren Ct.  
1333 – animal complaint, N. I-94 Service Dr.  
1429 – assist other dept., Harbour Pointe  
1438 – fraud, Edison Lake Rd.  
1458 – intrusion alarm, Tyler Rd.  
1543 – intrusion alarm, Haggerty Rd.  
1611 – traffic offense, Sumpter Rd./Bemis Rd.  
1616 – mental subject, W. Huron River Dr.  
1724 – juvenile complaint, Chaney Ave.  
1821 – larceny, Wheeler St.  
1803 – domestic, E. Adams  
1938 – intrusion alarm, Denton Rd.  
2032 – trespassing, Haverhill Rd.  
2139 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, boat launch  
2207 – missing person, Savage Rd.  
2150 – disorderly, Ayres Ave.  
2153 – 911 welfare check, Denton Rd.  
2219 – juvenile complaint, N. Cumberland Dr.

Also, on this log are 118 traffic stops, 28 of which are on the I-94 and I-275 freeways.

## Belleville Police Dispatch Log

### Sunday, May 24:

0458 – disorderly, Belle Villa Blvd.  
1250 – assist fire dept., Menlo Park Dr.  
xxxx – assist fire dept., Menlo Park Dr.  
2117 – family trouble, Carmell St.  
**Monday, May 25:**  
0001 – found property/child, E. Columbia Ave.  
0553 – intrusion alarm, Main St.  
0936 – 911 welfare check, Carmell St.  
1558 – civil matter, Main St.  
2229 – noise complaint, Harbour Pointe Ct.

### Tuesday, May 26:

0038 – animal complaint, W. Columbia Ave.  
0818 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.

0941 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Harbour Pointe Ct.  
1120 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Brain St.  
1240 – abandoned auto, South St.  
1529 – private property impound, South St.  
**Wednesday, May 27:**  
0340 – assist other dept., W. Columbia Ave.  
1407 – suicidal person, W. Columbia Ave.  
2024 – found property/child, Martinsville Rd.  
**Thursday, May 28:**  
0146 – intrusion alarm, W. Columbia Ave.  
1437 – private property/property damage accident, Main St.  
1906 – civil matter, Main St.  
1923 – harassment call, Charles St.  
2033 – animal complaint, E. Huron River Dr.

### Friday, May 29:

0220 – assist fire dept., Potter Dr.  
0915 – fraud, Victorian Ln.  
1138 – larceny, Sumpter Rd.  
1234 – family trouble, Charles St.  
1802 – misc. complaint, Charles St.  
**Saturday, May 30:**  
0939 – malicious destruction, N. Aberdeen Ct.  
1109 – found property/child, Sumpter Rd.  
1402 – assist fire dept., San Carlos St.  
1427 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Harbour Pointe Dr.  
1645 – malicious destruction of property, Hull Rd.  
1733 – vehicle lockout, Fourth St.  
1810 – assist fire dept., Breakwater Dr.  
1925 – civil matter, N. Liberty St.  
2108 – assist other dept., Belleville Rd./Denton  
2200 – assist fire dept., Carmell St.

There are 81 reports on this week's log, 44 of which are traffic stops.

## There are no dispatch logs from Sumpter Township.

## North Branch Big Swan drain cleanup starts this week in Sumpter Twp.

The Monroe and Wayne County Drain Commissioners and the Washtenaw County Water Resource Commissioner have been petitioned to perform improvements to the North Branch Big Swan Creek Intercounty Drain, which spans all three counties.

In Sumpter Township three road crossings on Willis Road will be replaced. The first Willis Road crossing, located approximately 1,500 feet west of Sumpter Road, is scheduled to be replaced beginning June 1. Detour signage will be installed.

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a letter  
to the  
editor**  
*Sign it and  
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June 3 -- Debbie Griffin  
June 4 -- Mark Rosenthal  
June 5 -- Stacy VanAssche  
June 6 -- Carmen Stovall, Lois Bachman, Rob Bovitz, Andy Winnie, Debra Green  
June 7 -- Leonard Armstrong, Janice Wright, David Papin  
June 8 -- Amanda Dunn  
June 10 -- Sean Elliot, Deborah Cavins, Joselyn Armatis  
June 11 -- Ed Smith



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

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### HELP WANTED

#### HELP WANTED: Community Reporter (Part-Time / Freelance)

The Belleville Area News Foundation is seeking a Community Reporter to assist with local news coverage in Belleville, Van Buren Township, and Sumpter Township.

This position suits someone who enjoys meeting people, covering community events, attending public meetings, and reporting on issues important to local residents. Coverage may include local government, schools, community events, public safety, features, and human-interest stories.

Responsibilities include:

- Attending municipal meetings and community events
- Conducting interviews with residents, community leaders, and local officials
- Writing accurate, balanced, and timely news stories
- Meeting assigned deadlines
- Taking photographs when possible or coordinating with photographers
- Working closely with the editor on story assignments and coverage priorities

The ideal candidate has strong writing and communication skills, an interest in local communities, and the ability to work independently. Journalism, newspaper, or community reporting experience is helpful.

This is a flexible, part-time or freelance position that requires some evening meeting coverage. Compensation may be hourly, per story, or assignment-based depending on experience and workload.

To apply, please submit a resume or a brief statement of interest, along with writing samples, if available.

Send inquiries and applications to:  
**152 Main St., Ste. 9, Belleville, MI 48111** or email to **emanalp@gmail.com**

### HELP WANTED

#### HELP WANTED: Managing Editor (Part-Time)

The Belleville Area News Foundation seeks a part-time Managing Editor to oversee editorial operations of a weekly community newspaper serving Belleville, Van Buren Township, and Sumpter Township.

This position suits someone with experience in newspapers, journalism, communications, or editorial roles who values community reporting and enjoys working collaboratively.

Responsibilities include:

- Coordinating weekly editorial workflow
- Assigning and editing stories
- Working with reporters, freelance writers, photographers, and production staff
- Determining story priorities and front-page coverage
- Proofreading content prior to publication
- Maintaining weekly publication deadlines
- Attending selected community or municipal meetings as needed
- Assisting with website and digital publishing coordination

The ideal candidate will have strong writing, editing, organizational, and communication skills. Familiarity with AP Style and experience in community journalism are preferred.

This flexible, part-time position requires about 20–30 hours per week, including some evening meetings. Hybrid and remote work options may be available.

Compensation will be based on experience, qualifications, and workload.

To apply, please submit a resume, a brief letter of interest, and writing or editing samples (if available).

Send inquiries and applications to:  
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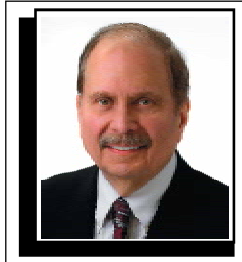
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**48620 WEAR, SUMPTER TOWNSHIP**

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**28503 MARGARET LN, HURON TOWNSHIP**

THIS BRICK HOME HAS IT ALL 3,828 Total Square Feet of finished living space, 4 Bedrooms, 3 Baths, Hot Tub, 14x27 Family Room, 2 + 1 Car Garages .85 Acres Short Sale \$385,000



**4142 WATERWHEEL LANE, BLOOMFIELD HILLS**

FEATURES 4 BEDROOMS, 2 1/2 baths, Family room with fireplace large basement with over 2,500 sq ft. Secluded backyard and patio. Bloomfield Hills Schools. \$675,000



**1418 HANFORD, LINCOLN PARK**

Income Property to Fix or Flip. 2 Bedrooms, 1 Bath, Large Yard, Covered Porch. Being sold as is with buyer assuming city certs, and repairs. \$85,000 Cash or owner financed.



**10324 SWAN LAKE, YPSILANTI**

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