



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 31.32 Thursday, August 7, 2025

Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

F R E E

2-year girl dies after drowning in pool on Fairbanks Street

On Monday at about 10:40 a.m. the Van Buren Township Communications Center received a 911 call reporting a possible drowning, reports police Lieutenant Kenneth Floro.

The Van Buren Township Police Department, the Van Buren Township Fire Department, and Huron Valley Ambulance responded to Fairbanks Street in Haggerty sub. where they found residents at the scene providing cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) to a 2-year-old girl.

HVA and the fire department administered advanced life support care at the scene before transporting the patient to Corewell Health - Wayne Hospital. The patient was later air lifted to Corewell Health - Royal Oak Hospital for more intensive care.

Lt. Floro reported she died Monday night.

The Van Buren Township Detective Bureau was called to the scene to collect evidence and conduct a follow-up investigation. This incident remains under investigation.

Sumpter Twp. board argues over whether to post job in clerk's office

By Rosemary K. Otzman
 Independent Editor

At the regular July 22 meeting of the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees, there was a long argument among board members about whether the board needed to go out for interviews for a new full time election clerk.

Clerk Don LaPorte wanted to promote part-time clerk Gabriella Massel to a full-time position and treasurer Bart Patterson and others on the board wanted to go through what he thought was the proper procedure that was posting the position and having interviews.

Trustee Matthew Oddy was absent and excused from the meeting.

After some arguing back and forth, with tempers flaring at times, LaPorte was convinced to reappoint Massel as parttime clerk for up to 90 days more while the board members gathered the information they wanted. The board then unanimously passed the extension of the parttime position.

LaPorte had been absent from the previous meeting, but he had put an extension of a part-time position for Massel on the

agenda. He said he was unhappy when he saw they ignored his agenda item and took no action at all.

Then, he said, he got to thinking about all the work the election will take with the new rules from the state and decided to ask for a full-time position for Massel.

(continued on page 6)



Independent photo by James Otzman

This is Wayne County Fair week at the fairgrounds on Quirk Road in Van Buren Township. Apollo Johnson, left, of Livonia holds his rooster Proto and brother Xavier Johnson holds his hen Flylite on Monday afternoon. They were getting ready for Tuesday's 4-H competition. Apollo and Xavier are hockey players so they named their poultry after hockey sticks.

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SECOND FRONT PAGE

Belleville Presbyterian Church education building goes solar

By Don Sherman
Van Buren Township

The solar energy basking Earth each hour exceeds all the energy consumed by industry and inhabitants for *an entire year*. Given this and the availability of low-cost flat panels capable of converting sunshine to electricity, solar photovoltaic energy systems are becoming more common.

The local Presbyterian Church, whose existence dates back nearly a century, is a recent adopter of this advanced technology.

In 1930, Henry Ford built what's known as a Martha-Mary chapel at his Willow Run camp to provide a worship location for orphaned teens. After serving churchgoers through World War II, this chapel was moved to its present location in 1979.

To update the 11900 Belleville Rd. property for the 21st century, a modern solar system was recently installed on the roof of the adjoining Christian Education (CE) building.

South-facing roofs are best for maximum electricity generation. The south side of the CE buildings system is also highly visible from Belleville Road to draw inquisitive souls to this location for worship.

Designed and installed by church member Steven Sherman (Solar Steve) who founded the solar enterprise Superior Energy, this system consists of a dozen solar panels arrayed in an attractive Z pattern.

Each Qcell panel produces 400 watts of energy when blessed by direct sunshine, totaling 4,800 watts. The innovative SkipRail brackets which secure the panels to the roof require 25% less than the normal number of attachments. An inverter converts direct current from the

solar panels to alternating current to supply CE building needs. During times when the panel-produced electricity exceeds consumption, AC current is delivered to the DTE grid for credit.

Fitting the CE building with solar panels, installing wiring, and inspections by Van Buren Township and DTE for their approvals took more than two months. The

system became active July 30.

Thanks to significant donations by Sherman, his electrician Jim Bates, Pegasus Solar, and Greentech Renewables, this system's \$2,700 cost was 70% lower than most residential installations. Church member donations covered half the components' cost. Sherman expects that electricity bill savings will offset

these costs in less than four years. His calculations also show that BPC's solar system is equivalent to 2,810 trees planted or 255 barrels of oil not consumed.

A label prominently attached to this system's electrical panel honors Rickard Schaefer, a church member and Vietnam veteran, who passed away May 3, shortly before construction commenced.



VBT police pull '97 Ford Mustang convertible from Belleville Lake

On July 28, Van Buren Township Public Safety's Dive team recovered a red 1997 Ford Mustang convertible from Belleville Lake near Rawsonville Road.

The vehicle was recently located and appears to have been underwater for several years.

The car was previously stolen so police are seeking more information than the VIN can provide.

If anybody has information on the vehicle or how it ended up in the lake, contact Sgt. Jeff Stanton at: jstanton@vbtmi.gov.

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Solar panels are now on the roof of the Christian Education building next to the Martha Marty Chapel on Belleville Road in Van Buren Township. The chapel was created in 1930 by Henry Ford and was moved from Willow Run to its present location in 1979 to become the Belleville Presbyterian Church.

Photo by Steven Sherman

O P I N I O N S

Editorial:

Budget woes cut Belleville services

The budget woes in the city of Belleville are cutting city services as the council wrestles with the implications.

The public was first made aware of financial problems during budget sessions and the sudden forced resignation of the city manager, with one council member stating later, "We were misled."

This week we have learned the fire department's duty crew that brought swift response in the city has been discontinued.

This was the on-site crew that was ready to respond immediately from the fire hall, instead of residents having to wait for paid-per-call fire fighters/EMTs to come from their jobs or homes, which was a delay. And, many work out of town.

Also building official Rick Rutherford, who had been reduced to part time, recently turned in his resignation. He was the only city employee with the required state certification for the post, so the city has turned property inspections over to Van Buren Township.

The city already had turned over dispatch/prisoner holding to VBT, so maybe it's time to turn the whole city over to the township, which has been suggested many times over the years. The little city is right in the center of the township.

Those who call 911 in Belleville will now have to wait for response or wait until VBT fire fighters/EMTs respond as backup from the fire station on Hull Road, as they did before the city had duty crews.

City residents are scratching their heads over the spending of their tax dollars.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

Members of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4434 will soon be wearing new red, white, and blue VFW hats because they have been named an All-American Post and they get to wear the All-American hats instead of the regular green ones.

At Sunday's Bugles Across America event at the Veterans Monument on High Street in Belleville, VFW commander John Blackstone announced the honor.

I asked commander Blackstone if he had a good time in Alaska, where he was headed last time I saw him, and he told me he never got there. He was going to camp for two weeks with two friends, but one of his friend's transmission failed on his vehicle en-route and the other friend's tire blew and he didn't have a spare.

John said he changed his destination and visited Mount Rushmore and Yellowstone National Park instead. But even that was cut short when he was called home by family to help with closing on a house.

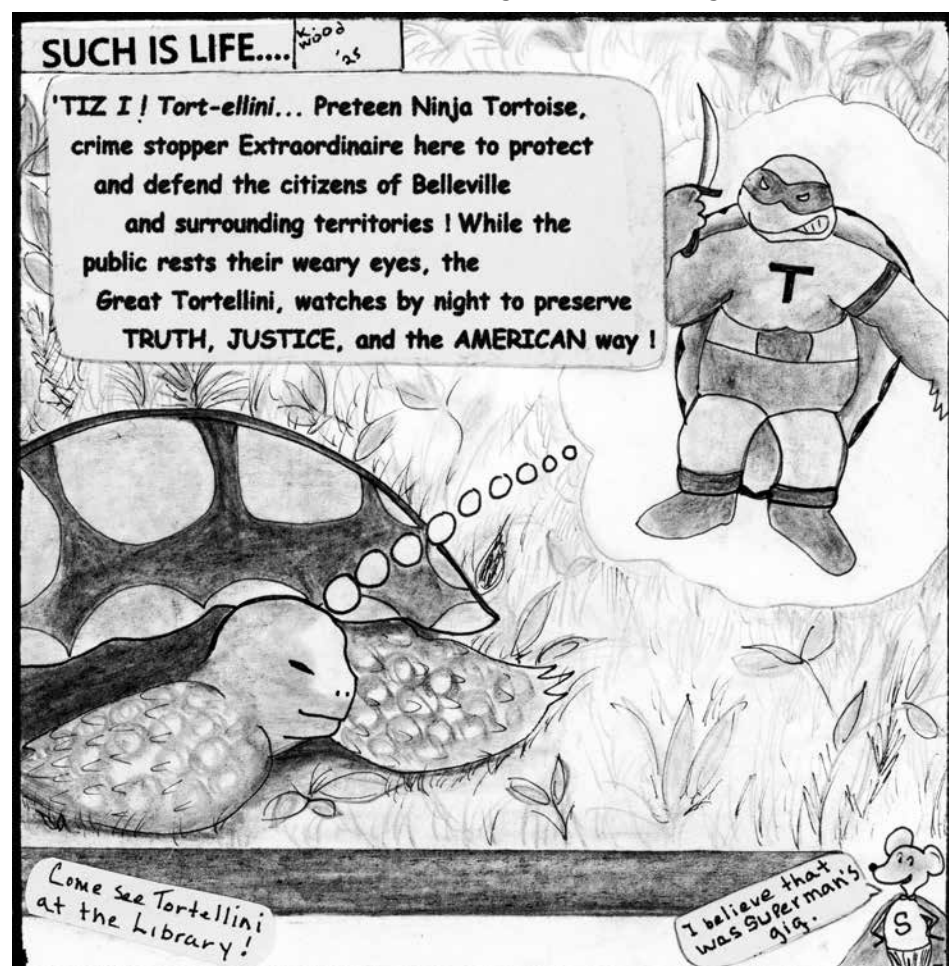
John said there was a seven-and-a-half hour wait for entry into Yellowstone.

It's nice to see him back.

Also, just before the beginning of Sunday's Bugles Across America, Gary Marshall of Van Buren Township presented a special silver-colored bugler pin to Dave Dubicki, the VFW member who served as the bugler for "Taps" during the ceremony.

Marshall said when he was in Chicago he lived near the VFW member who founded Bugles Across America in 2000. His friend Tom Day gave him some special pins to give to buglers and he presented one to Dubicki.

...By Rosemary K. Otzman



Founder Tom Day stated online that the non-profit Bugles Across America was founded in 2000 when Congress passed legislation stating that veterans have a right to at least two uniformed military people to fold the flag and play "Taps" on a CD player.

Bugles Across America was founded to take this a step further. In recognition of the service these veterans have provided to their country, Day said they felt that they each deserve a live rendition of "Taps" by a real bugler. To this end, they actively seek capable volunteers to provide this valuable service to veterans and their families.

Actually Dubicki performed on a bugle with "Taps" playing automatically.

VFW member Ross Medos, who was post commander at the time, was the bugler who started Bugles in Belleville, with the first session on March 11, 2004. He also was Michigan State Director for Bugles.

Medos played "Taps" every month for many years and then because of his health problems and his wife's health, he had to turn it over to others in the post.

It has continued for more than 21 years each month in Belleville, with real buglers when they are available and sometimes with VFW members holding the horn while it plays "Taps" by itself.

The Belleville VFW and PLAV posts devotedly provide services at funerals with "Taps" being played and the folding of the American flag that had been on the casket

for veterans whose families request it.

It's been pointed out that the city has not had a fire chief in place since November.

DeBuck's Family Farm on Martz Road in Van Buren Township announces its Sunflower Festival will begin on Friday, Aug. 8, and there will be a million sunflowers in bloom. It will run weekends only through Aug. 24. Lots of opportunities for photos.

Besides building your own bouquets and more than two dozen attractions, including pedal cars, giant slides, and wagon rides, there will be lots of sweet treats, giant milkshakes and specialty drinks, according to the farm's press notice.

There will also be education on pollinators and the importance of supporting local farms.

People come from great distances to DeBuck's and we have it right in our backyard.

We are informed that on Monday morning a tire exploded and injured an employee at Gene's Tires next to Gene's ice cream stand on East Huron River Drive.



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BELLEVILLE - AREA

INDEPENDENT

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Letters

Taste of Belleville after Bridge Walk on Aug. 21

To the editor:

The Belleville Central Business Community is looking forward to a delightful Taste of Belleville on Thursday, Aug. 21, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Horizon Park on High Street following the Annual Bridge Walk that begins at 5:30 p.m. from the Gateway sign.

In addition to the City of Belleville, presenting sponsors for the Taste are Alicia McGovern - Edward Jones, BellevilleMain, LLC, Jack Demmer Ford, The Butcher Shop, and KSpringer Media Management.

Music will begin at 6 p.m. with Unlimited DJ in Horizon Park, and the Belleville Area Council for the Arts will be hosting its last Music Lakeside with Ghost Town Marshalls taking the stage from 7 to 9 p.m. on High Street.

At 6:30 p.m. the Belleville Rotary will release the ducks for its annual Lucky Ducky Race fundraiser. Tickets may still be available that evening so stop by the table where the big duck will be residing.

Participating in the Taste this year are: Angel Food Catering, Applebee's, Baan Phad Thai, Belleville Area Kiwanis Club, Benito's Pizza, the BHS Robotics Team, Confections Factory, Hungry Howie's Pizza, Jet's Pizza, Johnny's on the Lake, Kona Ice, Rachael Lynn's Catering, Sweeter Days Bakery, The Butcher Shop, Van Buren Public Schools, Wing Fellas, and free balloon art with Sunshine & Balloons. The menu will be published in this newspaper on Thursday, Aug. 21, and as always we look forward to catching up with friends, meeting some new ones, having delicious food, and listening to great music.

Bill Wolters, president
Belleville Central Business Community

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Museum lecture set on Bob-lo Island history

To Friends of the Belleville Area Museum:
This month's lecture is "Bob-lo Island: A History," presented by Tyler Moll, who has done a few lectures for us in the past. We look forward to him joining us this time to share his newest research project on the history of the beloved amusement park.

The lecture will be from 6-7 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 28. Free pizza will be available beforehand at 5:30! If you are planning on joining us, please let us know by replying.

Stop by the museum to see a new slideshow of our collection of historical photos of the French Landing Dam and Belleville Lake's 100th Anniversary, which will be on display for the foreseeable future. And if you haven't already, come get your merch for the 100th anniversary of the French Landing Dam and Belleville Lake before it's gone! We are almost out of unisex t-shirts.

Also, be on the lookout for an article I wrote about the 150th anniversary of the Old Town Hall in *Van Buren Today*, which will be released the week of Aug. 18! If you do not live in Van Buren Township, you can pick up the periodical at the township hall and community center.

That's all for August. We hope to see you all soon!

Mary Utz, curator
Belleville Area Museum
Email: mutz@vbtmi.gov
(734) 697-1944



Aug. 6 - Donna Hogue
Aug. 7 - Gary Marshall
Aug. 9 - Genevieve Johnson
Aug. 14 - Tyler Mercer

Aug. 15 - Beverly Armatis, Elena Manalp, Mary Talaga, Nicholas Mitchell, Cathe Frisch, Phillip Miller

Do you have a birthday soon? Does someone you know have a birthday? Let us know and we will print the name as soon as possible. For more information, call (734) 699-9020.

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

Sumpter Twp.

(continued from page 1)

When board members asked for another extension, LaPorte called out to Massel in the audience and asked her if that was OK with her. She said it was and LaPorte said he was glad she didn't just walk out of the meeting instead.

Township attorney Rob Young gave his opinion on the issue after the decision was made on Massel. He said majority rules and boards can do whatever they want to deal with employees, apart from any union contracts they agree to.

He said if the majority of the board wants a hiring policy, so be it, he said. He said the board had done away with posting requirements but he doesn't see it as a mandate. "My opinion is there is no requirement except those self-imposed and that can be modified."

In other business at the one hour, 25-minute meeting on July 22, the board:

- Heard former township manager Anthony Burdick thank the board members for signing his contract to be a consultant to the new township manager. He said he wanted to thank board members after their last meeting, but they went into closed door session and he couldn't;

- Heard Nicole VanAssche report that 300 people came to Family Fun Day and they had a good time. She said the Lions Club did free vision screening for the children. Quenten won the watermelon seed spitting contest for 48 feet. She said the next upcoming event is a yard sale behind the police department as well as an indoor craft sale in the community center from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Aug. 22, 23, and 24. Cost for space is \$5 for outside and \$10 for inside;

- Heard Kay Harris say Canada is still burning and she is still asking for a drone that could pick up water from Belleville Lake. She pointed out Sumpter is in a forest. She also said she can't find where the special permit was approved for the junkyard next to her and the yard is shipping and receiving. She said she remembers the gas station that was built that was supposed to be a market. She again asked for the township to require the junkyard to put in a firewall because of all the lithium batteries;

- Heard a lengthy report by Finance Director Julie Campbell, who said the royalty payments from the landfill are two months behind. She said the landfill said it was a technical error on their end. She also said this was the first read of a revision to the purchasing policy. The revision started five years ago and a couple of sections are still under revision. She said the second reading won't be done until all the revisions are complete and she asked board members to send her their comments. She explained updates to the budget and how she would like to separate the Water & Sewer fund into separate funds to determine profit and loss on each and whether to increase rates;
- Heard Department of Public Works director Ron Tabor say his department is doing a lot of mowing because of all the rain and weed whipping the fire hydrants.

He said copper testing of residential water will start later this month and those in older homes can get free testing by just contacting the township;

- Heard township manager Ken Marten say the board has his report in their packet and he's not going to read it line for line. He said there are some additions. He said cardio-pulmonary resuscitation training for employees is Aug. 6 and 7 and UKG will be up and running Aug. 4 or the following week;

- Heard treasurer Patterson report that there is what is called a "pension fund" that was invested in a CD 15-20 years ago. He will bring the question of that fund to the board since the township is "very well-funded on pensions";

- Approved purchasing 11 new radios and encrypting 16 current radios from the police department from Digicom Global for \$54,033.60;

- Approved accepting the bid of Supreme

Creations for \$21,656.25 for the application of protective epoxy floor coating in the fire department house bays and gear room;

- Approved having Hennessey Engineers complete the water asset management plan at a cost not to exceed \$101,620;

- Approved switching from BS&A. net to BS&A Cloud at a total price of \$83,690. BS&A will honor the price on the agreement signed in 2024. Additional cost includes adding the work order program to the original quote;

- Approved paying outstanding invoices to Diversified Excavating and Site Utilities totaling \$40,100. This was after a long complaint by clerk LaPorte about the quality of the invoice that gave no details or dates, just one line with a figure. He said he would just reject them all until they're done right, he said of the invoices involved; and

- Heard attorney Young ask for the second reading and approval of an ordinance

amendment on special land use that had its first reading in November and, then, "It got away from me." This item was added to the agenda at the beginning of that night's meeting. He told the board it had approved the ordinance amendment in November.

According to a report in the Dec. 12, 2024 Independent, at the Nov. 26 meeting the board approved a recommendation from the planning commission for text amendments to Section 3.3, Special Land Uses, which gives the township board final approval on Special Land Uses.

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Obituaries

LOUANN BOONE

May 7, 1956 – July 28, 2025

Age 69 of Van Buren Township. Survived by husband Jerry Boone; children Kevin, Brian, and Jennifer Boone; and grandchildren Gage and Lucille. Cremation rites have been accorded. David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville. www.davidcbrownfh.com

DAVID CHARLES HOLCOMB

June 24, 1955 – July 28, 2025

Age 70, of Ypsilanti Township. Survived by children Diane Martin and Dan Swartz, 7 grandchildren, 2 great-granddaughters, 3 siblings. Cremation rites have been accorded. David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville. www.davidcbrownfh.com

JAMES JOSEPH 'JOE' JONES

August 25, 1951 – July 29, 2025

James Joseph "Joe" Jones, age 73, of Sumpter Township. Born in Arkansas. Survived by wife Kathy Ann (Gattis) Jones and daughters Jennifer and Julie Jones. Cremation rites have been accorded. Arrangements by David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville. www.davidcbrownfh.com

AMY JO HARKLE

February 4, 1974 – July 31, 2025

Age 51, of Sumpter Township. Survived by husband Steven; children Joseph, Stephen, Sophie; mother Patti Jones; brother Marvin. Funeral at 11 a.m. Aug. 14 at Peterson Funeral & Cremation Services, Cadillac. Local arrangements by David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville. www.davidcbrownfh.com

Upcoming Meetings

- Monday, Aug. 11 – Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m., Administration Building
- Tuesday, Aug. 12 – Sumpter Township board meeting, 6 p.m.
- Wednesday, Aug. 13 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 5:30 p.m.
- Thursday, Aug. 14 – Keystone Academy School Board, 5 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township Planning Commission, 6 p.m. Also, Belleville Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.

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Officer Roy Lee Graham

Sumpter police observe 40th anniversary of Officer Graham's death

On July 28, 1985, Sumpter Township Police Officer Roy Lee Graham, 33, was killed when his patrol car was struck by a drunk driver while responding to a call for help from a Van Buren Township officer.

Officer Graham is the only Sumpter police officer to be killed in the line of duty.

On July 28, the police department posted the following on its Facebook Page:

"... We solemnly observe the 40th anniversary of the line-of-duty death of Sumpter Township Police Officer Roy Lee Graham. We honor his brave sacrifice, remembering his commitment to serving and protecting our community. His legacy lives on in our hearts, minds, and locations around the township.

"Additionally, his name is engraved on the wall of the Wayne County First Responders Memorial in Hines Park and the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, D.C. on panel 30e, line 11.

"We pledge to remember him today and every day."

Michigan Flight Museum offers free entry to active military

As a part of the National Endowment for the Arts and Blue Star Families, the Michigan Flight Museum in Van Buren Township is offering free entry to its museum through Sept. 1 to active-duty military personnel and their families.

That includes members of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, as well as members of the Reserve, National Guard, U.S. Public Health Commissioned Corps, NOAA Commissioned Corps, and up to five family members. A valid military ID is required.

The Michigan Flight Museum is located at 47884 D St., Belleville 48111, at Willow Run Airport.

For more directions and times, visit MIFLIGHTMUSEUM.org.

Musings

By Janet Millard
Independent
Advertising Director



If you haven't made it to the Wayne County Fair yet there is still time to enjoy the carnival. Thursday is their livestock auction, Friday will have the Figure-Eight Derby, and Saturday will close out with Night of Destruction. School is starting early this year so let's plug in as much fun as we can before it is time to settle down

Tickets are available starting this week for the Van Buren Community Players production of "The Odd Couple". Performances will be Sept. 12-14 and Sept. 19-21 with Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Be sure you order your tickets at <http://vbtybc@ludus.com> or call (734) 699-8921.

Looking for some family fun? Guiding Harbor is holding a Family Fun Picnic on Friday, Aug. 15, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at its administration office at 525 E. Huron River Drive. Smoke Ring BBQ food truck will be on site with food you may purchase, and they plan on fun things for the kids. This will also give you an opportunity to learn all about the impactful work Guiding Harbor does in the community.

The annual Taste of Belleville will be in a couple of weeks and in today's paper is a list of all the participants. Hope your favorites are bringing their specialties.

Music is starting back at Harris Park from 7 to 9 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 13 with "Infinity and Beyond," a Journey Tribute band. Love Journey!

Music Lakeside tonight at 7 p.m. on High Street in Belleville features "Salmagundi" playing classic Motown and Stax/Memphis soul music. Bring your appetites for Angel Food Catering.

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

Things to do in the Belleville area...

• **Thursday, Aug. 7** – Music Lakeside in Belleville, 7-9 p.m. Performing tonight is Salmagundi.

• **Wednesday, Aug. 13** – Mid-Week Music from 7-9 p.m. at Harris Park, 10101 Belleville Rd. Tonight it's "Infinity & Beyond" Journey Tribute. Sponsored by Van Buren Township DDA.

• **Thursday, Aug. 14** – Music Lakeside concert begins at 7 p.m. featuring Larry Lee and the Back in the Day Band.

• **Friday, Aug. 15** – Family Fun Picnic presented by Guiding Harbor, 525 E. Huron

River Dr., 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.. BBQ food available for purchase, drawing, painting, crafting, outdoor games and activities, scavenger hunt and story time. Show your support for foster youth. For more information contact: ghfamilyfunpicnic.rsvpify.com.

• **Friday, Aug. 15** – Eagle Riders Summer Steak Roast at the Van Buren Eagles, 9961 Beck Rd., Van Buren Township. Starts at 5 p.m. until gone, followed by entertainment.

• **Wednesday, Aug. 20** – Mid-Week Music from 7-9 p.m. at Harris Park, 10101 Belleville Rd. Tonight it's "Cruizin Jupiter" Cover Band playing decades of hits. Sponsored by Van Buren Township DDA.

• **Thursday, Aug. 21** – Third Thursday in the Ville is from 5 to 8 p.m. when popup crafters are in the Fourth Street Square and inside retail businesses in downtown Belleville. It's the Third Thursday of each

month, from March through December.

• **Thursday, Aug. 21** – Annual Belleville Bridge Walk starts at the Gateway sign at 5:30 p.m., followed by Taste of Belleville from 6-8 p.m. on High Street and Horizon Park, also the last Music Lakeside for the season, 7-9 p.m. Performing tonight is Ghost Town Marshalls. The Rotary launches its Lucky Ducky fundraiser in Belleville Lake at 6:30 p.m.

• **Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Aug. 22, 23, and 24** – Yard sale behind the Sumpter Township police department and vendor sales inside the community center, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Cost for space is \$5 for outside and \$10 for inside.

• **Sunday, Aug. 24** – Michigan Flight Museum at Willow Run Airport presents Open Cockpit Day from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Some of the static aircraft on display will be opened up so you can get an inside look at the AH-1J Cobra, F-84F Thunderstreak,

and the F-4 Phantom II. This extra feature is included with the price of your admission ticket. (734) 483-4030. miflightmuseum.org

• **Wednesday, Aug. 27** – End of Summer Celebration from 5-7 p.m. at Harris Park, 10101 Belleville Rd. Flute Cocktail & the Renegades, musical. Sponsored by Van Buren Township DDA.

• **Wednesday, Sept. 3** – Michigan Flight Museum's Historic Presentation Night presents "Baseball Hall of Famers Who Served" at 7:30 p.m. with speaker Steve Mrozek. He is former assistant curator at the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, NY. He now is executive director of the Selfridge Military Air Museum and a retired Army paratrooper. \$10 per person for non-members. Museum members: free with registration. Museum is at 47884 D Street at Willow Run Airport.

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Independent photo by Rosemary K. Oztzman

A dozen members of the planning commissions of Belleville, Van Buren, and Sumpter met together on July 30 at the Commons of Belleville High School. They compared notes and set out a plan for cooperative ventures in the future.

Tri-community planners meet to set ways to work together for progress

By Rosemary K. Oztzman

Independent Editor

At the end of a one-hour-20-minute meeting on July 30, members of the planning commissions of the city of Belleville and Van Buren and Sumpter townships agreed to set up subcommittees to work on mutual projects.

Van Buren Township director of municipal services Ron Akers volunteered to coordinate the effort. He said he could send out letters to the commission chairpersons.

Van Buren planning commission chairman Brian Cullin said the chairpersons could put this letter on their commissions' agendas for discussion.

Director Akers said the subcommittee meetings would be for the regular members and be left open for others to participate. He said the meetings would be open to the public.

Alvis Brigris, a member of the Belleville Planning Commission, said the subcommittees could focus on grants, the local workforce, and lake coordination.

Members of the tri-community planners agreed to meet again in six months at 5 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 29, 2026.

Attending the meeting were all seven Van Buren commissioners, four commissioners from the city of Belleville, and one commissioner from Sumpter.

Nineteen people sat around a group of tables at the Belleville High School Commons and other observers sat at tables around the room. Also attending were Van Buren Township supervisor Kevin McNamara and two township board trustees Donald Boynton and Kevin Martin, executive director of the Van Buren Downtown Development Authority Merrie Coburn, and several Van Buren employees.

Haile Brown from Congresswoman Debbie Dingell's office also was present.

Belleville's interim city manager Steve Jones gave a report about what was going on in Belleville.

Nicole VanAssche, newly appointed to

(continued on page 10)

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Planners

(continued from page 9)

the Sumpter Planning Commission and also chairperson of the Sumpter Parks and Recreation committee, was Sumpter's only representative.

Cullin was selected to be the chairman for the meeting, and Akers then explained a long list of developments and projects in the township.

Then, Supervisor McNamara added the township is seeking a traffic light at the South I-94 Service Drive and Haggerty Road to try to stop all the accidents of drivers trying to turn left at that intersection. The township also has been alerted that in 2027 the federal government will patch Belleville Road between I-94 and the Belleville Bridge.

Akers said the township applied for a grant for sidewalks on South Street/Sumpter Road, as discussed at the last joint meeting. This was to be a shared project between the township and the city, but he said they didn't get the grant.

He said there now are more residential developments in the township than there has been in the last ten years.

Cullin asked for an update on the Iron Belle Trail and why some parts are still unfinished. McNamara explained how the trail is being done in sections and it is complete from Grove Road to Van Buren Park.

He said in the next month they will cut the ribbon between the park and Waverly apartments, the next lap. Each section requires a grand opening due to the different grants involved. He said the 7.5-mile trail through the township has five or six sections.

McNamara said another trail section is from Pickle Park to the Denton Road Bridge. He said the township didn't think they'd be able to take the trail over the bridge and so hadn't gotten the easements necessary. But now the bridge will have a place for the trail. He said it will take several years before that link is complete.

He said they are working with Country Walk to get a connector trail to the Iron Belle Trail from Martinsville Road into the subdivision.

VanAssche said Sumpter is a rural area and its newest developments are a car wash at Bemis and Sumpter roads and the rebuilding of the gas station across the street. Also, she said, the senior care center opened in

Sumpter. An auto body shop will open near King's Auto.

She said she wants to know how to get grants. She said Sumpter did get a grant for a playscape and it is finally up. She said the three communities together are a great place to be with each having its unique qualities.

Brigis said what Van Buren builds at the other end of the bridge on the former DNR property will affect the city of Belleville and he asked for details on the project.

McNamara said they currently are getting public engagement on proposals and 800 people participated in a public survey. Then the township went over the findings. They hired Fishbeck engineers who put together two or three proposals and now they brought two more. The board will look at the concepts and there will be another open house. He said it is scheduled to be built next year.

"Whatever we build will make the quality of the community higher," McNamara said. He said it will increase strong housing prices and the taxes will build wealth in the communities. He said it will help the city of Belleville because the city is in the center of the township.

Brigis said the data center proposal for just over Rawsonville Road on Textile in Washtenaw County now has massive opposition.

McNamara said the township met with DTE on that and DTE committed to a five-year plan to up the township's power and they are building redundancy for electrical and gas power.

(continued on page 12)



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Despite her tough start, Maisy's outlook on life is nothing short of amazing. She's always wiggly with excitement to see people and has never met a stranger-she's as friendly and affectionate as they come. Her favorite things? Stuff toys (even if they only last a few minutes), snacks (she's very food motivated), and simply hanging out with her humans.

Maisy is still learning the ropes of home life, including potty training and basic manners, but her eagerness to please and strong bond with her people make her a great student. She's mellow by nature and prefers relaxed exploration in the yard over high-energy activities. While she hasn't quite figured out how to "play" just yet, we can tell she's curious and interested-and with time, she might just become a pro! She's currently unsure around other dogs but has done fine in calm playgroups, mostly keeping to herself. If you already have a dog at home, we're still happy to consider a meet-and-greet to see how they might get along. As for cats-we're not sure yet.

Maisy would do best in a moderately active home, possibly with older kids and maybe a laid-back dog sibling. Most importantly, she needs a patient and loving family who can help her continue her journey from survivor to spoiled companion.

If you're looking for a sweet, soulful, easygoing girl to share your heart and home with-Maisy might just be your perfect match.

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Kids' Praise and Worship Team entertains Cedar Woods

The Kids Praise and Worship Team, made up of youngsters in first through sixth grades who attend Redemption Bible Church in Belleville entertained the residents of Cedar Woods on July 28.

Team members met each Monday throughout the summer to learn praise and worship songs using keyboards, drums, recorders, a ukulele, guitar, and bells.

The team visited Cedar Woods assisted living center in Van Buren Township to

share their faith through worship songs, scripture, and meaningful conversations with the residents.

As a special gift, the team also painted prayer rocks and presented them to residents along with a gospel-centered "Prayer Rock" poem.

The program included worship songs such as "Your Way's Better" (Forest Frank), "Trust and Obey" (J. Sammis), and "You Are My All in All" (D. Jernigan).

In addition to music, kids recited from memory the books of both the Old and New Testaments, along with their theme verse: "Come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation." -- Psalms 95:1

The hope of the Kids Praise and Worship Team music ministry was for kids to experience the joy of serving God by using their talents to bless others. The visit to Cedar Woods was an example of this hope in action -- encouragement, smiles, and the love of Jesus were joyfully exchanged between both kids and residents.

Redemption Bible Church rents space to meet at the First United Methodist Church in Belleville. Pastor Garrett Nimmo is lead pastor and Nathan Brown is youth pastor.

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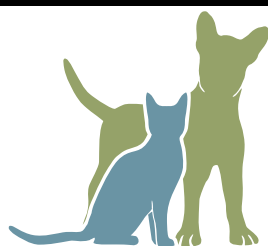
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Planners

(continued from page 10)

Brigis said data centers are great, but they are power-suckers, use a lot of water, and discharge like crazy. He said they let University of Michigan build the building so there is no tax money generated. Also, because of the U of M ownership it won't be subject to local regulations.

McNamara said the data center is considered a privately owned post office which is exempt from taxes. He said the township has a data center, so he knows.

Brigis said he wanted to congratulate the people who turned away the radioactive waste that is now going to Texas.

"All the politicians thought that it impossible," McNamara said.

Belleville commissioner John Juriga said he would like to buy the island in Belleville Lake from Van Buren Township for a dollar, so the city could fix the retaining wall that has failed. The island is washing away, he said. He said a grant from the Cozadd Foundation could pay for the work.

He said they could put in a retaining wall and make the island into a park.

McNamara said Van Buren is not selling property, but the township would be happy to work with him and Cozadd.

He said when they proposed taking down the lake in the past, the Belleville Yacht Club said they'd work with the township to fix up the island. He said he got a lot of push back on taking down the lake, and the plan was dropped.

He said the cleanest lakes in Michigan are regularly taken down in October and go back up in the spring after the repairs are complete. He said you can kill off the weeds this way and rebuild docks.

Van Buren treasurer Sharry Budd, who sits on the planning commission, recalled that the township used to take the lake down. But, then there was a move to take all the dams down on the Huron River. The township said the dam couldn't be taken down because it was needed to make electricity, so French Landing was put back in production. Now a

firm runs it for the township.

Van Buren commissioner Medina Atchinson asked if the dam is regularly inspected and Akers said the state of Michigan requires inspections twice a year and the dam is safe.

Atchinson said Up North lakeside property was lost when a dam failed. Akers said it was a decommissioned dam.

Belleville commission chairman Jim Courage asked where they are going from here with Juriga's idea on the island.

McNamara said he will talk to his trustees to see if they want to spend \$5,000 to see if it's feasible. The answer belongs to the trustees, he said, noting he only has one vote.

Atchinson said she also was concerned about vacancies. She said Belleville, Van Buren and Sumpter are married and many residing in the tri-community don't know exactly where they live. She wanted to know what the communities are doing about vacancies.

"In premier communities there are fewer vacancies," she said, adding the communities could do something together. She said she called Kroger to see if she could get them to come out, but there were not enough rooftops.

Akers said they could make a list of where the vacancies are and the size, like Aerotropolis has for the township's industrial sites.

Van Buren Township commission vice-chairman Jeff Jahr said in the classes he's had on planning he's learned, "We can't make them come, but we can attract them ... like moths to the flame."

Brigis said the traditional business models aren't working. He proposed attracting tech companies to the smaller vacant spaces downtown.

He said since this area is near the airport, they could set up a conference to attract tech companies.

Near the end of the meeting a flood advisory was heard from someone's phone and the rain started to fall in a torrent. Many hesitated to go out the door to get to their vehicles, but Van Buren commissioner Peter Creal said, "It's not going to get any better than this."

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VBT DDA approves \$6,840 to paint outside of DDA building, garage

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

The outside of the Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority offices and its garage at 10151 Belleville Rd. had loose and peeling paint, so DDA executive director Merrie Coburn got quotes from painters.

At its regular July 22 meeting the DDA voted to hire Pacesetter Painting to paint the buildings at a cost of \$6,840, as recommended by director Coburn.

Pacesetter is owned by Sarah Warring who lives in Van Buren Township and is on

the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce.

The second quote was for \$12,912 from A&M Painting and Powerwash of Wayne and Oakland County.

Coburn said she was concerned about how Pacesetter's cost was about half of the A&M quote, but she looked into it and found Pacesetter had good recommendations and was local.

The DDA voted unanimously to hire Pacesetter to do the scraping, repairing, and painting.

In other business at its 37-minute meeting, the DDA:

- Approved reallocating \$40,000 in the 2025 budget to preserve the DDA fund balance. Coburn said the Amenities and Legal Fees line items came up short, due to the request for repainting of the DDA building and garage and the additional attorney costs for the Right-of-Way Acquisition for the Belleville Road Widening Project. The \$40,000 is currently in the budget but is surplus of what it was originally budgeted for due to projects that will not take place until spring 2026;

- Approved the Amended 2025 DDA Budget and Proposed 2026 DDA Budget and recommended approval by the township board. There is slightly higher revenue this year, but there will be larger expenses in 2026 with the design work for Belleville Road;

- Approved allocating \$2,000 to sponsor the Fire Department Pancake Breakfast event, which will earn money for fire department expenses. It will be held from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Oct. 11. The event's primary goal is to raise

awareness about fire safety and emergency preparedness within the community;

- Received a report from Wade Trim on the survey taken by DDA members which shows where they want shovel-ready projects for grants. The results highlight a strong focus on business growth, marketing, and pedestrian safety in the DDA plan. DDA member Velon Willis said she would like to see some traffic calming on Belleville Road. Coburn said they are looking into getting the speed limit reduced from 45 to 35 mph;

- Heard Coburn report she has been actively seeking nine residents in the DDA district to be a part of the District Advisory Citizens Council to comply with the requirements of PA 57. She said since she can prove the DDA has exhausted its efforts, the DDA will be able to recruit members from areas surrounding the district, such as Harmony Lane. She said she hopes to have them appointed at the Aug. 5 township board of trustees meeting;

- Gave updates on the Belleville Road Widening Project, the Right of Way Acquisition for the project, and the Tyler Road Non-Motorized Pathway. She announced the Southeastern Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) presented a check for \$1,794,428 to the township for the pathway project on July 15. She said it is scheduled for 2026-27;

- Learned DTE has done an evaluation on the light poles along Belleville Road, and there are three that need to be replaced from the DDA stockpile due to rust and deterioration. She said the DDA is getting quotes for replacing the three poles to maintain the inventory per the agreement with DTE;

- Was advised the fence at Harmony Lane was hit and the DDA is working to get it repaired. The DDA has the parts, but it will cost \$800 for labor that includes removing the old concrete for the poles. There is no one to assess, since they don't know who hit the fence;

- Heard a report that McDonald's will be demolishing its present building and replacing it entirely, Morning Belle is finishing up renovations of the former Twisted Rooster restaurant, and Domino's

is looking to occupy a vacant store front in the O'Reilly plaza;

- Learned Coburn was part of the review committee to find a consultant for the 181-acre township property development at the northwest corner of Belleville and Tyler roads. It is a multi-year project and the cost is being shared between the township and the DDA; and

- Heard DDA member Jessica Thomas announce she is collecting school supplies for the residents of Guiding Harbor through the end of the month. She said people can just drop them off at the Holiday Inn.

Court Watching

Aaron Michael Armos

Aaron Michael Armos, 27, of Sumpter Township, was video-arraigned in custody on June 6 on a bench warrant at 34th District Court concerning two counts of carrying a concealed weapon, carrying a loaded firearm in a vehicle, operating while intoxicated-2nd, possessing a firearm while under the influence, and improper possession of a firearm in or upon a motor vehicle on Jan. 25 in Van Buren Township.

His personal bond was set at \$5,000 and a probable cause conference set for June 18. His probable cause conference was then set for July 2 and he waived his exam and was bound over to circuit court for an arraignment on the information on July 16. Calendar conference was July 24, final conference is Aug. 22, and jury trial set for Sept. 17.

Ryan Douglas Donlon

Ryan Douglas Donlon of Pinckney was video-arraigned in custody on June 10 for possession of methamphetamine/ecstasy on Jan. 7 in Van Buren Township. The charged was entered June 3. He was labeled a repeat offender with third offense notice. Personal bond is \$5,000 and a probable cause conference was June 18. Preliminary exam was July 23 and he was bound over to circuit court for an Aug. 6 arraignment on the information.

Vante Martez Mack

Vante Martez Mack of Redford was

(Continued on page 14)

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Court watching

(continued from page 13)

video-arraigned in custody on June 10 on a charge of fleeing police in a vehicle on June 8 in Van Buren Township. Personal bond is \$5,000 and a probable cause conference set for June 18. A preliminary exam was set for July 30.

Jamal Norman

Jamal Norman, 23. Of the city of Belleville is charged with driving while licensed suspended/revoked/denied and no insurance in the city of Belleville on May 17. His arraignment/pretrial was held June 11. He pled guilty to a reduced charge of failure to display a valid license and was fined \$500. The second charge was dismissed because he pled to the other charge.

David William Mills, Jr.

David William Mills, Jr., 45, of Sumpter Township was video-arraigned in custody on May 28 on a charge of assaulting/resisting/obstructing a police officer in Sumpter Township on May 25. Personal bond is \$5,000 and a probable cause conference set for June 11. He waived his

(continued on page 15)

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VBT planners OK McDonald's site plan, Stellantis tree removal

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

At the 52-minute meeting of the Van Buren Township Planning Commission on July 23, the planners approved the final site plan for the rebuilding of McDonald's on Belleville Road and a tree removal permit for the Wayne County Airport property that will hold a huge Stellantis warehouse.

Vidya Krishnan, planning consultant from McKenna, said the McDonald's plan includes a new bench at its northeast corner, an extra exit at its northwest corner at the current drive into the shopping center, and a "right turn only" sign at the exit onto Belleville Road in an effort to avoid crashes.

Consulting engineer Paul Kammer from Fishbeck said since this is a rebuild, many things are the same. He said there will be an underground detention system and the roof drain must go into the detention system first. They are waiting for Wayne County approval on the drainage.

Both consultants recommended approval and the commission approved the final site plan.

The commission was operating with a bare quorum, with four members present.

Vice chairman Jeff Jahr presided. Absent were Brian Cullin, Bernie Grant, and Medina Atchinson.

The commission also approved a tree removal permit for the wooded 354-acre area on Ecorse Road between Beck and Denton roads, up to Van Born Road at the railroad.

This is the site of a 2.1 million square foot warehouse for Stellantis, labeled Project Venture by the township.

Krishnan said there are 12,573 trees on the site and 3,247 will be preserved and 9,146 removed. There are 2,405 trees regulated by the township's ordinance on tree removal and replacement and 1,708 will be removed. Stellantis agreed to pay \$100,000 into the township tree fund in payment in lieu of the replacement shortfall of 1,199.

A part of the property is regulated wetlands and trees cannot be removed there except for safety access, she said. No trees can be in the Willow Run Airport runway crash zone at the southwest triangle of the site, she said.

She said the project is working with Wayne County on water detention. She recommended approval of the permit with

stipulations.

Commissioner Peter Creal pointed out the township signed a development agreement with Stellantis. He made the motion to approve the permit and stipulations which was passed unanimously.

The commission also considered a letter from Wayne County responding to the planning commission's question about public sidewalks being required along street frontages for Project Venture.

The July 9 letter from Sami Khaldi, county director of engineering, said: "... The county has investigated the project site including Beck, Ecorse, and Denton roads. At this present time, the county has concluded that installing sidewalks along these road would create both environmental and safety concerns due to additional wetlands impact and high speeds within the industrial corridor.

"Additionally, Beck Road has an open drain on the west side of the road which will be challenging to install a sidewalk at this time."

Ron Akers, director of municipal services, said the planning commission had said the sidewalks shouldn't be required there and Jahr affirmed the thoughts expressed at a

previous meeting.

Krishnan said sidewalks are for pedestrian connectivity and it doesn't apply here presently.

Jahr said the planning commission can't waive the sidewalks and it would have to go to the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Akers said sidewalks should be on Beck Road when it is paved in the future, but he thinks the sidewalk should be deferred now until the road is paved.

The commission wished Project Venture / Stellantis luck at the BZA.

Akers reminded the commission of the tri-community planning commission meeting for Belleville, Sumpter, and Van Buren Township at 5 p.m., July 30, at Belleville High School.

Eric Schubert of Red Rocker Brewing Company, which has a liquor license in Canton, was present to ask about his liquor license request. He wishes to move his license to Van Buren Township.

Akers said he expects that to be considered at the Aug. 5 Van Buren Township Board of Trustees meeting.

The township has to approve the business before that can be sent on to the Liquor Control Commission for a final decision.

Romulus sets 7th-annual Mental Health Fun Day on Sept. 13 at park

Celebrate MiLIFE, a Wayne County non-profit, announces its seventh-annual Mental Health Fun Day, a free, adult-focused, and family friendly event designed to promote mental well-being and community connection.

This year's Fun Day, scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 13, at Romulus Historical Park, will offer a day of de-stressing and engagement. Attendees can enjoy a variety

of free activities, including yoga, cornhole, fowling, face painting, a bouncy house, coloring stations, and live acoustic music from local artists.

The event will also feature raffles, vendors, and comfort-food favorites from food trucks, including Cinnabon on Wheels and Stellos Burgers & Loaded Fries.

This event serves as MiLIFE's primary annual fundraiser, aiming to significantly

expand its mental health programs and resources in the downriver area and beyond.

Friends, families, businesses, and community leaders are invited to join in, learn about local resources, and be a part of fostering a more-resilient and supportive environment.

"Our annual event is a cornerstone of our efforts to destigmatize mental health challenges and provide accessible support," said Miranda Jones, CEO at MiLIFE.

"By participating, our community and sponsors aren't just gaining visibility; they're directly investing in the resilience and health of our community. Every dollar helps us reach more individuals, offer more programs, and build a more compassionate environment for everyone."

For more information call Miranda Jones at (734) 777-5620 or see: www.celebratemilife.org/funday.

Court Watching

(continued from page 14)

preliminary exam on July 23. He was bound over to circuit court for an arraignment on the information on Aug. 6.

Omar Shaquille-Skakur Mims

Omar Shaquille-Shakur Mims, 31, of

Ypsilanti was video-arraigned in custody on May 28 on charges of possession of narcotics (narcotic or cocaine less than 25 grams), operating with blood alcohol more than .17, operating while intoxicated, and possessing a license that is forged or altered on July 25, 2024 in Sumpter Township. A probable cause conference was set for June

11 and a preliminary exam on July 23. Personal bond is \$5,000.

On July 23, he waived his exam and was bound over to circuit court for an Aug. 6 arraignment on the information.

Donald Foreman

Donald Foreman, 37, of Sumpter Township, was video-arraigned in custody on June 16, 2025 on charges from Belleville, Sumpter Township and Van Buren Township.

The Sumpter charge was driving while license suspended on March 11, 2024. Belleville had the same charge, but on Jan.

20, 2022.

He was scheduled for a remote pretrial on July 10 on the Sumpter DWLS charge. Bond is \$5,000/10%.

The Belleville DWLS charge was for Jan. 18, 2022. Pretrial is July 17 and bond is \$5,000/10%.

The Van Buren Township charge is retail fraud on March 4, 2020. A remote pretrial was June 23 and he was present from the Wayne County Jail. He pled guilty and was disposed on his guilty plea. He was credited with seven days served in jail and

(continued on page 16)

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Dingell asks EGLE for more information on growing Gelman plume

In a July 28 news release, Congresswoman Debbie Dingell, MI-06, reports she sent a letter to Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy expressing concern and requesting answers about new detections of dioxane spreading from the Gelman plume.

“Recent sampling by EGLE and the Washtenaw County Health Department raises concern that the plume may be continuing to spread, now contaminating at least 52 residential drink water wells, including six new detections in 2025,” Dingell wrote.

“These new detections bring the contamination closer to the Huron River and Barton Pond, which provide drinking water to Ann Arbor.

“Out of 117 private wells tested this year, 47 showed detectable levels of dioxane, indicating the contamination is more

widespread than previously understood,” Dingell continued.

“Experts have warned that the 4th Amended Consent Judgment has failed to contain the plume, that current cleanup efforts are insufficient, and that Michigan’s cleanup level of 7.2 parts per billion (ppb) is not protective.

“As you know, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency proposed adding the Gelman site to the Superfund National Priorities List in March 2024. However, the site was not included due to a high volume of public comments requiring further review and response.

“While I understand the need for thorough consideration, the ongoing spread of this plume into a major urban area’s drinking water supplies demands urgent and coordinated action at the federal, state, and local levels.”

Court watching

(continued from page 15)

the case was closed.

Defendant is reportedly homeless with no good address for contact.

Christopher John Richards

Christopher John Richards, 54, of Livonia was video-arraigned in custody on June 17 on a bench warrant surrounding charges of failure to report an accident, improper lane use/accident, and no insurance on Sept. 19, 2020 in Van Buren Township.

He was given time served for 15 days in jail and the improper lane and fail to report charges were dismissed. The no insurance charge had a fee of \$45. Cases closed.

Daniel Lee Bloomfield, Jr.

Daniel Lee Bloomfield, Jr., 44, of South Lyon was video-arraigned in custody on June 17 on a bench warrant surrounding a charge of retail fraud on Sept. 12, 2023 in Van Buren Township. A remote pretrial was set for June 23 and bond set at \$3,000 / 10%. He failed to appear and a bench warrant was issued. He was video-arraigned in custody on July 2 and scheduled for a pretrial on July 21. He pled guilty and was fined \$495.

Jonathon Lee Golden

Jonathon Lee Golden, 43, formerly of Van Buren Township and now of Detroit, was video-arraigned in custody on June 18 on charges of assault with a dangerous weapon (felonious assault) and felony firearm on June 14 in Van Buren Township. Personal bond is \$5,000. A probable cause conference was set for July 2 and he is to have no contact with the victim. At that time the case was adjourned until July 16. A preliminary exam is set for Aug. 20.

Carlos Isaiah Payne

Carlos Isaiah Payne of Van Buren Township was arraigned out-county on June 8 on charges of assault with intent to cause great physical harm less than murder (strangulation) and domestic violence on June 6 in Van Buren Township. A probable cause conference was set for June 18 and

personal bond is \$5,000. A preliminary exam was set for Sept. 3.

Tanya Joy Kinnen

Tanya Joy Kinnen of Garden City is charged with police officer assault on Feb. 21, 2023 in the city of Belleville. She failed to appear for her preliminary examinations three times and bench warrants were issued. On June 6 she was scheduled for a June 18 probable cause conference. She appeared and her warrant was recalled. A preliminary exam was set for Sept. 3.

Davon Demetres Davis

Davon Demetres Davis of Ypsilanti was video-arraigned in custody on a bench warrant on June 18 concerning charges of fleeing in a vehicle, receiving and concealing a stolen vehicle and driving while license suspended on Nov. 14, 2023 in Van Buren Township. A probable cause conference was set for July 2 and personal bond set at \$10,000.

A preliminary exam was set for Aug. 6.

Erick Lee Charlesworth

Erick Lee Charlesworth, 48, of the city of Belleville had his arraignment/pretrial on June 18 on a charge of domestic violence on Feb. 21 in the city of Belleville. A remote pretrial was set for July 9 and personal bond at \$5,000. An in-person pretrial was set for July 23, so the defense attorney has time to resolve a pending felony. A remote pretrial was set for Aug. 13 on the domestic violence charge.

Brandon Patrick Sims

Brandon Patrick Sims, 21, formerly of New Boston and now of Fenton, is charged with domestic violence on Oct. 29, 2024 in Sumpter Township. The charge was entered June 3. He was scheduled for his arraignment/pretrial on June 18, but he failed to appear and a warrant was issued. A remote show-cause hearing is set for July 16. Final pretrial was set for Aug. 6.

Ryan Charles Slay

Ryan Charles Slay, 42, of Ypsilanti is charged with domestic violence – second offense notice on May 11 in Van Buren

(continued on page 17)

Dingell requested answers to the following questions:

- What is EGLE’s current assessment of the plume’s location, rate of migration, and risks to private wells, the Huron River, and Barton Pond?

- What action is EGLE taking to protect residents’ drinking water and monitor further contamination?



City of Belleville Public Notice



CITY OF BELLEVILLE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES Monday, July 21, 2025 - 6:30 pm

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE

2. ROLL CALL

Mayor Voigt	Present
Mayor Pro-Tem Bates	Present
Julie Kissel	Present
Jerimiah Beebe	Present
Randy Priest	Present

3. PRESENTATIONS & CITIZENS COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

a. Presentations

i. Chief Faull introduced Officer, Heather Holcomb. Ms. Holcomb was then sworn in by Deputy Clerk Bellingham. Ms. Holcomb’s parents were present.

b. Citizen Comments – None.

c. Mayor Voigt introduced Galen Gates and Diane Glazer from American Bloom. Diane gave a brief description of America in Bloom and their purpose for being in the city. After their visit they will present the city with a report.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Motion Carried.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

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

a. Approval of Minutes

- i. July 7, 2025 – Regular Meeting Minutes
- ii. July 7, 2025 – Closed session

b. Budget report

c. Council Follow Up List

d. DPW Report

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

Motion Carried.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

a. None.

7. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

a. None.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS DISCUSSION

a. Main Street Striping Quote - Al’s Asphalt Paving Co.

Item to be place on DDA Agenda. Striping to be put off until spring.

b. Resolution #25-014 City Wide Yard Sale

MOTION: Motion by Kissel, supported by Priest to approve Resolution #25-014 City Wide Yard Sale dates for 2025.

ROLL CALL

Julie Kissel	Aye
Jerimiah Beebe	Aye
Randy Priest	Aye
Mayor Voigt	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Bates	Aye

Motion carried.

c. Interagency Audio-Visual Recording Standard Mutual Assistance Agreement

Motion by Kissel supported by Bates to approve the Interagency Audio-Visual Recording Standard Mutual Assistance Agreement. No objections were noted.

Motion carried.

d. Purchase of plow

Motion by Bates, supported by Beebe to purchase plow for dump truck

ROLL CALL

- Does EGLE plan to adopt the more sensitive EPA Method 522 (detection limit of 0.12 ppb) in future testing to ensure early detection?

- How will the state improve communication of health risks to residents, given that any detectable level of dioxane is classified by EPA as likely carcinogenic to humans?

Jerimiah Beebe	Aye
Julie Kissel	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Bates	Aye
Mayor Voigt	Aye
Randy Priest	Aye

Motion carried.

e. Interim City Manager

Motion by Randy Priest supported by Julie Kissel to designate Steve Jones as Interim City Manager with \$10,000 salary increase on a prorated basis.

ROLL CALL

Randy Priest	Aye
Julie Kissel	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Bates	Aye
Jerimiah Beebe	Aye
Mayor Voigt	Aye

Motion carried.

9. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND DEPARTMENTAL EXPENDITURES

a. Accounts Payable

b. 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 Beebe	Aye
Mayor Pro-Tem Bates	Aye
Mayor Voigt	Aye
Council Member Kissel	Aye

Motion Carried.

10. CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

- Thank you to the community for coming together to help with clock installation. Snider Electric, Contract Welding and John Hughes all helped with installation and the City is very appreciative of their help.

- New City Hall is under way.

- Great to see American Bloom in town, thank you to Johnny’s on the Lake for hosting lunch today.

11. CITY COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Council Member Beebe

- No comment.

Council Member Priest –

- Spent time with American Bloom, spoke about all the things the city has to offer, overwhelming when you realize everything the city has to offer.

Council Member Kissel –

- Thank you to everyone at City Hall for working hard.

Mayor Pro-Tem Bates

- Glad to have Heather Holcomb on board.

- Giving America in Bloom nickname “Bloomers”.

12. MAYOR’S COMMENTS

- Thank you for attending the meeting.

- Excited to be working with American Bloom and get report from them.

- Car show phenomenal this evening.

13. CITIZENS COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEM

None.

14. ACTION ITEMS FOR THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING

None.

15. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Motion by Bates, supported by Beebe to adjourn at 6:47 PM.

No objections were noted.

Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted by,
Michelle Bellingham

Deputy City Clerk/Treasurer

Published: Aug. 7, 2025

Court Watching

(continued from page 16)

Township. The charge was entered on June 3. He was scheduled for arraignment / pretrial on June 18. He failed to appear for his court date and a bench warrant was issued.

Christopher Brian Sherar

Christopher Brian Sherar, 46, of Woodhaven had his arraignment/probable cause conference on June 18 on a warrant surrounding charges of possession of burglar's tools, three breakings and enterings with damage to a motor vehicle, and one larceny from a motor vehicle on March 16, 2020 in Van Buren Township.

He was bound over to circuit court after waiving a preliminary exam. His arraignment on the information is July 1 and cash bond is \$5,000. A pretrial was set for Aug. 5.

Derric Rondell Woods

Derric Rondell Woods of Detroit was video-arraigned in custody on June 24 on charges of organized retail crime and retail fraud second degree on Aug. 11, 2024 in Van Buren Township. Personal bond was set at \$5,000 and a probable cause conference for July 2. At that time his preliminary exam was set for Aug. 6.

Jessica Morgan Davis

Jessica Morgan Davis, 32, of Canton was due for a remote arraignment/pretrial on June 25, but the notice to appear was undeliverable by the post office. She failed to appear. A show-cause hearing was set for July 23.

Davis is charged with operating while intoxicated with an occupant less than 16, operating while intoxicated and driving while license suspended on May 17 in the city of Belleville. The charge was entered

on June 6.

On July 23, the charge on the occupant less than 16 was dismissed and she pled guilty to the OWI charge and a reduced charge of failure to display valid license. A pre-sentence interview was set for July 30.

Christopher Ladelle Tubbs

Christopher Ladelle Tubbs of Ypsilanti was video-arraigned in custody June 17 on a charge of armed robbery and larceny from a person on May 3 in Van Buren Township. Judge Teresa Patton set a probable cause conference for June 25 and bond is \$10,000/10%. He is not to have any contact with the victim and must not return to Lodge Lanes as part of his bond.

On June 23, Wayne County Bail Bonds posted surety for his bond. On June 25, his probable cause conference was held and another probable cause conference set for July 9 and then for July 30 since discovery was outstanding. On July 30 his preliminary exam was set for Sept. 10.

Craig Nathaniel Croom

Jaylen Malik Paschal

Craig Nathaniel Croom, 24, and Jaylen Malik Paschal, 21, both of Greensboro, NC, were video-arraigned in custody on June 16 on identical charges of fleeing and eluding a police officer 4th degree – felony and assaulting/resisting/obstructing a police officer on June 12 in Van Buren Township. The probable cause conference was set for June 25 and bond set at \$500,000 cash or surety each.

On June 25 they both were present by video from the Wayne County Jail. And the probable cause conference for the co-defendants was adjourned until July 2.

Both defendants waived their preliminary exams and were bound over to circuit court for July 9 arraignments on the information. Calendar conferences were set for July 11.

A motion hearing is July 22 and a pretrial Aug. 8.

The defense attorney for Croom asked Judge Patton for a reduction in bond because he has no criminal history and is not a flight risk. Judge Patton denied the request based on the facts in the case, but said he could request bond reduction at circuit court.

Jose Manuel Garcia

Jose Manuel Garcia waived his preliminary exam on June 25 and was bound over to circuit court for a July 9 arraignment on the information. His calendar conference was set for July 17. Final conference is Sept. 4 and jury trial is Oct. 8. He is charged with fleeing a police officer in the third degree and operating with a high blood alcohol content on Jan. 1, 2024 in Van Buren Township.

Kevin Joseph Adams

Kevin Joseph Adams was bound over to circuit court for an arraignment on the information on July 9 after a preliminary exam on June 25. He is charged with assault with a dangerous weapon (felonious assault) and failure to stop at the scene of a personal injury accident on April 16.

A calendar conference in circuit court was set for July 17. Final conference is Sept. 4 and jury trial is Oct. 16.

Jacquelyn Lee Marker

Jacquelyn Lee Marker of Sumpter Township had her remote pretrial July 2 on a charge of domestic violence on June 20 in Sumpter Township. She was arraigned on June 22 and personal bond set at \$5,000. A remote pretrial was set for July 2. Than a final pretrial was set for July 9 and there is no need for the victim to appear again. On July 9 she pled guilty and was disposed on the plea and then her file sent to probation for a recommendation on sentencing.

Cameron Keith Thomas Nichols

Cameron Keith Thomas Nichols, 26, of Van Buren Township was due in court July 7 for a violation of probation hearing. He had been charged with probation of controlled substance (narcotic or cocaine less than 25 grams) on Jan. 1 in Van Buren Township. On Jan. 3 he was video-arraigned in-custody. On Jan. 29, he pled guilty to a reduced charge of use of narcotic / cocaine / methamphetamine / ecstasy. He was fined \$1,825 and put on 12 months of probation.

He also had to enroll in substance abuse treatment within 30 days and ordered not to purchase, possess, or consume any alcoholic beverages or non-prescription controlled/mood-altering substances without the judge's approval, with random testing.

On May 7, he was scheduled for a probation violation hearing on June 9. It was alleged that he had failed to begin substance abuse treatment, failed to begin drug and alcohol testing, failed to maintain his payment plan, and failed to report for monthly reporting. He also was arrested in Sumpter Township on May 3 for felony dangerous drugs.

On June 9, he was to start his payment plan and resume everything he was to do under his probation, plus three days on

the work program. He failed to report to the work program on both June 10 and 13 and failed to do other things ordered under probation. There was a notice to appear on July 7 for a violation of probation hearing, but he failed to appear and a warrant was put out for his arrest.

He called the court to say his vehicle broke down. Another probation hearing was set for Aug. 4.

Sherry Ann Walker

Sherry Ann Walker of Ypsilanti was present for her probable cause conference on July 9 on a charge of retail fraud on June 25 in Van Buren Township. She was set for a preliminary exam on July 16. She waived her preliminary exam and was bound over to circuit court for an arraignment on the information on July 30. Calendar conference is Aug. 6.

She had been video-arraigned in custody on June 27. Bond is \$5,000/10%.

Kevin David Lucas

Kevin David Lucas of Wayne is charged with assault with intent to harm less than murder/strangulation and assault and battery on June 28 in Sumpter Township. His probable cause conference was July 9 and his preliminary exam is July 16. In-custody video arraignment was June 30. Bond is \$10,000/10%.

On July 16, the exam was held and he was bound over for an arraignment on the information at circuit court on July 23. Calendar conference was July 29. Pretrial is Aug. 27 and a jury trial was set for Oct. 8.

Jeffrey Wayne Shirkey

Jeffrey Wayne Shirkey was set for his pretrial on July 23 on a charge of domestic violence on July 10 in Van Buren Township. He was video arraigned in custody out-county on July 12. Personal bond is \$5,000.

He failed to appear for his July 23 pretrial and the court was sent faxed documentation from a hospital that he had been there all week. On Aug. 1 a bench warrant was issued for failure to appear.

Melvin Carl Foster

Melvin Carl Foster of Carleton is charged with operating while intoxicated – third offense on May 20, 2023 in the city of Belleville. He was video-arraigned in custody on July 10, 2025. His probable cause conference was July 23, and his preliminary exam set for Sept. 10. Personal bond is \$10,000.

Milaun Leigh White

Milaun Leigh White of Southfield is charged with operating without security and driving while license suspended on June 22, 2025 in the city of Belleville. On July 23, an arraignment/pretrial was set for Sept. 3.

Marlene Jones

Marlene Jones, 58, of Belleville is charged with two counts of assault with a dangerous weapon (felony assault) and one count of domestic violence-Romulus on June 25, 2025 in the city of Belleville. She was video-arraigned in custody on June 27. Personal bond was set at \$10,000 and a probable cause conference scheduled for July 9 and then on July 9 reset for July 23. A preliminary exam was set for Sept. 3.

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Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

There were 438 dispatch calls reported by Van Buren Township police this week including the following.

Sunday, July 27:

0029 – 911 welfare check, Chinkapin Dr.
0137 – warrant arrest, Michigan Ave.
0203 – larceny, Belleville Rd.
0246 – welfare check, Oak Ln.
0707 – parking complaint, Parkwood Dr.
0636 – trespassing, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0708 – domestic, Basswood Cir.
0743 – welfare check, Bemis Rd./Sumpter Rd.
0819 – disorderly, Belleville Rd.
1018 – disorderly, Belleville Rd.
1030 – assist fire dept., Belmont Dr.
1142 – animal complaint, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1203 – found property/child, Ecorse Rd.
1239 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Martz Rd./Lohr Rd.
1248 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1257 – domestic, S. Bellridge Dr.
1407 – intrusion alarm, Pinewood Ln.
1521 – mental subject, W. Huron River Dr.
1835 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1854 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Belleville Rd.
1928 – assist fire dept., Rolan Meadows Dr.
1953 – animal complaint, Tyler Rd.
2130 – 911 welfare check, Parkwood Dr.
2149 – traffic offense, Cedar St./Western St.
2246 – private property/property damage accident, Vernon St.

Monday, July 28:

0113 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
0203 – juvenile complaint, N. I-94 Service Dr. / Belleville Rd.
0239 – property damage accident, Haggerty Rd. / Savage Rd.
0414 – welfare check, Freedom Way
0432 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, N. Cumberland Dr.
0520 – intrusion alarm, N. Sadie Ln.
0821 – warrant arrest, Tyler Rd.
0824 – property damage accident, Pond Bluff Dr.
0925 – 911 welfare check, Lindsey Dr.
1041 – property check, E. Huron River Dr.
1049 – ordinance violation – all 7300 MICR codes, Belleville Rd.
1121 – traffic offense, Haggerty Rd./N. I-94 Service Dr.
1140 – sexual assault, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1203 – property damage accident, Colonial Rd.
1212 – property check, Hoeft Rd./Hull Rd.
1219 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, S. I-94 Service Dr.
xxxx – private property impound, Denton Rd.
1345 – missing person, Westlake Cir.
1354 – neighbor trouble, Winchester St.
xxxx – private property impound, Old Rawsonville Rd.
1459 – abandoned auto, DNR boat launch / Rawsonville Rd.
1616 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Ecorse Rd./Denton Rd.
1702 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Denton Rd.
1722 – property damage accident, N. I-94 Service
1734 – sexual assault, Country Ln.
xxxx – welfare check, Harmony Ln.
1809 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd./Bog Rd.
1759 – motorist assist, Ecorse/Kirkridge Park Dr.
1825 – vehicle lockout, Milton Dr.
2045 – private property/property damage accident, Truman St.
xxxx – 911 welfare check, Haggerty Rd.

Tuesday, July 29:

0027 – animal complaint, S. Ponderosa Trl.
0224 – assist fire dept., S. I-94 Service Dr.
0833 – vehicle lockout, Belleville Rd.
0957 – animal complaint, E. Adams
1026 – ordinance violation – all 7300 MICR codes, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1147 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1134 – unauthorized driving away of auto, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1242 – larceny, Denton Rd.
1236 – juvenile complaint, Haggerty Rd.

1259 – larceny, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1316 – parking complaint, S. Timberview Dr.
1346 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1354 – mental subject, Quirk Rd.
1359 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / S. I-94 Service Dr.
1416 – intrusion alarm, Ladonna Ln.
1437 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1522 – larceny from auto, Lighthouse Dr.
1502 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Belleville Rd. / Van Born Rd.
1514 – animal complaint, Bemis Rd.
1517 – malicious destruction of property, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1617 – motorist assist, Ecorse/Kirkridge Park Dr.
1633 – larceny, Belleville Rd.
1651 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Ecorse Rd.
1829 – animal complaint, Tyler Rd.
xxxx – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
1852 – assault & battery, Maple Dr.
1902 – intrusion alarm, Haggerty Rd.
2023 – civil matter, Patty Ln.
2239 – juvenile complaint, Oak Blvd.

Wednesday, July 30:

0054 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Savage Rd.
0532 – assault & battery, S. I-94 Service Dr.
xxxx – assist other dept., Sumpter Rd.
0706 – welfare check, Oak Blvd.
0840 – civil matter, Beckley Rd.
0841 – civil matter, Arlene Ln.
xxxx – repossession, Kirkridge Park Dr.
0922 – lost property/child, E. Adams
0931 – ordinance violation – all 7300 MICR codes, Red Oak Dr.
1048 – suicidal person, N. Adams
1052 – property damage accident, Ecorse Rd.
1204 – civil matter, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1245 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Southport Apts.
1435 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1502 – trespassing, E. Sadie Ln.
1515 – assist other dept., Tyler Rd.
1517 – parking complaint, Rawsonville Rd.
1519 – animal complaint, Haggerty Rd.
1532 – harassment call, Sadie Ln.
xxxx – assist fire dept., Sumpter Rd.
1812 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1857 – family trouble, Maple Dr.
1919 – intrusion alarm, W. Main St.
1927 – property damage accident, Haggerty Rd./E. Huron River Dr.
2006 – domestic, S. I-94 Service Dr.
2017 – welfare check, Ecorse Rd.
2032 – family trouble, Vernon St.
2143 – animal complaint, Savage Rd.
2136 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
2143 – background investigation, Belleville Rd.
2212 – property check, Belleville Rd.
2225 – property check, Greenbriar
2257 – background investigation, Tyler Rd.
2304 – larceny, Oak Ln.
2319 – background investigation, Tyler Rd.
2338 – background investigation, Tyler Rd.
2353 – background investigation, Tyler Rd.

Thursday, July 31:

0041 – property check, Greenbriar
0046 – family trouble, Berkdale Dr.
0141 – property check, Greenbriar
0451 – property check, Belleville Rd.
xxxx – repossession, Brandi Dr.
0820 – welfare check, W. Huron River Dr.
0829 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
xxxx – private property impound, Haggerty Rd.
1016 – ordinance violation – all 7300 MICR codes, Old Oak Trl.
1017 – welfare check, Pond Bluff Dr.
1149 – warrant arrest, Tyler Rd.
xxxx – welfare check, Andover Dr.
xxxx – private property impound, Westlake Cir.
1415 – ordinance violation – all 7300 MICR codes, Montague Ave.
1502 – ordinance violation – all 7300 MICR codes, S. I-94 Service Dr., apt. 302
1505 – trespassing, E. Schooner Dr.
1531 – fraud, Hannan Rd.
1619 – civil matter, Belleville Rd.
1656 – civil matter, Belleville Rd.
1924 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Oak Blvd.
1853 – intrusion alarm, E. Huron River Dr.
1907 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance,

Denton Rd./Van Born Rd.
1927 – assist citizen, Edison Lk.
1947 – property check, Belleville Rd.
2001 – prisoner transport, Russell
2057 – background investigation, Tyler Rd.
2215 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Laguna Dr.
2232 – intrusion alarm, Ecorse Rd.
xxxx – repossession, Kirkridge Park Dr.
Friday, Aug. 1:
0034 – breaking & entering, Bemis Rd.
0304 – malicious destruction of property, Belleville Rd.
xxxx – repossession, Michigan Ave.
0850 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / N. I-94 Service Dr.
0930 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / N. I-94 Service Dr.
1009 – intrusion alarm, Marlowe Ave.
1023 – intrusion alarm, Robson Rd.
1051 – vehicle lockout, Pine Dr.
1149 – animal complaint, Denton Rd.
1245 – road hazard, Rawsonville/Grove Rd.
1507 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1533 – intrusion alarm, Pinewood Ln.
1551 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Mida Dr.
1604 – intrusion alarm, Bemis Rd.
1617 – welfare check, Lake Crest Dr.
1617 – assist other dept., E. I-94/Vining Rd.
1643 – intrusion alarm, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1718 – misc. complaint, E. Sadie Ln.
1806 – road hazard, Michigan Ave./Denton Rd.
1849 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Van Buren St.
1847 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / Van Born Rd.
1939 – welfare check, E. Huron River Dr.
2120 – juvenile complaint, Kirkridge Park Dr.
2208 – civil matter, E. Sadie Ln.
2226 – fraud, E. Sadie Ln.
2239 – property check, Lohr Rd.
2247 – assist other dept., E. I-94/Belleville Rd.
2252 – assist other dept., E. I-94/Belleville Rd.

Saturday, Aug. 2:

0011 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Old Denton Rd./Denton Rd.
0042 – motorist assist, Belleville Rd./E. I-94
0203 – fight, Park Estates Dr.
0419 – domestic, Parkwood Dr.
0746 – welfare check, S. Bellridge Dr.
0852 – disorderly, Edison Lk.
1043 – welfare check, Belleville Rd.
1147 – welfare check, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1200 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Belleville Rd.
1321 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Doree Ave./Rogers Ave.
1338 – found property/child, Ashbury Dr.
1401 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Oak Ln.
1401 – parking complaint, Lancaster Dr.
xxxx – repossession, Pinewood Ln.
1811 – assist citizen, Belleville Rd.
1910 – juvenile complaint, Village Center Dr.
2020 – fight, Edison Lk.
2118 – disorderly, N. I-94 Service Dr.
2140 – assist other dept., Ecorse/I-275
2145 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, N. I-94 Service Dr./Morton Taylor Rd.
2209 – welfare check, Ecorse Rd.
2242 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Ecorse Rd.
2230 – assist fire dept., S. I-94 Service Dr.
2256 – noise complaint, Tyler Rd./Sage Cir.
2346 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Victoria St.
Also, on this log are 228 traffic stops, 4 of which are on the I-94 and I-275 freeways.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, July 27:

1012 – property check, 801 Denton Rd.
1527 – larceny, 25 Main St.

Monday, July 28:

1007 – ordinance violation – all 7300 MICR codes, 548 E. Huron River Dr.
1113 – family trouble, 29 Loza Ln.
1445 – assist fire dept., 575 Sumpter Rd.

1642 – property damage accident, 3 San Carlos St.
1656 – intrusion alarm, 45201 Owen St.
2041 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, 330 Charles St.

Tuesday, July 29:

0106 – assist fire dept., 975 Sumpter Rd.
0221 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, 35 Carmell St.
1416 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, 400 N. Liberty St.
1716 – misc. complaint, 407 E. Huron River Dr.
2125 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, 348 N. Liberty St.

Wednesday, July 30:

0201 – assist fire dept., 275 W. Columbia Ave.
1359 – mental subject, 220 W. Columbia Ave.
1758 – assist fire dept., 575 Sumpter Rd.
2119 – assist citizen, 147 Carmell St.

Thursday, July 31:

0813 – civil matter, 50 South St.
1114 – assist fire dept., 188 Belle Villa Blvd.
1154 – assist fire dept., 575 Sumpter Rd.
1623 – threat, 476 W. Columbia Ave.
1736 – property damage accident, 67 Main St.

Friday, Aug. 1:

1002 – assist fire dept., 27 Santa Clara St.
1122 – juvenile complaint, 154 Carmell St.
1308 – assist fire dept., 430 Robbe St.

Saturday, Aug. 2:

1013 – property damage accident, N. Liberty St. / Main St.
1243 – animal complaint, 6 Main St.
1615 – intrusion alarm, 504 Main St.
2244 – noise complaint, 21 Carmell St.
There are 70 reports on this week's log, 42 of which are traffic stops.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, July 27:

0005 – family trouble, 47000 bl. Willis Rd.
0055 – suspicious person, Nevada St.
0245 – suspicious circumstance, New Mexico
1100 – property damage accident, Bemis/Sumpter
1222 – follow-up investigation, out of township
1531 – 911 hangup, Hampshire Dr.
1717 – follow-up investigation, 17000 bl. Sumpter
2009 – felony warrant arrest, 46000 bl. Bemis
2159 – 911 hangup, Rustic Ln.

Monday, July 28:

0259 – fire dept. assist, Rawsonville/Bemis
0554 – suspicious circumstance, 46000 bl. Willis
0629 – malicious destruction of property, Texas
0800 – civil matter, Brookview Dr.
0907 – 911 hangup, Lohr Rd./Timber Creek Dr.
1134 – neighbor dispute, 45000 bl. Harris Rd.
1232 – 911 hangup, Colorado/California
1314 – suspicious circumstance, 24000 bl. Haggerty Rd.

1355 – animal complaint, 49000 bl. Arkona Rd.
1514 – citizen assist, Victoria Commons
1602 – traffic complaint/hazard, Clay/Sumpter
1626 – fire dept. assist, 49000 bl. Judd Rd.
1811 – fire dept. assist, 41000 bl. Harris Rd.
1828 – disorderly person, Oregon St.
2155 – welfare check, 19000 bl. Crandell
2333 – suspicious circumstance, 50000 bl. Willis

Tuesday, July 29:

0016 – mental health call, Utah
0041 – 911 hangup, Washington St./Vermont St.
0110 – family trouble, Magnolia Dr.
0302 – death investigation, 47000 bl. Executive
0705 – assist other agency, Mulberry Dr.
1018 – civil matter, Utah St.
1119 – family trouble, 49000 bl. Sherwood Ct.
1152 – 911 hangup, 47000 bl. Wear Rd.
1223 – follow-up investigation, 23000 bl. Sumpter
1402 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1429 – fire dept. assist, 19000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1445 – suspicious circumstance, 21000 bl. Prince
1458 – suspicious person, Hampshire Dr.
1610 – suspicious person, Brookview Dr.
1716 – alarm, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1718 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1825 – welfare check, Knollwood Dr.
1832 – harassment complaint, 41000 bl. Harris Rd.
1850 – civil matter, Oregon
1910 – traffic complaint/hazard, 48000 bl. Bemis
1948 – ORV complaint, 28000 bl. Elwell Rd.

(Continued on page 19)

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

(continued from page 18)

2027 – civil matter, Oregon St.
2057 – juvenile matter, Ohio St.
2117 – 911 hangup, Oregon St.
2207 – suspicious person, Sumpter/Oakville Waltz
2357 – harassment complaint, Washington St.

Wednesday, July 30:

0058 – fire dept. assist, 22000 bl. Fenster Ave.
0854 – suspicious circumstance, Willis Rd. / Rawsonville Rd.
1134 – 911 hangup, 21000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1154 – welfare check, 20000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
1215 – property damage accident, 22000 bl. Clark
1335 – alarm, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1338 – follow-up investigation, 17000 bl. Sumpter
1416 – follow-up investigation, 22000 bl. Clark
1425 – 911 hangup, Alaska St.

1537 – follow-up investigation, 48000 bl. Bemis
1715 – civil matter, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1725 – 911 hangup, 48000 bl. Wear Rd.
1902 – suspicious person, Stonecrest Dr.
1950 – family trouble, 23000 bl. Bohn Rd.
2138 – alarm, 20000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

Thursday, July 31:

0355 – fire dept. assist, Iowa St.
0542 – suspicious circumstance, Sumpter/Willis
0737 – follow-up investigation, out of township
0819 – felony warrant arrest, Rawsonville/Willis
1001 – assist other agency, 44000 bl. Judd Rd.
1029 – civil matter, 51000 bl. Willis Rd.
1115 – suspicious circumstance, Wear/Haggerty
1140 – family trouble, Nevada St.
1224 – fire dept. assist, 23000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
1534 – welfare check, 47000 bl. Willow Rd.
1549 – assist other agency, 24000 bl. Sherwood
1717 – civil matter, 19000 bl. Karr Rd.
1748 – follow-up investigation, 23000 bl. Bohn
1837 – family trouble, Alaska St.
1901 – suspicious person, Carriage Ln.
2012 – fire dept. assist, Magnolia Dr.

2115 – fire dept. assist, 47000 bl. Wear Rd.

Friday, Aug. 1:

0015 – suspicious person, Karr Rd./Wear Rd.
0423 – fire dept. assist, 23000 bl. Bohn Rd.
0843 – fire dept. assist, 45000 bl. Bontekoe Ave.
0910 – mental health call, 28000 bl. Clark Rd.
1006 – assist other agency, Oakville Waltz Rd. / Exeter Rd.
1027 – civil matter, 47000 bl. Willow Rd.
1153 – property damage accident, Judd/Sumpter
1354 – 911 hangup, 48000 bl. Willow Rd.
1409 – welfare check, 21000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1627 – fire dept. assist, 44000 bl. Arkona Rd.
1716 – suspicious circumstance, Arizona St.
1844 – civil matter, 21000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1850 – welfare check, 23000 bl. Bohn Rd.

1957 – 911 hangup, Creekside Dr.

2013 – citizen assist, Texas St.
2113 – suspicious person, Texas St.
2210 – noise complaint, 45000 bl. Harris Rd.
2307 – assist other agency, 49000 bl. Sherwood Ct.

Saturday, Aug. 2:

0257 – operating while intoxicated arrest, Martinsville Rd./Bemis Rd.
0503 – 911 hangup, Nevada St.
1107 – assist other agency, Rawsonville/Willow
1137 – prisoner check, Huron Twp. PD
1224 – fire dept. assist, Hampshire Dr.
1305 – neighbor dispute, 45000 bl. Harris Rd.
2356 – 911 hangup, 25000 bl. Karr Rd.
Also, on this week's log are 128 patrol checks, 36 traffic stops, and nine misc. details.

Sumpter Twp. resident charged with murder of live-in girlfriend

Following an investigation into the reported suicide of 24-year-old Haleigh Pace at her home on Montana Street in the Holiday West Mobile Home Community on June 29, 2025, her 39-year-old live-in boyfriend, David Paul McPherson, has been arrested and charged with her murder.



The charge was entered July 31.

McPherson was video-arraigned in

custody on July 31 by Judge Lisa Martin at 34th District Court on charges filed by the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office.

He is charged with second-degree homicide and felony firearm possession. His bond has been set at \$100,000 cash or surety, and if he does bond-out he is to be on a GPS tether and not to contact the protected party. All firearms are to be forfeited to the police department and he is not to purchase or possess firearms.

McPherson's probable cause conference was set for Aug. 13 and his preliminary exam for Aug. 20 before Judge Martin.

There's still time to enter Michigan's Big Tree Hunt

This summer, Michiganders are invited to join the adventure of searching for the biggest trees in the state.

ReLeaf Michigan's Big Tree Hunt is a free, family-friendly contest that encourages people to get outdoors and appreciate the incredibly large trees around us every day.

The contest's deadline is Aug. 22, 2025, a few weeks left to go hunting for big trees. The 16th biennial Big Tree Hunt is more than a fun outdoor challenge; it's a way for Michiganders to help document, honor, and highlight the state's most impressive trees.

Learn more about the contest and enter your submissions at: www.bigtreehunt.com

The contest recognizes:

- The largest tree in every Michigan county
- The largest tree found by a Big Tree Hunter age 16 or older
- The largest tree found by a Big Tree Hunter age 15 or younger
- The largest White Pine (Michigan's state tree)
- Potential new state champions for specific tree species

Trees discovered during the contest help update the Michigan Champion Tree Registry and have the potential to become part of the National Champion Tree Registry. Entries are also regularly featured as the Big Tree of the Week on ReLeaf Michigan's Facebook page.

After the contest closes, ReLeaf Michigan's team will verify the measurements of the largest trees. Winning trees and their nominators will be honored in a special awards ceremony at Chippewa Nature Center in Midland on Oct. 18. In the last contest, over 100 certificates and prizes were awarded from entries across 79 of Michigan's 83 counties.

"Everyone has a big tree somewhere near them," said Lindsay Lights, chair of the Michigan Big Tree Hunt. "Now is the time to look, then submit your tree before the contest ends on Aug. 22."

The Big Tree Hunt was started in 1993 by ReLeaf Michigan, the only 501(c)(3) statewide tree planting non-profit in Michigan.

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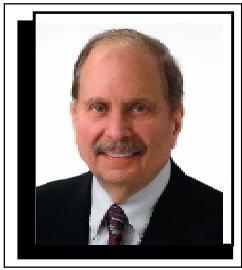
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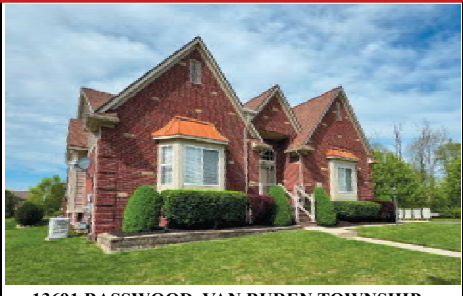
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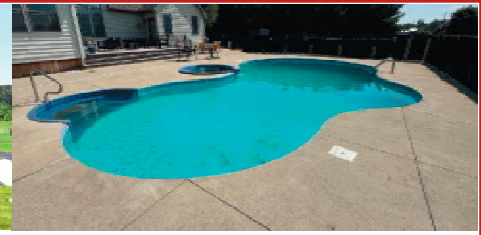
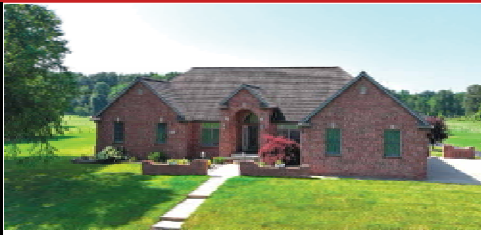
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