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Van Buren

T O D A Y



BELLEVILLE BANDS AT 100

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*For more information, visit the township's
website at www.vbtmi.gov.*

One Customer, One Family, One Moment

Jacob Matthew Jewelers wants to be there for
your special occasions

JEWELRY often marks life's most meaningful moments – a graduation, an engagement, a wedding, an anniversary. It could be a family heirloom passed from one generation to the next. For many people, the process can feel hard to navigate.

At Jacob Matthew Jewelers, we believe purchasing or repairing jewelry should feel personal, educational and meaningful. That's why we guide each customer through the process with care, transparency and expertise. With advice and consultation, you can then make an informed decision confidently.

"It's not just a purchase or repair to us at Jacob Matthew Jewelers," said owner Tammy Haggerty. "We want to establish a relationship for generations to come. Our favorite thing to see is a young man who starts buying for mom, then a girlfriend. That girlfriend may then turn into his wife, and then comes baby! We enjoy growing with their family and experiencing their joy."

Whether designing a custom piece, restoring a treasured family heirloom or helping someone celebrate a milestone, our focus extends beyond the jewelry itself – we focus on the story behind it.

With almost a decade in business, Jacob Matthew Jewelers has built a reputation of not only expertise and trust, but also of exceptional customer service and a deep commitment to our community. We are invested in our neighbors and community in both Canton and Plymouth, as well as surrounding areas.

"We view Canton and Plymouth as one community," Haggerty said. "Our schools work collectively on one campus. We as a store are fluidly involved in each town's events and celebrations."

Haggerty sits on the Plymouth Chamber of Commerce board to further her commitment to businesses and residents in the community.

Jewelry matters because the moment matters. Every piece represents a relationship, memory, celebration or milestone. One customer, one family, one meaningful moment at a time.



- 6** Mark Your Calendar for This Year's Angel Food Catering Craft Show, Corn & Cider Fest!
- 8** What's Happening At Your Library?
- 9** A Message from VBPS Superintendent Pete Kudlak
- 9** VBPS 2026-27 Parent Calendar
- 10** VBPS HR Spotlight:
We will miss these retiring staff members!
- 15** Belleville High School News
- 16** BHS Career Technical Education Gets Students Certified and Ready
- 18** VBPS Athletics
- 20** VBPS Stormwater Management Public Notice
- 21** Notice of Car Wash Fundraising Events
- 22** The Beat Goes On
A celebration of 100 years of Belleville Bands
- 24** McBride Middle School
- 25** Owen Intermediate
- 26** Edgemont Elementary
- 27** Rawsonville Elementary
- 28** Savage Elementary
- 29** Tyler Elementary
- 30** VBPS Custodial Teams
Our Schools are Better Because of You
- 32** Discover What's New This Fall with VBPS Community Education!
- 33** VBPS Extended Care Program:
We've Got You!
- 34** VBPS Expands Early Reading Support with K-2 Take-Home Literacy Kits



- 35** DDA: Upcoming Events
- 36** Summertime in Van Buren
- 40** Iron Belle Trail Project Continues to Take Shape
- 42** Fall Into Fitness at the Van Buren Community Center
- 43** DDA: Happy Birthday Harris Park!
Come out and celebrate with us on August 26
- 44** VBT Recreation:
Sweet Traditions and Rolling Good Times
- 45** DDA: Scarecrows in the Park is Back!
- 46** Van Buren Senior Center
- 47** Fire
Household hazardous waste information, car seat safety, smoke detector program
- 50** Standing Together
VBT and surrounding communities win fight to stop radioactive waste landfilling

- 52 Belleville Lake Project**
Township working with environmental consultant to rid water of nuisance aquatic growth
- 54 Township Development Updates**
- 55 From Vietnam to Willow Run**
Michigan Flight Museum restores iconic B-52 bomber
- 56 History**
The Story of Maggie Hope: Life as a woman in historic Van Buren
- 58 Hear Them Roar**
Lady Tigers flag football team makes Belleville High School history
- 60 Spotlight**
Van Buren's Chad Conway creates compelling visual narratives
- 61 DDA District Map: Support Local Business!**
- 62 BACA News**
- 63 To Your Health!**
Decoding Eggs
- 64 Around Van Buren**
- 66 Ry'Ann's Purpose**
Grieving mother turns tragedy into legacy of service



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To advertise in the next issue call Mark Fisher at (313) 218-7117 or email mfisher@communitypublishing.com

From the SUPERVISOR

DEAR Neighbors,
We are continuing to invest in Van Buren Township's future.

Grant funding will bring sidewalks in the Haggerty Subdivision into ADA compliance, making our community safer and more connected. Construction is underway on another section of the Iron Belle Trail, and recently the township hosted a contractor networking event connecting local businesses and skilled trades with opportunities tied to upcoming development projects. Planning is also moving forward for future improvements around Belleville Lake as Wayne County begins survey work along the Delaney and Branch Drain and Edison Lake.

As Van Buren Township continues to grow, we remain focused on ensuring that new development delivers meaningful benefits for our community. Through negotiated developmental agreements with Google, Stellantis, Ashley Capital and the State of Michigan, the township has secured commitments that include long-term infrastructure improvements, tens of millions of dollars for new roads, parks, sidewalks, and water and sewer infrastructure.

These substantial investments will benefit residents through improved infrastructure, enhanced public amenities and continued community growth.

The Denton Road Bridge project is complete, and we are now waiting for the final intersection improvements at Belleville Road and Liberty Street. Watch for details on the upcoming ribbon-cutting ceremony.

On behalf of the Township Board and our entire staff, thank you for your continued support and for making Van Buren Township such a wonderful place to live, work and play. We appreciate the opportunity to serve this community and look forward to seeing you at these upcoming events as we continue building an even stronger Van Buren Township together.

Sincerely,

Kevin McNamara
Supervisor, Van Buren Township



Come Celebrate with Us!

Angel Food Catering hosts Craft Show, Corn & Cider Fest in September

By Judy and Mike Maynard, Owners of Angel Food Catering

ANGEL Food Catering's Craft Show, Corn and Cider Fest all started during COVID in 2020. Our team wanted to showcase our food and love of events. We also wanted to offer an opportunity for other small businesses to make sales and for local families to have a safe, outdoor experience when the world was locked down. So we thought, why not create an event using our space here at Angel Food?

We reached out on social media and procured many vendors, pony rides from a local farm, corn from Budd's produce stand down the street, apple cider and donuts from several local orchards, and we also contacted the Van Buren Fire Department to see if they would bring a fire truck.

We expected maybe 100-200 guests. Needless to say, we were blown away when around 600 people showed up.

It felt good to have success and see so many smiling faces.

Families brought their children to play, eat, drink cider and browse the vendor tables. We had set up a fall backdrop and many took advantage of it and had their pictures taken.

While Angel Food enjoyed seeing the community come together, we had to take a hiatus from our festival in 2021 and 2022 due to our increased event schedule.

In 2023, we circled a date on the calendar to bring our festival back for the community to enjoy. We decided we wanted to make it a yearly event from then on.

Now, Van Buren Township Fire and Police come out and bring their vehicles, firefighters and police officers. It is a big hit for the kids to get into the vehicles, turn the lights on and interact with our local heroes.

To eliminate parking issues, we team up with our friends from Holiday Inn Express on the N. I-94 Service Drive in Belleville to help extend parking, with a shuttle going between their parking lot and our festival. The shuttle drivers and team at Holiday Inn Express are wonderful partners for this event.

We have about 40 crafters with a variety of different unique items, jewelry, handmade items, home decor and seasonal items. Perfect for early Christmas shopping or stocking stuffers!

This is also a great way to meet our neighbors in Van Buren Township, Belleville, Canton, Romulus and Ypsilanti.

We at Angel Food Catering are humble and grateful for the catering business you all trust us with, and our 52 employees want to say thanks to all of you in the community.

This event is one way of giving back. We also donate to HOPE Clinic in Ypsilanti, Circles through Friends in Deed, Guiding Harbor, Ronald McDonald House and juvenile diabetes, to name a few. Some of the proceeds from this event will benefit these wonderful services.

We are now about to embark on our sixth year of the festival, and are very excited and hope to see you out having fun at our Craft Show, Corn and Cider Fest.

Blessings to you all!



**ANGEL FOOD CATERING
CRAFT SHOW, CORN & CIDER FEST**

**Sunday, September 20
12-5 p.m.**

**44850 N. Interstate 94 Service Drive
Belleville**



ANGEL FOOD CATERING'S
2026
CRAFT SHOW
CORN & CIDER
FEST
+ PONY RIDES



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20TH
12 PM - 5PM



ANGEL FOOD CATERING GARAGE

44850 N INTERSTATE 94 SERVICE DR. BELLEVILLE, MI



313.516.0271

533 Main Street,
Belleville, MI 48111



Treat Yo Gelf!



Stay Summer Ready by keeping
up with your self-care massages
at Soothing Hands Massage!

You can schedule your massage session at www.soothinghandsmassage.com or
call of you have questions. *I'll see you soon!* - Calais Tuddles, Owner

Here's What's Coming to your Library . . .

Tutors Needed

Our Adult Literacy and ESL tutoring programs are in need of volunteer tutors. Training provided at the library with the Washtenaw Literacy Council.

- Thursday, September 3, 10 a.m.–1 p.m.
- Saturday, September 5, 11 a.m.–1 p.m.
- Thursday, September 10, 10 a.m.–12 p.m.
- Saturday, September 12, 11 a.m.–2 p.m.

Please contact Outreach Librarian Jennifer Richardson at (734) 699-3291 or jrichardson@belleville.lib.mi.us for more information or to register.

Make sure you can vote!

Community Resource Day: Vital Documents and Voter Services: Friday, September 4, 11 a.m.–3 p.m.

Need help finding important records? Join us for a one-stop event designed to make essential civic documentation easier to access. Voter education and registration onsite.

Featured Programs

- **Somatic Practice Series:** Wednesdays, 6 p.m., September 2, 16, 30
A four-part series designed to bring mind and body into alignment. Each session employs a range of somatic practices, including yoga, meditation, reiki, and breathwork.
- **Chair Yoga:** Thursdays, 12–1 p.m., September 10, October 15, November 12

Genealogy Series

- **Vital Records and Where to Find Them:** Saturday, September 19, 2 p.m.
- **Hopping Through History: Making Sense of The Census:** Saturday, November 7, 2 p.m.
- **Obituaries – The Final Word:** Saturday, December 5, 2 p.m.

For Kids And Teens

- **Dog Man:** Saturday, November 21, 3–4:30 p.m.
Let's have a paw-some time celebrating Dog Man with games, activities, and giveaways.
- **Comic Book Club** (Grades 4–6):
Tuesdays, 6:30–7:30 p.m.,
September 15, October 20 and
November 17
- **Teen Craft Club** (Ages 12–18): September 29,
October 27 and November 24, 4 p.m. *Please Register.*
- **Teen/Tween Comic Book Club** (Grades 7–12):
Third Monday of the month, 6:30–7:30 p.m.
Registration required.



Gardening

- **Garden Round Table:** Saturdays, 11 a.m.
September 19 - Harvesting and Preserving
November 21 - Indoor Gardening
- **Seed Saving for Beginners with MSU Extension:**
Saturday, September 26, 11 a.m.
- **Preparing your Garden for Winter with MSU extension:** Saturday, October 24, 11 a.m.

Special Programs

- **Sustainable Fashion: How to Transform Old Clothes into New Treasures:** Monday, September 14, 6 p.m.
- **Pewabic: Detroit's Pottery:** Thursday, September 17, 6:30 p.m.
Learn about the 123-year legacy of Detroit's renowned Pewabic Pottery.
- **How to Hunt Ghosts: Paranormal Investigation for Beginners and Beyond:** Wednesday, October 7, 6 p.m., 6:30 p.m.
- **Weirder than Fiction:** Wednesday, October 14, 6:30 p.m.
Paranormal researcher and author John E.L. Tenney shares thought-provoking insights into mysteries that defy easy explanation.
- **Telescope Night at the Library:** Thursday, October 22, 6:30 p.m. -
Sumpter Media Center
The Warren Astronomical Society will share insights about space and set up telescopes for hands-on, educational stargazing.
- **Witches of The Wheel:** Wednesday, October 28, 6 p.m.
Local author Lindsay Merbaum brings an evening of magic and literature exploring her new book, "Witches of the Wheel." Plus, themed mocktails and witchy trivia. Intended for adult audiences. Please register.
- **Detroit Movie City: A Century of Film in the Motor City:** Thursday, November 12, 6:30 p.m.
A fascinating review of cinema in the Motor City.
- **Jazz Night at the Library - Erinn Alexis Trio:**
Wednesday, November 18, 7 p.m.
- **Friends of the BADL Used Book Sale:** Saturday, November 7, Noon–3 p.m., Sunday, November 8, 1–3 p.m.



Plus: Storytimes, Book Groups, and more!

Visit our events page <https://belleville.libcal.com/calendar> to see everything we offer!



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

MESSAGE FROM *The Superintendent*



Strong Beginnings, Bright Futures

VBPS Community,

As the 2026-2027 school year gets set to begin, I want to welcome you all back to another fantastic year with Van Buren Public Schools!



There is something special about August, the energy and anticipation that comes with a new school year is unlike anything else. Students are walking into new classrooms, reconnecting with friends, meeting new teachers, and stepping into a fresh start full of possibility.

As educators, we never take for granted the privilege of being part of that. Every new school year is a new beginning, and we get to share in that excitement each and every year.

In this issue of *Van Buren Today*, you will read about some truly remarkable things happening in our schools and community.

This year marks a monumental milestone: the 100th anniversary of the Belleville High School Band. One hundred years of music, performance, tradition, and excellence is something our entire community can be immensely proud of. This centennial is a wonderful occasion to celebrate a program that has been a source of school spirit and artistic achievement for generations of VBPS students.

This issue also highlights the exciting expansion of our Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs. By growing these offerings, we are giving students the chance to explore meaningful career pathways, earn industry-recognized credentials, and graduate with real-world skills and confidence. Whether their future leads to a university, a skilled trade, healthcare, technology, or anywhere in between, we know our students will be prepared.

The future is bright at Van Buren Public Schools. We have outstanding programs, a deeply committed staff, and a community that shows up for its kids time and time again. I am grateful every day for the privilege of serving alongside such dedicated professionals and for the trust you place in us.

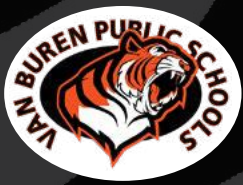
Van Buren Public Schools – Strong Beginnings, Bright Futures!

Pete Kudlak
Superintendent



2026-2027 VBPS Parent Calendar

August 31	First day of school, ½ day for all students
September 4–7	No school, Labor Day
October 7	Count Day
October 14	Evening conferences, grades 7-12
October 15	½ day for grades 7-12 / BHS/MMS afternoon and evening conferences, grades 7-12
October 16	½ day for staff/students, BHS/MMS
October 30	½ day all students; end of first marking period
November 3	Election Day, no school for students
November 11	Evening conferences, elementary Owen
November 12	½ day for grades K-6 / elementary Owen afternoon and evening conferences grades K-6
November 13	½ day for staff/students, elementary and Owen
November 25–27	No school, Thanksgiving break
Dec. 21– Jan. 1, 2027	No school, winter break
January 4	Classes resume
January 18	No school, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
January 20–21	HS exams
January 22	½ day all students, HS exams, end of first semester
February 9	½ day for all students
February 10	Count Day
February 15	No school, mid-winter break
March 4	½ day all students, district afternoon and evening conferences
March 5	½ day staff and students
March 26– April 2	No school, spring break
April 5	Classes resume
April 9	End of third marking period
April 23	½ day for all students
May 4	½ day for all students
May 31	No school, Memorial Day
June 9–10	Full day all students, HS exams
June 11	½ day all students, HS exams; last day of school



SPOTLIGHT ON HUMAN RESOURCE DEPARTMENT

Retiring Staff

We will miss your hard work, dedication and compassion

MARCIA KENNEDY

After 28 years with Van Buren Public Schools, Marcia leaves behind a remarkable legacy of service, kindness and dedication. A proud Belleville High School Class of 1982 graduate, she has truly been a Tiger for life. Throughout her career, whether in the library or counseling office, Marcia built meaningful connections with students, often sharing her love of reading and helping them discover books they would enjoy.



Known for her attention to detail, strong work ethic and willingness to go above and beyond, Marcia has been an invaluable resource to staff, students and co-op students alike. Her mentorship has equipped countless students with skills that have benefited them long after graduation, and many have returned to share their successes with her.

Colleagues describe Marcia as caring, knowledgeable, organized, and always willing to help. Her encouraging words, kind smile and support for students and families have made a lasting impact throughout the district. She has also been a trusted friend, a prayer warrior and someone who could always brighten the day with stories about her beloved grandchildren.

While her retirement leaves a tremendous void, Marcia's influence will continue through the many lives she has touched. Her dedication, compassion and friendship will be deeply missed, but we wish her endless joy as she spends more time with family and embraces this exciting new chapter.

RACHEL JAGER

Rachel Jager is an exceptional teacher, mentor, colleague, and friend whose impact on Belleville High School has been felt for decades. Throughout her career, Rachel has been known for her willingness to support others, sharing her knowledge, guidance, encouragement, and wisdom with both students and fellow educators. Her dedication to helping others succeed has left a lasting impression on countless individuals.



Rachel's influence extends far beyond the classroom. She has devoted herself to helping students believe in their abilities and reach their full potential. Her classroom was a place where students felt supported, challenged and valued. She consistently demonstrated a genuine

commitment to student success and worked tirelessly to help each student achieve their goals.

As a respected member of the math department, Rachel has been a source of leadership, collaboration and professionalism. She has mentored teachers, shared ideas freely and helped strengthen the culture of the department and school community. Her contributions have played an important role in shaping the success of Belleville High School.

Through life's joys and challenges, Rachel has exemplified faith, resilience, strength, and grace. She has inspired those around her – not only through her work as an educator but also through the way she approaches life with dignity, compassion and perseverance.

Belleville High School will greatly miss Rachel's presence, but her legacy will continue through the students she taught, the colleagues she supported and the lives she touched throughout her career.

Congratulations on your retirement, Rachel. Thank you for your years of service and dedication. Once a Tiger, forever a Tiger!

YEVONNE HOCHBAUM

Yevonne Hochbaum had a dedication to food service that made a lasting impact on students, staff and the entire school community.

Retirement marks the closure of a chapter filled with early mornings, long days and steady commitment. Yevonne approached her work with dependability, professionalism and pride. In a role that requires constant teamwork, organization and resilience, she consistently met every challenge with care and determination.

What truly set Yevonne apart was the way she treated others. Whether greeting students with a warm smile, supporting coworkers during busy shifts or maintaining a positive presence in the kitchen, she created an environment of kindness and consistency. For many students, the cafeteria was more than a place to eat – it was a welcoming space, and Yevonne helped make that possible every day.

Her work may have often happened behind the scenes, but its impact was seen and felt by everyone she served. She earned the respect and appreciation of her colleagues and the gratitude of the school community.

As she begins this new chapter, we hope Yevonne takes



pride in all she has accomplished. Retirement brings the opportunity to rest, spend time with loved ones and enjoy the things that matter most.

Thank you, Yevonne, for your years of service, dedication and heart. You will be greatly missed, and we wish you happiness and health in the years ahead.

DIANE MARTTILA

Diane Marttila had a remarkable career and she made a lasting impact on all of us.

Retirement is a milestone that reflects years of dedication, hard work and commitment, and Diane has more than earned this moment. Throughout her career, she brought professionalism, skill and a steady sense of calm to everything she did. She also brought kindness, patience and a positive attitude that made a difference in the workplace every day.

Diane has been someone others could always depend on. No matter how busy or challenging the day became, she approached her work with grace, consistency and determination. She gave her best effort and supported those around her without hesitation, setting an example through both her actions and her attitude.

What many of us will remember most is the way Diane treated people. She built meaningful relationships, offered encouragement and helped create an environment where others felt valued and supported. Her smile, humor and caring nature left a lasting impression on everyone fortunate enough to work with her.

A career is not only measured in years but in the lives touched along the way. Diane's legacy can be seen in the respect she earned, the friendships she formed and the positive example she set every day.

As she begins this next chapter, we hope retirement brings Diane time to relax, enjoy family and friends and focus on the things that bring her joy.

Thank you, Diane, for your years of service, dedication, compassion, and friendship. Congratulations on an outstanding career and a well-deserved retirement.



CAROLYN BROOKS

Carolyn Brooks has given many years of dedication, care and commitment throughout her career. She leaves behind a legacy built on hard work, kindness and consistency.

Throughout her years of service, Carolyn was more than a coworker. She was a steady and dependable presence, someone others could rely on in both busy and challenging moments. Her strong work



ethic and willingness to help others made a lasting difference in the workplace.

What truly set Carolyn apart was how she made others feel welcome, valued and respected every day. Her kindness, positive attitude and willingness to support those around her created an environment where people felt appreciated and encouraged.

The impact Carolyn has made can be seen in the relationships she built and the many lives she touched along the way. Those connections and memories will remain long after her retirement.

As she begins this next chapter, we hope Carolyn enjoys time filled with peace, joy, laughter, and the freedom to do the things she loves most, whether that is traveling, spending time with family and friends or simply enjoying each day at her own pace.

Thank you, Carolyn, for your years of service, dedication, compassion, and friendship. You will be greatly missed, and your legacy will continue to be felt for years to come.

Congratulations on your well-earned retirement.

MARQUIS HOBSON

We celebrate and honor Marquis Hobson for his years of dedicated service as a school bus driver and his lasting impact on our school community.

Being a bus driver is much more than transportation – it is a role built on safety, trust, patience, and care. Every day, Marquis carried one of the most important responsibilities in education: safely transporting students to and from school. Families placed their trust in him, and he honored that trust with consistency, professionalism and pride.

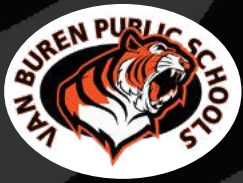
Over the years, Marquis became more than just a driver. He was a steady and familiar presence, often one of the first and last school faces students saw each day. His kindness, greetings and calm demeanor helped create a safe and welcoming environment that students could depend on.

The work of a bus driver comes with many challenges – early mornings, long hours, changing weather, traffic, and unexpected delays – but Marquis met each of these with dedication and a strong sense of responsibility. His commitment never wavered.

We thank Marquis for the years he has given to our district and community. His impact can be seen in the many students he safely transported, the families he supported and the coworkers who valued his presence.

As he begins retirement, we hope this next chapter





SPOTLIGHT ON HUMAN RESOURCE DEPARTMENT

Retirees continued from page 11

brings him rest, joy and time with family and friends. He has more than earned it.

Congratulations, Marquis Hobson, and thank you for your faithful service.

SHARON LESNIAK

We celebrate Sharon and recognize her years of dedicated service as a school bus aide, supporting students, families and staff throughout our community.

The role of a bus aide is one of great importance. It requires patience, compassion, attentiveness, and heart. Every day, Sharon helped ensure that students were safe, supported and cared for during their transportation to and from school.

Over the years, Sharon created a welcoming and reassuring environment for countless students. She comforted those who were nervous, supported students through challenging moments and consistently treated every child with kindness and respect. Her presence helped make the bus a safe and positive space where students felt seen and valued.

Sharon's dedication did not go unnoticed. Through early mornings, long days, unpredictable weather, and the many unexpected situations that come with the job, she remained dependable and committed. Her positive spirit and reliability made a lasting difference in the lives of students and colleagues alike.

She also built strong relationships with drivers, coworkers, families, and students, strengthening the sense of community within our transportation team.

As Sharon begins retirement, we hope she takes pride in the many lives she has touched. This next chapter brings well-earned rest, time with loved ones and new opportunities to enjoy life at a slower pace.

On behalf of the administration, staff, students, and families, thank you, Sharon, for your years of service, kindness, and dedication. You will be greatly missed, and we wish you a happy and fulfilling retirement.

DEBBIE GERST

We celebrate Debbie Gerst, an incredible educator, colleague, and friend.

For 21 years, Debbie has served students in our district with unwavering dedication, professionalism and compassion. While her years of service are impressive, it is the daily impact she made that truly defines her legacy.

Debbie created a classroom environment built on both



structure and care. Students knew they were safe, supported and encouraged to grow academically, socially and emotionally. She balanced high expectations with genuine understanding, helping students achieve success in meaningful and lasting ways.

In special education, the work requires patience, flexibility and heart – qualities Debbie demonstrated consistently throughout her career. She has been a strong advocate for her students and a reliable partner to families and colleagues. Her commitment to doing what is best for kids has never wavered.

Debbie's calm presence, thoughtful insight and student-centered approach have left a lasting impression. She has been someone others could always count on – steady, caring and deeply committed to her work.

Debbie's influence extends far beyond her classroom. She has helped shape a supportive and compassionate school community, and her absence will be deeply felt by students and staff alike.

As she begins this next chapter, we hope it brings her joy, rest and time to enjoy all she has earned after years of giving so much to others.

Thank you, Debbie, for 21 years of service, dedication and heart. Congratulations on your retirement – you will be greatly missed.

RANDY FISHER

Over the years, Randy Fisher has dedicated himself to serving students across multiple schools in our district, stepping in where he is needed most. His willingness to support different buildings and adapt to a variety of roles speaks volumes about his commitment and flexibility.

Randy is someone who truly embodies dedication and compassion. No matter the situation, he shows up ready to help, ready to listen and ready to do whatever it takes to support students and staff. He has a calm, steady presence that people rely on.

What makes Randy especially unique is the lasting impression he leaves wherever he goes. That speaks to the consistency of who he is and the impact he has had across the district.

It has been a privilege to work alongside Randy. His dedication, compassion and reliability have made a lasting impression, and he is someone who will be deeply missed.

Randy, your contributions have strengthened our schools and supported countless students along the way.

Thank you for your years of service, your compassion and your unwavering support of our school community.

Congratulations on your retirement!



KATHY YATES

For 30 years, Kathy has dedicated herself to serving students, supporting staff and strengthening our district in meaningful and lasting ways. Three decades of service represent thousands of moments of care, patience and commitment that have shaped the lives of many students and colleagues.



Kathy has consistently been the perfect balance of heart and structure. She brought compassion to every interaction, meeting students where they were and helping them grow with understanding and encouragement. At the same time, she provided organization and consistency that helped classrooms and teams run smoothly, creating stability for those around her.

Just as important, Kathy brought joy wherever she went. Whether at staff gatherings, school events or during the everyday moments in between, she shared laughter, energy and a sense of fun that lifted those around her. She reminded everyone that while education is important work, it should also be filled with connection and positivity.

Kathy's impact cannot be fully measured. It lives on in the confidence of the students she supported, the gratitude of the colleagues she worked alongside and the strong sense of community she helped build throughout the district.

On behalf of the entire district, thank you, Kathy, for 30 years of dedication, service and heart. You have made this a better place for everyone. As you begin this next chapter, we hope it brings you rest, joy and time to enjoy all that you have earned. You will be deeply missed, but your legacy will remain.

Congratulations on your retirement.

WILLIAM FRAZIER

We celebrate an incredible milestone, and honor Mr. William Frazier as he retires after 38 years of dedicated service to Van Buren Public Schools.

Thirty-eight years represents more than a career – it represents a legacy of commitment, reliability and care that has supported generations of students, staff and families throughout the district.

It quickly became clear that he is someone who is always willing to help. No matter the task or how busy the day may be, he consistently steps in with a positive attitude and a strong willingness to serve.



Much of William's work over the years has taken place behind the scenes, but its impact is seen every day in the safe, welcoming and well-supported environments our schools depend on. His dedication and strong work ethic have made a meaningful difference in the success of our buildings and the people within them.

What stands out most is not only what William has done but who he is. His kindness, dependability and quiet leadership have earned the respect and appreciation of those around him and set a strong example for others to follow.

William, thank you for your 38 years of service to Van Buren Public Schools. Your contributions have truly mattered, and your legacy will not be forgotten. As you begin retirement, we wish you health, happiness and time to enjoy all the things you love most.

Congratulations, William, and thank you for everything.

JACK LORIA

We have the privilege of honoring a true cornerstone of the Belleville community and a valued member of our Edgemont family, our retiring paraprofessional, Jack Loria.

Before joining our district, Jack spent a lifetime serving others, including a 30-year career at American Airlines, 27 years as fire chief and a term as interim mayor of Belleville. His life has been defined by leadership, service and a deep commitment to his community.

For the past 19 years in Van Buren Public Schools, and the past decade at Edgemont, Jack has brought that same dedication to our students. He built meaningful relationships, especially with those who needed extra support, and consistently made a difference in their day-to-day lives.

When asked his approach to helping a student on a difficult day, Jack said it best: "You just have to sit and listen. Sometimes that's all they need – to know they're heard."

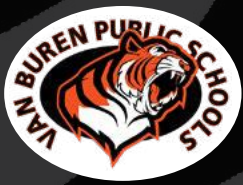
That simple philosophy captures the heart of his work and the impact he has had on countless students.

Jack also brought humor, energy and personality to our staff. His laughter could be heard throughout the building, and his ability to connect with colleagues made him a true source of joy and unity within our school family.

While he may be retiring, Jack is not going far and will no doubt continue cheering on students and offering his support whenever needed.

Thank you, Jack, for your decades of service and for making a lasting difference. Congratulations on your retirement!





SPOTLIGHT ON HUMAN RESOURCE DEPARTMENT

Retirees continued from page 13

KATHLEEN HINER

We honor and celebrate the retirement of Edgemont's outstanding art teacher, Kathleen Hiner, who has brought color, creativity and inspiration to our school community.

Kathy's impact on the district will be lasting and deeply felt. Her classroom has been a space of safety, curiosity and imagination, where students are encouraged to explore, create and grow with confidence. Every visit to her room is a reminder of the joy that comes from students truly engaged in learning.

Kathleen has a remarkable ability to balance structure with creativity. She provides students with the foundation they need to understand artistic concepts while giving them the freedom to express their own unique ideas. As a result, every piece of student work is meaningful, original and full of personality.

With a career that has included teaching computer science, elementary grades, media, technology, and ultimately art, Kathleen brings a wealth of experience and passion to everything she does. For the past 11 years as an art educator, she has filled hallways with vibrant student work and built confidence in learners of all abilities.

Most importantly, she values connection – both with students and colleagues – and treasures the relationships she has built here at VBPS. As she begins retirement, she looks forward to traveling, returning home to Colorado and continuing to share her creativity through workshops and classes.

Thank you, Ms. Hiner, for helping our students see the world more beautifully. Congratulations on your retirement!



VIRGINIA BOGLE-HOGG

We celebrate Virginia Hogg and her 31 years of dedicated service to Van Buren Public Schools.

Thirty-one years in education represents far more than time – it reflects thousands of lessons taught, countless students supported and a lasting impact on families, colleagues and the entire school community. While the years can be counted, the true depth of Virginia's influence cannot.

As an Upper CI teacher at Rawsonville Elementary, Virginia was much more than an educator. She was an advocate, mentor and steady source of encouragement for every student who entered her classroom. She built strong relationships with students and families, ensuring they felt valued, supported and capable of success.



Virginia is deeply respected and appreciated by students, families, paraprofessionals, and staff alike. Her compassion, patience and commitment to doing what was best for children consistently set her apart.

It is clear that she is a bright and positive presence in our building. She consistently greeted others with kindness, offered help without hesitation and put the needs of students and staff first. Her professionalism and caring spirit helped strengthen the culture of Rawsonville Elementary.

Virginia's impact will continue to be felt through the students she taught, the families she supported and the colleagues she inspired throughout her career.

Thank you, Virginia, for 31 years of service, dedication, and heart. Congratulations on your retirement, and best wishes in this next chapter.

PAM BRADLEY

They say no one is irreplaceable, but whoever said that clearly never met Pam Bradley.

At Savage, Pam's role as media specialist has never been just about books or technology. She has been the heart of our building – the "glue" that connects ideas, people and programs. From PBIS to Leader in Me, from STEM initiatives to creative schoolwide projects, Pam has had her hand in it all, always bringing energy, creativity and care.

Pam is the person who can troubleshoot a tech issue, find the exact resource someone didn't even know they needed and then turn around and launch a new idea that brings the whole school together. She does it all with positivity, humor and an unmatched sense of purpose.

More than anything, Pam has built community. She has made the library a welcoming space and Savage a place where people genuinely enjoy coming to work. Her laughter, encouragement and steady presence have made even the most stressful days better.

Simply put, the "Pam factor" cannot be replicated. It will take more than one person to fill the space she leaves behind, because what she brings is truly one of a kind. It's hard to imagine Savage without her flamingo-loving spirit in the building.

Pam, thank you for everything you have given to this school, our students and all of us. While we will miss you tremendously, we are so excited for your next chapter.

Once a Savage Tiger, always a Savage Tiger.



Not pictured: Jack Loria and Randy Fisher.





PURPOSE EXCELLENCE ACHIEVEMENT!



At Belleville High School, students don't just attend class—they truly **walk in purpose**. Over the last five years, Principal Nicole Crockett, alongside a dedicated administrative team and staff, has cultivated a vibrant culture of **Purpose, Excellence, and Achievement!**

PATHWAYS TO FUTURE SUCCESS



13

ADVANCED
PLACEMENT (AP)
COURSES
to reduce future
college obligations



26+

CAREER &
TECHNICAL EDUCATION
(CTE) CERTIFICATION
PARTNERSHIPS

Hands-on industries including:



MECHATRONICS/
ROBOTICS



BUSINESS
MANAGEMENT



COSMETOLOGY



AVIATION



TV/GRAPHICS



MUSIC
PRODUCTION



STUDENT
INTERNSHIPS

INNOVATIVE LEARNING. REAL-WORLD RESULTS.



The Belleville **New TECH** curriculum for grades 9–12 delivers innovative, project-based learning that prepares students for tomorrow—today.



The new **Tiger Prep 9th Grade Academy** provides personalized support to ensure a successful transition to high school.



BHS ensures every student gains **REAL-WORLD EXPERIENCES, COLLEGE CREDITS,** and **PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS** long before graduation.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM: THE TIGER SPIRIT



**OUTSTANDING
ATHLETIC PROGRAMS**
Building champions on
and off the field.



**DYNAMIC
PERFORMING ARTS**
Nurturing creativity,
confidence, and
lifelong skills.



**"THE BEST BAND
IN THE LAND"**
Celebrating 100
historic years of
excellence this year!



By bridging rigorous academics with premier extracurriculars and deep administrative and staff collaboration, Belleville High School creates an environment where students are uniquely equipped to **EXCEL FAR BEYOND GRADUATION.**

GO TIGERS!

CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION at BELLEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL



Get Certified & Career Ready

Career Technical Education (CTE) provides real world experience, relevant academics, and credentials in careers you're interested in.

IS CTE A GOOD FIT?

CTE is a great option for high school students who want to:

- Gain an understanding of different career paths with opportunities for exploration or full immersion
- Experience real-world projects with opportunity for hands-on learning in high-wage, high-demand jobs
- Learn how to be a leader
- Collaborate with others and learn from industry professionals
- Align college goal(s) with opportunities to jump ahead in course work

WHAT YOU GET

Take practical high school classes and explore in-demand professions through a combination of the following options:

- Career-connected courses with option to [apply for college credits](#)
- Industry-recognized certifications and credentials
- Professional networking
- Internships
- Apprenticeships
- Leadership opportunities

WHAT YOU'LL EXPERIENCE

Move through an industry-driven program of study that integrates high school, college, and career preparation, so you're ready to enter a chosen profession sooner.

Hands-On Projects

Build, create, and design projects that simulate real-world scenarios, giving you practical experience and a deeper understanding of different career paths.

Connection with Employers

Collaborate with experienced professionals on real projects and receive guidance on working in their industry.

Relevant Academic Instruction

Learn the academic and technical skills needed to be successful in your real-world projects in the classroom.

WHY CHOOSE CTE?

Consider the following questions, and discuss them with your support system, including your counselor:

Do I enjoy working with my hands and learning by doing?

Am I interested in exploring different career options in a practical, collaborative way?

Am I motivated to prepare for the workforce through both technical skills and academics?

Do I want to further my education and workplace credentials?

YOUR OPTIONS

Accounting and Finance

One-year program. Earn Microsoft Excel and Intuit QuickBooks credentials.

Possible 9 college credit hours.



Business Management

One-year program. Earn Microsoft Word and Communication for Small Business credentials.

Possible 9 college credit hours.



Cosmetology

Two-year program. Also includes one-year Esthetics/Manicuring/Natural Hair. Earn State Cosmetology License.

Possible 24 college credit hours.



Digital Multimedia

Two-year program. Earn Adobe credentials.

Possible 15 college credit hours.



Drones FAA Part 107

Two-year program. Earn FAA Part 107 Remote Pilot Certificate.



Marketing

Two-year program. Earn Microsoft PowerPoint and Communication for Small Business credentials.

Possible 6 college credit hours.



Mechatronics

One-year program. Earn FANUC Level 1 Robot Operator credential and/or NOCTI certification.

Possible 17 college credit hours.



Teacher Cadet

Two-year program. Earn CDA or MI-YDA credential.

Possible 18 college credit hours.



William D. Ford Tech Center

Multiple programs not currently available at BHS. Apply during BHS registration period.



Meet with your counselor or CTE Coordinator to learn more and create a plan!

Jessica Romak, CTE Coordinator jromak@vanburenschools.net



www.tinyurl.com/bellevillecte



Belleville Tigers Athletics

THE Athletic Department is offering a season pass for students and spectators through GoFan for the 2026-27 school year.

Belleville High School student passes:

<https://gofan.co/event/6710459?schoolId=MI9892>.

Passes for students are \$25 (plus service fee) and will get you into all BHS home athletic events (excluding MHSAA tournament games and showcase/invitationals). Note: Student ID must be presented at the ticket gate with the pass or you will not be allowed entry.

Spectator passes:

<https://gofan.co/event/4765457?schoolId=MI9892>.

Passes for spectators are \$50 (plus service fee) and will get you into all BHS home athletic events (excluding MHSAA tournament games and showcase/invitationals).

Upcoming Events

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>.

SPRING / SUMMER RECAP

Belleville Track and Field Teams Cap Off Outstanding Seasons with State Success

The Belleville High School boys and girls track and field teams wrapped up another outstanding season, showcasing hard work, determination and impressive performances throughout the year.

Leading the way were several Tigers who qualified for the MHSAA State Meet. Peyton Trammer (100m dash and 200m dash), Jaiden Rutley (110m High Hurdles and 300m low hurdles), Chandler Wiggins (300m low hurdles), and Danielle Taylor (long jump) each earned the opportunity to compete against Michigan's best in their respective events. The boys also qualified both their 4x100-meter and 4x200-meter relay teams, highlighting the depth and speed of this year's squad.

Peyton Trammer turned in one of the greatest sprinting seasons in school history. He broke the Belleville school record in the 100-meter dash, with a blazing time of 10.31 seconds before



Peyton Trammer



Danielle Taylor (left) and Jaiden Rutley (right).

finishing as the MHSAA Division 1 State Runner-Up in the event.

Jaiden Rutley also delivered an outstanding performance at the state meet, earning a second-place finish in the 110-meter-high hurdles after an exceptional season on the track.

Congratulations to Peyton, Jaiden, Chandler, Danielle, the relay teams, and the entire Belleville track and field program on a tremendous season. Their dedication, perseverance and success have made the Belleville community proud, and their accomplishments will be remembered as one of the highlights of the year.

FALL SPORTS PREVIEWS

Boys Tennis

A message from boys tennis new head coach, Jeff Volk

My name is Jeff Volk, and I am honored to serve as the new head coach for the Belleville boys tennis team. Having coached basketball and soccer here, I am deeply invested in our school community. As a parent of two daughters – one a Belleville graduate and one entering her senior year – I understand the importance of a supportive and focused athletic environment.

I am incredibly excited to lead and mentor this team. My coaching philosophy centers on discipline, physical conditioning, academic excellence, and the continuous development of each player's tennis knowledge and skill.

I am also pleased to introduce our assistant coach, Donald Massey. Donald brings a wealth of expertise to our program, including an extensive background in tennis coaching in Florida and over 40 years of tennis experience. He also currently serves as a high school and collegiate tennis referee.

We look forward to a fantastic season and are eager to get to work!



Boys Soccer

Please welcome Doug Blair as the new varsity boys soccer coach!

Doug has been involved in soccer for almost 40 years as player, parent and a coach. He has been coaching for 10 years, helping players grow both technically and mentally. His philosophy is that a defensive team who can control the ball has the best chance of winning, along with high-energy practices, clear communication and building a team culture where everyone supports each other.

"I am excited for our upcoming 2026 season as I have seven returning seniors: Joseph Ahargee, Christian Dew, Jackson Green, Madden Meadows, Zachary Mitchell, Cameron Morrison, Jeremiah Tyner; and two returning juniors, Tobias Biriic and Cohen Campbell," he said. "We are going to have a great season in 2026."

The season starts August 25 on the road at Brighton, and the first home game is August 27 at 5:30 p.m., against Northville High School. Please come and help support our team!

Girls Golf

The Belleville girls golf team is preparing for an energetic and action-packed fall

The team, with three of five returning starters, is in a position to win some matches in conference play, with Olivia Klinck, Brielle Gore and Samantha Boykin leading the charge.

Throughout the past three seasons, the Lady Tigers have seen improvement in all areas of the game. Brielle and Sam, both three-year starters, are set to have a big year in the final season of KLAAs play before the Tigers make the transition to the SEC. Make sure to look on the BHS athletic website for all match dates and other information!

Football

Update from head coach, Calvin Norman

As we prepare for the 2026 season, there is a great deal of excitement surrounding our Belleville Tigers football program.

Every year brings new challenges and opportunities, and this group has embraced the work required to compete at a championship level. We have a strong group of returning players, talented young athletes ready to make an impact and a coaching staff committed to helping our student-athletes succeed both on and off the field.

We are also excited to welcome Chris Shevrovich into his new role as director of football operations. His leadership, organization and passion for the program will be a tremendous asset as we continue to build on the standard of excellence that Belleville football is known for.

On the field, we will be led by quarterback Kendall Franklin, who has shown tremendous growth as a leader and playmaker. Kendall has earned the respect of his teammates

through his work ethic and dedication, and we expect him to be a major factor in our success this season. At wide receiver, Charles "Trey3" Britton is one of the most explosive athletes in our program. His ability to make big plays and impact games in multiple ways gives our offense a dynamic weapon every time he steps on the field.

While these two players will certainly be key contributors, our success will ultimately depend on the collective effort of our entire team.

Our goals remain the same as they always have been at Belleville: compete for championships, represent our school and community with pride and continue developing young men of character. We know we have a challenging schedule ahead of us, but that's exactly what we want. We believe those challenges will prepare us for a postseason run, and we're looking forward to seeing what this team can accomplish.

Tiger Nation has always provided incredible support, and we're excited to get back on the field and make our community proud this fall. Go Tigers!

Volleyball

A competitive schedule will challenge this season's team to grow, compete and build momentum heading into postseason play

Coach Savannah Turner said, "The program will emphasize individual skill development, team chemistry, strength and conditioning, and strategic gameplay to continue raising the standard of competition."

Returning seniors Braelynn Foley, Chelsea Chinemelu and Adrianna Garrison will provide valuable leadership and experience as they help the team compete at a high level throughout the season.

Girls Swim and Dive

The Belleville High School girls swim team enters the upcoming season with high expectations and a talented group of returning athletes ready to make an impact. Led by a strong senior class and a core of experienced competitors, the Tigers are focused on building upon recent successes while continuing to establish themselves among the top programs in the area.

Heading the roster is senior standout Miranda Phelps, who has already established herself as one of the premier swimmers in the state. Phelps captured a state championship in the 100-yard backstroke and brings invaluable experience, leadership and competitive drive to the team. Her success at the highest level serves as an inspiration to her teammates and provides Belleville with a proven performer in one of the most challenging events in high school swimming. In addition to her individual accomplishments, Phelps will play a key role in mentoring younger swimmers and helping guide the





Belleville Tigers Athletics

Athletics continued from page 19

team's pursuit of conference and postseason goals.

The Tigers also has returning league champion, Sadie Ethridge, who excelled in the 200-yard individual medley last season. Ethridge's versatility and work ethic have made her one of the team's most dependable contributors. Her league title demonstrated her ability to compete across multiple strokes and maintain a high level of performance under pressure. As she continues to develop, Ethridge is expected to be a major point scorer in both dual meets and championship competition.

Providing leadership both in and out of the pool will be senior captain, Natalie Hungerford. Hungerford has consistently been a strong performer in the freestyle events,

particularly the 100-yard freestyle and 200-yard freestyle. Her dedication, positive attitude and commitment to the team earned her the honor of serving as captain this season. As one of the team's veteran leaders, she will be counted on to help set the tone for practices and competitions while continuing to contribute valuable points in her signature events.

The Tigers are also excited to welcome back junior, Keira Frederick, who emerged as one of the league's top competitors in the breaststroke events. Frederick earned a top-three finish in the 100-yard breaststroke last season and continues to develop into a key contributor for the Belleville program. Her strong technique, determination and competitive spirit make her an important part of the

team's success, and the coaching staff looks forward to seeing her build on last year's accomplishments.

With a state champion, a returning league champion, experienced senior leadership, and a talented group of rising athletes, the Belleville High School girls swim team is positioned for an exciting and successful season. The combination of elite talent, depth and a strong team culture gives the Tigers confidence as they prepare to compete for conference championships, qualify athletes for the state meet and continue the proud tradition of Belleville swimming.

The future is bright for this group, and the team is eager to showcase its hard work and dedication throughout the season.



Public Notice of Stormwater Management Program

Van Buren Public Schools has submitted and received approval of the "Van Buren Public Schools Stormwater Management Plan" from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy as required under the NPDES General Jurisdictional Permit No. MI0059566 (Stormwater Discharges from Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems).

The Stormwater Management Plan has been developed by Van Buren Public Schools to decrease the discharge of pollutants from stormwater runoff, and to protect the waters of the State in compliance with the Federal and Michigan Department of Environmental Quality regulations. Van Buren Public Schools strives to be good stewards of the land and to use appropriate best management practices to contribute to the improvement of water quality within the Huron River Watershed where they are located.

For additional information regarding the Stormwater Management Program & Plan please visit the district website at: <https://www.vanburenschools.net/page/stormwater-management>

Any questions or comments in regard to the plan should be addressed to the Director of Buildings & Grounds at (734) 697-9123.

Notice of Car Wash Fundraising Events



In an effort to continue compliance with the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit, Van Buren Public Schools prohibits car wash fundraising events on all Van Buren Public Schools Properties.

The stormwater management program describes policies, procedures, strategies, and measurable goals established by Van Buren Public Schools to implement and monitor the on-going success of this program. The Stormwater Management Plan is available for review on the district website.

Any questions or comments in regard to the plan should be addressed to the Buildings & Grounds at (734) 697-9123. Below is information regarding car washing issues as it related to our local waterways and tips for car washing practices off school properties.

Remember, you're not just washing your car.

What's the issue?

Did you know there are over four million vehicles in Southeast Michigan? So, practicing good car care means you are helping protect our lakes and streams. How does caring for your car affect our lakes and streams? Storm drains found in our streets and roadside ditches lead to our lakes and streams. So, if dirty water from washing our cars washes into the storm drain, it pollutes our local waterways. Likewise, if your vehicle leaks motor fluids on the street or driveway, that too, can wash into the storm drain and pollute our local waterways.

What are some helpful tips?

Here are some simple steps you can take to care for your car and help keep our water clean. Give

them a try. A few simple changes can make a big difference!

- **Make a date.** Car-wash facilities treat their dirty water before discharging it to our lakes and streams. So, make a date to take your car to a car wash.
- **Wash it - on the grass.** If you wash your car at home, consider washing it on the lawn. Or, if you can't use the lawn, try to direct the dirty water towards the lawn and away from the storm drain.
- **Minimize it.** Reduce the amount of soap you use or wash your car with plain water.
- **Maintain it.** Keep your vehicle properly tuned and use the owner's manual to guide decisions about how often it is necessary to change fluids such as oil and antifreeze.
- **Take advantage of business expertise.** Consider taking your vehicle to the shop to have the oil and other fluids changed. These businesses have the ability to recycle the used materials and clean up accidental spills.
- **Recycle.** If you choose to change your oil and other fluids yourself, label the waste containers. Then, take them to your community's household hazardous waste collection day or to a business that accepts used oil. Never dump used oil, antifreeze, or other fluids on the ground or down the storm drain.
- **Soak it up.** Use kitty litter promptly to absorb small amounts of spilled vehicle fluids. Then sweep it into a bag and throw it in the trash.
- **Do it under cover.** Whenever possible, perform vehicle maintenance in a well-ventilated, but covered location (e.g., garage). This minimizes the potential for rainfall to wash those inevitable spills and drips into our lakes and streams.

These tips are part of SEMCOG's "Ours to Protect: Seven Simple Steps to Clean Water". For more information, please go to SEMCOG's - "Ours to Protect"

The Beat Goes On

Belleville band program celebrates a century of music, tradition By Kelsi Klein

THIS year – 2026 – marks 100 years of the Belleville High School Band Program. This special anniversary is a testament to not only the longevity of the Belleville Bands program itself, but also the passion of the students, educators, families, alumni and community members who have made this milestone possible.

Since 1926, Belleville band students have marched onto football fields, performed on stages across the country, traveled to some of the nation's most prestigious venues and have formed memories that have stayed with them long past graduation. This tight-knit community and culture have helped shape a program that is a source of great pride for generations of Van Buren Public Schools families.

"The program is a huge beacon of pride in the community, and it's stemmed all the way back from the '20s, when it started," said Nicholas Taylor, director of bands and coordinator of instrumental music.

As a proud graduate from Belleville High School and the Belleville Bands, Taylor has continued to maintain the traditions and excellence that have been associated with the band program for the past century.

Michael Campbell, associate director of bands, is also a proud Belleville High School and Belleville Band alumnus, and the two work together to preserve the history and excellence they grew up with firsthand while leading the next generation.

"My own mom was in the band program back in the 1960s, and, to me, it's just a huge shining light in the community and for the school district," Campbell said.

Taylor began working with former director Michael VanTassel in 2003 before taking over as director in 2005. Campbell also joined the program in 2005. Together, they inherited a program that had already been built into something special.

Taylor explained that the strong band program VanTassel rebuilt in the early '90s started with around 60 students, and at one point he personally called students at home to encourage them to join marching band.

Over time, the band continued to grow into a highly respected program that became well-

known across the state. Taylor recalled a moment when Kenneth Thompson, director of bands at Ohio's Bowling Green State University, mentioned what an outstanding program Belleville had.

"It makes no sense that somewhere tucked off of the freeway between Detroit and Ann Arbor, there's this band program that sounds like and does what you guys do," Thompson said.

At its peak before COVID, the marching band reached just over 300 students.





To Taylor and Campbell, who have watched the small-town Belleville band become a pillar of the community both from a student and educator lens, the key is a generational idea of excellence in music education.

"For Mike (Campbell) and I back in the '90s, Belleville was a much smaller town, but it was the pride and joy and something we loved coming to and being a part of," Taylor said.

That pride and joy is still strong today, with over 223 former students from the '60s through recent graduates already committed to joining the 100 Years of Belleville Bands Celebration on September 11, 2026.

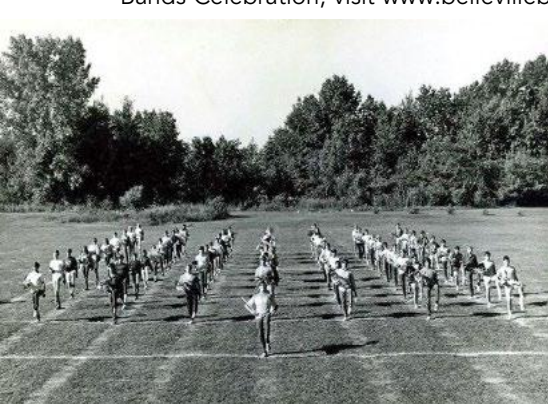
Alumni will meet and perform, with the current band leading the way on the football field before the Friday night game.

"We're just really grateful," Taylor said. "Mike and I like to say we're hometown boys. We know the school, we know the kids and I like to believe we have a relationship with our students just as well as we did when we started and just as well as our directors and our teachers did with us when we were students."

Students get the opportunity to get involved with the band program as early as fifth grade, providing a segue to grow not only as musicians, but to be a part of a larger community with a generational legacy.

With support from the school district, band boosters and community, Belleville Bands is looking forward to moving forward with the same excellence for years to come.

For more information about the band program or the 100 Years of Belleville Bands Celebration, visit www.bellevillebands.org.



MCBRIDE



Capturing
Kids' Hearts
Powered by Pearson Group

MIDDLE SCHOOL

About Us

GO TIGERS!

- 7th - 8th Grade Building
- New Rigorous Curriculum
 - Common Lit ELA
 - Illuminate Math
 - STEM Scopes (Science)
 - TCI (Soc Studies)
- Array of Extracurricular Activities
 - Band and Choir
 - eSports
 - First Robotics
 - Academic Games
 - Girls on The Run
 - Science Olympiad
 - NJHS and Student Council
- Robust Athletics and Unified Sports
 - Wrestling Basketball Football
 - Softball Baseball Volleyball
 - Cross Country Track/Field Swimming



Newly Renovated Facilities

Classrooms
Library
Science and STEM Lab
Gymnasium
Weight Room



T. Bryant, Ed.S, Principal
D. Turner, Ed.S, Asst Principal



47097 McBride
Van Buren Twp, MI 48111
734-697-9171



OWEN INTERMEDIATE

**Strong Culture, Engaging Opportunities,
Deep Commitment**

At Owen Intermediate, the heart of the school is built on strong relationships, student engagement and a caring community. Under the leadership of Principal Ms. Nadine Dufrane, Owen is a place where students are known, supported and encouraged to grow academically and socially.

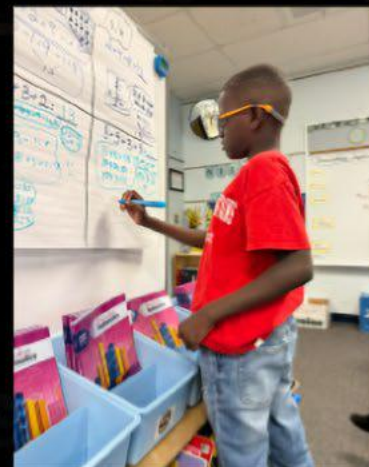
A key part of Owen's positive culture is Capturing Kids' Hearts (CKH), a relationship-centered framework that helps create safe, connected and respectful classrooms. CKH is especially valuable for fifth and sixth graders because this age is a major transition period. Students are becoming more independent, more aware of peers, and more sensitive to belonging.

CKH helps meet those needs by making students feel seen and valued, building trust with adults, strengthening classroom community and giving students a voice in how their learning environment works. Those skills support confidence, self-management and stronger behavior and academic outcomes as students prepare for middle school.

Owen's commitment to CKH was recognized with the Rising Star Award, a special honor that celebrates schools doing exceptional work in building a positive culture through the CKH process. This award reflects the dedication of Owen's staff and the success of a school-wide commitment to student connection, respect and responsibility.

Beyond the classroom, Owen offers after-school clubs that help students explore interests, build friendships and develop new talents. Our sixth graders go to camp every year! The school also hosts family engagement events such as the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum, the Haunted Trail and other memorable experiences that bring families together and strengthen the school community.

At Owen Intermediate, learning extends beyond academics. It is about belonging, growth and connection. With a strong culture, engaging opportunities and a deep commitment to students and families, Owen truly reflects the heart of a great school.



Welcome to

EDGEMONT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL!

PRINCIPAL Laura Maher and her dedicated team of educators work hard to create a safe, welcoming environment where every student feels supported, valued, and inspired to succeed. At Edgemont Elementary, we believe in educating the whole child by nurturing academic growth, social-emotional development, leadership skills, creativity, and positive relationships. Students are encouraged to discover their strengths, set meaningful goals, and celebrate their achievements while building confidence and character. Through strong partnerships with families and a caring school community, Edgemont ensures that every child has the opportunity to learn, grow, and reach their full potential.



CURRICULUM HIGHLIGHTS

- UFLI Phonics
- New Wonders Reading Program
- Everyday Math



AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| • Chess Club | • Trivia Club |
| • Domino Drop | • Movement Club |
| • Fine Motor Skills Club | • Puzzle Club |
| • Games | • AAC Group |
| • Drawing | • Mad Science |
| • Pom Pom | • Robotics |
| | • Arts & Crafts |



LEADER IN ME SCHOOL

- Student Leadership Roles
- Student Lighthouse Committee
- Community Projects
- PBIS Implementation
- Academic Celebrations



At Edgemont Elementary, every child is valued, supported, and inspired to reach their full potential—academically, socially, and emotionally.

We can't wait to welcome you!



SAFE ENVIRONMENT • STRONG ACADEMICS • LEADERSHIP • COMMUNITY • SUCCESS



RAWSONVILLE ELEMENTARY

At Rawsonville Elementary, *Principal Hawkins* creates a school environment that truly feels like home. Our teachers and staff foster a culture where every student feels seen, heard, valued, and loved while maintaining a strong commitment to academic excellence. Students are encouraged to explore their interests, take risks in their learning, and discover their unique strengths and talents. Classrooms are filled with opportunities for curiosity, creativity, and meaningful learning experiences that inspire students to grow both academically and personally. We understand the importance of strong partnerships with families and the community, working collaboratively to support and celebrate student success. By building meaningful connections between home, school, and community, we ensure that students have a network of support that empowers them to thrive. Rawsonville's dedication to nurturing the whole child ensures that students not only achieve success in the classroom but also develop the confidence, character, and love of learning that will serve them throughout their lives!



CURRICULUM

- UFLI Phonics
- Wonders
- Everyday Math
- I-Ready



After School Clubs

Gentlemen's Club
Drum Circle
Spelling Bee
Games Group
Cheer Pom 1st-3rd grades
Volleyball 3rd-4th grades
Girls on the Run
Cheer Conditioning
Craft Club 2nd
Basketball - Boys
Basketball - Girls
Cheer
Robotics

Leader in Me School

Leader in Me teaches foundational principles and skills that are widely accepted as essential to personal, interpersonal, and organizational leadership such as...

Responsibility
Vision
Time management
Communication
Collaboration
Relationship building
Wellness
PBIS





Savage Elementary School

Where Learners Thrive

Highly Qualified Staff

Our dedicated team brings expertise and passion to every classroom. We work collaboratively to meet the needs of all learners, ensuring each child reaches their full potential.

Engaging, Quality Instruction

We deliver learning experiences that spark curiosity. From literacy to STEM, our lessons challenge and inspire every student.

Social-Emotional Focus

We nurture the whole child. Our supportive environment builds confidence, resilience, and kindness alongside academics.





TYLER ELEMENTARY: HOME OF THE TIGERS!

At Tyler, we believe every child can learn, lead, and grow. Through strong academics, meaningful leadership opportunities, and positive relationships, we help students build the skills and confidence they need for success both inside and outside the classroom.

Principal Jennifer Kitchen and the staff at Tyler Elementary are committed to creating a school where relationships, leadership, and learning come first. We believe every student should feel known, valued, and supported while being challenged to reach their full potential. Through our partnerships with families and a focus on academic and personal growth, we work each day to ensure students feel safe, confident, and inspired to learn, lead, and succeed.



ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE & LEADERSHIP

Tyler Elementary is proud to be a Leader in Me School, where students develop leadership skills, responsibility, goal-setting habits, and a growth mindset.

Our students participate in:

- Student Lighthouse Leadership Team
- Monthly Leadership Assemblies
- Classroom Leadership Jobs
- School Leadership Opportunities
- Student-Led Service Projects
- Monthly Principal Awards & Leadership Luncheons
- Habit-Based Learning and Goal Setting

Our instructional programs focus on literacy, mathematics, STEM learning, critical thinking, and student achievement. Through targeted interventions, small-group instruction, technology integration, and engaging classroom experiences, students are supported at every level of learning.



FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

At Tyler Elementary, family partnerships are an important part of our school culture. Throughout the year, we bring students, families, and staff together through events such as Open House, Trunk or Treat, Tech Night, Crafts & Cookies with Santa, Cookies & Canvas, King Pancake Night, Book Bingo, Kindergarten Round-Up, Habit Hop, STEM Night, the Spring Concert, Culver's Family Night, and our annual Color Run.



CLUBS, ACTIVITIES & ATHLETICS

Tyler students have opportunities to discover new interests, build friendships, and develop leadership skills through a variety of extracurricular activities. Students can participate in after school clubs like: Lego Club, Robotics, Run Club, Kindness Club, Music Club, Craft Club, Drama Club, Intramurals, Boys and Girls Basketball, Cheerleading, and Lacrosse.



LEARN, LEAD, SUCCEED!



VBPS Custodial Teams

Our schools are better because of you

A **CROSS** Van Buren Public Schools, one theme is consistently heard from visitors, staff and families: our schools are clean, safe and welcoming. That experience does not happen by chance. It is made possible every day by our custodial teams whose work often begins before sunrise, continues long after the final bell and ensures that every building is ready for teaching and learning. This month, we proudly highlight the custodial staff who help make that possible across our district.

The District-Wide Impact

The District Experience: Visitors consistently share that Van Buren schools feel clean, organized and welcoming the moment they enter. Custodial teams across the district create that first impression every day. Their commitment to care, safety and pride in their work ensures that every school environment is ready for students and staff.

"You can feel the pride when you walk in."

Behind-the-Scenes Support: Custodial staff are often the first to arrive and the last to leave. They respond quickly to needs, solve problems quietly and ensure that school operations continue without disruption. Much of their work happens behind the scenes, but its impact is felt in every hallway and classroom.

"They keep everything running – often before anyone even notices."

Building Pride & Culture: Across all buildings, custodial teams contribute to the overall climate and culture of our schools. Their attention to detail, consistency and pride in their work help create spaces that feel cared for, respected and ready for learning each day.

"It's the little things that make the biggest difference."



Left: Rawsonville custodians Phillip Dlugoss, Vickie Allen and Andrea Hayre.

Right: Early Childhood Center of VBPS custodian Dale Renton. (Not pictured: Ashley Morin).



The Student Experience: Custodial staff interact with students throughout the day in small but meaningful ways – greetings in hallways, quick conversations and everyday moments of support. These interactions help reinforce a positive school culture where students feel safe, seen and valued.

"More than a building – it's a place where students feel supported."

Voices From Our Buildings

Rawsonville Elementary

"They treat the building like it matters – because it does."

Custodial staff at Rawsonville create a welcoming environment where students and families feel supported, while ensuring learning spaces are safe and ready each day.

Early Childhood Center

"The foundation of early learning begins with care."

The ECC custodial team plays an essential role in maintaining a clean, safe and welcoming environment for our youngest learners and their families. Their work ensures classrooms and common areas are always prepared, helping set the tone for early learning success.



BHS custodians (back row, left to right): Terry Bailey, Eric Mitchell, Matthew Wegienka, Ron Gravel, Felicia Morin. (Front row, left to right): Vicky Morin, Rich Cetnarowski, Krista Morello, Jackie Bennett, and Kimberly Trussell (Not pictured: Liberty Bennett.)

Belleville High School

"A place where pride in the building is visible every day."

Custodial staff ensure a large, high-traffic building remains clean, safe and ready for learning. Their work reflects daily pride and professionalism throughout every part of the building.

Owen Intermediate

Consistency, attention to detail and care define the custodial team's work at Owen Intermediate. Their efforts ensure a clean, prepared and welcoming environment for students and staff each day.

Edgemont Elementary

"More than a building – it's a place where students feel known."

Custodial staff at Edgemont go beyond maintaining the building, by building relationships with students and contributing to a culture of belonging.

Tyler Elementary

"A steady presence that supports every student, every day."

Custodial staff ensure the building is ready each morning and reset each evening, supporting a safe and consistent learning environment.

McBride Middle School

"Strong teamwork behind every hallway and classroom."

Custodial staff are unsung heroes whose dedication ensures the building remains clean, safe and welcoming. McBride custodial staff are more than employees – they are an essential part of the school community.

Savage Elementary

Custodial staff ensure a clean, safe and welcoming environment for students and staff, with pride and teamwork visible throughout the building each day.

From the Entire District: Thank You, VBPS Custodial Teams!

Custodial staff are essential to the daily success of Van Buren Public Schools. While much of their work happens behind the scenes, its impact is visible in every clean hallway, prepared classroom and welcoming school environment.

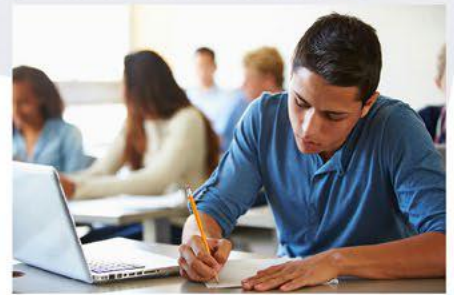
To all custodial staff across the district, thank you for your dedication, pride and professionalism. Our schools are better because of you.



Top: Custodians from Owen Intermediate School (left to right): Jenni Dalton, Joshua Morin and Daryl Dubisky. Middle left: Mike Dotson and Deanca McGee from Edgemont. (Not pictured: Josh Roberts.) Middle right: Tyler's Joe Goodman and Antonio Aguilar. (Not pictured: Hannah Moore.) Bottom left: McBride custodians Steven Peifer, Jessica McIntyre and Deon Mayes. (Not pictured: Dion Satchel.) Bottom right: Savage's Marlon Williams, Dawn Linton and Dalton Lee.



DISCOVER WHAT'S NEW THIS FALL WITH COMMUNITY EDUCATION!



FEATURED PROGRAMS

- | | |
|--|--|
|  CHESS WIZARDS |  LITTLE YOGIS |
|  DRIVER TRAINING |  INTRO TO DANCE |
|  BRUSH SCRIPT LETTERING |  FINANCIAL LITERACY |
|  BABYSITTER CERTIFICATION |  FAMILY PHOTO SESSIONS |

 **Scan the QR code** to explore our complete digital catalog and register for fitness, wellness, and enrichment programs for all ages.



 Follow **VBPS Community Education** on Facebook  734-697-9123
 www.vanburenschools.net/page/community-education  communityeducation@vanburenschools.net

EXPLORE. LEARN. CONNECT. THERE'S SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!



VAN BUREN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

EXTENDED CARE

Need More Time?

WE'VE GOT
You!



Quality care.



Peace of mind.



Right at your school.

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE

SERVING THE FOLLOWING SCHOOLS:



Edgemont



Rawsonville



Savage



Tyler



Owen

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



Safe & Secure Environment



Licensed by the State of Michigan



Qualified and Caring Staff



Fun with Friends



Enrichment Activities



Indoor & Outdoor Recreation



Convenient School-Based Location

Enroll Today!

Scan the QR code to learn
more and register.



EXPLORE. LEARN. CONNECT.



Van Buren Public Schools Expands Early Literacy Support with K-2 Take-Home Literacy Kits

VAN BUREN Public Schools is pleased to announce a new early literacy initiative designed to strengthen foundational reading skills and deepen the partnership between school and home.

All students in grades K-2 received take-home literacy kits for families to keep and use throughout the school year. These kits have been made possible through funding from the \$35 million grant, which supports district efforts to improve early literacy instruction through high-quality, evidence-based resources.

The literacy kits are designed to reinforce essential phonics skills through engaging, hands-on activities. Strong phonics instruction is a critical foundation for early reading success, helping students understand how letters

and sounds work together to build words, develop fluency and strengthen comprehension. Consistent practice at home plays an important role in building student confidence and accelerating literacy growth.

Through the support of the \$35 million grant, Van Buren Public Schools is able to expand equitable access to instructional materials that directly support early readers. This investment ensures that all K-2 students and their families have meaningful tools to support literacy development beyond the classroom.

To support families in using these materials, a digital resource folder has been provided that includes demonstration videos and step-by-step guidance for each activity. These resources are

intended to make it easy for families to engage in structured, purposeful reading practice at home.

In addition, families are invited to participate in a shared digital space where students can post photos and short videos using their literacy kits. This "digital brag board" celebrates student growth, effort and engagement while strengthening the connection between home and school. It also highlights the important literacy work happening across our K-2 classrooms.

Van Buren Public Schools remains committed to ensuring all students develop strong foundational reading skills. We are grateful for the support of our families, and look forward to celebrating the continued growth of our young readers.





Mark Your Calendars



**26
AUG**

HARRIS PARK BIRTHDAY

Celebrate the birthday of Harris Park from 5pm-7pm

**5-31
OCT**

SCARECROWS IN THE PARK

Showcasing the community's creativity in Harris Park

**18
NOV**

LIGHT UP THE PARK

Kick-off the holiday season as we light up Harris Park

**2 & 9
DEC**

SANTA PAWS

Fur Babies are given the opportunity to get their picture with Santa Paws



Community Shout-Outs Wanted!

Help us celebrate the people who make our community special!

- Local Heroes: Nominate a neighbor, volunteer, teacher, first responder, small business owner, or someone making a positive impact.
- Birthday Shout-Outs: Celebrate a friend or family member's birthday with a special community recognition.

Email your submissions to dwright@vbtmi.gov with the person's name, an optional photo, and a brief message (plus birthday date for birthday submissions).

Selected submissions may be featured on the Harris Park Community Bulletin Board & our Belleville Road Digital Sign, updated monthly!



VBC Summer Kickoff Party

The VBC Summer Kickoff Party brought families together for a day of games, face painting, and lots of laughter, giving everyone a welcome break from the summer heat.

Summertime in



Summer Concerts in Harris Park

Summer Concerts in Harris Park once again brought the community together for evenings of live music, dancing, lawn games, and family fun. Adults, children, and four-legged friends all joined the festivities.



Coffee with a Cop

Children and seniors enjoyed meeting VBT Public Safety officers during Coffee with a Cop. Friendly conversations and police vehicle tours created memorable experiences for visitors of all ages.





Pickleball Courts

Game on! The courts were buzzing once again as VBT Parks welcomed pickleball enthusiasts back for another summer of friendly competition, exercise, and fun.



Senior Birthdays

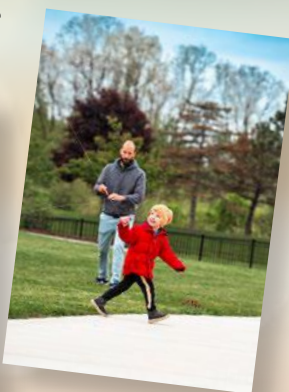
Age is just a number at Van Buren Township's monthly Birthday Monday celebration. Senior residents gather on the first Monday of each month to celebrate another year with friends, cupcakes, laughter, and lasting friendships.



Van Buren

Kite Day

Cows were flying (the kite variety) as laughter filled the park during the second annual Kite Day. Children and adults alike enjoyed an afternoon of colorful fun. We look forward to seeing you all next year.



BAM Lecture Series

The Belleville Area Museum welcomed visitors back for its popular monthly lecture series. Curator Mary Utz expanded the museum's outreach with Lunch & Learn presentations for local seniors. The museum is open on Mondays during the Farmers Market and Classic Car Show.



Thunder Over Michigan

The Thunder Over Michigan Air Show at Willow Run Airport drew large crowds for a weekend filled with exciting aerial displays, historic planes, and family-friendly activities, all celebrating aviation old and new.



Summertime in



Lake Fest

Lake Fest brought the community together for a weekend of family fun, live entertainment, and one of the area's best fireworks displays. Highlights included Adam Hasse's waterskiing performance and VBT Public Safety Officer Mowbray winning the annual Donut Eating Contest.





VBC Concerts

July was filled with fun as the Van Buren Community Center's Summer Concert Series brought residents together for evenings of live music, dancing, and a sense of community under the summer sky.

Van Buren



VBC Summer Soccer Art Camp

Inspired by the excitement of the 2026 FIFA World Cup, young campers sharpened their soccer skills before creating colorful artwork featuring jerseys for their favorite players.



Splash Pad

Children made the most of the summer heat at Van Buren Township's splash pad, the largest in Wayne County, splashing, laughing, and cooling off with family and friends.



Iron Belle Trail Project Continues to Take Shape

VAN BUREN Township is excited to announce that construction of Iron Belle Trail Section I is scheduled to begin in late summer 2026, continuing the township’s efforts to expand safe and accessible opportunities for walking, biking and outdoor recreation.

The Iron Belle Trail is Michigan’s signature trail system and the longest state-designated trail in the nation, spanning more than 2,000 miles. Designed to promote recreation, fitness and outdoor exploration, the trail has become a valuable asset for communities across the state.

Section I will help close an important gap in Van Buren Township’s local pathway network, providing residents with another safe and convenient option for enjoying the outdoors. Whether walking the dog, taking a bike ride, going for a run, or simply enjoying nature, the new trail segment will offer additional opportunities for residents of all ages to stay active and connected to the community.

Over the past several years, Van Buren Township has completed several Iron Belle Trail segments, including Sections B, C, H, J, K, and the recently completed Section D. In addition, Section F is currently under construction as part of the Denton Road Bridge project. Together, these investments continue to expand the township’s growing network of non-motorized pathways and recreational opportunities.

As construction moves forward, township officials will



continue to share project updates and timelines with the community. We appreciate residents’ support and patience as we work to make Van Buren Township an even more walkable, bike-friendly and recreation-focused community.

For project updates and additional information, please visit the Iron Belle Trail page on the township website.

Van Buren Township Iron Belle Trail Gap 2026



Section #	Length	Description
A	0.6 Miles	Begins in Hydro Park and heads north to Grove Street. Route goes along the north side of Grove Street and ends at Rawsonville Road. Completed in 2021.
B	1.25 Miles	8-10' Asphalt path starting at the intersection of Rawsonville and Grove Street. Turns northeast on the 164 Service Drive, curving east and picking up several commercial establishments, restaurants and the busstop before entering Van Buren Park. Travels through Van Buren Park, ending at the saddle. Completed in 2022.
C	0.3 Miles	A combination of 10' pathway and sidewalk and on-road biking that connects the east side and west side of the park. Completed in 2022.
D	1.0 Miles	A 10' pathway at the east end of Van Buren Township Park that connects up to Old Denton Road and Denton Road. The project includes a 14' wide pedestrian bridge over Wilson Run Creek. This segment ends at Beckley Road. Completed in 2023.
E	0.4 Miles	A 5' sidewalk and shallow down Denton Rd from golf course to bridge into Bellevue. Future phase beyond 2026.
F	0.2 Miles	Denton Rd bridge is in need of improvements to safely accommodate pedestrians and bikers. Project is under construction, to be completed in 2026.

Section #	Length	Description
G	1.4 Miles	Picks up after the Denton Rd bridge on Main St in Bellevue using existing sidewalks and adding shallow markings. Turns south on High Street, then southeast on Church St, connecting to W Columbia Ave, turning onto E Huron River Dr, going by Victory Park, and ending at Edgemont St.
H	0.5 Miles	Rounded section of the trail. Sidewalk along the south side of Elkhorn River Dr from Edgemont St to Martinsville Rd. Completed in 2024.
I	1.1 Miles	A sidewalk continues through Rogers Heritage Park, heading east down Huron River Dr, ending at the railroad tracks. Construction planned for 2026.
J	0.5 Miles	Continues down Huron River Drive from Edison Lake Road to Haggerty Road on the south side of the right of way. Completed in 2024.
K	0.4 Miles	Continues down Huron River Drive from Haggerty to Haggerty on the north side of the right of way. Completed in 2024.
L	0.5 Miles	Begins at the entrance of Lower Huron Metropark and terminating at the existing trail. Completed in 2023.

- KEY**
- Built Trail
 - Under Construction
 - 2026 Construction
 - Beyond 2026
 - Segment Beginning/End Point



Iron Belle Trail

Two Routes, One Great Trail



Iron Belle Trail

- Existing Hiking
- Existing Biking
- Existing Hiking & Biking
- Proposed Biking
- Proposed Hiking

- Proposed Hiking & Biking
- Michigan State Park
- DNR-managed land
- Federally-managed land
- County

Updated: 04/20/2026
If you need assistance with this map, please email DNR-Trails@michigan.gov.

0 25 50 100
Miles

Disclaimer: Trails shown on this map are an approximate representation of the trail system at the time of publication and may not reflect current ground conditions.

Fall into Fitness

AT THE VAN BUREN COMMUNITY CENTER

As the temperatures cool and our routines begin to shift into fall, it's the perfect time to refocus on your health and wellness. Whether you're looking to build strength, improve flexibility, stay active during the colder months, or simply meet new people, the Van Buren Community Center offers something for everyone.

Try Before You Buy – FREE Fitness Class Demo Week!

One of the best times to experience everything the Community Center has to offer is during our FREE Fitness Class Demo Week, September 8–12. This special week gives residents the opportunity to sample a variety of classes at no cost before registering for the full session.

Classes currently scheduled for Demo Week include:

- **Step Aerobics**
- **Gentle Yoga**
- **Zumba**
- **TRX**
- **Tai Chi**
- **AFEP**
- **Soccer Stars** (Kids Program)

Additional classes may be added, so be sure to check the township website for the latest schedule. Pre-registration is required for all demo classes.

Beyond Demo Week, our fall fitness lineup features a wide variety of classes designed for all ages and ability levels. From strength training and yoga to TRX, Tai Chi, and low-impact wellness programs, there's something for everyone. If you're trying fitness for the first time or looking to take your workouts to the next level, you'll find welcoming instructors and supportive classmates.

Of course, fitness at the Community Center extends well beyond scheduled classes. Members enjoy access to a fully equipped fitness center, cardio and weight equipment, an indoor walking track, gymnasium, and fitness studio, making it easy to work out on your own schedule.

One of the greatest benefits of exercising at the Van Buren Community Center is the

sense of community you'll find. Group fitness classes provide encouragement, accountability and an opportunity to connect with neighbors who share similar wellness goals. Staying active isn't just good for your physical health – it also helps reduce stress, boost energy and improve overall well-being.

Not sure where to begin? Our friendly staff can help you find the right class or membership option to fit your goals and comfort level. Whether you're a seasoned fitness enthusiast or taking the first step on your wellness journey, you'll find a welcoming environment that makes it easy to stay motivated.

More Ways to Stay Active This Fall

Free Demo Week is only the beginning! Throughout the fall, the Van Buren Community Center offers a wide variety of recreational and fitness programs for all ages and interests, including:

- **Pickleball Ladder League** – Enjoy friendly competition while improving your skills in a fun, organized league format.
- **Adult Full-Court Basketball** – Weekly open play for adults looking for competitive, full-court games.
- **Line Dancing** – Learn popular dances while enjoying great music, exercise and a fun social atmosphere.
- **Motown Ballroom Dancing** – Discover ballroom dance styles with instruction set to the timeless sounds of Motown.
- **Youth Archery** – A safe and engaging introduction to archery that builds focus, confidence and coordination.
- **Adult Archery** – Perfect for beginners and experienced archers looking to develop their skills.
- **Senior Archery** – A relaxed, welcoming program designed for older adults to enjoy the sport at their own pace.

If you're looking for friendly competition, a new hobby or a fun way to stay active, there's something for everyone this fall. Be sure to visit the township website for the latest schedules, registration information and additional programs as new classes are added throughout the season.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

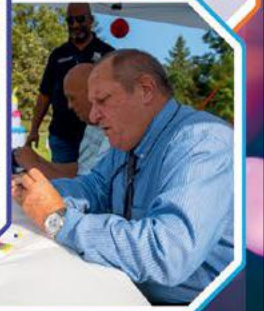
Harris Park

Come out and celebrate with us!

Enjoy music, ice cream, face painting, balloon animals, and more!

August 26th
5p-7p

10101 Belleville Rd.
VBT, MI 48111



Sweet Traditions and Rolling Good Times

As the leaves begin to change and the air turns crisp, Van Buren Township comes alive with two fall traditions that families look forward to year after year. Best of all, both events are completely free, making it easy for everyone to enjoy the season together.

Candy Loop

There's something magical about watching little superheroes, princesses, dinosaurs, and pirates eagerly fill their treat bags as they walk the path at Candy Loop. This event captures all the fun of Halloween in a family-friendly afternoon designed especially for younger children.

Families stroll from station to station as local businesses and community organizations hand out treats, creating a safe, festive trick-or-treating experience without the nighttime scares. Costumes, laughter and smiling faces fill the park as children proudly show off their Halloween attire while collecting plenty of candy along the way.

Along with the treats, families can enjoy a few special surprises, but the real stars of the day are the happy trick-or-treaters, overflowing candy bags and the sense of community that brings neighbors together for an afternoon of simple Halloween fun.

Punkin' Roll Out

The Halloween fun doesn't have to end with October! Instead of sending those pumpkins to the compost pile, bring them to Van Buren Park for one last adventure at Punkin' Roll Out, held on the first Saturday after Halloween.

Kids are encouraged to don their Halloween costumes one more time before packing them away for the year, making the event a festive encore to Halloween celebrations. Then it's time to BYOP (Bring Your Own Pumpkins) to Van Buren Park! Families carry their pumpkins to the top of the sled hill, give them a hearty push and cheer them on as they bounce, tumble and race toward the bottom. Aim just right, and your pumpkin might even catch air as it sails over one of the event's jump ramps.

With a DJ spinning upbeat tunes, complimentary cider and donuts and giant pumpkin inflatables creating the perfect backdrop for family photos, the morning is filled with laughter and unforgettable moments. It's a delightfully quirky tradition that reminds us that sometimes the simplest ideas create the best memories.

Whether you're collecting candy at Candy Loop or cheering your pumpkin down the hill at Punkin' Roll Out, these beloved Van Buren Township events are the perfect way to celebrate everything that makes fall so much fun.





VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Scarecrows **IN THE PARK 2026**

Help us decorate Harris Park!

Scarecrows must be received by October 1, 2026!
Official rules and application can be found at Van Buren
Township Hall, the DDA building, and on our website.



Displayed in Harris Park
October 5th - November 2nd



10101 Belleville Rd.
VBT, MI 48111

Contest is open to families, schools, businesses,
organizations, clubs and individuals. There is no fee for entry.

For more info & contest rules:

734-699-9201

www.vanburendda.com

10151 Belleville Rd. VBT, MI 48111



THE VAN BUREN SENIOR CENTER

Visit, and become part of something special

THINK a senior center is just cards and quiet afternoons? Think again! This past quarter was packed with energy – our members stayed busy, made new friends, tried new activities and proved once again that there is always something exciting happening here at the Van Buren Township Senior Center.

We Never Slow Down

Whether it's a Tigers game, helping the community, putting on a blood drive, Coffee with a Cop, Kite Day, or a colorful Tie-Dye Lawn Party, our calendar is always full. Stop in for a class, attend an event, learn something new, or relax with a cup of coffee. There's no shortage of activities, opportunities or friendships waiting to be made. People may first visit for a class or a meal, but they stay because they feel connected and part of something special.

The Best Part? The People

What truly makes the Senior Center special is the people who fill it with warmth, laughter and friendship. Whether it's sharing a laugh over coffee, offering encouragement during a class or making a new connection, our members create a welcoming atmosphere that makes everyone feel at home.

The Van Buren Township Senior Center is more than just a place to spend the day, it's a place to connect, belong and build lasting friendships.

Life Is Better Together

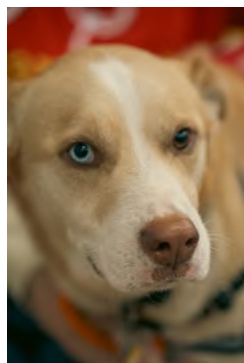
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Come See What's Next

- Visits from our therapy dog Jasper
- Birthday Mondays
 - September 14
 - October 5
 - November 2
- DIA Trip – September 23
- Movie on the Plaza – September 25
- Autumn Cider Social – October 7
- Lunch and Learns
 - September 29
 - October 26
 - November 23



Household Hazardous Waste

Your guide to transfer station handling of household hazardous waste (HHW).

What is Household Hazardous Waste?

Household hazardous waste (HHW) includes chemical products commonly used in homes and communities that may contain ingredients that are harmful to both people and the environment. These materials remain hazardous when they are discarded, and they exhibit characteristics of toxicity, flammability, corrosivity, and/or reactivity as shown below.

Transfer stations may collect HHW generated from cleaning, household projects, garden equipment, pest control, vehicle maintenance, and hobbies. Additionally, HHW collection facilities may be used by certain small businesses, like neighborhood mechanics, community gardeners, painting contractors, schools, casinos, and gas stations.

Common examples of HHW:

- Used oil and oil filters
- Paints
- Solvents
- Electronic waste
- Batteries
- Fluorescent lamps
- Automotive products
- Garden chemicals
- Cleaning products
- Pesticides

			
Toxic	Flammable	Corrosive	Reactive
Listed by EPA, health-based concentration limits	Federal flash point below 140 °F	pH ≤ 2.0 or ≥ 12.5	Violent change without detonating, water reactive
	Oxidizers		

Characteristics of Hazardous Waste & Classification

Classifying and Sorting HHW

Check any labels that may contain information on ingredients, signal words, and symbols, or other helpful data. Consider the use of the material and the type of container it is in.

Once HHW is classified, segregate the wastes according to the hazard type as follows:

- ✓ Store **flammables** separately from other chemicals, ideally in a flammable storage cabinet.
- ✓ Separate **corrosive acids** and **corrosive bases** from each other.

- ✓ Store **oxidizers** separately from all other chemicals, and separate them by chemical ingredient; for example, separate pool chemicals with hypochlorites from fertilizers like nitrates.
- ✓ Separate **reactives** from all other chemicals and from each other to avoid adverse reactions. Examples include ammunition, water reactives, and cyanide wastes.

Initial HHW Collection Best Practices

Waste Acceptance

- ✓ Educate the public about proper management of HHW.
- ✓ Establish a list of what HHW is acceptable and what HHW the transfer station does not accept.
- ✓ To counteract illegal dumping, identify alternative disposal options for unacceptable HHW.

Receiving

- ✓ Screen incoming material to identify unknown wastes and check for unsafe containers or leaks.
- ✓ Establish drop-off procedures – either a staffed drop-off or unstaffed, self-drop-off areas.
- ✓ Sort and distribute HHW to proper hazard class storage.

Sorting

- ✓ Place sorted HHW into containers or on shelves in labeled leak-proof tubs.
- ✓ Isolate unknown chemicals until they are identified.
- ✓ Separate incompatibles to avoid potential reactions between HHW.
- ✓ Store sorted HHW off the ground and in a covered area.
- ✓ Place liquids in secondary containment to contain spillage.

HHW Storage and Management Best Practices

Storage Area Elements & Features

- ✓ Confirm presence of or access to the following:
 - Signage and safety warnings
 - Lockers and other secure storage
 - Storage for supplies, such as shelves, garbage cans, and cardboard boxes
 - Drum dolly or forklift access
 - Sufficient lighting
 - Fire suppression
 - Secondary containment for liquids
 - Both high- and low-ventilation storage areas



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By Terry Jacoby

"This company for now (the ruling is being appealed) is prohibited from bringing in this waste stream entirely, and I think the public ought to take some level of comfort in knowing that their elected officials are fighting to secure their health and safety," he said. "And even though we have been dealing with nuclear waste for decades, there is still a surprising amount that we don't know about radiation, including its effects and what experts even agree on."

Grysko said the allegations were that the Wayne Disposal landfill was creating and maintaining a public nuisance and interfering with the public health, safety and welfare to such a degree that the plaintiffs saw a need to take this case to court to seek immediate relief to stop them from continuing harm to the surrounding communities.

"This was an aggressive effort and a big commitment," he said. "It was a time commitment. I mean, we were doing depositions after hours and working on the weekends, often alongside local officials, because there was an urgency to this. There was a lot of hours and effort that went into it."

"And this was fast. So many cases will take two, three years to come to fruition and you're kind of going back and forth that whole time with written discovery and then depositions and motion practice sprinkled in. This case was unique in that it went from start to finish within a very accelerated time frame."

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

"We are grateful to everyone who participated, attended meetings, shared concerns, and helped support this effort from beginning to end," McNamara said.

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



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

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



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Township Working with Environmental Consultant to Control Nuisance Aquatic Growth in Belleville Lake

In the fall of 2025, Van Buren Township partnered with Progressive Companies to implement a lake management program for Belleville Lake to control aquatic weeds and algae. The first year of the lake improvement program is now in progress.

The township will continue community conversations in the fall to provide updates and discuss ongoing lake-quality improvement efforts. Additional information is available at vbtmi.gov.

Here are answers to some frequently asked questions.

1. Who oversees the plant control program?

The program is overseen by Van Buren Township's environmental consultant, Progressive Companies, who conducts GPS-guided lake surveys and provides treatment maps.

Treatments are monitored throughout the growing season.

2. Who applies the herbicides?

Herbicide treatments in Belleville Lake are performed by PLM Lake and Land Management Corp.

3. How are treatment locations decided?

Biologists use surveys to find nuisance plant growth. Treatments occur only where problematic plants are found.

4. What plants are targeted?

The program targets invasive plants, primarily Eurasian milfoil, and occasionally native plants if they obstruct navigation or lake access.

5. Are preemptive treatments used?

No. Herbicides must be applied directly to actively growing plants. There is no agricultural-style pre-emergent herbicide for lakes.

6. How do treatments affect swimming and fishing?

- **Swimming:** Herbicides (except algaecides) require a 24-hour swimming restriction in treated areas only.
- **Fishing:** No restrictions for any herbicide treatments.

7. Why didn't my property get a treatment notice?

If no sign is posted:

- Your area was not treated, and there are no restrictions for your property.



BELLEVILLE LAKE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT TIMELINE

FALL 2025

9/16/2025

- Limnological Assessment began

10/15/2025

- 1st community meeting

SPRING 2026

Township staff began developing a long-term funding strategy for the lake management program.

4/30/2026

- 2nd community meeting
- Limnological Assessment shared

5/5/2026

- Contracts for weed and algae treatment approved

Week of May 11

- 1st lake survey
- Treatment notices mailed

SUMMER 2026

6/10/2026

- 1st weed treatment

Week of June 22

- 2nd lake survey

6/30/2026

- 1st algae pilot treatment

7/13/2026

- 2nd weed treatment

7/22/2026

- 3rd lake survey

8/5/2026

- 2nd algae treatment (pending results of pilot treatment)

UPCOMING TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

8/20/2026

- 4th lake survey

Week of August 24th

- Final spot weed treatments

FALL 2026

- Progressive Companies and the Township will review the treatment results and begin planning for 2027
- Annual report and presentation



TOWNSHIP DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

Van Buren Township is moving forward in 2026 with a number of projects/developments designed to improve life for both residents and visitors. Ron Akers, director of municipal services for the township, gives an update on a number of those projects either started or scheduled to start in the near future.

ADA Ramps in Haggerty Sub

Van Buren Township has received a \$400,000 grant from Wayne County and HUD in order to install accessible sidewalk ramps at all the intersections in the Van Buren Estates subdivision. The township is working with Fishbeck Engineering and has awarded a contract to Great Lakes Contracting Solutions to perform the work. Work is expected to begin this summer and be completed in the fall.



Morton Taylor Paving

Van Buren Township has partnered with Wayne County to convert Morton Taylor Road from Tyler Road to Ecorse Road from a gravel road to a paved asphalt road. The agreements for this project have been signed, funds have been deposited with Wayne County and township officials are waiting on them to schedule the work. It is

anticipated that the road project will be completed later this year. Township officials will keep the community aware of any scheduling news when it is made available by Wayne County.



Stellantis

Sterling Group is actively working on developing their \$388 million "megahub" for Stellantis/Mopar along Ecorse Road north of Willow Run Airport. This project has been under construction since late 2025 and the township has been active in inspecting the work on the site. This investment will bring 488 jobs into Van Buren Township and utilize advanced robotic systems for storage of materials. The facility is scheduled to be complete and open in 2027.

Denton Village Tank Farm Removal

Van Buren Township has partnered with the Wayne County Land Bank in order to demolish a blighted property in Denton Village near Denton Road and the railroad tracks. The property was formerly used as a gasoline bulk storage facility and had sat abandoned for the past 50 years. In 2024 Van Buren Township was awarded a grant in partnership with the Wayne County Land Bank and Michigan Land Bank to demolish this site, remove contaminated soil, and restore the property to a clean condition. This project was completed as of this July and the blighted property has been cleaned up.

Housing Rehab Program

The Van Buren Township Board of Trustees recently allocated funding for Van Buren Township to initiate a Housing Rehabilitation Program to assist income-qualified homeowners in maintaining safe and sanitary housing. The program provides financial assistance for eligible home repairs that eliminate health and safety hazards, improve accessibility and extend the useful life of owner-occupied homes. More details will be coming soon about how to apply for this program and the details about how it works. Please keep an eye on the township's social media and web pages for further information.



From Vietnam to Willow Run

Michigan Flight Museum restores iconic B-52 bomber By Kelsi Klein

FOR more than 40 years, the Boeing B-52D Stratofortress has been on permanent loan to the Michigan Flight Museum from the National Museum of the United States Air Force.

The Michigan Flight Museum, formerly known as the Yankee Air Museum, was one of the first civilian museums in the country to receive a B-52 in 1983, and it was one of the first aircraft acquired by the museum.

"She's one of the last surviving D models and she's obviously way too big to sit inside, so she weathered about 40 years outside in the Michigan winters and harsh weather conditions before the original restoration began," said Julie Osborne, the museum's curatorial director.

The B-52 was delivered to the U.S. Air Force in 1957 and flew more than 600 combat missions during the Vietnam War, playing a vital key in the war's air strikes. Having been stationed primarily in Thailand, the bomber is believed to be among the last B-52s to drop ordnance on the Ho Chi Minh Trail.

Osborne explained that restoration began in 2013-2014, when a group of longtime museum volunteers who were also former B-52 crew chiefs that served in Thailand during the Vietnam War approached the museum, wanting to adopt the B-52 as their special project.

Restoration efforts grew, and students at the Michigan Institute of Aviation Technology were recruited to help with the sheet metal repair.

"The college students were getting credits and working toward their A&P mechanics licenses while helping us get our aircraft restored," Osborne said. "It was a really great mutual relationship."

The museum also hosted veteran work parties, where they sent out a call to local Air Force veterans who served on B-52s. These weekend events drew 20-40 veterans who

came to help preserve and restore the aircraft – from cleaning out animal debris to power washing.

Now, since the sheet metal has been restored, the museum is nearing the final goal and has recently repainted the aircraft to its original jungle camo paint scheme.

The restorative paint job was headed up by local painter, Eric Moore, of Moore Painting Company.

"Painting the B-52 bomber was an amazing experience," Moore said. "We stepped into history."

That large of an undertaking didn't come without its challenges, though.

"We faced challenges of painting an airplane in the middle of a big open field, like it being covered in dew every morning, feeling like the wind was going to blow us off the wing and the surface getting so hot from the sun that the paint would dry in about two minutes," Moore recalled.

Despite the hurdles, the restoration project was a rewarding experience for Moore, who said, "The volunteers and staff at the Michigan Flight Museum were a pleasure to work with."

For the veterans involved in the process, the restoration has been about more than preserving a historic aircraft.

"It's been a really great project for the veterans and has been really cathartic for them to come and work on this airplane," Osborne said. "It was a special focus on this particular conflict and generation, and really giving them the honor they didn't receive at all."

This September, the museum plans to formally dedicate the aircraft when restoration efforts are finished.

For more information, visit www.miflightmuseum.org or stay up to date with the Michigan Flight Museum Facebook page.



The Story of Maggie Hope

Life as a Woman in Historical Van Buren By Mary Utz

LIFE as a woman in the 19th-century United States looked a lot different from what we expect to see today. By the end of the century, Van Buren Township had grown significantly in its population with the arrival of the Wabash Railroad in Belleville in 1881.

As the town's social life was in full swing, so were the contributions of its women. It wasn't common for a woman to have what we today would refer to as a job – it was more likely that women's contributions would be listed under the term “domestic work,” but this does not even begin to describe the work they did for our community.



Women would often join and start organizations that would create spaces for women to work together and to lead each other in both internal fellowship and external outreach. While there were multiple fraternal organizations within the Belleville Area, including the Masonic Temple and the IOOF (Independent Order of Odd Fellows), there were none that allowed women to join the membership at that time.

Because of this, the fraternal and sororal organizations, Order of the Eastern Star and Rebekah Lodge, were created, allowing both men and women and only women, respectively. Although these organizations were seen as progressive at the time, regrettably, they did not allow people of color membership, specifically barring African Americans.

The local chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star was organized in 1890. Each member paid \$1.50 to join, followed

by an annual fee of \$.50. Members of the organization were to attend to the sick, attend initiations and rituals and engage in fundraising efforts for the order. They also would occasionally cook for the Masonic Temple.

Margaret “Maggie” Hope is the most well-documented leader of the chapter, referred to as the “Worthy Matron.” Born on Liberty Street in 1876, Maggie Hope was a busy woman. Her first job was as an elementary school teacher at Belleville High School when it was on Third Street.

She taught for eight years before attending Ypsilanti Normal College (now Eastern Michigan University).

After that, records indicate she worked as a cashier at People's State Bank (formerly located at 397 Main Street), and as a secretary and bookkeeper for H.F. Van Schoick Harness, Carriage and Hardware and the Clark Grist Mill. However, these are only the companies that employed her professionally. Maggie was well known in



Form 1 585 2386 REGISTRATION CARD No. 4

1 Name in full: Stuart Richard Hope Age in yrs. 22

2 Home address: Belleville Mich.

3 Date of birth: September 1st (Month) (Day) (Year)

4 Are you: (1) a natural-born citizen, (2) a naturalized citizen, (3) an alien, (4) or have you declared your intention (specify which)? Natural Born U.S.A.

5 Where were you born? Galveston Texas

6 If not a citizen, at what country are you a citizen or subject?

7 What is your present trade, occupation, or office? Public school teacher, 28 School now closed.

8 By whom employed? No.

9 Where employed? No.

10 Have you a husband, wife, child under 12, or a sister or brother under 12, solely dependent on you for support (specify which)? Single Race (specify which)? Caucasian

11 Married or single (which)? Single

12 What military service have you had? Rank No. Nation or State No.

13 Do you claim exemption from draft (specify grounds)? No.

I certify that I have verified above answers and that they are true.

Signature of registrant: Stuart R. Hope

REGISTRAR'S REPORT A 21-2-14

1 Tall, medium, or short (specify which)? Tall. Slender, stout, or stout (specify which)? Slender.

2 Color of eyes? Gray Color of hair? Brown Bald? No.

3 Has person lost arm, leg, hand, foot, or both eyes, or is he otherwise disabled (specify)? No.

I certify that my answers are true, that the person registered has read his own answers, that I have witnessed his signature, and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:

Precinct Van Buren Township

City or County Wayne

State Michigan

Signature of Registrar: Fred C. Fischer

Date: 6/5/1917

the community for her work with the Eastern Star for over 30 years, as well as her work as a historian and writer for newspapers such as *The Belleville Enterprise*, *The Ypsilanti Press*, and *The Detroit Courier*.

Maggie was also a poet. The Belleville Area Museum archives house multiple poems she wrote, including one titled, "On the Altar," written about a mother sending her son off to war, likely the first world war:

"Oh Mother, I hear the fife and drum And it thrills my heart with pride

And the music of many tramping feet
Marching side by side;

I can hear my country calling

In each tone of the deep voiced drum-And each eloquent note from its muffled throat
Says, 'Come, Come, Come.'"

But the mother heart was deafened By the tears that she had shed,

She only heard the cannon's roar
And the falling of the molten lead.

"Oh Mother, the boys are coming

With our banner so dazzling bright; It smiles and beckons me to come

To fight for freedom and right; Goodbye, dear little mother,

I am marching away to the fight-"

But the mother's eyes were blinded By the tears that she had shed,

And she saw but a mangled battle line And her boy was among the dead.

Yet she kissed her son a brave 'God Speed'
As he marched to the call of his country's need.

"Oh Mother, the Red Cross calls you To stitch with frantic speed,

These rolls for the wounded and dying
Perhaps your son may need;

For the price of human liberty
Is paid by a priceless deed."

But the mother stitched with grief numbed hands, Even her lips were dumb,

And she prayed in voiceless agony

When the darkness closed around-"Oh God, who made a mother's heart

And pillowed a child on her breast, Thou knowest the price of a lad,

Thou knowest what is best; Dear Christ, who stilled the tempest

On the Sea of Galilee,

Grant to this war-crazed world of ours Peace
- Thy great victory."

Happy Birthday, Maggie!

MISS HOPE CELEBRATING 90TH

BELLEVILLE-- Margaret E. Hope, probably Belleville's oldest citizen and certainly one of its best-known, will celebrate another birthday on Sunday, April 17.

Miss Hope, or "Maggie" as most of her friends know her, will be 90 years old. Actually, her birthday is Saturday, April 9, but Miss Hope decided to delay the celebration a week because of the upcoming Easter weekend.

On April 17, an open house in her honor will be held in the dining parlor of Belleville's Masonic Temple from 2-5 p.m. The celebration is being given by Miss Hope's nephew and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Stuart R. Hope, of Racine, Wisc.

Maggie Hope is an institution in Belleville, having lived here virtually all of her 90 years. There is at least one other Belleville area resident older than

Miss Hope, that being Edward Gardner, of 41654 Expressway, who is 97.

She is probably the oldest resident within the city limits,



its, however, and certainly has no peer among the local senior citizen group when it comes to wit and fitness.

While she may have slowed down to some extent over

the past few years, Maggie Hope is far from home-bound. She still manages to take an occasional stroll on her own, chatting with friends and neighbors near her home at 374 Main.

Miss Hope has lived in her Main street home since 1880. She moved there with her parents, the late Richard and Angeline L. Hope, and a brother, Louis John, from a small cottage at Liberty and Third where she was born on April 9, 1876.

Her birthplace, the cottage, has since been removed by its owners, the Michigan Bell Telephone Co.

Miss Hope graduated from Belleville High School in 1892 and began teaching in the primary department of the local school system that fall. She taught for eight more years and attended Ypsilanti Normal College, finishing in 1904. (continued on page 5)

Although Maggie never married nor gave birth, when her brother Louis died in 1899, his 6-year-old son, Stuart, took a train from Texas to Van Buren to live with his aunt and grandmother.

Maggie raised Stuart into adulthood, until he was drafted into World War I in 1918, at the age of 22. Her personal reflection on a war, where her surrogate son was sent away, alters the power of the poem. Thankfully, Stuart was not killed during the war, and was named as her living family in her obituary in 1974.

We are grateful to have Maggie's story, but there are so many women who have molded our tri-community. Of those, we have record of only a percentage, and on them, even less. We are grateful for the lives and work of these women and for the impact they made that paved the way for us today. Come visit the Belleville Area Museum to learn more about Maggie Hope, and the other women whose lives impacted the community.

A special thank you to Finn Vincent-Fix for his contribution in research.

★ Maggie Hope

(continued from page 1)
nally settling on a business career with the James R. Clark & Son firm.

She was bookkeeper for the Clark's flour mill in Belleville for three years and then worked for the Peoples State Bank for seven years. When World War I broke out, she was employed by the H.F. Van Schoick Hardware and Implement Store.

During World War II, she

ministers. She has been a member of the Belleville Chapter No. 73, Order of the Eastern Star, for 71 years and served as Worthy Matron in 1903-04.

At the present time, she is serving her 31st year as Eastern Star treasurer and is a member of the Past Matron's Association and Electra Club. In addition, she is an honorary member of the Women's Study Club.

Secretary of Belleville Grange No. 331 for 47 years, Miss Hope received a life membership when the Grange disbanded and the members united with Plymouth Grange No. 389. On her 80th birthday, the Grange presented Miss Hope with a television set in recognition of her long service.

She holds the Grange Silver Star and Gold Sheaf certificates and is a 7th Degree member -- the highest possible level in the national Grange organization.

Miss Hope was for many years a correspondent for the Ypsilanti Press and The Enterprise-Roman. She wrote The Enterprise-Roman's "Belleville Brevities" column until 1950 when she turned it over to the present correspondent, Mrs. Joseph Spring.

Miss Hope was also treasurer and secretary of the Hillside Cemetery Association until 1950, when stockholders voted to turn the cemetery over to the City of Belleville.

Belleville's grand lady extends a welcome to everyone to attend the open house celebration on April 17.



HEAR THEM ROAR

Lady Tigers flag football team makes Belleville High School history

By Kelsi Klein

As girls flag football continues to pick up speed across the nation, the Belleville Lady Tigers have made a name for themselves in Michigan and beyond.

While not an MHSAA approved sport yet, the Detroit Lions have been instrumental in bringing girls flag football to high schools in southeast Michigan. What started with a four-team pilot in 2023 has expanded to include nearly 80 participating schools and 15 leagues across the state.

Flag football is currently organized as a club sport in Michigan, and the program is the first of its kind at the high school level, with anticipation of becoming a state-sanctioned sport in the near future.

The Lady Tigers compete in the Gridiron Heroes League along with University Prep Academy, Westland John Glenn, Wayne Memorial and Romulus.

They finished their inaugural season with a 1-1-1 record, introducing many athletes to the sport for the first time. In their second season, the team improved to 2-2 and finished second in its league. The teams that come in first place in each of the 15 leagues move on to the championship tournament at Ford Field each year.

"It's really catching on," said team manager Jennifer Kelley. "More and more colleges are starting flag football teams. Eastern Michigan is launching the state's first Division 1 flag football program next year and it will be in the 2028 Olympics."

For the team's coaches and players, success is about more than wins and losses.

"We started off with a majority of new, green players and now we've got an established, talented team, but we're very much welcoming in new players," Jennifer said, alongside her husband and head coach, Bryon Kelley. "We really want everyone interested in flag football to get opportunities to play and to have coaches who believe in all of them and see that there's a place for everyone on the team. Each player has an important role."

Rather than relying on one or two standout stars, the team emphasizes the importance of true teamwork, giving each player the opportunity to grow and make an impact.

The program has also led to opportunities for the Lady Tigers outside their regular season by joining forces with other high schools in the area and taking the girls to the Western Michigan Flag Championship in Byron Center. They won the tournament, securing a bid to the Junior Olympics in Iowa this summer, where six Belleville Lady Tigers competed on a national stage. They



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finished in the top five before losing to the gold and silver teams by a single possession in pool play.

Additional opportunities for the team and coaches have included participating in a Detroit Lions training camp at Ford Field along with joint practices with Detroit's women's tackle team, the Detroit Prowl with the AWLF.

With an increase in college programs and recruiting, the Belleville Lady Tigers flag football team has provided opportunities for high school girls to pursue the sport and give them skills, experience and exposure. The coaches' goal is to give each player who wants to play flag football in college that chance, including scholarship opportunities.



Representatives from the team attended a Detroit Lions Training Camp.

Kelley said they have taken steps to expand the current program to McBride Middle School, giving younger athletes an affordable opportunity to learn the game from experienced coaches while helping grow the sport throughout the community.

The players and coaches are on the front lines of building the foundation for a generational program that can positively impact athletes, families and the entire community for years to come.

For many of those players, this could be the beginning of a lifelong journey – one that builds confidence, teamwork, leadership and skills they will carry with them long after they leave the field.

For more information about the team or to sign up, visit www.bhstigersflag.com.



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THROUGH THE LENS

Van Buren Township's Chad Conway creates compelling visual narratives

By Ryan M. Place

FOR Chad Conway, every project starts with a story.

Whether he's filming a country music video at a long-abandoned drag strip, capturing a wedding or producing commercials for businesses, Conway approaches each assignment with the same goal: creating something memorable.

"I love helping people tell their stories," Conway said. "That's what keeps me excited about the work."

Born in 1979 and raised in Lansing, Conway also spent time Up North. After living on Traverse City's scenic Old Mission Peninsula and working at Leelanau Sands Casino, Conway relocated southeast two decades ago, when his brother moved back from Florida.

"My brother settled in Brownstown," he said. "I moved to Canton first. I lived in the Sheldon Inn at Michigan Avenue and Sheldon. It was built in 1825, one of Michigan's oldest houses. Then I made my way to Van Buren Township."

At the time, Conway was performing in a band called Product of Insanity. Music has remained one of the central passions of his life ever since.

Today, Conway owns and operates 42 Jade Productions, a photography and videography company. The business grew unexpectedly after a simple campground project changed everything.



"I recorded a cover band called Category 5 at our campground in Jackson," Conway recalled. "I edited the footage and put it online. It quickly racked up thousands of views. Then Ford's marketing team called me, asking me to use it during an F-150 lighting event with Darius Rucker in downtown Detroit."

Word quickly spread from there.

"People started asking me to shoot various projects, weddings, and it's been growing ever since," he said.

Conway estimates his work is about 60 percent videography (commercials, music videos, weddings) and 40 percent photography (headshots, senior portraits).

Conway has shot music videos for artists including The Family Tradition Band, Uncle Kracker, Frankie Ballard, The Elevators, Kashed Out, Laura Wilkie, and Waylon Hanel.

"I especially love shooting music videos," he said. "Music has always been a huge part of my life."

His current arsenal includes three Sony cinema cameras, eight professional lenses, drones, and editing software such as DaVinci Resolve and Lightroom.

When he's not behind the camera, Conway enjoys collecting vinyl records and CDs. Earlier in life, he spent time building model cars and racing remote-controlled vehicles. He's also preparing to launch a new series called What's in the Garage?, which will spotlight people with unusual collections and hobbies hidden away in garages, basements and workshops.

Conway said Van Buren Township remains the perfect home base.

"It has a small-town feel," he said. "Belleville Lake is beautiful, and the whole area has a sort of Up North vibe. I love the live music at the Bait Shop Bar and Grill."

Looking ahead, Conway hopes to continue expanding the commercial side of 42 Jade Productions while creating more music videos and original content.

"I want to keep growing, keep creating and keep telling stories," he said. "There are so many great people and interesting stories right here in Michigan."

A blue circular logo with a white border. The word "SUPPORT" is arched at the top, "LOCAL" is in the center, and "BUSINESS" is arched at the bottom. There are small white dots on either side of the word "LOCAL".

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BACA NEWS

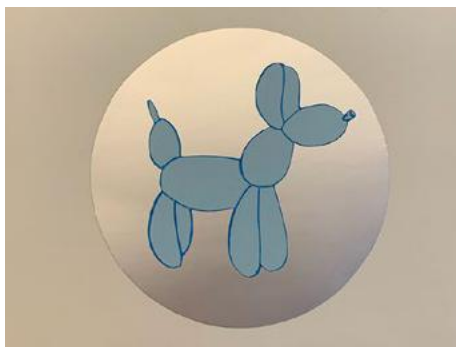
THE Belleville Area Council for the Arts is "Calling All Artists" to participate in the 17th Annual Community Art Show, taking place October 16-18 at the Belleville Yacht Club. Cash prizes will be awarded for first, second and third place in several categories, including 2D, 3D/Fiber Art, Photography, Children and Teens.

"Celebrating 250 Years" will be the new category for this year's show. Artwork in this category can be any imaginative interpretation of "250" not necessarily limited to patriotic entries.

Artists are invited to submit up to three pieces, designed within the past two years. Applications are available at the Belleville Library, Sumpter Media Center or on the BACA website: www.bacaart.org.

The art show begins on Friday, 7-9 p.m., with a reception to view the winning artwork and meet the artists. Many pieces will be for sale. The show continues on Saturday and Sunday for public viewing. There will also be a silent auction of artwork from participating artists, lasting all weekend.

If you miss the exhibit, the winning artwork will be displayed in the library after the art show for the public to view all the prize-winning pieces.



Rhonda Dutton, BACA president, congratulates BHS graduate, Allie Horchem, for her outstanding achievement in the visual arts. See Allie's artwork at the BACA Art Show, October 16-18.

Senior Scholarship

BACA salutes the 2026 Senior Scholarship Award recipient, Belleville High School graduate Allie Horchem, for her excellence in the creative arts. Allie will further her education at Washtenaw Community College, specializing in pre-dentistry. Her artwork will be featured at the Community Art Show in October.

Community Art 48111

Community Art Banners are flying from 70 light poles in the city of Belleville on Main Street, High Street and Liberty. This year the banners feature children's art (K-12) from the Van Buren Schools Art Show, creations from BACA members and visuals from the Belleville Library Memory Café's seniors.

Can you find the pictured images on the new BACA banners?

More information can be found on BACA's website and Facebook: Belleville Area Council for the Arts-BACA.

TO YOUR HEALTH!

DECODING EGGS

What are you really getting?

By Lisa Howard

EGGs can seem mysterious. Fortunately, with a little know-how, it's (mostly) easy to figure out what kind of eggs would suit your needs.

Eggs are particularly lovely combined with spring ingredients like mushrooms, alliums and fresh herbs, and they can be prepared in a variety of ways: baked into quiches (or mini quiches), sautéed into frittatas, hard-boiled, poached, made into omelets or scrambled. (If necessary, a tattered omelet can easily become a tidy scramble.)

As a complete protein, eggs are ideal for light-but-hearty meals as well as non-starchy desserts like custards and mousses. You can even make your own top-notch mayo using hard-boiled yolks and extra-virgin olive oil!

Eggshell colors can be shades of white, brown and blue. Different breeds lay different-colored eggs, making this factor kind of like human hair colors. While you might prefer blue eggshells (or hair), the color doesn't impact the quality or flavor of the egg.

Egg size can matter when you're cooking from recipes since most recipes are based on large eggs. If you opt for jumbo or peewee or any size other than large, your results might not match what the recipe stipulates. But you might want to use nonlarge eggs for other uses, like adorably small, hard-boiled eggs. (Quail eggs are even smaller.)

Egg grades are AA, A and B. Grade A is what's mostly sold in stores. According to CertifiedHumane.org, AA eggs have "thick, firm whites and high, round yolks and strong shells," while Grade A eggs have "reasonably firm" whites. Grade B eggs have "thin whites and wider yolks" and their shells may be stained. (You won't see those in stores.)

The pack date is the day the eggs were washed, graded and placed in the carton. This date is expressed using the three-digit Julian calendar, where January 1st is 001 and December 31st is 365. (So February 1st is 032.)

Free-range eggs are from hens allowed access to the outside. Technically, this "access" can be a tiny window high up in the wall or a tiny hatch leading to a paved parking lot. It can also be full outdoor access, making this label not as useful as you might think.

Pasture-raised eggs come from hens that probably are truly outside, roaming and foraging. But because the USDA doesn't

have requirements for this label, shoppers need to look for an animal welfare certification such as Certified Humane Raised and Handled or Animal Welfare Approved.

Organic eggs come from hens that are, according to the USDA, "free to roam in their houses and have access to the outdoors. The hens are fed an organic diet of feed produced without conventional pesticides or fertilizers." Again, though, "free-range" is a rather imprecise term.

Cage-free eggs are from hens that aren't kept in individual tiny pens. However, this has nothing to do with outdoor access or how much space hens actually have.

Vegetarian-fed eggs are from hens who are only fed vegetarian fare. But! As the saying goes, "The early bird gets the worm." Chickens are omnivores, not herbivores. If a hen is allowed to go outside, she will not be a vegetarian.

Hormone-free is meaningless since U.S. federal law requires that hens be raised without supplemental hormones.

Natural, farm-fresh, and all-natural mean essentially nothing. Per the USDA, "All raw single-ingredient meat and poultry qualify as 'natural.'"

Lisa Howard is a writer, editor and health educator who loves to share her joy of cooking delicious and nutritious foods during her community talks and culinary classes. You can find out more about her classes and recipes at www.theculturedcook.com.





AROUND Van Buren

September – November

SEPTEMBER

September 8-12

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.

September 11

110 Stories - Van Buren Community Players

Van Buren Community Center
Black Box Theater
46425 Tyler Road

110 Stories is a powerful docu-play that tells the story of September 11 through the voices of everyday people who experienced it firsthand. Based on real interviews, it shares moving, sometimes humorous, and deeply personal accounts from a mother, photojournalist, ironworker, chiropractor, and others whose lives were forever changed. Honoring both the tragedy and the resilience that followed, 110 Stories reminds us of the compassion and humanity that emerged in the face of unimaginable loss. FREE, pre-registration required.

September 12, 13, 18, 19, 20

Sweet Delilah Swim Club - Van Buren Community Players

Van Buren Community Center

Black Box Theater

46425 Tyler Road

The Sweet Delilah Swim Club play is a heartwarming comedy about five Southern women who met on a college swim team. The play spans 33 years, tracking the friends as they reunite for an annual weekend getaway at a beach cottage in North Carolina's Outer Banks.

September 16

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: Butterfly Landing. 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!

September 19

Wings and Whiskey

5-8 p.m.

Michigan Flight Museum
47884 D Street

Enjoy a night of whiskey tasting, chicken wings, education, after hours at the museum, music and fun. Tickets are \$50/person and free admission for designated drivers. Learn more or register at www.miflightmuseum.org.

September 23

Detroit Institute of Arts - FREE for Senior Members

12-4 p.m.

Van Buren Senior Center

Join us for a free trip to the Detroit Institute of Arts, courtesy of the DIA! Explore one of the nation's premier art museums, home to more than 65,000 works of art spanning cultures and centuries. This is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy world-class exhibits, discover something new and spend an afternoon with friends.

September 25

Movie on the Plaza - FREE

7:00-9:45 p.m.

Van Buren Community Center
Entertainment Plaza
46425 Tyler Road

Enjoy an outdoor movie at the plaza. Bring your lawn chairs, blankets and your favorite movie snacks for a fun night under the stars. Due to specific movie licensing, we cannot disclose the title, but we can give you a hint: A group of friends heads to a tropical getaway that quickly turns into a puzzling mystery filled with strange clues, disguises and unexpected twists. As things take a spooky turn, the Mystery Team have to rely on teamwork, quick thinking and a little bravery (plus plenty of snacks) to uncover what's really going on before time runs out.





September 26

Painted Leaf Tote Bag

1-3 p.m.

Van Buren Community Center
46425 Tyler Road

In this class, each participant will create a painted leaf canvas tote bag made using real fall leaves. All supplies will be included for you to transform a plain canvas tote into your own totable piece of art. Participants should be ages 6 years and older and come dress ready to paint. Registration is per person.

OCTOBER

October 3

Pirate Party

10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Van Buren Community Center
46425 Tyler Road

The Pirate Party is designed for kids ages 4-12 and their parents. Each child will choose their very own pirate, and may even be turned into a pirate themselves while they visit fun activity stations to make their own treasure chest, learn how to groom their mustaches and talk like a pirate (nicely) while getting tattooed! Fun continues as we look for a lost treasure with our own treasure maps. There's a bounty of fun and photo ops to be had! Light refreshments will be provided for a fun and memorable experience together. Registration is required for each child - an adult is required to attend with their children.



October 7

Autumn Cider Social

1-3 p.m.

Van Buren Senior Center – Aspen Room

Celebrate the beauty of fall with a cozy afternoon at our Senior Center Autumn Cider Social! Enjoy fresh apple cider and warm, delicious donuts provided by Detroit Mini Donuts. Advance registration is required, so be sure to sign up. We look forward to celebrating the season with you!

October 10

Fire Department Pancake Break Breakfast

9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Fire Station #2
7981 Belleville Road

Come out and enjoy some delicious pancakes, made by our very own VB firefighters! Tickets are \$5.00.

October 10

Comedy Night - Jasen Magic

7-8 p.m.

Van Buren Community Center
46425 Tyler Road

Experience the excitement and wonder of Jasen Magic, a world-class entertainer who has captivated audiences with more than 13,000 live performances across the globe. From intimate close-up magic to high-energy stage shows and daring televised stunts, Jasen brings a unique ability to connect with audiences of all sizes. Having performed for celebrities, professional athletes and national television audiences, his show blends skill, charisma and unforgettable moments. Get ready to be amazed by a performance that is as thrilling as it is engaging.



October 17

Candy Loop - FREE

4-6 p.m.

Quirk Park

Join us for some family-friendly trick-or-treating! Your family will walk a short trail as they gather candy from some of our local businesses and organizations! Be prepared to be out-of-doors and have a great time. We will contact you if the event is canceled due to inclement weather. We ask that everyone register themselves and their families so that if we cancel and reschedule the event due to inclement weather, we can let you know. October 24 - RAIN OUT DATE ONLY.

NOVEMBER

November 7

Punkin' Roll Out - FREE

10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Van Buren Park

*50901 S. I-94 Service Drive
Come out and join us for a fun-filled morning at the Van Buren Park Sled Hill! Bring your leftover Halloween pumpkins and roll them down the sled hill! Still have your Halloween costumes out? Well, put them on and join us for a fun morning! Children of all ages will have a blast as they send their punkins a-rolling down the hill! We ask that you register for this free event so that we can contact you if the event is canceled due to inclement weather.*

November 13

Crow Party

6-8 p.m.

Van Buren Community Center
46425 Tyler Road

Gather your favorite shiny trinkets and join the flock for an evening of fun, friendship and a little bit of mystery! During this two-hour social event, participants can trade unique trinkets, enjoy light refreshments and connect with fellow crow enthusiasts in a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere. Guests are encouraged to dress the part by wearing black clothing, with sparkly accessories, feathers or other crow-inspired touches, if they wish. Whether you're an avid collector or simply looking for a fun and unusual outing, this event is sure to be a caw-some time! Registration is limited, register early!

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



Ry'Ann's Purpose

Mother turns grief into a legacy of service through nonprofit

By Kelsi Klein

AT just 13 years old, Ry'Ann Stephenson made an impact on the lives of countless people around her. Remembered for her love of sports, compassion and positive spirit, Ry'Ann inspired those who knew her with the way she connected with and cared for others. Now, her legacy continues to inspire, empower and make a difference in the lives of local families.

After losing her daughter in February 2026, Ry'Ann's mom, Nicole McGuire, founded Ry'Ann's Purpose, a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping families with sports fees, equipment and other related costs.

"Ry'Ann loved sports," McGuire said. "They can be a powerful outlet for kids, helping them stay focused, positive and giving them a healthy way to release stress. Sports also help build character, confidence and strong connections."

Ry'Ann was a standout athlete and her sports journey started with the Belleville Wrestling Club. She competed in AAU track and field with the Ann Arbor Track Club and was a three-time Junior Olympian. In addition to setting school records in track and field and being named Middle School Long Jumper of the Year in 2025, Ry'Ann also played flag football for the Great Lakes Flag Football League, and earned a place on the Stealth Team as a top athlete in the league.

According to McGuire, "Ry'Ann's Purpose exists to continue her legacy by helping children access sports opportunities regardless of financial hardship in our community."

Many families face financial hardships that prevent children from participating

in sports and extracurricular activities. Registration fees, uniforms, equipment, travel expenses and camps can place a significant burden on low-income families, and children lose access to positive outlets.

The Ry'Ann's Purpose Youth Support Program will provide assistance to underserved families in the following areas: youth sports registration fees, athletic equipment and uniforms,

sports camps and training opportunities and team participation support with priority given to low-income households, single-parent families and children facing emotional or social hardships.

Ry'Ann's Purpose seeks to ensure that financial hardship does not prevent children from feeling included, valued and connected to sports opportunities that help children remain active and engaged while supporting their emotional and mental well-being.

The organization is also dedicated to focusing on suicide awareness and prevention, an aspect that is especially important to McGuire and Ry'Ann's legacy.

With the support of the community and through donations, Ry'Ann's Purpose's long-term goals include expanding its services to include things like therapy assistance, food banks, Christmas assistance, legal assistance, bill assistance and more for families in need.

Ry'Ann's Purpose is seeking grant funding and community partnerships to help fuel its mission and continue to spread the love and purpose Ry'Ann brought into this world.

Visit the Ry'Ann's Purpose Facebook page or email ryannspurpose@gmail.com to learn more or get involved.



Music *on the* Terrace



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District



School of
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Wayne County Community College District

Fall 2026
Concert Series

Thursday,
September 17, 2026
6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Oakland University *Steelband*

Steel Drum Band

Join us for an unforgettable musical journey filled with tropical rhythms, dynamic percussion, and outstanding student talent. Whether you're dancing along or simply enjoying the unique sounds of the steel drums, this performance is sure to leave you smiling and wanting more!

Thursday,
September 24, 2026
6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.



Lonesome Skeleton Band

Bring your friends and enjoy an evening of outstanding live music with Lonesome Skeleton—where great songs, great musicians, and great memories come together!

Rising from Detroit, Michigan, this one-of-a-kind multi-instrumental performer transforms the stage into an eerie musical journey, creating the illusion of an entire band with one skeleton making multiple noises all by itself.

Outdoor event, will be moved indoors in inclement weather

Open to the Public at No Cost!

No alcohol permitted on premises

Ted Scott Campus

Ted Scott Environmental Terrace

9555 Haggerty Road
Van Buren Twp., MI 48111

Thursday,
September 10, 2026
6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.



Detroit Social Club

Get ready for an unforgettable evening of live music with Detroit Social Club! Bringing together the best of Motown, R&B, soul, funk, classic rock, pop, and today's favorites, Detroit Social Club delivers an electrifying performance that keeps audiences singing, dancing, and celebrating all night long.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.WCCCD.EDU OR CALL 734-699-7008

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