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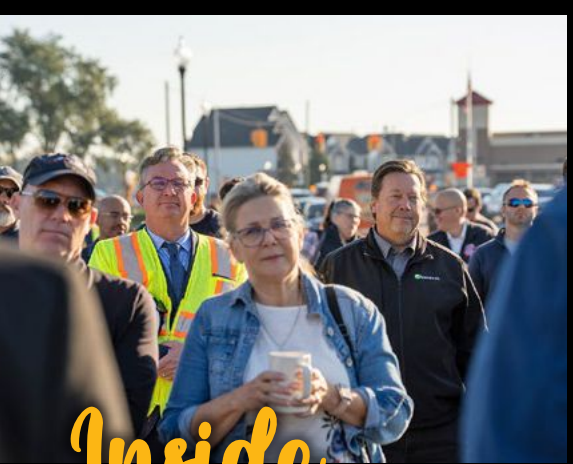


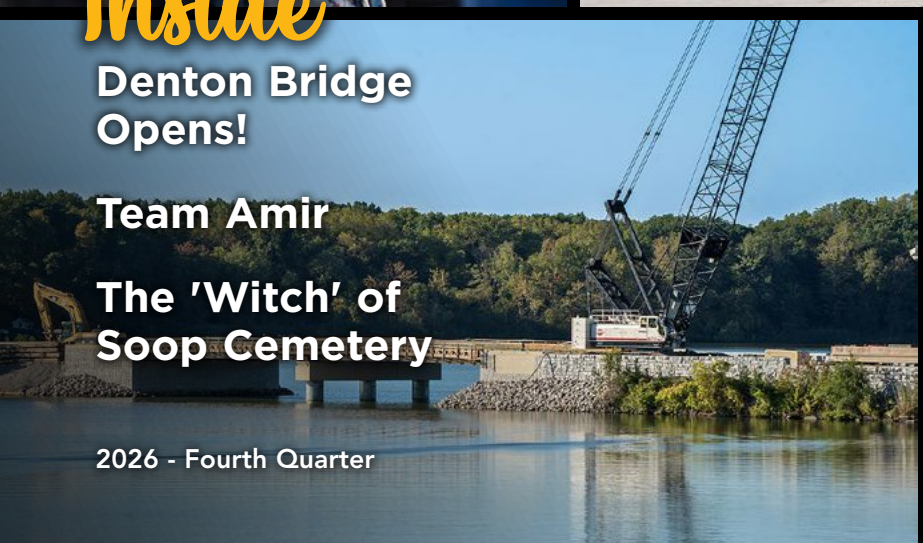


Inside

Denton Bridge Opens!

Team Amir

The 'Witch' of Soop Cemetery





2026 - Fourth Quarter



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kmcnamara@vbtmi.gov



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CONTACT INFORMATION

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Fax: (734) 699-8952

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AT JACOB MATTHEW JEWELERS, YOU COME TO EXPECT

Guidance, craftsmanship and meaningful moments.

THIS HOLIDAY SEASON, CELEBRATE CLOSER TO HOME WITH JACOB MATTHEW JEWELERS



The holiday season has a way of reminding us what matters most: the people we love, the traditions we share, and the memories we create together. It is evident that those values are woven into the fabric of our communities - and supporting the local businesses that help make our community special is one of the best ways to celebrate the season.

At Jacob Matthew Jewelers, we believe jewelry is about so much more than what is inside the box. The store was founded to help people celebrate and preserve the memories and relationships that matter the most. Whether we are helping someone select a new piece, reimagining a treasured heirloom, or restoring a family keepsake, our experienced staff guides each customer through the process with care, expertise, and absolutely no pressure.

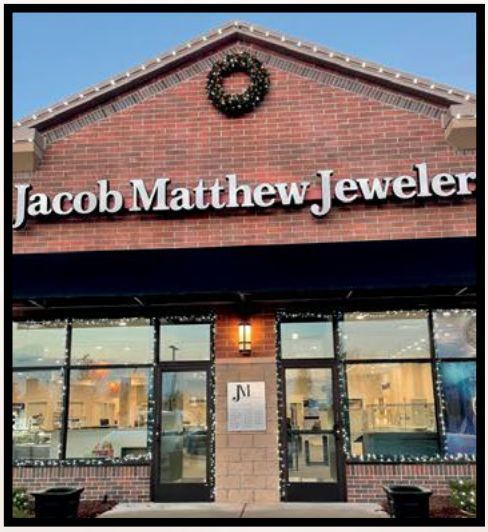
Our focus extends far beyond the jewelry itself - from one generation to the next.

SHOP LOCAL. GIVE LOCAL. CELEBRATE LOCAL.

Small Business Saturday is a tradition we look forward to every year because we know that when you shop locally, you are doing more than checking someone off your holiday list. You are investing in your neighbors, your community, and the small businesses that call it home.

We make that commitment even more personal. With a purchase on Small Business Saturday, customers receive a gift card to another locally owned small business. It is our way of encouraging our customers to keep the spirit of shopping local going long after they leave our doors.

And giving back has always been part of who we are. Over nearly 10 years in business, Jacob Matthew Jewelers has donated almost $650,000 back to our community, supporting local programs, clubs, schools, and organizations. We are proud to be part of a community that continually shows up for one another - and grateful for every customer who makes that giving possible.



MAKE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON ONE TO REMEMBER

We have a full holiday season planned, with something special around every corner:

- **BOGO Week** - During Thanksgiving week, enjoy our Buy One, Get One Free event, storewide.
- **$5,000 Shopping Spree** - Every purchase during the holiday season earns an entry for the chance to win a $5,000 shopping spree to Jacob Matthew Jewelers. A second person will win a $2,500 shopping spree!
- **Saturday Doorbusters** - Look for exclusive doorbuster items throughout the holiday season.
- **12 Days of Unboxing** - Discover something new every day as we reveal 12 exclusive, never-before-seen pieces.
- **Extended Holiday Hours** - More time to shop, browse, ask questions, and find the right gift without having to rush.

Our goal is simple: make the experience personal. We offer free gift wrapping, personalized service, low-pressure guidance, and one of the largest selections in the area, giving you the freedom to take your time and find something that feels just right. Because the best gifts aren't simply beautiful. They're the ones that tell a story.

This holiday season, we invite you to shop local, give local, and create something meaningful. Come see why generations of families in the Metro Detroit area have trusted Jacob Matthew Jewelers with the moments - and the memories - that matter the most.

JM Jacob Matthew Jewelers, Inc.

6673 NORTH CANTON CENTER ROAD, CANTON MICHIGAN 48187 | 734.207.1906

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TODAY MAGAZINES COMMUNITY PUBLISHING & MARKETING

Community Publishing & Marketing
26955 Northline Road | Taylor, MI 48180
(734) 247-8000

Publisher Paul Martin
President Mark Fisher
Editor Angela Calabrese
Director of Business Development Gina Guarisco
Creative Director Kelly Nykanen
Graphic Designer Shannon Esper
Editorial Assistant Kelsi Klein
Sales Coordinator Ashley Hamilton
Marketing Coordinator AyLaina Thornton

Contributing Writers Kelsi Klein, Pam MacIntyre, Elena Manalp, Ryan M. Place, Mary Utz

Contributing Photographers Elena Manalp

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From the SUPERVISOR

DEAR Neighbors,

As 2026 comes to a close, I hope you and your families are enjoying the holiday season. It's a good time to reflect on the past year and look ahead to 2027.

I'm thrilled to congratulate Merrie Coburn on being named the Michigan Downtown Association's 2026 Director of the Year! This well-earned honor reminds us of the skilled and hard-working staff who serve our residents, and I couldn't be prouder of our team.

Through a combination of township resources and state and county grants, we've continued making improvements throughout our community.



One of the most exciting updates is the reopening of the Denton Road Bridge. The new bridge is not only functional but beautiful, with decorative lighting, natural stone finishes, improved boat clearance, and a pedestrian walkway. The project also included improvements to the roadways approaching the bridge, additional roadwork at the Main Street and Denton Road intersection, and concrete repairs near Liberty Street.

Work continues on the Iron Belle Trail, with Section I extending east from Riggs Heritage Park along Huron River Drive to connect with the existing pathway, bringing us another step closer to a more connected network of walking and biking trails. And there's exciting news for Quirk Park: A complete makeover is underway, bringing two brand-new pavilions and additional parking.

Belleville Lake received aquatic weed and algae-control treatments this year, with additional cleanup planned for 2027. We're also continuing improvements to our water and sewer systems, working to maintain competitive rates while investing in reliable service.

Accessibility and pedestrian safety remain priorities. We made ADA improvements in the Haggerty subdivision and Robinson River Park, and sidewalks along Tyler and Belleville roads. We also plan to pave Morton Taylor Road between Tyler and Ecorse in 2027.

Wishing you and your families a happy, healthy New Year. See you around town in 2027!

Kevin McNamara
Supervisor, Van Buren Township

Check Out What's Happening at Your Library this Winter!

- **African American Literature Book Group – Holiday and 20th Anniversary Party:** Thursday, December 3, 6-9 p.m. Join the African American Literature Book Group as we celebrate 20 years of good company and good books. Whether you came to one book group meeting, all of them or none of them, all are welcome! There is no book for the month of December!
- **Obituaries – The Final Word: What to Look for And How to Understand What You Are Reading:** Saturday, December 5, 2 p.m. Learn to mine obituaries and death notices for a wealth of genealogical information.
- **2026 WINTER FEST:** Saturday, December 5, 4-6 p.m. Before you enjoy the Winter Fest Light Parade, warm up inside the Belleville Area District Library! Enjoy hot cocoa and cookies while watching a classic holiday film. Come back after the parade to get your picture with the myth, the man, the legend – SANTA CLAUS!
- **'Cook the Book' Book Club** *Registration is required*: Monday, December 14, 6 p.m. – Backpacking Europe
- **That's My Land: A Look at the History of Black Towns and Settlements:** Wednesday, February 10, 6 p.m.
- **Garden Round Table – Planning Your Garden:** Saturday, February 6, 11 a.m. Connect with local gardeners, share tips and get practical advice to grow or start your own garden.

Ongoing Events

- **Classic Movie Nights:** Thursday, December 10 and February 11, 6 p.m. Watch and discuss classic films in this series presented by former Detroit Free Press film critic John Monaghan! Brought to you by the Friends of the BADL and the Belleville Area Council for the Arts.
- **Adult Beginner's Art Workshop:** First Wednesday of the month, 11 a.m. Local artist Kathryn Wood will assist, guide and encourage you in developing your own style while helping you understand art fundamentals. Bring your own supplies and a project you are working on and learn while creating your own masterpiece!
- **Memory Café:** Third Wednesday of the month, 11 a.m. Super fun, informal social gatherings for those experiencing memory difficulties and their caregivers.

Business and Technology

- **Microsoft Excel Introduction Series (Intermediate):** Tuesdays, 10 a.m.
  - **January 19 –** Microsoft Excel: Part 1
  - **January 26 –** Microsoft Excel: Part 2
- **Camiel Mentoring Workshops:** Local businesswoman and Chamber of Commerce member Camiel Davenport presents this series:
  - **Monday, February 15,** 7 p.m. – Workshop 1: Thinking About Starting a Business? Recognize the Traps That Could Undermine Your Success
  - **Monday, March 1,** 7 p.m. – Workshop 2: Ready for a Career Change? Planning Your Next Move
  - **Monday, March 15,** 7 p.m. – Workshop 3: Tired of Starting Over? Setting Goals You Can Achieve
- **Small Business Savvy Webinars:** Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m. – **Virtual,** registration required to join on Zoom.
  - **December 9 –** Starting a Business in the AI Age- RESCHEDULED
  - **January 20 –** Small Business Management
  - **February 3 –** LinkedIn and Facebook; Easy to Use, Low Cost Super Channels!
  - **February 17 –** Costs Driving Business Impact: Identify. Mitigate. Negotiate.

Youth and Teen

- **Teen/Tween Comic Book Club** (Grades 7–12)**:** Third Monday of the month 6:30–7:30 p.m. Love to draw comics? Read comics? Talk about comics? Join our Teen Comic Book Club! Kam, our local comic book artist, will help you put your story and ideas together. *Registration required.*

Storytimes

- **Through December 17**
  Watch the website for January-April Storytimes
  All children are invited to join us for in-person songs and stories with our children's librarians.
  - **Family Storytime:** Mondays, 6:30 p.m.
  - **Tuesday Toddler Time:** Tuesdays, 11 a.m.
  - **Baby Storytime:** Thursdays, 10 am & 11 a.m.

- **Family Music Show: Crosstown Horn Band:** Saturday, January 30, 11 a.m.

NEW!!! Starting in January

- **Chair Yoga:** Second and Fourth Thursday of the month, 12–1 p.m.
- **Ageless Grace – Timeless Fitness for the Body and Brain:** First Thursday of the month, 11 a.m. Fitness and wellness program based on the science of neuroplasticity and designed for all ages and abilities. The exercises are practiced in a chair and focus on healthy longevity of the body and brain.

For more information, and to register for programs, visit https://www.belleville.lib.mi.us/

BELLEVILLE AREA DISTRICT LIBRARY

To see all our programming and to register for events, visit https://bit.ly/BADLevents

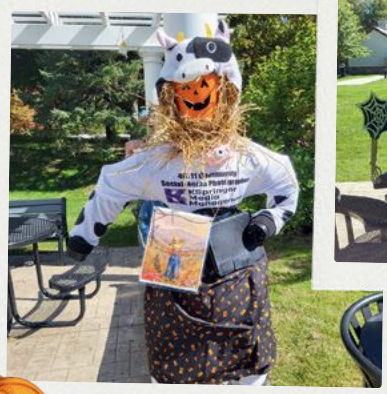
VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

SCARECROWS IN HARRIS PARK

Thank you to everyone who participated!








DID YOU MISS YOUR CHANCE TO ENTER YOUR SCARECROW?
2027 SUBMISSIONS OPEN 9/1/2027

Harris Park is located at 10101 Belleville Rd, VBT
www.vanburendda.com

The 'Witch' of Soop Cemetery

A Tale of Two Graves

By Mary Utz



THERE are five public cemeteries in the Township of Van Buren: Denton, Hillside, Otisville, Soop, and Tyler. (Hillside Cemetery, however, belongs to the City of Belleville.) In this article, I will be focusing on a story from the oldest of these cemeteries, Soop Cemetery.[1]

This cemetery is home to the infamous tale of a witch. The true story of the witch involves the lives, but more particularly the graves, of two women: Jane Randolph and Elizabeth Jane (Root) Soop.

Elizabeth Jane Root was born on May 12, 1826, in Brockport, New York. In 1847, she married Frederick Soop in Trenton, Michigan. Frederick's obituary in the *Detroit Free Press* lists where Frederick, a hotelier, and Elizabeth worked.[2]

During the outbreak of the Civil War, they lived and worked at the Hawkins House in Ypsilanti, then they moved to Detroit and managed the City Hotel. In 1873, they moved to Canada, and were the proprietors of Hotel Rutley in Chatham, Ontario. In 1896, they moved back to Detroit and conducted business in the Cass Hotel on the corner of Cass and Bagley Avenue.

It is believed that Elizabeth worked alongside her husband in the hotel and tearoom in Detroit. A video from the Belleville Area Museum's 2009 tour of Soop Cemetery states, "she spent most of her time managing Frederick's hotel and becoming more knowledgeable about various teas while running the tearoom in Detroit. We know she could read tea leaves, and she may have used plants for medicinal purposes."



Although there are not very many confirmed facts about her, we do know that she was loved by her husband Frederick, who likely provided her beautiful tombstone, which includes an epitaph that has yet to be deciphered.



While many have heard of The Witch of Soop Cemetery, many locals conflate Elizabeth's story with the grave of Jane Randolph. Not much is recorded about Jane and her husband Stephen; however, her gravestone, embellished with the relief of a hand pointing down, is what has led locals to believe she was the witch.



In the article, Messages in Stone: Symbolism on Victorian Grave Markers, Loren N. Horton writes that during the Victorian era, "A hand reaching down and forefinger pointing downwards does not mean the soul has gone to hell, but that God's hand is lifting the soul up to heaven."[3]

What those who marked Jane Randolph's stone may not have intended in 1881, locals have often believed. This appears to be the reason that the two women have been mistaken for one another.

People hear about possible witchcraft, often historically frowned-upon, and see a grave marker that they believe indicates the owner's potential afterlife, they would likely conflate the two tales.

Soop Cemetery is the final resting place of over 1,000 individuals, dating from 1832 to 2026. While many believe it to be a restless site of hauntings, others find it to be a peaceful and pleasant location, full of rich history – living or dead.

Stop by the Belleville Area Museum for a visit! 405 Main Street, Belleville, MI 48111. Hours are Tuesdays: 12-4 p.m.; Thursdays: 1-7 p.m.; Saturdays: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

[1] In 1936, the name of Soop Cemetery was changed to Pleasantview Cemetery. However, the locals still often referred to it by its original name, and it was eventually changed back.
[2] Detroit Free Press, published on January 14, 1911.
[3] Page 66 of *The Palimpsest*, Summer 1989.

VAN BUREN
CHARTER TOWNSHIP

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Program Details

- Helps income-qualified homeowners maintain safe, sanitary housing
- Provides 0% interest deferred-payment loans up to $30,000, subject to eligibility and funding availability

Eligible Improvements

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- Plumbing Repairs
- Local Code Corrections
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Remembering
TRUSTEE WILLIAM FRAZIER

A Life Dedicated to Community and Service



VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP remembers Trustee William Frazier (August 12, 1971 – August 22, 2026), a lifelong community servant whose kindness, dedication and willingness to help others touched generations of students, families and colleagues.

For 38 years, William served Van Buren Public Schools, working largely behind the scenes to help create safe, welcoming and supportive environments for students and staff. Known for his strong work ethic, dependability and positive attitude, William was always willing to lend a hand, regardless of the task. His quiet leadership and genuine care for others earned him the respect and appreciation of those around him.

William continued his family's tradition of public service. In 2024, he was elected to the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees, following in the footsteps of his mother, longtime Trustee Sherry Frazier.

Although his time on the township board was brief, his commitment to the community was enduring. William believed in helping others – not for recognition, but because it was simply part of who he was.

We are grateful for his many years of service, his kindness and the lasting difference he made in our community. He will be deeply missed.



New School Year, District Improvements Continue



IT is hard to believe that we are already a couple of months into the 2026-2027 school year! This is going to be an exciting year for VBPS. So many wonderful things have already happened in the schools, with a lot more to come.

Van Buren Today is our district newsletter to our community. It has been a useful tool to get the word out about us to all of you who do not have students currently in school.

We have been working hard to plan and design the new operations building that will be located on the site of Haggerty Elementary. The elementary school has been razed, and the site work has begun. This building will house our transportation department, grounds, maintenance, and mechanics.

We are looking to have the underground utilities and the foundation done before winter hits. The work will pick back up in March with the construction of the building. We hope to get it all closed off by May. At this time, the site work will also ramp back up (asphalt, bus canopies) as will getting full power to the building. Depending on many factors, the operations building should be open for use in late 2027.

Currently, the design for the remodeling of the current bus garage is underway. As you may know, this building sits adjacent to Belleville High School and will serve as our robotics and aviation hub. There will be space for the robotics program to expand into, with an area for testing and practicing for their tournament season. The aviation program currently has students receiving their commercial drone licenses. We will be expanding this program in the next few years to include a private pilot license, as well as drone competitions. This building will assist in that program's growth.

We are very thankful for our supportive community. Having these options for the students will allow them to continue to be productive members of our society with good paying jobs. We are also very thankful to be able to provide an amazing operations building for so many of our hard-working and dedicated employees. We are hoping that this building will reflect its worth to us as a district and to you as a community.

Pete Kudlak
Superintendent









Strengthening Literacy Across K–12

Van Buren Public Schools' Preparation for PA 146

LITERACY is foundational to student achievement and essential to success across all grade levels and content areas. As Michigan advances statewide literacy initiatives through Public Act 146 (PA 146), Van Buren Public Schools is taking a comprehensive, coordinated approach to strengthening literacy instruction, building educator capacity and ensuring students receive the support they need to become proficient readers.

Strengthening Foundational Literacy Instruction

In grades K–5, the district is strengthening foundational reading instruction through explicit, systematic practices. All K–5 teachers have received training in UFLI Foundations, supporting consistent instruction in essential skills such as sound-letter correspondence, decoding and spelling.

The district is also strengthening its approach to early identification through universal screening. Students in grades K–8 are being screened using Amplify's version of DIBELS, providing educators with timely information about student reading development and helping identify students who may benefit from additional support.

The district also piloted the Amira dyslexia screener during summer school as part of its continued efforts to strengthen early identification of reading difficulties. For students in grades K–4 who require additional support, the district is implementing an Amplify intervention program aligned with DIBELS screening results. This connection between assessment and intervention supports more targeted instructional decision-making.

Extending Literacy Support Through Grades 5–8

Literacy demands increase significantly as students progress through upper elementary and middle school. To support students in meeting these demands, Van Buren Public Schools continues screening in grades 5–8 using Amplify's version of DIBELS.

Students requiring additional reading support receive REWARDS, a state-approved intervention program. This alignment between screening and intervention strengthens the district's ability to identify student needs and provide appropriate, targeted support.

Advancing Disciplinary Literacy

At the secondary level, literacy is integral to learning across every content area. Van Buren Public Schools is focusing on Essential Practice 7: "Intentional efforts to build vocabulary and conceptual knowledge," from Essential Practices for Disciplinary Literacy Instruction in Secondary Classrooms: Grades 6 to 12.

This practice emphasizes explicitly developing academic vocabulary, connecting new learning to prior knowledge and supporting students in applying disciplinary concepts within authentic contexts.

Building Educator Capacity Through Professional Learning

A sustained commitment to professional learning is central to the district's PA 146 implementation. All K–12 teachers are participating in literacy-focused professional development throughout the school year. Wayne RESA has provided professional learning opportunities aligned with PA 146, which the district is incorporating throughout the year to provide educators with ongoing opportunities to strengthen their knowledge and instructional practice.

Topics include dyslexia, evidence-based literacy instruction, and practices for supporting students experiencing reading difficulties. The district is also partnering with CORE Learning, an approved Science of Reading professional learning platform, to support required training.

Implementing a Districtwide MTSS Framework

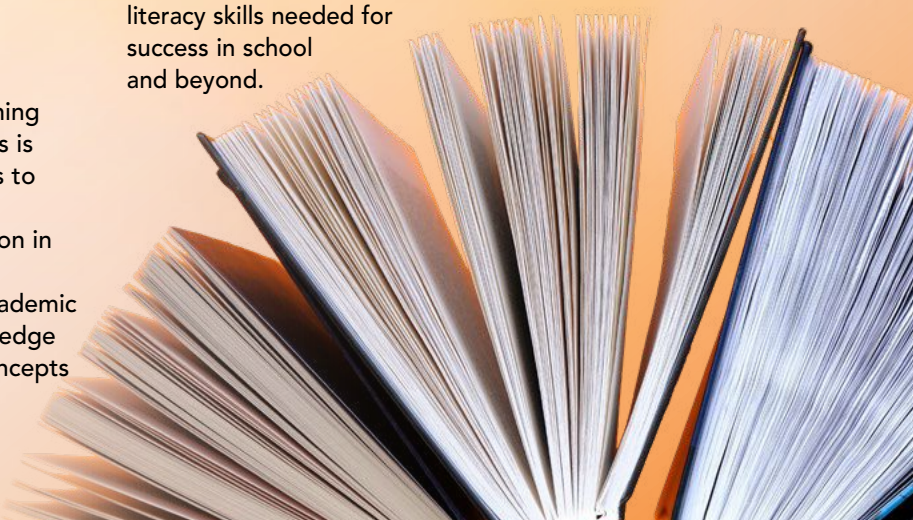
During the 2026–2027 school year, Van Buren Public Schools is implementing a new districtwide Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) framework. The framework establishes a consistent process for identifying student needs, coordinating interventions, monitoring progress, and using data to guide instructional decisions.

Through universal, targeted, and intensive levels of support, MTSS provides a structured approach for responding to academic, behavioral and attendance needs.

Looking Ahead

Van Buren Public Schools' preparation for PA 146 reflects a long-term commitment to instructional excellence, educator development and student success. By aligning instruction, screening, intervention, professional learning, and MTSS, the district is building a coherent K–12 system designed to respond to student needs and strengthen literacy outcomes.

This work represents more than compliance with state requirements. It reflects a districtwide commitment to ensuring educators have the knowledge, resources and systems necessary to help every student develop the literacy skills needed for success in school and beyond.



Belleville High School AVIATION PROGRAM

Connecting Students to Careers and Opportunities



THE 2025–2026 school year wasn't even two weeks in the books before Belleville High School's aviation instructors were already preparing for the year ahead. In June, the instructors participated in professional development through the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA), gaining current industry knowledge, resources and ideas to help prepare them for the 2026–2027 school year. The training reflects the program's ongoing commitment to providing students with a high-quality, career-focused aviation education.

The program has also increased its visibility within the community. Aviation staff were invited to participate in the Thunder Over Michigan Airshow, where they had the opportunity to share information about Belleville High School's aviation programs with members of the public and introduce families to the career pathways available through aviation education.

Students have also benefited from connections with aviation professionals and Belleville High School alumni. A 2008 Belleville High School alumna, Leah Sykes, recently returned to campus to speak with current aviation students about her own career journey and the opportunities available within the aviation industry.



Van Buren Public Schools CTE and Career Readiness Coordinator Jessica Romak helped showcase the Aviation programs offered at Belleville High School during the Thunder Over Michigan Airshow in July.



Students from the aviation program were invited to attend Western Michigan University's Business in Aviation Day on September 25.

Although the aviation program did not exist during her time at Belleville, her return gave students the opportunity to learn directly from a former Belleville student who has gone on to build a career in the field. Her story helped demonstrate the variety of pathways available in aviation and provided students with a personal connection to the possibilities that exist beyond high school.



Top: Robert Harris (right) and 2008 BHS alumna, Leah Sykes (left), discussed career opportunities with students in Mr. Watkins' and Mr. Murray's Aviation classes. Bottom: Drones FAA Part 107 instructor, Aaron Watkins, and Introduction to Aviation instructor, Matt Murray, get assistance from an Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) instructor during a training in June.

Looking beyond high school, 18 Belleville High School students attended Western Michigan University's Business in Aviation Day on September 25. The event gave students an opportunity to explore post-secondary programs, learn more about aviation-related careers and connect with professionals and educators in the field.

Through professional development, community outreach, alumni engagement, and college and career exploration, Belleville High School's Aviation Program is working to ensure students understand that aviation offers far more career opportunities than simply becoming a pilot. From aviation management and maintenance to flight operations, airport management, logistics, and other specialized fields, students are gaining exposure to the wide range of pathways available in the aviation industry.









Making a Difference

Van Buren Public Schools Education Foundation




THE Van Buren Public Schools Education Foundation is dedicated to supporting teachers, enriching learning experiences and providing students with opportunities to succeed. Through fundraising efforts and community support, the Foundation provides grants to teachers for creative projects, innovative classroom activities and resources that enhance student learning.



Over the past year, the Foundation has hosted several fun and engaging events, including the Zombie 5K Run, Santa Summer Sprint, '80s Trivia Night, and Family Disney Trivia Night. These events bring our community together for a great cause while raising funds to support our local schools and educators.

The excitement continues on February 19 with an upcoming Adult Pajama Party Trivia Night! This fun-filled evening will give adults a chance to show off their trivia skills, enjoy a night out and support education in our community. The Education Foundation is also hoping to add another family night trivia in spring 2027. Watch for details.

Every fundraiser, donation and act of support helps the Foundation make a difference in our schools. By bringing our community together, we can continue investing in our teachers, inspiring our students and creating meaningful learning opportunities throughout Van Buren Public Schools.

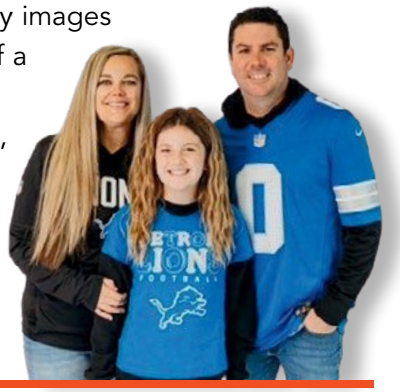
VAN BUREN PUBLIC SCHOOLS EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Together, we are making a difference - one classroom, one teacher and one student at a time!

VAN BUREN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
COMMUNITY EDUCATION

SAY CHEESE

In September, we hosted Family Portrait Mini Sessions, giving residents an easy, affordable way to capture a special moment. With the help of our partner, Lindsey V. Photography, families received high-quality images without the stress of a traditional photo session. It was a fun, relaxed experience and a great way to celebrate the people who matter most.



INSTRUCTOR SPOTLIGHT

Sarah Romero has been teaching Zumba, Zumba Gold, and Zumba Kids since 2013. A former school teacher, wife, and mother of two, Sarah loves working with kids and bringing energy and fun to every class.

Recently, Sarah made a life-changing gift to a friend she originally met through one of her Zumba classes by donating one of her kidneys. After taking time to recover, Sarah is grateful to be back dancing and teaching again!



WINTER HAPPENINGS

YOUTH ENRICHMENT

Caricature Drawing
Learn to draw fun, expressive faces

Mad Science
Hands-on experiments, discovery & scientific fun!

Babysitter Certification
Learn skills to be safe & responsible.

ADULT RECREATION

Mahjong
Learn the basics & game play.

Lap Swim
Stay active & build endurance.

Art Classes
Create & explore

VIEW OUR WINTER CATALOG!

Our schools are places for the community to gather, learn, and connect. Explore opportunities, try something new, and see what Community Education has to offer!

VAN BUREN PUBLIC SCHOOLS COMMUNITY EDUCATION
https://www.vanburenschools.net/page/community-education

Belleville Tigers Athletics

THE Athletic Department would like to remind all athletes hoping to compete in the 2026-27 school year that they must have a current physical on file. A current physical is dated on or after April 15, 2026.

To view practice schedules, game schedules, forms, contact information, and news related to athletics, please visit: http://www.vanburenschools.net/o/belleville-high/page/bhs-athletics-homepage

GIRLS SWIM HIGHLIGHTS

Belleville Girls Swimming Captures First Division Championship Since 2008; Undefeated KLAA East Season Highlights Historic Year for the Tigers

The Belleville High School girls swimming and diving team has reached a milestone nearly two decades in the making, capturing its first division championship since 2008 after completing an undefeated season in the KLAA East.

The championship marks a significant achievement for a program that has continued to build toward success through hard work, dedication and teamwork. The Tigers' undefeated league campaign and division title represent the culmination of a season in which athletes throughout the lineup contributed to the team's success.



Miranda Phelps (left) and Sadie Ethridge (right).



Sadie Ethridge (right).

Leading the way for Belleville were state qualifiers Miranda Phelps and Sadie Ethridge, whose accomplishments highlighted the talent within the program. Both swimmers reached the state-qualifying level, providing the Tigers with strong individual competitors and helping establish the team's success throughout the season.

Team leadership also played a critical role in Belleville's championship run. Captains Natalie Hungerford and Zaria Banks helped guide the team through the challenges of a demanding season, setting an example for their teammates through their commitment to the program and their leadership both in and out of the pool.

The Tigers' success was also fueled by important contributions from Keira Frederick, Hannah Stubbs, Tabitha Hungerford and Aliyah Smith. Their efforts, along with those of their teammates, demonstrated the importance of having a roster committed to working together toward a common goal.

One of the season's most memorable moments came in a hard-fought matchup against Dearborn, where Belleville secured a dramatic 51–48 victory. Freshman diver Taelyn Sawyer stepped up when the team needed her most, successfully completing the six dives required to compete in the final meet.

Sawyer's accomplishment was particularly meaningful for a young athlete facing the challenge of competing at an important moment in the season. Her determination to complete the required dives gave Belleville another opportunity to earn valuable points in an extremely close contest. With just three points separating the teams, every contribution mattered.

Sawyer deserves special recognition for her perseverance and willingness to step up for her teammates. Her performance serves as a reminder that championship teams are built not only on standout individual performances, but also on athletes who embrace challenges and do whatever they can to help the team succeed.

The victory over Dearborn exemplified the competitive spirit that carried Belleville throughout the season. In a sport where



individual events and relays can determine the outcome of a meet, every point can make a difference. The Tigers' ability to pull out a narrow victory reflected the importance of depth, preparation and contributions from athletes across the roster.

Belleville's undefeated KLAA East season demonstrated the team's consistency, while the division championship provided the ultimate reward for its efforts. The last time the Tigers captured a division title was in 2008. Nearly 18 years later, this group has returned the program to the top of its division and created a new milestone in Belleville swimming and diving history.

Beyond the victories and championship hardware, the season represents the values that make high school athletics special. The swimmers and divers learned to support one another, overcome challenges and recognize that every athlete has a role in achieving team success.

For the seniors and team captains, the championship provides a memorable conclusion to their work with the program. For younger athletes such as Sawyer, it offers a glimpse of what can be accomplished through perseverance and teamwork.

With two state qualifiers leading the way, strong leadership from Hungerford and Banks, valuable contributions throughout the lineup and an undefeated KLAA East record, the 2026 Belleville girls swimming and diving team has earned its place in school history.

After an 18-year wait, the Tigers are division champions once again. Their achievement is a testament to a team's collective effort and a season that Belleville swimming and diving will remember for years to come.



Record-Breaking Swims at the Wayne County Championships

The Belleville Girls Swim team made a splash at the Wayne County Championships with an incredible record-breaking performance. Sadie Ethridge, Miranda Phelps, Natalie Hungerford, and Keira Frederick teamed up to break the school record in the 200-yard freestyle relay, posting an outstanding time of 1:44.74! This record had stood since 2010, making this achievement even more special. Congratulations, ladies, on an amazing accomplishment!

Athletics continued on page 18

Belleville Tigers Athletics

Athletics continued from page 17

Another School Record Falls

The Tigers continued their success as Miranda Phelps, Hannah Stubbs, Tabitha Hungerford, and Sadie Ethridge broke the ninth- and 10th-grade school record in the 400-yard freestyle relay. Sadie also broke the ninth- and 10th-grade record in the 200IM. Congratulations to these outstanding swimmers on their hard work and record-setting performances!

At the time of writing this article there are still four weeks left in the season, so these records and more can still be broken and updated, team and individual achievements earned and state qualifiers earned.

Belleville Girls Swimmers are Headed to States

The Belleville Girls Swim team had an outstanding showing at the MISCA meet, with two Tigers qualifying for the state competition. Congratulations to Sadie Ethridge, who qualified in the 100-yard backstroke with a time of 1:00.79!

Another congratulations goes to Miranda Phelps, who qualified in two events. Miranda earned her state meet qualification in the 100-yard backstroke with a time of 57.08, and the 100-yard butterfly with a time of 56.90!

Congratulations, ladies, on these incredible accomplishments! Best of luck for the remainder of the season and at the state meet as you look to finish the year strong!



Varsity Football Secures Ninth Consecutive KLAA Division Championship

The Belleville Tigers varsity football finished division play with a record of 5-1 to secure another KLAA Division championship!

With the KLAA in its final year, this championship makes nine consecutive division championships for the Tigers, and marks a division championship every year since joining the conference. What an incredible accomplishment and a testament to the consistency, hard work and dedication of our student-athletes and coaching staff! Congratulations to the entire team on this outstanding achievement!



Belleville Cross Country Brings Home Two Third-Place Trophies at the Riverview Gabriel Richard Invitational

Both the Belleville boys and girls cross country teams brought home third-place trophies after a strong performance at the Riverview Gabriel Richard Invitational this season. The Tigers had several outstanding individual finishes, with athletes earning medals for placing in the top 25.

Boys Medalists

- Colt Gilbee – Seventh Place
- Joshua Clark – 19th Place
- Braelen Russell – 20th Place

Girls Medalists

- Megan Mulvenna – 17th Place
- Mia Shrader – 19th Place
- Harmonie Starks – 20th Place
- Draya France – 21st Place
- Malia Clark – 22nd Place

Athletes finishing in the top 25 earned medals, while those placing 26th–35th received JV medals. The Tigers also saw tremendous individual improvement, with 10 boys and six girls setting new personal records.

Congratulations to both teams on their accomplishments, continued growth and hard work throughout the season, and good luck at regionals!



WINTER SPORTS PREVIEW

Boys Basketball

The Belleville varsity boys basketball team is coming into the year with high expectations. After a 15-9 record last year, the student-athletes dedicated themselves to taking the next step with their offseason improvement.

The Tigers are well equipped to do so, as there are seven returnees from last year's team, including senior guards Adam Coats, an outstanding athlete and four-year varsity player, and Antoine Cannon, an emerging floor leader and three-year varsity player.

Junior guard Tyrell Pouncy returns after starting in his sophomore year and provides two-way play that contributes to the team's success. Juniors SemaJ Carter, David Dalton Jr., DeChaun Hall-Nelms, and Dylan McMullan all enter their second year of varsity play, and will bring athleticism and skill to the team.

The team will be bolstered by the addition of an experienced and talented transfer in senior guard, Marcel Brown EL, who will be entering his fourth year of varsity play. Additionally, there are multiple players off last year's Junior varsity team who look to make the jump to varsity this season. The team will continue to focus on playing an up-tempo style with a ferocious defensive attitude!

Wrestling

Belleville Wrestling Ready for a Strong Season

Belleville wrestling is looking forward to a season filled with strong competition, continued growth and exciting opportunities. With new talent joining the program and strong leadership guiding the way, the Tigers are eager to build on their progress and continue working toward the program's goals.

Leading the way is returning senior and 285-pound state qualifier, Ayiden Staton, who will bring valuable experience and leadership to the team. Along with competing at a high level, the Tigers remain committed to developing young student-athletes, building confidence, and helping each wrestler grow both on and off the mat.

The Tigers are ready to embrace the challenges ahead and make this season a memorable one. Go Tigers!

Bowling

Mighty Tigers Ready to Roll

The Belleville Tigers are eager to return to the lanes for the 2026–2027 bowling season. Head Coach Cynthia Allison is excited to see what her returning players can accomplish this year, as the Tigers look to build on an outstanding 2025–2026 campaign.

Leading the way is senior Madison Thomas, the 2025–2026 division and regional champion, who will look to lead the Tigers and build on her phenomenal season. Also returning is Janelle Finfrock (junior), Madisyn Milton (junior), Olivia Klinck (sophomore), and Taeya Smith (sophomore), giving the girls' varsity team a strong and experienced foundation.

Last season, the varsity girls captured both the KLAA Championship and the MHSAA Regional Championship, while earning numerous individual medals and success at several other team tournaments. Throughout the season, these Lady Tigers demonstrated cohesion, discipline, focus, determination, and courage in competition.

Coach Cynthia Allison believes this year's team has the potential to surpass last season's accomplishments.

Thomas qualified 12th at the MHSAA Finals before advancing to the Elite Eight for the second consecutive year. Finfrock also enjoyed an impressive season, finishing among the top 16 at regionals and earning All-Conference honors for the second year in a row.

On the boys' side, the varsity Tigers had a strong season but narrowly missed qualifying for the MHSAA Team Finals, falling short by just 13 pins at regionals. The team expects to return several key contributors, including seniors Alex Parisian and David Mousseau, along with juniors Jacob Finfrock and Leon Nitz.

The Tigers also hope to add junior newcomers Tory Kelly and Emmanuel Rives to the varsity lineup. Both athletes demonstrated resiliency, tenacity and maturity as members of last year's JV squad, while developing strong bonds with their teammates. They will look to carry that experience into the upcoming season and make an impact at the varsity level.

The boys also collected tournament victories, individual awards and medals last season, giving the coaching staff plenty of reasons to be optimistic about what lies ahead.

Coaches Cynthia and Richard Allison are confident that both the girls and boys teams can enjoy successful 2026–2027 campaigns. With numerous returning athletes bringing valuable playoff and tournament experience, the Tigers are prepared to compete in every matchup and continue building on the program's success.

The Tigers are ready to roll, ready to compete and ready to make some noise on the lanes. With teamwork, determination and Tiger pride leading the way, Belleville is looking forward to another exciting season.

Look out for the Tigers – can you hear them roar? Let's Go, Tigers!

Boys Swimming

As the Belleville High School boys swimming and diving team prepares for the upcoming season, the focus will be on continued improvement, developing younger swimmers and building a team capable of competing at a higher level. With an emphasis on strengthening the

Athletics continued on page 20

Belleville Tigers Athletics

Athletics continued from page 19

team's overall depth and pursuing state meet qualifications, the Tigers enter the season with opportunities for individual and team growth.

For head coach Aaron Lang, success goes beyond the results posted on the scoreboard. Building a positive culture centered on hard work, accountability and personal growth will be a major priority throughout the season.

"We are trying to build a culture of success for these young men," Lang said. "It is always about doing your best, both in and out of the pool. Push yourselves to always be better."

That philosophy will guide the Tigers as they work to strengthen their lineup and prepare for the challenges ahead. Developing younger swimmers while relying on experienced athletes to provide leadership will be an important part of the team's approach.

Senior leadership will play a key role in that process. Seniors Trevor Davenport and Samuel Mida will bring valuable high school swimming experience to the pool as they look to help guide the team. Davenport has competed in the 100-yard breaststroke and 100-yard butterfly, while Mida has experience in the backstroke and individual medley. Their leadership and commitment will be important as younger swimmers continue to develop and take on larger roles within the program.

Belleville will also look to build on the performances of several swimmers who showed promise at last year's KLAA Conference championships. Landon Wade demonstrated strength in the freestyle events, recording performances of 1:54.78 in the 200-yard freestyle and 5:18.63 in the 500-yard freestyle. His versatility in both middle-distance and distance events could be an important asset for the Tigers.

Cohen Campbell also showed versatility, competing in the 100-yard butterfly and 200-yard freestyle. David Shall and Reid Johnson contributed in the freestyle events, while Aden Houk and Elias Sulea demonstrated potential in the longer freestyle races. Continued improvement from these swimmers, combined with the development of younger athletes, could help Belleville strengthen its lineup throughout the season.

One of the team's primary objectives will be improving its depth across multiple events. Building a competitive lineup requires contributions from the entire roster, and the Tigers will look for swimmers to step into important roles in individual events and relays. Greater depth will be essential as the team faces conference opponents and works toward its postseason goals.

Individual advancement will also be a major focus. Belleville hopes to qualify swimmers for the state meet, providing its athletes with an opportunity to compete against some of Michigan's top high school swimmers. Achieving that goal will require consistent training, continued improvement and strong performances as the season progresses.

With experienced seniors providing leadership and younger swimmers working to establish themselves, Belleville will look to make steady progress throughout the season. The Tigers' success will depend not only on their performances in the pool but also on their willingness to challenge themselves, support their teammates and embrace the daily work necessary to improve.

For Belleville, the goal is to build a program in which success is measured by both competitive achievement and personal growth. As the season unfolds, the Tigers will look to turn that philosophy into stronger performances, greater team depth and opportunities to compete at the state level.

Girls Basketball

Belleville Lady Tigers Enter 2026-27 Season with State Title Expectations

Coming off an impressive 25-2 season, which included a KLAA East Division title, District Championship and Regional Championship, the Belleville Lady Tigers enter the 2026-27 campaign with their sights set on even greater accomplishments.

Despite losing All-State guard Se'Crette Carter to graduation, the Lady Tigers return a talented and experienced core led by All-American senior Sydney Savoury, All-Conference senior Layla Stewart and All-State junior Paisley Stephens. With these three leading the way, Belleville enters the season as Michigan's preseason No. 1 team for the third consecutive year.

Juniors Ava Clyburn and Jai'da Whitfield, along with sophomores JaNiah Batchelor and Mo'Riyah McKinney, bring athleticism, versatility and explosiveness on both ends of the floor. Their ability to impact the game offensively and defensively will be a major factor in the Tigers' success.

Talented freshmen Autumn Steward and Kori Warren add even more depth to an already talented roster, giving head coach Jason Wilkins additional weapons as Belleville prepares to compete at the highest level.

With a combination of veteran leadership, young talent and championship experience, the Lady Tigers have one goal in mind: Taking the next step and winning a state championship.

Belleville officially tips off the 2026-27 season on Monday, December 7, at 7:00 p.m., when the Lady Tigers host Avondale.





VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

MEET AND GREET WITH SANTA PAWS

FREE

Bring the whole furry family for a special Meet and Greet Event, where you and your four-legged friend are invited to dress in holiday attire for a special photo op with Santa Paws!
Go to our website to register or scan the QR code below.

5P-7P

DECEMBER 02

DECEMBER 09

Scan to Register

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Van Buren Township
www.vanburendda.com

BELLEVILLE WINTERFEST

DEC 3RD - 6TH, 2026

Celebrate. Shop. Dine. Enjoy.

Belleville • Sumpter • Van Buren 48111

bacc

Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce

Get into the holiday spirit with four days of festive fun in Downtown Belleville!

From holiday shopping and dazzling lights to live entertainment and family-friendly activities, there's something magical for everyone to enjoy!

Thursday
DECEMBER 3RD

Holiday Pop Up Shops on Main
5-9pm

Friday
DECEMBER 4TH

Soup Crawl 6 -8pm

Santa Dance Party
8-11pm
**Adults only after 9:30pm*

Saturday
DECEMBER 5TH

Holiday Village Activities
11am-5:30pm
Crafts, games, and holiday fun.

Carriage Rides 11am-5pm

Live Music 11am-11pm

Kids' Inflatables 12-5pm

Light Parade 5:30pm

Fireworks 7pm

Silent Disco Dance Party
8-10pm

Sunday
DECEMBER 6TH

Carriage Rides
10am-1pm

Follow the Belleville Area Winterfest page for more updates!

Belleville Area Winterfest | @BellevilleAreaWinterfest













Belleville
DOWNTOWN
ON THE LAKE

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Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce

Nearly a Century of Connection

The story behind the new Denton Road Bridge

By Elena Manalp

FOR almost a century, the Denton Road Bridge was part of everyday life. Built in 1927, it connected neighborhoods, businesses and communities, carrying generations of residents across the water with little thought for the bridge itself.

In October 2022, Wayne County closed the bridge after an underwater inspection revealed serious deterioration of the wooden pilings supporting its eastern abutment. The damage was too extensive for repairs to provide a lasting solution. The bridge would have to be replaced.

Suddenly, a familiar route was gone. Daily commutes grew longer, local businesses felt the impact and residents on both sides of Belleville Lake faced a longer detour.

Replacing the bridge would prove to be a complicated undertaking. But for the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees, restoring this important connection became a priority.

Stepping Up for the Community

Although Wayne County owns and maintains the Denton Road Bridge, its closure directly affected Van Buren Township residents. Early projections suggested construction might not begin until 2025 or 2026, as the county worked through environmental requirements, engineering needs and other infrastructure priorities.

Township officials recognized that waiting several more years would mean continued disruption for residents and businesses. Working with Wayne County, they began exploring ways to move the project forward.





In May 2023, the township board committed an initial $100,000 toward preliminary engineering, followed by additional funding later that year. Rather than waiting for the county's design process to advance, the township took an active role in getting the necessary work underway.

In February 2024, the township and Wayne County formalized an agreement allowing the county to reimburse eligible engineering expenses, up to approximately $499,940. It was an unusual but practical approach: the township invested time and resources in advancing a project that technically fell under another government's responsibility because the bridge was too important to the community to leave waiting.

Community input, township initiative and a partnership with Wayne County helped bring this long-awaited connection back to life.

More Than Just a Replacement

Township officials also saw an opportunity to make the new bridge better suited to the community.

In November 2023, residents were invited to share their preferences through a public survey about the bridge's appearance. Their input helped shape a design that includes decorative railings, lighting and stone-inspired architectural details that complement the surrounding area.

The new bridge also includes a dedicated pedestrian walkway, providing safer access for people traveling on foot.

Boaters will notice another improvement. The new structure provides greater clearance than the original bridge, allowing improved navigation and two-way boat traffic beneath it.

These improvements were about more than appearance. They reflected the township's effort to listen to residents and create a bridge that would serve motorists, pedestrians and boaters for generations.

From Plans to Construction

Funding was another critical piece of the puzzle. In June 2023, State Representatives Reggie Miller and Darrin Camilleri secured $10 million in state funding to replace the Denton Road Bridge Causeway. By October 2024, Wayne County had identified E.C. Korneffel Co. as the construction contractor and authorized a contract worth about $9.48 million.

But building a bridge across Belleville Lake came with its own challenges.



Environmental investigations identified American water-willow (Justicia americana), a plant listed as endangered in Michigan, near the construction area. The team had to relocate and monitor the plants before construction could proceed.

Utility relocations, work over the water, weather conditions, and construction scheduling added to the complexity. Demolishing the original bridge and building a new reinforced-concrete structure required careful coordination between Van Buren Township, Wayne County, contractors, and other agencies.

The project took time, and the detours tested everyone's patience. Still, the work continued.

By March 2025, township officials reported that their efforts, combined with Wayne County's cooperation, had helped shorten an initially projected six-year replacement timeline to less than four years.

The Long Way Around Ends Here

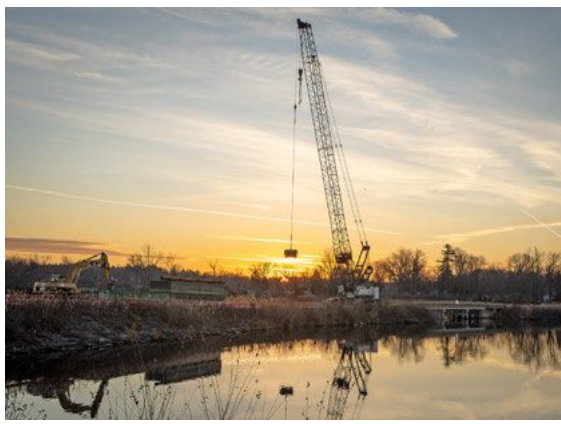
On October 22, 2026, Van Buren Township, Wayne County, elected officials and residents celebrated the completion of the new Denton Road Bridge with a ribbon-cutting ceremony, marking the end of nearly four years of detours and the return of a familiar connection.

The new bridge represents more than an infrastructure improvement. It also shows what can happen when local government listens to residents, recognizes a need and works with partners to find a solution.

While Wayne County retained responsibility for the bridge, Van Buren Township helped advance the project through early engineering investments, public engagement and continued coordination.

The original Denton Road Bridge connected people and places around Belleville Lake for almost 100 years. Its replacement carries that history forward, with improvements designed to serve the community for decades to come.

After nearly four years of taking the long way around, residents can finally take the shorter route home.







Left to right: City of Belleville Mayor Ken Voigt, Van Buren Township Supervisor Kevin McNamara and City of Belleville Council Member Julie Kissel.











Candy Loop

Thank you to all the little superheroes, princesses, dinosaurs, witches, ghosts, and everyone else who came to Quirk Park this Halloween for Candy Loop.



Fall in









Zombies on the Run!

It was a beautiful fall day at Van Buren Park for the Van Buren Public Schools Education Foundation's 5K Zombie Run, where runners and walkers showed off their spookiest costumes while supporting a great cause. Congratulations to all the participants!











Movie in the Park

Scooby-Doo brought joy and excitement to this year's Movie in the Park, enchanting the crowd with laughter and delighted gasps. The evening sparkled with fun, and Van Buren Parks kept everyone refreshed with tasty treats.

Van Buren











Punkin Roll Out

Van Buren Park buzzed with excitement and laughter as pumpkins tumbled wildly down the hill, sometimes grazing the target and other times veering off on their own unpredictable adventures. Kids and adults alike got swept up in the fun, their smiles as bright as the autumn sun.









Pancake Breakfast

Sparky turned 75 years young this fall! He was delighted to see so many of you at the annual Pancake Breakfast hosted by VBT Fire Station 2.





Fall in

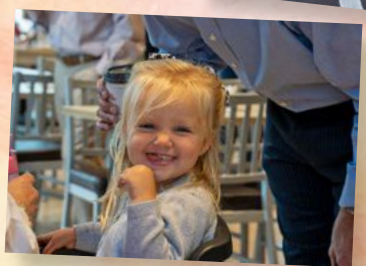






Chick-fil-A Ribbon Cutting

We are excited to welcome Chick-fil-A to our communities!









Jasen Magic

For his first time in Van Buren Township, Jasen Magic truly lived up to his name and created real magic. His show mixed tricks with humor. We look forward to seeing him again.



Van Buren









Senior Painting with Denise

At the Senior Center, every day is filled with lively programs designed to spark joy and creativity, from colorful painting sessions to energetic dance classes. Unleash your creativity and join Painting with Denise for an inspiring artistic adventure.







Senior Dancing

Two left feet? No problem. International award-winning dancer and former choreographer Elena Semenov will get you dancing quickly. Line Dancing and Detroit-style Motown Ballroom classes happen on Saturdays. Enjoy yourself and meet new friends.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR QUIRK PARK

A bigger lot, two new pavilions, and more ways to spend a summer day. Here's what's happening at Quirk Park this fall and winter:

Quirk Park is where Van Buren Township shows up for summer. The playground never sits empty, the splash pad is the place to be on a hot July afternoon, and the Van Buren Community Center is just a short walk away. It's the park where families come for an hour and stay for the whole day. This year the Board of Trustees approved a set of improvements to help it keep up with everyone who loves it.

First up is the parking lot, which is being expanded and resurfaced so there's room for everyone and a smoother ride once you get there. New walking paths will tie the lot, the playground, and the open greenspace together, and updated shaded seating gives you a comfortable spot to take it all in.

The most exciting change is the pavilion. The original had reached the end of its life and came down last year, and when we asked residents what they wanted in its place, the answer was clear: more chances to book a spot. Quirk's pavilion was one of the first to fill up every summer, so rather than rebuild one large structure, we chose two slightly smaller ones. That way two families can celebrate on the same Saturday, and fewer birthday parties land on a waiting list. Look for both new pavilions in the 2027 rental season.



Have a question, comment, or a wild dream for Quirk Park? Email projects@vbtmi.gov.

Pavilion reservations for 2027 open for VBT residents in January at bit.ly/vbtpavilions.

2027

PAVILION RENTALS

Plan Now, Party Later

WE PROMISE YOUR FUTURE-SELF WILL THANK YOU

JAN 4 VBT RESIDENT RESERVATIONS OPEN

MAR 1 NON-RESIDENT RESERVATIONS OPEN





RESERVE ONLINE

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RESERVE IN PERSON

VBT COMMUNITY CENTER
46425 TYLER RD.
VAN BUREN TWP., MI 48111

THERE'S MORE ROOM TO PARTY IN 2027 WITH TWO BRAND-NEW PAVILIONS FOR RENT AT QUIRK PARK



vbtmi.gov
734.699.8921

VAN BUREN
PARKS & RECREATION








The Van Buren Senior Center

Warm Hearts for the Coldest Months

The temperature may be dropping, but the energy inside the Van Buren Township Senior Center is anything but cold. From festive holiday gatherings to fresh starts in the new year, this is a season built for connection, and we can't wait to share it with you. Pull up a chair, grab a warm cup of something delicious and settle in. There's a place for you here.

The Season for Togetherness

There's something about winter that draws people closer: the aroma of fresh coffee brewing, the sound of laughter rising over a lively card game, the comfort of familiar faces on a snowy afternoon. Whether you're decking the halls with us in December or setting new intentions in January, our doors (and our thermostat) stay warm all season long.

Bring a friend, make a new one or simply stop in to say hello. Every one of our gatherings is a chance to share stories, swap recipes and enjoy good company when it matters most.

New Year, Same Warm Welcome

January isn't just for resolutions. It's a chance to try something new. Maybe it's a class you've been curious about, a group you haven't joined yet or a friendship that's simply waiting to happen. There's no better time to begin than the start of a new year, and no better place to do it than right here among neighbors who are glad you came.

Whatever your interests, we hope you'll find something this season that makes you smile, sparks your curiosity and keeps you coming back.

Mark Your Calendar

December

- **Thursday, December 3:** Greeting Card Workshop, 10 a.m.
- **Monday, December 7:** Birthday Monday, 11:30 a.m.
- **Thursday, December 10:** Senior Christmas Party, 12 to 3 p.m.
- **Friday, December 18:** Jingle Bell Bingo, 12 to 2 p.m.

January

- **Monday, January 4:** Birthday Monday, 11:30 a.m.
- **Wednesday, January 6:** Blood Drive, 12 to 6 p.m.
- **Monday, January 25:** Lunch and Learn, 12 to 1 p.m.
- **Wednesday, January 27:** Coffee with a Cop, 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

February

- **Monday, February 1:** Birthday Monday, 11:30 a.m.
- **Monday, February 22:** Lunch and Learn, 12 to 1 p.m.
- **Tuesday, February 23:** The Senior Alliance, 9 a.m. to 12:30 pm



GET FIT FOR FREE AT THE VBC

FITNESS CLASS FREE DEMO WEEK

Monday, January 4	Tuesday, January 5	Wednesday, January 6
9:30 - 10:30 AM **Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program***	**10:30 - 11:30 AM** **Tai Chi*** **6:30 - 7:30 PM** **Gentle Yoga**	**9:30 - 10:30 AM** **Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program*** **5:30, 6:15 PM** **Step Aerobics**
Thursday, January 7	**Friday, January 8**	**Saturday, January 9**
8:30 - 9:15 AM TRX	**9:30 - 10:30 AM** **Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program*** **5:00 - 5:30 PM** **Archery** **5:45 - 6:15 PM** **Archery**	**10:00 - 10:30 AM** **Line Dancing** **10:30 - 11:00 AM** **Motown Ballroom Dancing** **10:30 - 11:00 AM** **Soccer Stars - Parent & Me (Ages 1 & 2)** **11:15 - 11:45 AM** **Soccer Stars (Ages 3 & 4)** **12 - 12:30 PM** **Soccer Stars (Ages 5 - 10)**

- Explore fitness favorites like TRX, Gentle Yoga & Zumba.
- Space is limited - register in advance.

*Low-impact classes offered for seniors ages 62 and older.

734.699.8921

vbcinfo@VBTmi.gov

Van Buren Community Center
46425 Tyler Rd.,
Van Buren Township, MI 48111





New Resources, Stronger Response

Grant Funding Supports Growth at Van Buren Township Fire Department

By Pamela MacIntyre

THERE is plenty of positive news at the Van Buren Township Fire Department, where new grant funding is helping the department strengthen staffing and add equipment to meet the changing needs of the community.

One of the biggest developments is a recently awarded Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response, or SAFER, grant through the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The grant will help Van Buren Township add two full-time firefighters to the department.

The three-year grant will cover 75 percent of the cost of the two positions during the first and second years, and 35 percent during the third year, according to Fire Chief David C. McInally II. After the grant period ends, the township will assume the full cost of the positions, with plans to retain both firefighters permanently.

The department already has two part-time firefighters going through the testing process for the positions. If successful, they will transition to full-time roles.

McInally said recruiting and retaining part-time firefighters has become increasingly challenging throughout the fire service, making the opportunity to transition existing part-time personnel into full-time positions especially valuable. The SAFER grant will help provide more consistent staffing as the department continues to meet the needs of the community.

Those needs have changed significantly over the years. When McInally joined the department in 1991, Van Buren Township responded to approximately 400 calls annually. Today, that number has grown to approximately 3,800 calls each year.



Township leaders acknowledge and support the need for increased resources.

"As our community continues to grow, so does the demand for emergency services," said Van Buren Township Supervisor Kevin McNamara. "Our firefighters do an outstanding job serving our residents, and we want to make sure they have the people and resources they need to do that job safely and effectively. These grants allow us to strengthen our fire department while being responsible with township resources. I'm grateful to Chief McInally and his team for their continued dedication to our community."



Van Buren Township Clerk Leon Wright said the additional staffing represents an important investment in public safety.

"I'm excited to see this grant opportunity and the positive impact it could have on our fire department," Wright said. "Additional staffing would be a huge step forward in strengthening emergency response, supporting our firefighters and ensuring our community continues to receive the protection and service it deserves. This funding is an investment in the safety of our residents and the future of our community."

Staffing is not the department's only recent good news. Van Buren Township also participated in a four-agency regional Assistance to Firefighters Grant that will provide new thermal imaging cameras. The department also secured grant funding for two gear dryers.

McInally said the gear dryers will help firefighters get their protective gear cleaned, dried and back into service more quickly. Crews can respond to multiple fires in a single day, and protective gear must be washed between fires, making a faster turnaround especially valuable.

The positive momentum comes as the department looks ahead to another milestone. In 2027, the Van Buren Township Fire Department will celebrate its 85th anniversary, giving the department another reason to celebrate its history and look ahead to the future.



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www.vanburen-mi.org/how_do_i

Non-emergency 734-699-8930

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Station 2 -HQ 7981 Belleville Rd

JEFFERY JAHR

Appointed as Van Buren Township Trustee

A familiar face in Van Buren Township government is taking on a new responsibility. On September 15, Jeffrey Jahr joined the Township's Board of Trustees, bringing years of experience with local boards and commissions to the position.

His appointment fills a vacancy on the board created by the passing of Trustee William Frazier, who was elected in 2024, following the footsteps of his mother, Sherry Frazier, a longtime trustee.

Jahr is a graduate of Belleville High School and the University of Michigan. After spending some time in California, he returned to his roots in Van Buren Township.



Like his predecessor, Jahr comes from a family who values community service. In 1981, his grandfather was appointed to the Board of Trustees to fill an empty seat, and Jahr is the third in his family to hold the trustee position in Van Buren Township, following his father.

No stranger to Van Buren Township himself, Jahr has spent years involved in the decisions and operations that help shape the community, including time on the Planning Commission, Environmental Commission and Zoning Board.

Following his appointment as trustee, he was subsequently appointed as the board's liaison to the Planning Commission, a role that connects his previous experience with his new responsibilities.

As he begins serving in his new capacity, Jahr will join the board in addressing township business, representing residents and serving the community to the best of his ability.

For more information about the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees or upcoming meeting dates, visit www.vbtmi.gov.

VAN BUREN CHARTER TOWNSHIP



Team Amir

Van Buren mother turns Type 1 diabetes diagnosis into mission to make a difference

By Kelsi Klein

Amir's story

For Courtney Abdel-hak, Type 1 diabetes was something she had learned to live with since being diagnosed with the autoimmune disease a decade ago. But when her young son, Amir, started showing symptoms, her personal experience became about more than just herself.

When Amir was just 15 months old in August 2025, Abdel-hak was concerned about her son's increased thirst but doctors told her not to worry. He was an active toddler and was likely drinking more due to being hot playing outside.

The next red flag was frequent urination and more wet diapers. When Abdel-hak brought up her concern of passing Type 1 diabetes onto her son, doctors told her that there was well under a 1 percent chance he would develop diabetes before age 4.

Amir's symptoms continued with increased appetite, increased tantrums, wanting more naps and weight loss.

Despite reassurance from doctors, Abdel-hak continued to advocate for her son, as any mother would. On November 6, 2025, at Amir's doctor's appointment, Abdel-hak asked his provider to test him for diabetes.

While they waited, and after the doctor reported an "overall healthy and reassuring examination" in the office that day, Abdel-hak checked Amir's blood sugar at home, which revealed a dangerously high level of 546. (For reference, a healthy blood sugar level in an individual without diabetes is 70-99.)

She quickly packed everything up for her toddler, newborn and herself, and rushed to C.S. Mott Children's Hospital, where doctors told her she made it just in time and that they were surprised Amir wasn't in diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA), which can be life-threatening.

"Had we waited until his next office visit to 'follow up' on his symptoms, it could've been fatal," Abdel-hak said. "I am extremely grateful to all the nurses, doctors and staff who made this huge change in his life the slightest bit easier. I couldn't have asked for a better medical team for Amir."

Post-diagnosis

Having lived with Type 1 diabetes for 10 years, Abel-hak was no stranger to the world of insulin, carb counting, blood sugar and everything that comes with it, but navigating it for and with a toddler was a whole new hurdle.

There is a very common misconception that Type 1 diabetes is something a person can control, prevent or "cure" through lifestyle choices.

Popular culture and assumptions have stigmatized the word "diabetes," generalizing it as a "sugar problem," often leading to unfair guilt, blame and judgment directed especially toward parents of children who are newly diagnosed.

Unlike Type 2 diabetes, which is a metabolic condition influenced by genetics, weight and lifestyle factors that can sometimes be reversed, Type 1 is an autoimmune disease where a person's immune system mistakenly attacks and destroys beta cells in the pancreas that produce insulin.

Because of this disease, Amir's body produces zero insulin, a vital hormone needed to turn food into energy. At just 2 years old, he wears a Dexcom G7 continuous glucose monitoring system and a Tandem Mobi insulin pump.

Since his diagnosis, now more than a year ago, Amir has shown strength, bravery and resilience, even at such a young age.

Despite Type 1 diabetes requiring 24/7 management, Abdel-hak said that diabetes is only one part of Amir's story.

"He's still a little boy who loves to play, laugh, explore and keep us on our toes," she said. "We want him to grow up knowing Type 1 diabetes is something he lives with, not something that gets to define him."





Awareness and advocacy

For Abdel-hak, awareness is about more than simply understanding a diagnosis. It's about helping people recognize when something is wrong and encouraging parents to advocate for their children and be their voice.

Abdel-hak decided to turn both her, and now Amir's, battle into an opportunity to help transform life for the millions of people facing Type 1 diabetes by partnering with Breakthrough T1D, an organization dedicated to Type 1 diabetes research, advocacy and support.

Their family started Team Amir to raise funds for Breakthrough T1D and get the community involved, hoping to make diabetes awareness an ongoing effort rather than something discussed only briefly during Diabetes Awareness Month in November.

This effort is also receiving support from local businesses including Bare Beauty by Brandie, Hyde Haus Photography, 734 Beauty Lounge, Purpose Dental, Meijer and Lodge Cast Iron.

"My family is three generations of Type 1 diabetes, my dad, myself and my son, and we're all in Van Buren Township," Abdel-hak said. "We love being a part of the community and I am so grateful to all of our amazing contributors."

Team Amir will be hosting a Breakthrough T1D walk in Ann Arbor on May 23, 2027, that welcomes participants of all ages to help raise Type 1 diabetes awareness and move closer to a cure.

Though Abdel-hak cannot control the disease or its daily challenges, she has decided to use what she can control – her voice – and do everything in her power to make a difference.

For more information about Team Amir, to support their team or to get involved, visit the Team Amir T1D Facebook page.

VAN BUREN
CHARTER TOWNSHIP



Van Buren Township is aware of a nationwide scam in which fraudulent emails are being sent while impersonating Municipal Planning and Zoning departments. These messages are designed to appear legitimate and may reference real projects, applications, or meeting agenda items.

In some cases, the emails threaten legal action or additional fees and instruct recipients to submit large payments via email or wire transfer.

We want to clarify the following:

- Van Buren Township does not request payments via unsolicited email
- We do not demand wire transfers or payment confirmation by email
- Official Township email communications originate only from the vbtmi.gov domain
- Emails claiming to be from the Township using other domains (such as usa.com) are not legitimate

These fraudulent messages rely on publicly available information and do not indicate that Township systems were compromised.

If you receive an email claiming to be from the Township of Van Buren Planning Commission or Zoning Board and are unsure of its legitimacy, do not respond or send payment. Please contact the Township directly using the contact information listed on our official website, vbtmi.gov.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec 2nd — The SHOP at TechTown Detroit

11:00am - 2:00pm
440 Burroughs St, Detroit, MI 48202

Experience the best of Detroit's small business community at The SHOP, TechTown Detroit's monthly retail pop-up marketplace! Join us in person on the last Wednesday of every month to explore unique products, connect with local entrepreneurs and uncover your next favorite find. Mark your calendar and join us for a vibrant shopping experience celebrating Detroit's small business community!
Interested in participating in The SHOP? Submit an interest form on our website

Dec 3rd — First Thursdays at TechTown Detroit

5:30pm - 7:30pm
440 Burroughs St, Detroit, MI 48202

TechTown's Monthly Networking Event now featuring the Coworking Concert Series
Detroit has never had anything quite like this. And we think it's about time.
The Co-working Concert Series exists to spotlight the depth and breadth of entrepreneurship and innovation in Detroit. Tech founders, small business owners, artists, creatives. We see it all as one ecosystem. The intersectionality of the work is what makes this city special, and the series is our way of putting that on full display.
Good people, good music, good food. No pitch decks required.

BUSINESS SUPPORT & RESOURCES

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EMPOWERING ENTREPRENEURS AT EVERY STAGE

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info@techtowndetroit.org
https://techtowndetroit.org



Passion for Music

Donald Poole has spent five decades keeping Detroit's rich musical traditions alive

By Ryan M. Place

A chance encounter at a Detroit radio station launched a career for Donald Poole that would span more than five decades and take him across the country.

Today, Poole operates WJZD Radio, an internet station specializing in jazz, R&B and soul, continuing his lifelong passion for broadcasting.

Born and raised in Detroit, Poole graduated from Henry Ford High School in 1972. His radio career began in 1975 when he landed a job answering request lines at WDRQ.

"I would peek in on the DJs," Poole said. "Eventually, they gave me a tour of the building and offered me a job."

Evening DJ Jim Ryan took him under his wing, teaching him radio production, editing and the fundamentals of broadcasting. Three years later, both lost their jobs when WDRQ was sold.

Six months afterward, Ryan called with another opportunity: helping launch Q106 in Jackson, Michigan.

"I moved to Jackson and worked midnight to six in the morning, seven days a week, for six months," Poole said.

Poole spent more than two years at WJXQ before returning to Detroit, where he joined WJZZ. Following its acquisition by Radio One, he briefly stayed before moving to WGPR.

Along the way, he worked with notable broadcasters including Rosetta Hines and Alan Almond. WGPR was also home to Detroit radio legend, The Electrifying Mojo.

One memorable experience came in 1981 when Ryan took him to broadcast at a Rolling Stones concert at the Pontiac Silverdome.

"Prince opened for them the first night, and Iggy Pop the second," Poole said. "It was wild."

In the late 1990s, Poole relocated to Texas, initially working at a chemical plant in Galveston. His broadcasting career resumed after a chance meeting with the general manager of Houston's KTSU at a jazz club.

"He invited me to come see the station and asked if I could work weekends," Poole said.

That opportunity turned into a position lasting nearly a decade. Poole later moved to Bennettsville, South Carolina, where he served as operations manager for WBSC, transforming its beach-music format into a community-focused station.

Returning to Texas, he began working for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), including recording voiceovers for the Transportation Security Administration (TSA). Eventually, concerns about his mother living alone in Detroit brought him back to Michigan.

He joined 98.7 The Breeze, a CBS station, where his former mentor Jim Ryan had risen to vice president of programming for CBS Radio.

When the COVID-19 pandemic struck, the station's staff was let go, prompting Poole to focus on building his own broadcasting operation.

"All the frequencies on the dial were taken, so I started looking into internet radio," he said.

Poole had begun developing WJZD Radio in 2016 from the Parks of Belleville apartment community. Following his departure from The Breeze, he devoted himself to expanding the station. WJZD eventually welcomed Detroit radio personality Foody, known as the "Yoda of Soul."

His move to Belleville also kept him close to Detroit Metropolitan Airport for his TSA work, where he occasionally encountered techno pioneer Derrick May of the legendary Belleville Three.

Outside radio, Poole enjoys Belleville Lake and Johnny's on the Water. He also fondly remembers the former Bayou Grill, a Cajun restaurant known for its rooftop alligator.

More than five decades after his first job at WDRQ, Poole continues sharing his passion for music through WJZD, connecting listeners across generations and keeping Detroit's rich musical traditions alive.

Listen at www.wjzdradiodetroit.com.

2026 YARD WASTE COLLECTION ENDS ON DECEMBER 18

BRUSH

- Bundles no longer than 4 feet in length and 18" around
- Bundles must not weigh more than 50 lbs.

LEAVES & GRASS CLIPPINGS

- 32-gallon (with yard waste sticker) container or smaller, 50 lb. limit, or brown paper bags.
- **DO NOT** overload bags and please fold over the tops for easy lifting.
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- **DO NOT** use plastic bags!
- **NO** sod, fruits or nuts.

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BACA's 17th Annual Community Art Show Showcases Talented Creatives

THE Belleville Area Council for the Arts 17th Annual Community Art Show showcased America's 250th Year, the theme for this year's exhibit. Local artists displayed their fine art for public viewing on October 23-25 at the Belleville Yacht Club.

At the opening reception, BACA's president, Rhonda Dutton, and BACA's treasurer, Harry VanGelder, introduced the Senior Art Scholarship winners for 2026. Allie Horchem was recognized for her excellence in the visual arts and Braylon Hubbard was recognized for his outstanding participation in the performing arts. They were presented with a certificate of scholarship and $1,000 for college tuition. Both students are now attending Washtenaw Community College.



BACA is pleased to announce the first-place winners as follows:

- **2 Dimension –** Diane Matz, "Hanging Garden"
- **3-D/Fiber Art –** Loel Gnadt, "Bowl"
- **Seeing America 250 Years –** Cameron Nadolski, "Happy Birthday America"
- **Photography –** Autumn Miller, "Captured the Moment"
- **Children (Ages 6-12) –** Amelia Herring, "Running in the Fast Lane"
- **Teens (Ages 13-17) –** Katherine Gregory, "Waffles"



The public was asked to vote for their favorite during the weekend event. People's Choice went to Maverick McIntosh, "View of Lake Tahoe."

Ribbons and prize money were awarded for first-, second- and third-place winners at an award ceremony on October 23. More photos of the art show and all the award winners can be seen on Facebook at Belleville Area Council for the Arts – BACA.

If you missed the art show, you can still view all the winning artwork at the Belleville Area District Library. The BACA prize-winning works of art will be on display until the end of the year.

Other BACA programs include cultural outings, music lakeside summer series, community art and student scholarships. For more information visit: www.bacaart.org.



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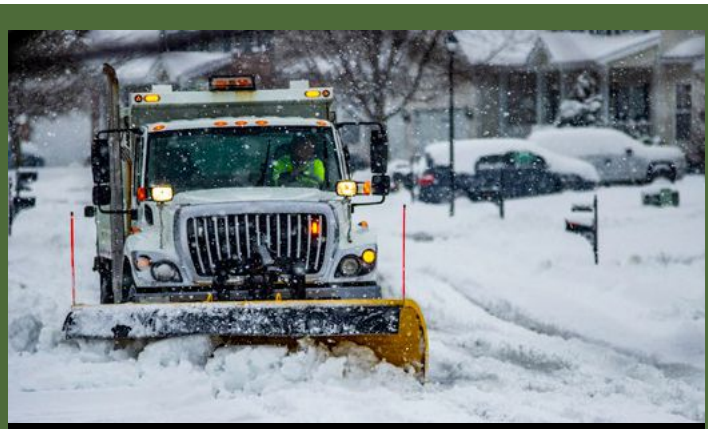

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AROUND Van Buren

December – February

DECEMBER

December 3
Greeting Card Workshop
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Van Buren Senior Center
46425 Tyler Road
Workshop for senior members. Participants will be guided step-by-step to craft stunning, personalized masterpieces for any occasion. No experience needed, just bring your imagination and a smile.

December 4,6,11-13
Yes, Virginia, There is a Santa Claus – Van Buren Community Players
Van Buren Community Center
Black Box Theater
46425 Tyler Road
When young Virginia wonders whether Santa Claus is real, she turns to the adults around her for an answer. Her question inspires a heartfelt journey that explores the magic of Christmas, the importance of believing and the kindness that lives in the hearts of people. Based on the beloved 1897 newspaper editorial, the play reminds audiences that some of the most wonderful things in life cannot always be seen, but can be felt through love, hope and generosity.

December 5-22
Festival of Holiday Trees
Tuesdays: 12-4 p.m.
Thursdays: 1-7 p.m.
Saturdays: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Belleville Area Museum
405 Main Street
A beloved local tradition that transforms the museum into a festive winter wonderland. Visitors of all ages are invited to experience the magic of the season in this cozy, historic space during regular museum hours. Admission is free; however, donations are welcome.

December 7, January 4, February 1
Birthday Monday
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Van Buren Senior Center
46425 Tyler Road
Join us for our monthly Birthday Monday to celebrate the month's birthdays with friendship, sweet treats and a special "Happy Birthday"! Everyone is welcome, even if it is not your birthday. To enjoy lunch, please call (734) 699-8918 by Wednesday prior to reserve your meal. Senior members only.

December 8
Watercolor Weeknight
6:30-7:30 p.m.
Van Buren Community Center
46425 Tyler Road
This beginner-friendly session is perfect for all skill levels – no experience needed and features a new project: Christmas Gift Tags. All supplies are provided – aprons aren't required but you're welcome to bring one if you'd like. Ages 6 years and up. Small class size, so register early!

December 10
Senior Christmas Party
12:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Van Buren Community Center
46425 Tyler Road
Join us for a festive afternoon at our annual Member's Christmas Party! Enjoy a delicious buffet lunch, dancing and fun giveaways as we celebrate the holiday season together. Tickets are limited, so be sure to register by December 1!

December 18
Jingle Bell Bingo
12:00 – 2:00 p.m.
Van Buren Senior Center
46425 Tyler Road
This member-only bingo afternoon is sure to get you in the holiday spirit. Your afternoon will include the following: two bingo cards (each card has three games). We will play four games of bingo and enjoy drinks, snacks and prizes. Jingle bells will be provided or bring your own!



December 19
Elf School
(AKA Parent's Night Out)
Van Buren Community Center
5:30-8:00 p.m.
Aspen Room
46425 Tyler Road
Calling all future elves! Drop the kids off for a magical evening at Elf School, where they'll learn what it takes to be one of Santa's helpers. Kids ages 5-12 will enjoy an evening filled with holiday games, festive crafts and elvish fun all while enjoying a pizza dinner with new friends. While the kids are busy training to be the North Pole's newest recruits, parents can enjoy a well-deserved night out!

JANUARY

January 4-9

Fitness Class Free Demo Week - FREE

Schedule TBD
Van Buren Community Center
46425 Tyler Road

Fall Fitness classes are ramping up and taking registrations. Are you thinking about yoga, step aerobics, Zumba, TRX, or our other fitness classes, but not sure what they are like? Join us this week for a free trial class. Please see our website for class details. Pre-registration required.

January 6

Red Cross – Blood Drive

12:00 - 6:00 p.m.
Van Buren Senior Center
46425 Tyler Road

Help make a difference in our community by donating blood! Your generous donation can help save lives and provide critical support to patients in need. For more information or to register, please call the Senior Center at (734) 699-8921.

January 27

Coffee with a Cop

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Van Buren Senior Center
46425 Tyler Road

Join us for coffee and donuts and get to know your township police officers in a relaxed, friendly setting. All are welcome to enjoy the morning, ask questions, share your thoughts, and connect with the officers who serve our community. Please preregister in advance.

January 29

Family Bingo Bash

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Van Buren Community Center
46425 Tyler Road

Family Bingo Bash is back for an evening of fun, food and prizes! Each participant will receive three bingo cards to play in five exciting rounds with prizes for the winners. Enjoy pizza, pop and snacks while spending quality time with family and friends. Children under 14 years old must be accompanied by an adult.

FEBRUARY

February 13

Paint Yer Partner

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Van Buren Community Center
46425 Tyler Road

Grab your sweetheart for Valentine's Day or your bestie for Galentine's Day and get ready to paint each other! Create a fun and simple portrait while laughing, getting creative and remembering not to take yourself, or your artistic skills, too seriously. All supplies and light refreshments are provided. Sign up soon as class size is limited!

February 20

Family Sweetheart Dance

4:00 – 6:00 p.m.
Van Buren Community Center
46425 Tyler Road

Celebrate love and family at our Family Sweethearts Dance! Enjoy an evening of dancing with a live DJ, fun photo booth opportunities, light snacks, punch, and a simple craft to make together. It's the perfect night to dress up, make memories and capture special moments with the ones you love. Tickets are needed for each individual age 5 and older.

PLEASE NOTE: Event details may have changed. Please check event website or social pages for the most up-to-date information.





BELLEVILLE WINTERFEST

DEC 3RD - 6TH, 2026

Celebrate. Shop. Dine. Enjoy.

Presented by 48111 bacc Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce

BELLEVILLE AREA CHAMBER FOUNDATION

THURSDAY – DECEMBER 3RD

Ladies Night Out Pop-Up Shops
Time: 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Location: Fourth Street Square, Fourth Street Place & Local Businesses

FRIDAY – DECEMBER 4TH

Soup Crawl
Time: 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Location: Start at Fourth Street Square

Santa Dance Party w/ DJ Richendollar
Time: 8:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.
**All ages welcome until 9:30 p.m.*
Location: Fourth Street Square

SATURDAY – DECEMBER 5TH

Holiday Village Activities
Time: 11:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Location: Fourth Street Place

Food Trucks
Time: 11:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Location: Fourth Street Place

Inflatables + Tubing Slide
Time: Noon – 5:00 p.m. (Weather Permitting)
Location: Fourth and Main St.

Wildlife Safari Animal Shows
Time: 11:00 a.m. & 2:00 p.m.
Location: Fourth Street Square

SATURDAY – DECEMBER 5TH (CONTINUED)

Carriage Rides
Time: 11:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Location: Fourth and Main St.

Music by Sweet Willie Tea
Time: 11:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Location: Main St. Stage

Live Music
Time: Noon – 2:00 p.m.
Location: Fourth St. Place

Live Music
Time: 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Location: Fourth St. Place

Annual Light Parade – Elves
Time: 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Location: Main Street

Santa at the Library
Time: After the parade
Location: Belleville Area District Library

Winter Fest Fireworks
Time: 8:00 p.m. – Weather Permitting
Location: View from Downtown

Silent Disco w/ Live DJ
Time: 8:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m., all ages
Location: Fourth St. Place

Live Music
Time: 8:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.
**All ages welcome until 9:30 p.m.*
Location: Fourth Street Square

SUNDAY – DECEMBER 6TH

Pancake Breakfast with Santa
Time: 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Location: Fourth Street Square

Carriage Rides
Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Location: Fourth and Main St.

FOLLOW US

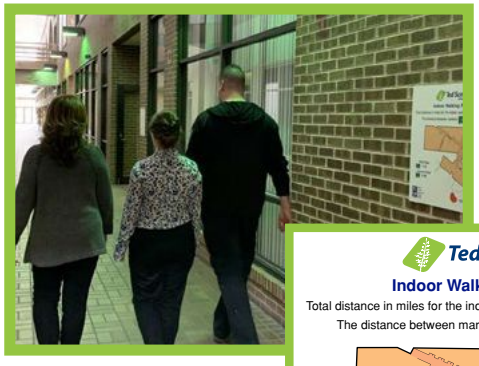
bacc48111.com/festivals

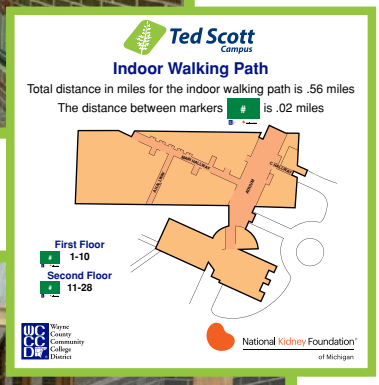
Wayne County Community College District

Ted Scott Campus

HEALTHY LIVING INDOOR WALKING PATH

AT WCCCD TED SCOTT CAMPUS







TED SCOTT CAMPUS

9555 Haggerty Road
Belleville, MI 48111

CAMPUS HOURS

MONDAY	9:00 A.M. - 7:00 P.M.
TUESDAY	9:00 A.M. - 7:00 P.M.
WEDNESDAY	9:00 A.M. - 7:00 P.M.
THURSDAY	9:00 A.M. - 7:00 P.M.
FRIDAY	9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.
SATURDAY	9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M



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Happy Holidays.

From our family to yours.



Wishing you a safe, healthy,
and Happy New Year.

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