

# Van Buren T O D A Y

## Inside

Harris Park  
Birthday Bash

Distinguished Grad  
Turns 100

2025 Water  
Quality Report





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# Did you Know?

## Jacob Matthew Jewelers is your one-stop shop for jewelry, repairs and more

### Lab-grown diamonds are becoming more popular each year

Lab-grown diamonds have increased in popularity in recent years for several reasons. They are physically identical to mined diamonds, but cost a fraction of the price.

Whether customers are saving money for a house or a wedding, lab-grown diamonds have given people the opportunity to still be able to purchase a beautiful piece of jewelry within their budget.



### Don't forget about Mother's Day, Father's Day and graduation

Did you know there are incredibly affordable options when picking out a gift for these spring/summer occasions? "People often overlook jewelry as an affordable gifting option," she said, but Jacob Matthew Jewelers has something for every occasion.

### Jewelry is one of the most memorable gifts

Chances are, if you ask someone about a piece of jewelry they're wearing, they will remember exactly when, where and from whom they received it.

When it comes to gift giving, jewelry is one of the most sentimental and meaningful gifts.

"It's a nice sentiment for a child starting a new chapter in their life," Haggerty said. "They have a piece of home to wear as a reminder of from where they came."



Whether it's a promise ring they wear until they become engaged, a classic pair of diamond or pearl studs to a watch for daily wear, jewelry is the perfect gift for all of life's milestones.



### Your unwearable jewelry or family heirlooms can be repaired and restored like new

Many people inherit jewelry they simply don't wear because it has been well loved—maybe the gemstone is worn or clasp is broken. Did you know that Jacob Matthew Jewelers offers state-of-the-art repair and restoration services? If it's a style you don't like, they can also redesign the piece into something more your taste.

Through jewelry restoration and regular maintenance, your meaningful jewelry will remain beautiful and wearable for future generations.

Their jewelry repair services encompass everything from repairing chains, tightening gemstones and rebuilding worn jewelry to professional cleaning and polishing.

The full-time, in-house jewelers take time to care for each piece and provide the highest quality service that will last for years to come.

### It's better to shop with an independent jeweler

While it's convenient to order jewelry online or from a chain store, you completely bypass the personalized approach and wealth of knowledge local jewelers have gained.

"We want to make you happy," Haggerty said. "We see you around town, live in your community and can talk to you and help you select the best piece of jewelry for you and your lifestyle. We'd love the opportunity to give you a free consultation for any of your jewelry needs."



Jacob Matthew Jewelers is located at 6673 N. Canton Center Road in Canton. For more information, visit [www.jacobmatthewjewelers.com](http://www.jacobmatthewjewelers.com) or call 734-207-1906.

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**D**EAR Residents,  
Happy spring! After a long, cold winter, it's great to see the sun again and watch our community come back to life.

Earlier this year, the township received a \$412,500 grant to improve sidewalk ramps in the Haggerty subdivision. These upgrades will make them easier and safer to use, at no cost to residents.

The annual Quilt Show, in collaboration with the Western Wayne County Quilting Guild, was very popular, and every quilt on display showcased beautiful creativity and skills. This year's show celebrated America's 250th anniversary.

This season is packed with events, from Kite Day returning on May 15 – after being a big hit last year – to the Summer Slam Pickleball Tournament on May 30, there is something going on every week.

Our Summer Kickoff Party is on June 11, as we celebrate two years of the Van Buren

Community Center. Fireworks are set for June 27.

The Van Buren Community Players' shows continue to be well-received. Don't miss the youth musical, "Narnia", from May 15 to 17.

June and July will feature summer concerts at Harris Park and the Community Center. Make sure to check out the VBC Guide for dates and to keep updated on all the cool events taking place.

Seniors and family programs are growing, including "Paws and Relax" with Jasper the therapy dog, which inspired plans for a future dog park in our township. At Quirk Park, new pavilions are being built, and the Belleville Lake assessment has been completed and shared with residents.

We are looking forward to finishing the bridge project. Keep an eye out for a ribbon-cutting date later this summer.

Thank you for your continued support.  
Sincerely,



Kevin McNamara  
Supervisor, Van Buren Township



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

## Somatic Practice Series

Wednesdays in June, 6:30 p.m.

Join our four-part series of one-hour classes to bring the mind and body into alignment. Somatic Practices include yoga, meditation, reiki, breathwork, and chakra work.

## In the Garden with the DIA

Thursday, June 4, 7 p.m.

Explore hidden meanings behind images of flowers, plants and gardens featured in favorite works of art.

## Get Hooked on Fishing

Saturday, June 20, 1 p.m.

A DNR educator will teach us how to locate fish habitat and identify species common to Michigan waterways.

## UFOs Over Michigan

Monday, June 29, 6:30 p.m.

Find out about several well-documented UFO sightings in our state.

## American Revolution in Michigan

Wednesday, July 1, 6:30 p.m.

Learn about Michigan's role in the American Revolution.

## Jazz Night at the Library – A Brief History of American Music

Wednesday, July 15, 7 p.m.

Celebrate 250 years of American musical history with Rob Crozier. Enjoy selections from a variety of genres.

## Digging Up History: Why the Past's Trash is Really Buried Treasure

Monday, August 3, 6:30 p.m.

Learn about key archeological discoveries and how new methods reveal history beneath the surface.

## Summer Reading

Sign up at <https://bellevillemi.beanstack.org> or on the Beanstack app, and start reading on June 15!

### ● Adult Summer

#### Reading Program

June 15–August 15  
(Ages 18+)

### ● The Great Belleville

#### Read-A-Thon

June 20, 2026 – Drop in anytime  
from 10 a.m.–5 p.m.!

### ● Youth Summer Reading

#### Program

June 15–July 31 (Ages 0–18)

# UNEARTH A STORY™



## Kids Summer Programs (All ages unless noted)

### ● Crosswinds Marsh Meet and Greet

Tuesday, June 23, 11 a.m.

Learn about creatures in your yard with Crosswinds Marsh wildlife expert.

### ● Tort-tastic Birthday Party!

Friday, June 26, 2–4 p.m.

Games, crafts, face painting, and more!

### ● Science Heroes: Digging It

Tuesday, June 30, 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. (Grades K–5)  
Unearth your curiosity as we dig into science!

### ● Digging Into Our Earth with Music and Stories

Tuesday, July 7, 11 a.m.

Music and stories from cultures around the world.

### ● Alex Thomas & Friends Dinosaur Puppet Show

Tuesday, July 14, 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Meet animated dinosaur puppets and uncover fossil hunting secrets.

### ● Kids Dino Crafts

Wednesday, July 15, 6:30–8 p.m. (Ages 3–8)

### ● Dino Dig Bubble Dance Party

Saturday, July 18, 11 a.m.

Stomp onto the bubble-filled dance floor.

### ● Jurassic Joel's Magic Show

Tuesday, July 21, 11 a.m.

### ● Reptarium

Tuesday, July 28, 11 a.m. and 12:15 p.m.

Meet a variety of reptiles from The Reptarium.

### ● DinoBuilders

Wednesday, July 29, 6 p.m.

Create your own foam dinosaur!

## Teen/Tween Programs

Please register at <https://bit.ly/BADLEventsCalendar>

### ● T(w)een Movies: Movies TBD

2 p.m. (Ages 11–18)

• Saturday, July 11

• Saturday, July 25

• Friday, July 31

### ● Teen Craft

Friday, July 17, 2 p.m. (Ages 12–18)

### ● Tween Dino Crafts

Wednesday, July 22, 6:30 p.m. (Ages 9–13)

### ● Kam Comics Workshop

Monday, July 27, 2 p.m. (Ages 1–18)

Learn to draw your own characters, faces, backgrounds, lettering, and more with Kam.



For more information about the library,  
visit <https://www.belleville.lib.mi.us/>



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# Mental Healthcare *is* Healthcare

## Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network works to reduce stigma, normalize treatment By Kelsi Klein

**W**HILE Mental Health Awareness Month is observed each May to reduce stigma and promote mental well-being, Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network (DWIHN) is dedicated to providing free, confidential mental health and wellness support for Wayne County residents through a variety of accessible services all year round.

For Melissa Peters, DWIHN's director of outpatient services, her focus is to reduce stigma by normalizing mental health treatment and ensuring people know that help is available to them.

Peters explained that sometimes people don't have the support they need and one of the stronger indicators of someone being successful with where they want to be is to have a solid support network.

Because not everyone has support at home, Peters emphasizes the importance of the community-based, wraparound care that DWIHN offers.

A major part of DWIHN's mission to provide care is making it more accessible. Through their centralized call center, individuals can begin the process of receiving services with just one phone call.

"I think the hardest part is making the phone call," Peters said. "From there, there's going to be staff and professionals to help guide them the rest of the way in a warm, supportive way."

DWIHN provides outpatient services for individuals of all ages, from infants to older adults.

Peters explained that their infant and early childhood program for children aged 0 to 5 is a home-based service that wraps around families.

For children aged 6 through 21, services include outpatient therapy with youth peer support specialists and parent support partners. Home-based services are also provided for families that have children who need more support.

"Kids with higher acuity needs or who are coming out of a hospital setting or are at risk of hospitalization can

receive in-home services that provide a more intensive level of support to hopefully intervene before any other steps need to occur," Peters said.

For the adult population, DWIHN offers therapists, case managers, peer support and peer recovery support. Psychiatric services are also available for both children and adults.

According to Peters, just as important as making mental



healthcare accessible is changing how people think about mental healthcare itself.

"It shouldn't feel any different to come get treatment for depression or anxiety or bipolar than it does for diabetes or heart disease," she said. "It's medical treatment with evidence-based practices that help you get better."

The shift from not just awareness but to

normalization is a key component of reducing stigma. Mental healthcare is healthcare.

Education also plays a key role, especially when it comes to working with families.

"It's not just the child in treatment, it's the family unit," Peters said. "We're helping them understand what we're doing, why it works and how they can support their loved one."

She emphasized that just like in the medical field and the physical health world, evidence-based practices with research behind them show that differences are made when treatment is consistent and engaged.

Outside of clinical care, Peters encourages individuals to take small, proactive steps to support their mental health at home, such as practicing mindfulness to help manage stressful situations before they become overwhelming.

Those seeking mental health services can call DWIHN's 24-hour helpline at (800) 241-4949 or visit [www.dwihn.org](http://www.dwihn.org) for more information.



# MESSAGE FROM

## The Superintendent



# Reflecting On the Opportunities Our Students Have

**A**s the school year winds down and I have some time to reflect, I am left amazed at the opportunities that the students of Van Buren Public Schools have.



When I came here 10 years ago, our focus was to make sure students could find their passion within our walls. We wanted to move past a traditional, comprehensive school experience to one where students had many experiences to find out what gives them joy in life. We want students to have a plan when they leave and not just wake up after graduation and say, "Now what?"

I want to mention just some of the amazing opportunities that our students are provided.

We are fresh off the heels of all the amazing accomplishments of our Belleville High School Robotics Team. Our district has a competing robotic team in each building, K-12. This program teaches teamwork, technical skills and kindness while allowing the students to be silly and competitive at the same time.

Our athletic teams are second to none in VBPS. We have won multiple state championships in various sports and have been very close to winning many more titles. The dedication to a team-first mentality builds leaders and individuals who value hard work and sacrifice. Our student athletes are an amazing group!

Our music program is the creme de la creme. We are known all over the state for the quality of musicians that we produce and the large numbers of students in our programs. This is attributed to the amazing music teachers in VBPS. They are patient and have a deep desire to share the gift of music with the masses.

Many other programs provide this strong connection to our students. These include a wide variety of clubs, Early College, cosmetology, Leader in Me, DECA, theater, choir, art, NJROTC, Advanced Placement classes, William D. Ford, Community Education classes, student leadership opportunities, and our new aviation program.

These and so many more programs connect with students each day. They are able to bring out the best in each student and develop their passions and talents. The staff that lead these are also the cheerleaders for the students and get great pleasure as they see that talent and joy each day.

I am proud of the work our staff do each day. I am excited for our students as they grow into productive citizens. I am also humbled to be a small part of it.

Pete Kudlak  
Superintendent



# 2026-2027 VBPS Parent Calendar

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



# SPOTLIGHT ON HUMAN RESOURCE DEPARTMENT



## Jessica Romak

### CTE coordinator inspired to make a difference closer to home

**J**ESSICA Romak is the career and technical education (CTE) and career readiness coordinator for Van Buren Public Schools. In this role, Mrs. Romak oversees the development and implementation of CTE programs at Belleville High School, as well as preK-12 career preparation opportunities and programs throughout the Van Buren Public Schools District.

During her tenure, two new CTE programs have received State of Michigan approval. An aviation program has begun, with an FAA Part 107 Drones program currently under State of Michigan review for approval.

Plans are also underway to submit applications for additional programs. Significant progress has been made in developing a cohesive, district-wide Educational Development Plan (EDP) implementation program, helping to support Belleville High School's Career Purpose Pathway initiative.

CTE programs are beneficial to all students, regardless of their chosen postsecondary path. Students enrolled in state-approved programs are expected to earn an industry-recognized credential, giving them an advantage over their peers in the workforce, and this can also earn them college credit. For example, students in the marketing program earn multiple credentials, including Microsoft Office certifications and Communications for Small Business. They can also earn up to six credit hours.

Mrs. Romak came to Belleville High School as a U.S. History and advanced placement U.S. History teacher in 2018 after 14 years in another district. She shares that despite feeling secure in her previous position, her motivation for

seeking out Van Buren Public Schools came after hearing the keynote address at the 2017 MACUL Conference in Detroit. The keynote speaker, Sir Ken Robinson, is an international advisor on education, creativity and innovation. Sir Ken Robinson's address focused on how standardized testing was doing more harm than good and how it had made education lose its purpose of nurturing the social, personal, economic, and cultural needs of students.

His message touched a chord with Mrs. Romak.

After 14 years teaching predominantly advanced placement students in an upper-middle-class district nearly an hour from home, Mrs. Romak felt inspired to attempt to make a difference closer to home with a broader group of students.

A 2000 graduate of Romulus High School, she also completed her student teaching at Belleville High School in 2004. Returning to Belleville felt like an opportunity to make a larger impact than classroom teaching alone could provide, and she believed Belleville High School was the right place to make that transition.



In 2022, Mrs. Romak was the first instructor of the Teacher Cadet program, a CTE course that immerses high school students into the art of teaching preschool. In addition to classroom instruction, students regularly work within a classroom at the Early Childhood Center in preparation to earn their Child Development Associate (CDA) or Michigan Youth Development Associate (Mi-YDA). These credentials allow students to pursue careers as preschool teachers or afterschool program coordinators after high school graduation.

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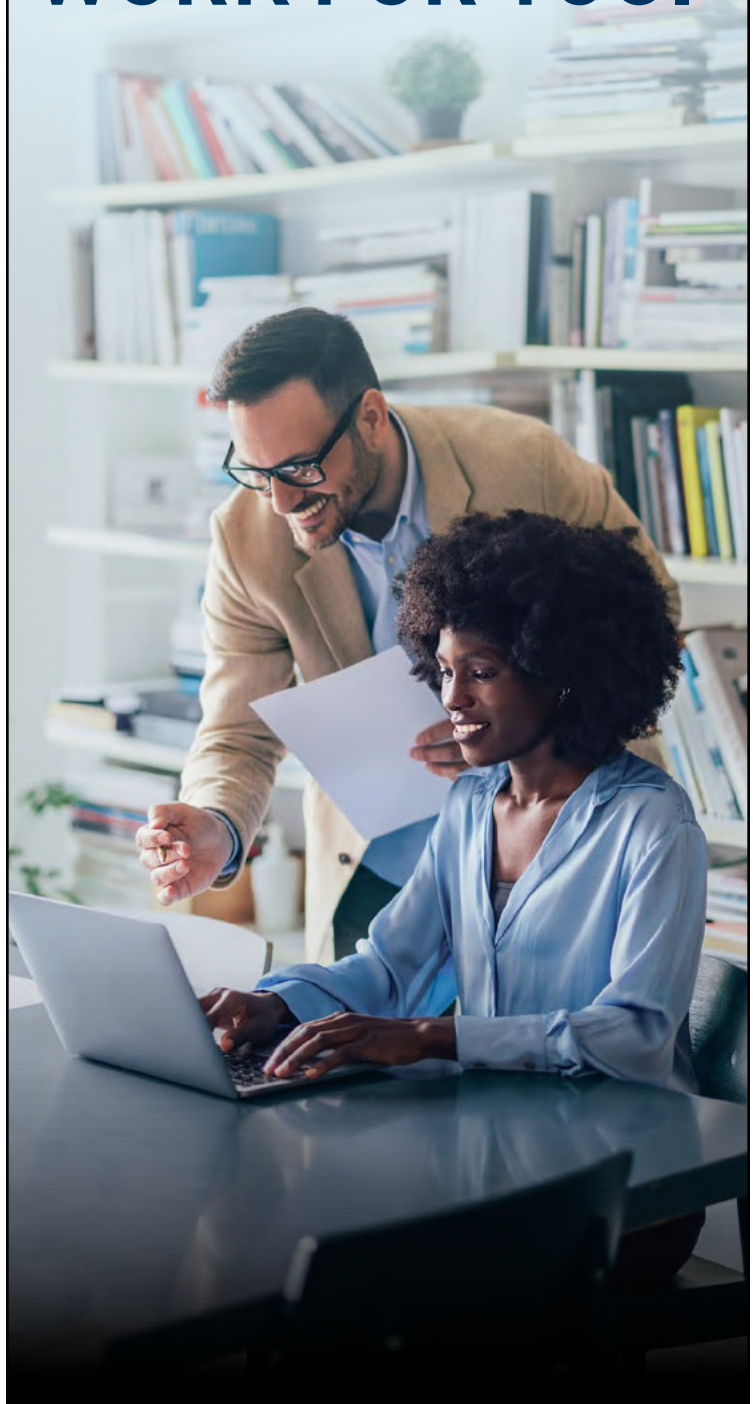
In 2024, Mrs. Romak became the CTE and career readiness coordinator and has worked to expand the CTE programs and opportunities for student success. Under her leadership, Belleville High School has added FANUC mechatronics and cosmetology to its growing CTE offerings, which already included accounting, business management, marketing, and teacher cadet. Additional programs are also being explored, including digital multimedia, which is currently awaiting final decision from the State of Michigan for a \$400,000 grant to purchase state-of-the-art equipment.

Students have also been provided with numerous opportunities to explore their career pathways both inside and outside the classroom. These include the expansion of the monthly Purpose Pathways Panels, career exploration field trips, Community Career Day, and increased awareness of career-readiness camps and internships.

One of the accomplishments Mrs. Romak is most proud of is the launch of the aviation program at Belleville High School. Through a consortium with Wayne RESA, Belleville High School began teaching the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) Introduction to Aviation curriculum in the 2025-2026 school year. The district has also applied for CTE approval from the State of Michigan to offer an FAA Part 107 Drones course beginning in the fall of 2026. The program will allow students the opportunity to earn their Part 107 certificate, enabling them to legally fly drones commercially and enter a rapidly growing job market.

There are also plans to expand the aviation program to include private pilots licensing and avionics, drawing from surrounding districts who are not able to provide these opportunities.

It is an exciting time to be a Tiger! If you or your student have any questions about CTE programs or Career Readiness opportunities, visit the Van Buren Public Schools website <https://www.vanburenschools.net/> to explore the many opportunities available.



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# Congratulations Class of 2026!

## 2026 BELLEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATING CLASS

Claire Abrehart	Addison Asher	Fallon Billups	Hunter Clay	Ava Fitzsimmons	Jordan Hall
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Jessica Agyemang	Ayden Bantau	Leyah Boggess	Angel Cogswell	Jasmine Francis	Lauren Halminiak
Yasmeen Alaboudy	Tyler Barnes	Nathan Boodhoo	Jacob Colquitt	Javontae Franklin	Sharon Hampton
Ronin Albert	Arthur Barney	Carley Bouldes	Blake Copeland	Allison Frederick	Brennan Hankins
Michelle Alfaro Araya	Bella Bartelotti	Hunter Bowden	Darius Copeland	Brayden Frierson	Tayon Hardman
Hussein Al-khalailh	Liliane Baseka	Victorah Boyd	Shanti Copeland-Gill	Samya Frost	Jaden Hardy
Christopher Allen	Cristopher Battles	Zaria Braxton	Gaetano Costa	Ka'Ron Gaines	Kaylyn Hargrow
Myreon Allen	Maggie Beach	Antonio Brown	Sydney Cramer	Aiden Gallagher	D'Anthony Harmon
Sarah Alrawas	Lindsay Beaty	Darien Brown	Saniya Dallas	Taarika Gandhi	Joseph Harper
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		Allyssa Bryson	Teonna Davis	Collin Glimpse	Yadira Hernandez
		Tristan Bullard	Isabella DeLibera	Breanna Goble	Semaj Holland
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		Keturah Butler	Adrianna Dennard	Fernando Gomez	Allie Horchem
		Jocelyn Butson	Edgar Diaz	Aja'Rae Goodman	Tamya Horsley
		Ariell Byrd	Hernandez	Jaelyn Goodman	Kaidence Howard
		Jeziah Cagins	Kaylin Dobbins	Talese Grady	Braylon Hubbard
		Lillith Campbell	Addison Donley	Riley Grant	Devin Hunter
		Corissa Cannon	Aiden Dornbos	James Graves	Nevaeh Hunter
		Leia Capers	Keith Duke	Jeffrey Graves	Sophia Hunter
		Marshall Capper	Mehgan Dumancas	Erica Gray	Abdullahi Ibrahim
		Joslyn Carter	Kendall Duncan	Braelin Griffin	Matthew Ion
		Se'crette Carter	Ugochukwu Duru	Marlen Griffin	David Jackson
		Novetta Cash	Debbie Elizondo	Mikaylyn Griffin	Nakya Jackson
		Vincent Castellani	Lopez	Milo Griffin	Tyler Jackson
		Alexis Champagne	Gregory Elliott	Sommer Griffin	Ashlyn Jamerson
		Gavin Childs	Damien Evans	Nidianny Grullon	Amir James
		Christine Chinemelu	Vincent Farrugia	Chakai Gulley	Brooklyn Jenkins
		Abigail Cichowski	Kendell Felder-Cox	Carly Hall	Dayton Jenkins
			Angel Field-Laster		KeJuan Jenkins





Grace Jennings	Hayden Leonard	Jazmine Miller	Jaylen Rambus	Phillip Smith	Audrey Volk
Abigail Johnson	Noah Leonard	Lilly Miller-Sanchez	Roman Ramey	Riley Smith	Logan Wade
Jaylah Johnson	Alexander Letson	Shameyya	Savanna Ramirez	Grace Spaulding	Amelia Waldroop
Joseph Johnson	Jeremiah Lewis	Mohammed	Caira Reed	Nicholas Spears	DeShawn Walls
Kennedy Johnson	Kailyn Lewis	Cera Montgomery	Shaun Reid	Madalyn Spencer	Aubrey Warzecha
Kynneddy Johnson	Kaleb Lewis	David Moya	La'Nay Richards	Blake Sperr	Tenaijah Washington
Nicholas Johnston	Amaya Limon	Za'hir Muhammad	Taylor Richardson	Kevin Stanford	Alexander Watson
Ashton Jones	Owen Lommerse	Michael Mullins	Noah Ridgeway	Dezirae Staton	Braylon Watts
Cruz Jones	Gavin Long	Madden Murray	Lydia Roberts	Xavier Stewart	Bryce Watts
Dajziora Jones	Valeria Lopez	Liam Musser	Christiona Robinson	Rilee Suggs	Nikya Weatherspoon
Destiny Jones	Samual Lore	Dean Myers	Erin Robinson	Ethan Sulea	KahLil Webb
Jaedyn Jones	La'Marion Lovette	Kenneth Myers	Montrez Robinson	Ah'miya Sullivan	Shayla Westbrook
Jamie Jones	Devin Lowery	Aeryal Myles	Derick Rodriguez	Azariyah Swope	Carter White
Jasmine Jones	Aaron Luong	Payton Nathan	Destiny Rodriguez-	Jonathan Szasz	Gabriel White
Kayla Jones	Marielle Mahone	Jovanny Nava	Harris	Joseph Szewczyk	Jaydah White
Taryn Jones	Onalia Malasky	Jada Neal	Sebastian Romero	Bailee Taylor	Micah Whitfield
Maggie Keech	Josephine Mallari	Hailie Norman	Azreal Rosado	Eva Taylor	Valerie Wilhide
Sophia Kelley	Elijah Mandich	Hunter Novakovich	Devaun Rowe	Jada Taylor	Mya Wilkerson
Lola Kennedy	Addison Maples	Samyah Nundley	Kaylee Rupnow	Jaiden Taylor	Ae'Dan Williams
Lynnette Khalaf	Xavier Marks	Hanifah Obitayo	Jaiden Rutley	Trinity Taylor	Ahmir Williams
Allison Khon	Kimberlee Marshall	Nathaniel Olson	Kiyla Rutley	Kayla Terrell	Bobbie Williams
Felix Kizer	Sarah Martin	Ka'Myah Pack	Riley Saathoff	Alexander Teutsch	Jayshawn Williams
Liam Klinck	Connie Maynard	Angel Pagan Craig	Alford Sample	C.J. Thick	Aniyah Wilson
Derek Knight	Kylee Mazor	Kaylee Palacio-	Morgan Sampson	Noah Tietz	Zoey Windiate
Austin Knowlton	Takira McCarter	Galvan	Sir Samuel	Cruz Timoszyk	Drayden Winkfield
Anthony Knox	Kayla McEwen	Giovanni Palazzolo	Cameron Sanderfield	Colorado Torres	Zayden Witten
Joseph Korte	Jada McGaughy	Samiya Palmore	Natalie Sanders	Jasmin Torres-	Michael Woods
Hailey Kouza	Kaylee McGhee	Shawn Pape	Ryan Santure	Godinez	Bo Woody
Khloe Krueger	Janiyah McGowan	Austin Parker	Kaiah Sargent	Peyton Trammer	Talyeha Wynn
Brandon Labo	KeShawn McGraw	Aaliyah Patterson	Daniel Schiffer	PaMadi Trawalleh	Kayla Yharbrough
Gray Laginess	Aydan McKenzie	Aidan Patterson	Elijah Scott	Unique Trotter	Reagan Yopp
Isabelle Lainesse	Carvon McNabb	William Peckrul	Morgan Scott	Christopher Trusty	Robyn Young
Mi'Rya Laird	Eunique McSwain	Myah Pendleton	Dreanah Scrivner	Aiden Tulik	
Darrion Lanier Turner	Addisyn Means	Kalyia Perry	Mary Con Seranillo	Lilah Turnbull	
Samvith Lanka	Cooper Mears	Jarrold Peterman	Zaynab Shafau	Alicea Turner	
Emma LaPointe	Maddasyn Melchor	Lillian Peterson	Wayne Shaffer	Michael Umstead	
Logan Larocque	Aaron Mesa Cardenas	Tyrell Phillips	Wayne Shaffer	Michael Umstead	
Edward Laurenciuc	Abraham Mesa	Tyler Pinard	Evelynn Similo	Madelyn Underwood	
Kevin Laurenciuc	Cardenas	Ian Prentiss	Brooklynn Sims	Ioana Ungur	
Bruce Lee	Michael Mesa	Piper Prezzato	Rut Slatineanu	Lois Ureche	
Lamarion Lee	Cardenas	Braylin Prince	Anaya Smith	Daniel Vanassche	
Maurice Leggett-	Olivia Meyer	Jaida Quinn	Donovann Smith	Nathan VanAssche	
Cochran	Ella Mida	Kamora Rabb	Kendall Smith	Anayeli Vasquez	
			Madalynn Smith	Austin Vick	



# 2026 Top 10 Graduates

## VALEDICTORIAN

### Cooper Mears

**Activities:** Marching Band, Science Olympiad, Robotics, Ecology Club, Chess Club, Euchre Club, National Honor Society.

**Honors or Awards:** SAP Scholar With Honors and Distinction, Arian Foundation Award for Outstanding Musical Achievement, National Merit Scholarship finalist, MASC/MAHS Student of the Year finalist.

**Plans after High School:** I am attending University of Michigan college of Literature Science and the Arts to study mathematics and Italian.

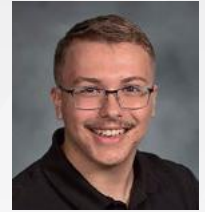


## #3 Ethan Sulea

**Activities:** Swim Team captain, NHS president and Robotics.

**Honors or Awards:** AP Scholar with Distinction. I was part of the teams that won the swim league championship and the Belleville Home Robotics event. I also created Tiger Tokens for PBIS.

**Plans after High School:** I plan to attend the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, where I hope to study electrical engineering and continue learning how to create practical, meaningful innovations.



## SALUTATORIAN

### Tristan Bullard

**Activities:** Soccer, Track, NHS.

**Honors or Awards:** AP Scholar with Distinction, Academic Excellence Top 10 Honors award each semester.

**Plans after High School:** I plan to attend the University of Michigan Ann Arbor, computer engineering major.

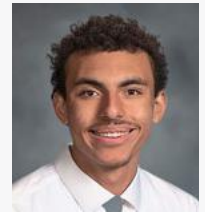


## #4 Jeffrey Graves

**Activities:** Unified Basketball (3 years), varsity soccer captain (4 years), Unified Leadership Club (2 years), NHS (2 years), yearbook (3 years) and Link Crew (1 year).

**Honors or Awards:** AP Scholar, AP Scholar with Distinction, KLAA Men's Varsity Soccer All-Conference and KLAA Scholar Athlete Award.

**Plans after High School:** I plan on attending the University of Michigan - Ann Arbor with a major in political science.

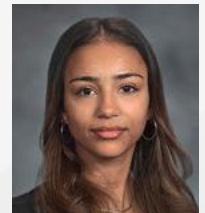


## #5 Nidianny Grullon

**Activities:** Tennis and Belleville Early College.

**Honors or Awards:** AP Scholar with Distinction.

**Plans after High School:** Major in aerospace engineering.



## #6 Aiden Tulik

**Activities:** Cross country, NHS, symphony band, marching band, and jazz band. I've also gone on both Europe trips.

**Honors or Awards:** AP Scholar with Honor. Highest Honors.

**Plans after High School:** I am going to Michigan State University Lyman Briggs residential college to major in either chemistry or human biology on the pre-med track. I plan on pursuing my doctorate and pursuing a career as an anesthesiologist.

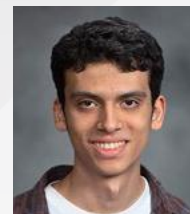


## #8 Vincent Castellani

**Activities:** I have been involved with the National Honor Society, and the new Business and Investment Club, in which I am the treasurer.

**Honors or Awards:** AP Scholar with Honor. I have been on the honor roll for all four years of high school. I was recognized as student of the month during my freshman year. Being in the top 10 of students in my class is a huge honor for me as well.

**Plans after High School:** Major in mechanical engineering. Universities interested in: University of Michigan Ann Arbor, University of Michigan Dearborn, Eastern Michigan University.



## #7 Kaylee Rupnow

**Activities:** Varsity Women's Soccer (4 years), Varsity Cross Country (3 years), Varsity Swim and Dive (2 years), Unified Basketball (3 years), Women's Flag Football (1 year), Ecology Club (3 years, 1 as vice president), National Honor Society, yearbook and Link Crew.

**Honors or Awards:** School-Student of the Month, Award for Academic Excellence (4 times) and AP Scholar. Sports-All District (Soccer) twice, All Conference (Soccer) twice, All Conference Honorable Mention (Soccer), Scholar Athlete Award (eight times), Three-Sport Athlete Award and Best Partner Award (Unified Basketball).

**Plans after High School:** I plan to attend Baldwin Wallace University to continue my soccer career and pursue my degree in nursing..



## #9 Collin Glimpse

**Activities:** Men's Golf and NHS.

**Honors or Awards:** AP Scholar With Honor.

**Plans after High School:** I am planning on going to Michigan State University to study bioengineering and biotechnology.



## #10 Lucas Bryan

**Activities:** Swimming, Soccer, Marching Band, NHS, Ecology Club.

**Honors or Awards:** AP Scholar.

**Plans after High School:** Study civil engineering at the University of Michigan and travel around the country.





## The Winter of Champions

This winter sports season was filled with championships, trophies and individual achievements, as our high school teams delivered outstanding performances across multiple sports. Through hard work, determination and teamwork, our student-athletes celebrated major victories, earned well-deserved recognition and created memorable moments that made this season one of the most successful in recent school history.

### 2025–2026 Bowling Tigers

The Tigers had a phenomenal season on the lanes. The varsity boys team finished with an overall record of 8–7 and 6–7 in the KLAAs. Sophomore Leon Nitz recorded the team’s high series with a 522, while senior Braylon Watts delivered one of the season’s biggest highlights by bowling a perfect 300 game and adding the team’s second-highest series of 512.

Two Tigers earned All-Conference honors this season:

- Braylon Watts (senior) – ranked fourth overall with a 200 average
- Austin Vick (senior) – ranked 14th overall with a 194 average



The boys narrowly missed qualifying for the MHSAA State Finals, falling short by just 13 pins at regionals, where they ultimately finished third overall.

Despite that close finish, the team enjoyed several major successes throughout the season. The Tigers captured the Wayne County Tournament Championship and finished runner-up at the Charger Spartan Tournament.

Individually, senior Aidan Patterson claimed first place at the Mark Voight Tournament with an impressive 662 series. At the MHSAA Individual Regionals, Austin Vick bowled a strong six-game block of 1,299, earning regional runner-up



honors and qualifying for the MHSAA State Finals, where he competed well but narrowly missed advancing further.

### Varsity Girls Bowling

The varsity girls team entered the season with determination and quickly proved they were a force to be reckoned with. They finished the season with an overall record of 10–5 and 9–4 in KLAAs play.

Two Tigers also earned All-Conference recognition:

- Madison Thomas (junior) – ranked third overall with a 184 average
- Janelle Finrock (sophomore) – ranked eighth overall with a 164 average



Madison Thomas had a standout season. At the Dearborn Tune-Up Tournament, she placed first with a 668 series and also earned second place at the Mark Voight Tournament, including a 236 high game.

Madison’s performance peaked at the most important time of the season. At the MHSAA Individual Regionals, she dominated the field and was crowned Region #8 Champion with a six-game block of 1,148. She went on to compete at the MHSAA State Finals, where she finished 14th overall, advancing to the bracket rounds and ultimately finishing Top 8 in the state, earning All-State honors.

### Regional Champions

One of the most memorable moments of the season came when the Lady Tigers captured the MHSAA Regional Championship, proudly hoisting the trophy and securing their place at the state finals.

At the state finals, the team qualified sixth overall and advanced into the bracket round. They faced White Lake High School in a tightly contested match that ultimately came down to a five-game tiebreaker, where the Tigers fell by just nine pins.



Finishing Top 8 in the state was a major team goal, and one the players are incredibly proud to have achieved.

### A Memorable Finish

During the state finals, senior Allie Horchem bowled the highest series of her high school career (400), providing a fitting and memorable way to close out her time competing for BHS.

Throughout the regular season, the Tigers posted impressive individual accomplishments:

- Twelve bowlers recorded 200 games
- Three bowlers rolled 220 games
- Two bowlers bowled 240 games
- One perfect 300 game
- Nine bowlers achieved 400 series
- Two bowlers reached 500 series

Head coach Cynthia Allison praised the team's commitment and growth throughout the season. She plans to continue emphasizing several practice techniques that proved highly effective this year.

Although the team will graduate four seniors, Coach Allison is excited about the future. With talented bowlers moving up from JV and new athletes preparing to try out, the program continues to build toward even greater success.



### 2025-2026 Boys Swim and Dive

The Belleville High School swim team delivered an outstanding performance at the KLAAB Championship meet, securing a well-earned victory through a blend of talent, depth and determination. Their success was the result of months of dedication and strong team chemistry, with swimmers producing impressive results across a wide range of events.

Freshman Landon Wade led the charge with a dominant showing, capturing first place in both the 200-yard freestyle and 500-yard freestyle. Senior Lucas Bryan contributed valuable points with a second-place finish in

the 50-yard freestyle, while senior Ethan Sulea added another runner-up finish in the 200-yard individual medley.

Sophomore Sam Mida turned in a strong performance with a third-place finish in the 100-yard backstroke, and fellow sophomore Cohen Campbell earned third in the 100-yard butterfly. The team's depth was also evident in the relays: the medley relay team of Sulea, junior Trevor Davenport, senior Madden Murray, and Bryan placed second, while the 400-yard freestyle relay team of Sulea, Bryan, Wade, and Mida secured third.

In total, Belleville's balanced scoring, consistent performances and competitive spirit proved decisive in capturing the championship title.



### 2025-26 Ayiden Staton – Belleville Wrestling

Ayiden Staton wrapped up an outstanding wrestling season with an impressive 30–9 record, earning a spot at the MHSAA State Finals at 285 pounds as a junior. Throughout the year, Ayiden showed tremendous growth – not only as a wrestler, but as a young man – making significant strides each season.

His hard work paid off, with several key victories that helped secure his place at states, where he finished among the Top 16 competitors. One of the most memorable moments of his season came at regionals, where he delivered a standout performance by defeating the #1 seed from Plymouth High School.

Belleville wrestling is incredibly proud of Ayiden's accomplishments and is excited to have him return for his senior season. His continued development, leadership and skill will be a major asset to the team moving forward.

Athletics continued on page 18





# Belleville Tigers Athletics

Athletics continued from page 17

## 2025–26 Girls Basketball: Elite Once Again

The girls varsity basketball team delivered another outstanding season, continuing their tradition of excellence. The Tigers enjoyed success from start to finish and capped off their postseason run with a third consecutive appearance in the Elite 8 of the MHSAA Tournament.

Belleville powered through the regular season, finishing with an impressive 21–1 record. Their only loss came against Howell in the KLAA Championship game. Determined to respond, the Tigers later avenged that defeat in dominant fashion, defeating Howell 58–44 in the regional semifinals.

Prior to that, the team cruised to a district championship with commanding wins over Canton (60–18) and Salem (60–44). Following their redemption victory over Howell, the Tigers continued their strong play by defeating South Lyon East 75–48 to capture the regional championship.

The quarterfinal round presented a tougher challenge, as Belleville faced DeWitt in a rematch of last year’s matchup, where the Tigers had prevailed 59–54. This time, however, Belleville fell just short in a hard-fought contest, ending their bid for a third straight trip to the Breslin Center and another Final Four appearance.

Despite the setback, one loss does not define this remarkable season. The Tigers finished with an outstanding 25–2 record, claiming the KLAA East Division Championship along with MHSAA District and Regional titles, and earning another Elite 8 finish. While the team set its sights on back-



to-back state championships, their accomplishments remain a source of pride.

Individual honors were abundant. All-Conference selections included Sydney Savoury, Se’Crette Carter, Layla Stewart, and Paisley Stephens, while Christine Chinemelu earned honorable mention recognition.

Sydney Savoury was named an honorable mention selection to the Jersey Mike’s Naismith High School All-American Team. She also won the MaxPreps Michigan Girls Basketball Player of the Year Award.

Se’Crette Carter capped off her stellar career as a Miss Basketball finalist, finishing third in the voting. She concluded her high school career with 1,511 points. She also set the record for three pointers made in a single season (78) and career three pointers (237).

Paisley Stephens set the record for season assists with 112.

The Tigers also made history as a team, setting a school record with 103 points in a game against John Glenn. They additionally established new program records for three pointers made in a season (227), free throw percentage (74.6 percent), assists in a season (356), and tied the record for three pointers made in a game (14).

Congratulations to the Belleville Tigers girls basketball team on a truly fantastic season!





# EMPOWERING CLASSROOMS

## The impact of the Van Buren Public Schools Education Foundation

**I**n today's classrooms, teachers are constantly finding creative ways to engage students – often while working within tight budgets. That's where the Van Buren Public Schools Education Foundation steps in, serving as a vital partner in supporting both educators and students across the district.

Through classroom grants and additional resources, the foundation helps bring innovative ideas to life – giving teachers the tools they need and students the enriched learning experiences they deserve.

A big part of this impact comes from the foundation's fundraising events, which bring the community together in fun and meaningful ways. This year's lineup includes the nostalgic '80's Trivia

Night, the crowd-pleasing Family Disney Trivia Night, and the upcoming festive and active 5K Santa's Summer Sprint. Each event not only raises essential funds but also builds a sense of connection and shared purpose among families, staff and local supporters.

These events highlight what makes the foundation so special: It's not just about funding – it's about community. Every ticket purchased, every team formed and every step taken helps support teachers, enhance classrooms and create new opportunities for students.

Through both generosity and community spirit, the foundation continues to strengthen schools and invest in a brighter future for all.



## Community Education

### Lifelong Learning, Connected Community, Tiger Pride

**T**HE Van Buren Public Schools Community Education Department is off to a strong start in its first year, expanding learning opportunities for all ages and building meaningful community connections. Guided by feedback from more than 200 residents, offerings are growing to reflect what our community wants most – youth enrichment, adult learning and family-friendly events.

Students are enjoying hands-on experiences beyond the bell, with enriching after-school programs right in their school buildings, while older students stay active through sports clinics and practical classes like babysitting certification. Families also came together this spring for a fun-filled magic show that brought laughter and excitement for all ages.

Adults are taking advantage of fitness classes like Zumba, as well as flexible online certification courses

designed to support career growth and skill-building.

Have a skill or hobby you love? We're always looking for new instructors to bring fresh, exciting opportunities to our community! To submit a proposal go to Community Education website <https://www.vanburenschools.net/page/community-education>

#### Catch the Fun – Summer Programs Are Filling Fast!

Summer will bring even more opportunities. There is still time to enroll in our engaging themed summer care program or try one of our weeklong summer camps including Chess Wizards Camp, All-Sports Camp, Karate Camp.

Adults and teens can sign up for craft events, engaging speakers or Future Ready Financial Empowerment series.

New events are added regularly – follow us on social media and visit our website to browse our interactive digital catalog.



# Once A Tiger...

## ISABELLA TEACHOUT CLASS OF 2024

**F**OR Isabella Teachout, graduating from Belleville High School in 2024 was not the end of her journey – it was the beginning of a path rooted in service, connection and community pride.

During her time at BHS, Isabella was deeply involved in both academics and extracurriculars. She participated in Peer-to-Peer and the National Honor Society, while also making her mark athletically in Unified Basketball, cross country, track, and boys lacrosse. These experiences helped shape her leadership skills, work ethic and commitment to others – qualities that would guide her future career.

After graduation, Isabella took a hands-on approach to her goals by attending Schoolcraft College’s Fire Academy. Over the summer, she earned her EMT license and is currently continuing her education to become a paramedic. Her dedication and drive have already led her to an incredible milestone – serving as a firefighter with the Belleville Fire Department.

For Isabella, the decision to stay and serve in her hometown has been especially meaningful.



“Belleville shaped me into who I am today,” she said. “I was supposed to go away to college and never look back, but I’m so glad that I didn’t. I’ve built real connections with the people here.”

Those connections have transformed her career into something much deeper than a job. As a firefighter, Isabella isn’t just responding to emergencies – she’s helping

neighbors, friends and familiar faces within the very community that raised her.

“That makes the job more than just a duty that I signed up to do,” she said. “I’m not just serving strangers. These are people who have shaped me into who I am today.”

This strong sense of community fuels her passion for public safety, accountability and service. For Isabella, Belleville is more than a workplace – it’s home.

Her journey is a powerful reminder that success doesn’t always mean going far away. Sometimes, it means staying rooted, giving back and making a difference right where it matters most.

Once a Tiger, always a Tiger!



# TIGER VILLAGE

## Program uses adult mentors to encourage students who want to improve their academics

**T**HE concept was brought forward by Belleville alumni Greg Cooper. The name, "Tiger Village," was developed by Belleville High School Principal Nicole Crockett, and as she says, "It takes a village to raise a Tiger!"

The big idea behind Tiger Village is that students sign a contract that they want to improve their academic grade point average an agreed upon amount, with approved goals to attain this improvement. Each "villager," must select an adult mentor of their choosing from the school, in which to meet with at least once a week so they can help keep track of their goals and grades.

At the end of each semester, villagers who attain their goals, maintain good attendance and do not get into major discipline problems at school also earn a small Benito's Pizza (pick up only), a cash incentive (this year is \$250 each semester) and a \$50 high yield Genisys Credit Union certificate for goal attainers, as well.

All of this is celebrated at a wonderful first-class banquet.

Our Tiger Village official board members are President Greg Cooper, Vice President Scott Wilsey, Treasurer Randy Brown, and Secretary Darlene Loyer Gerick. Members "at large," who attend our meetings but aren't officially on the board include Principal Nicole Crockett, Academic Success Coach Dr. Sydney Rosenblum, Thomas Fielder, and Attendance Student Success Coach Taylor Gamble.

### Mentors

The adult mentors are a cornerstone of our program. While the incentives are helpful, it is the villagers connecting with a key adult that makes improvement and change happen for many students. This past semester, we had 44 mentors working with 96 students.

Students are encouraged to select their own adult mentors primarily from the Belleville High School environment. Some of the roles that mentors have beyond working with Tiger Village include teachers, counselors, principal, assistant principal, student success coaches, multi-language support specialist, security staff, and even a former district superintendent.

One of our mentors, Ms. Nina Burton, even created a tee shirt for her villager to keep her motivated!

### Students

We are looking for students who want to improve their grades. Because we are limited by the funding we have, we are planning for 125 students for the second semester of 2026, basically on a first-come, first-serve basis. With more community support or grant funding, we could expand this to a larger group.

We are already observing groups of kids making differences in their academics due to this program and their personal choices. We have the perspective of a few students to provide:

Kelsey Braatz, a 10th-grade student, who has an interest in theater noted, "It was a great opportunity for me to be pushed in my academics. I care about my grades and want to see how successful I could be."



Aliyah Topp, 11th-grade Tiger enrolled in the Early College Program said, "I am grateful to be part of this program that appreciates and celebrates our hard work. Tiger Village not only rewards our success but inspires us to achieve our goals."

Ashley Hickey, also an 11th grader in the early College Program at Washtenaw Community College had this to say: "Tiger Village isn't just about the money. It's about recognition. It's about showing students that their effort matters even when success is expected."

For more information about Tiger Village or to donate please email [tigervillagebhs@gmail.com](mailto:tigervillagebhs@gmail.com).



## Exceptional Achievement

BHS's Distinguished Graduate program honors those who have made an impact

**E**ACH spring, Belleville High School celebrates successful Belleville High School alumni at the annual Distinguished Graduate Award ceremony. This program was initiated in 1997 by the then-Principal Bruce Romant, community member Don Juchartz and Claire Medley, who was the National Honor Society sponsor.

Mr. Juchartz was inducted to the Hall of Fame at Wyandotte High and was so honored that he brought this idea to Principal Bruce Romant. Mr. Juchartz lived in Belleville, graduated from Wyandotte Roosevelt High School and was the county extension agent for Wayne County. He is also known for his radio show, "The Garden Doctor". Don's children went to Van Buren Schools and his daughter Debra Juchartz taught science at BHS.

Mr. Romant, Mr. Juchartz and Mrs. Medley met with the Wyandotte principal and adopted their Hall of Fame idea and named the Belleville program the "Distinguished Graduate Award". It was decided to commemorate this award in conjunction with the BHS National Honor Society induction ceremony to influence the NHS members as to what they could achieve.

The ceremony is held the last Friday in April and the distinguished graduates from the past lead the procession of newly inducted National Honor Society honorees into the program.

Distinguished graduates are alumni who have demonstrated exceptional achievement in their professional fields or made significant contributions to the welfare and progress of their community. Eligible nominees must have graduated at least 10 years prior to the current graduating year. Recipients, or a family representative in the case of a posthumous award, are expected to attend the National Honor Society induction ceremony, where the award is formally presented. BHS distinguished graduates have their name displayed on a plaque at the BHS Auditorium.

We encourage you to nominate a BHS graduate for this prestigious award. Nomination forms are available the Belleville Library, at <https://www.vanburenschools.net/o/belleville-high/page/distinguished-graduates>, or by contacting one of the following committee members:

- Randy Brown: [rbrown6289@aol.com](mailto:rbrown6289@aol.com)
- Linda Clayton: [mizclayton3@gmail.com](mailto:mizclayton3@gmail.com)
- Nicole Crockett: [ncrockett@vanburenschools.net](mailto:ncrockett@vanburenschools.net)
- Tom Fielder: [thomasfielder2007@comcast.net](mailto:thomasfielder2007@comcast.net)
- Karen Mida: [edgemont06@yahoo.com](mailto:edgemont06@yahoo.com)
- Bill Wolters: [stoneycreekmotorsports@gmail.com](mailto:stoneycreekmotorsports@gmail.com)

To read about the accomplishments of our BHS distinguished graduates, please visit the website above.

### 2023-2024 INDUCTEES

Dr. Arthur Joslin  
Class of 1981  
Darlene Loyer Gerick  
Class of 1985  
Frederick Martin  
Class of 2005  
Harry Traskos  
Class of 1971

### 2022-2023 INDUCTEES

Juan Atkins  
Class of 1980  
Linda Clayton  
Class of 1971  
Elaine Gutierrez (Giblin)  
Class of 1963  
Kevin Saunderson  
Class of 1982

### 2019-2020 INDUCTEES

Bettina Caldwell  
Class of 1938  
Walter & Joyce Rochowiak  
Class of 1963  
Katherine L. Weathers  
Class of 1982

*Special Posthumous Award*  
Alan (Skip) Summer  
Class of 1968

### 2018-2019 INDUCTEES

Gerald Lukomski  
Class of 1954  
Gertrude Roddick (Evanski)  
Class of 1969  
Charles Smelt  
Class of 1979

*Special Posthumous Award*  
Keith Simons  
Class of 1972

### 2017-2018 INDUCTEES

Timothy Katona  
Class of 1973  
Jack & Rosemary Loria  
Class of 1964  
& Class of 1966  
Lois Zilka (Mida)  
Class of 1954

*Special Posthumous Award*  
James Sayre  
Class of 1946

### 2016-2017 INDUCTEES

Jill Devers  
Class of 1982  
Bernard Hovey  
Class of 1965  
Myra MacPherson  
Class of 1952

*Special Posthumous Award*  
William Budd  
Class of 1960

### 2015-2016 INDUCTEES

Victor Hogan  
Class of 1963  
Paul Ryznar  
Class of 1979

*Special Posthumous Award*  
Reva Fischer (Ruthruff)  
Class of 1907

### 2014-2015 INDUCTEES

Eugene E. Bleil, M.D.  
Class of 1938  
Frank Rochowiak  
Class of 1957

*Special Posthumous Award*  
Harold Belanger  
Class of 1969

### 2013-2014 INDUCTEES

Dr. Leilah Blakeney Lyons  
(Toth)  
Class of 1994  
Jean Morris  
Class of 1948  
Pamela O'Neill  
Class of 1982

*Special Posthumous Award*  
Catherine Krebs  
Class of 1917

### 2012-2013 INDUCTEES

Lynn K. Halton  
Class of 1981  
Richard McQuaid  
Class of 1975  
Karen Mida (Skszek)  
Class of 1971

*Special Posthumous Award*  
Fred Dunayczan  
Class of 1960

### 2011-2012 INDUCTEES

Alesia Hermosillo  
Class of 1978  
Tim Marsh  
Class of 1979  
David Medley  
Class of 1967

*Special Posthumous Award*  
Karen Reynolds (Renton)  
Class of 1987

### 2010-2011 INDUCTEES

Gregory Cooper  
Class of 1980  
Reginald Grantham  
Class of 1982

*Special Posthumous Award*  
William Gage  
Class of 1978

### 2009-2010 INDUCTEES

Randy Brown  
Class of 1981  
Rosemary Otzman  
(Kuchta)  
Class of 1954  
Dr. Tami Remington,  
Pharm. D. (Harkai)  
Class of 1983  
Dr. Susan Clark Studer,  
Ph. D.  
Class of 1967  
William E. Wolters  
Class of 1966

**2008-2009 INDUCTEES**

Peggy Curtis (Shoemaker)  
Class of 1973  
Dr. Gerard Evanski, Ph. D.  
Class of 1981  
Jeffrey D. Liedel  
Class of 1973

*Special Posthumous Award*  
Samuel M. Villa  
Class of 1963

**2007-2008 INDUCTEES**

Catherine Atkins (Stull)  
Class of 1958  
Thomas Fielder  
Class of 1964  
Michael O. Garland  
Class of 1972

*Special Posthumous Award*  
Rick LaPensee  
Class of 1977

**2006-2007 INDUCTEES**

Keith Bruder  
Class of 1965  
Jane Vesche  
Class of 1965

*Special Posthumous Award*  
R. Lynne Hamilton  
Class of 1947

**2005-2006 INDUCTEES**

Richard Pakerwinski  
Class of 1964  
Glenn Silvenis  
Class of 1966

*Special Posthumous Award*  
Barbara Jean Mitchell  
Class of 1955

**2004-2005 INDUCTEES**

Mildred Baker  
Class of 1944  
Paul Dygert  
Class of 1950  
Larry Tabor  
Class of 1962

**2003-2004 INDUCTEES**

Jeffery D. Collins  
Class of 1981  
Richard L. Cunningham  
Class of 1964  
Dale A. Davis  
Class of 1950

*Special Posthumous Award*  
Nancy Ann Ridley Cash  
Class of 1943

**2002-2003 INDUCTEES**

Robert Evanski  
Class of 1943  
Sandra Lee Fulton-Love  
Class of 1963

*Special Posthumous Award*  
Robert Doane  
Class of 1952

**2001-2002 INDUCTEES**

Jay & Kae Hartford  
Class of 1966 & Class of  
1968  
Dale Maki  
Class of 1969  
Harold Sherman  
Class of 1942  
Dr. Kimiko Snider, M.D.  
Class of 1982

*Special Posthumous Award*  
Jack Randall Budd  
Class of 1932

**2000-2001 INDUCTEES**

Robert Baker  
Class of 1943  
Alan Maki  
Class of 1968  
Patrick McClelland  
Class of 1981  
Timothy McClelland  
Class of 1978  
Gayle Simons  
Class of 1975

*Special Posthumous Award*  
Gregg Brinkerhoff  
Class of 1981

**1999-2000 INDUCTEES**

Mildred Artley  
Class of 1934  
Dr. S. John Dackawich  
Class of 1942  
Christine Murphy  
Class of 1952  
John Rouster  
Class of 1959  
Robert Thorne  
Class of 1971

*Special Posthumous Award*  
Herbert Robb  
Honorary Graduate

**1998-1999 INDUCTEES**

Sandra Askew (Rady)  
Class of 1957  
Eileen DeHart (Johnson)  
Class of 1966  
Dr. Prince J. Eubanks  
Class of 1973  
Christopher A. Liedel  
Class 1978  
James L. Wertz  
Class of 1982

*Special Posthumous Award*  
Frank Cody  
Class of 1886

**1997-1998 INDUCTEES**

Loren N. Bennett  
Class of 1969  
Samuel I. Durham, Jr.  
Class of 1970  
Cathy Horste (Stromme)  
Class of 1964  
Ena L. Weathers  
Class of 1980  
Harlan D. Whichello  
Class of 1963

*Special Posthumous Award*  
Edna Genevieve Clark  
Class of 1894

# Inspiration for the Future

## Distinguished Graduate Millie Baker turns 100, a sterling example for those coming up

**M**ILDRED "Millie" Baker turned 100 years old in April. As a lifelong resident of Belleville, she enjoyed the close-knit community of family and friends. Millie lived independently until a health issue caused her to slow down at 98. Up to then, the words "slow down" and "Millie" were not used in the same sentence.

Millie Mida married Robert Baker shortly after graduating from Belleville High School in 1944. They built a home in town and a hardware business in Willis.

Bob, an electrician, ran the day-to-day operations while Millie kept the books. They raised their three children – sending them to the Van Buren Public Schools. Years later, when their daughter-in-law died, Millie and Bob took in their two grandsons and granddaughter and sent their grandchildren to Edgemont Elementary School. Millie and Bob provided the children with a loving, supportive home, and their son with peace of mind during this difficult time.

Millie was a member of the Belleville Business and Professional Women's Club, where the focus was the issues of working women. Millie began working from home as a seamstress until she was hired as a secretary at Willow Run Elementary School. She moved to the Van Buren Administration Building, where she served as secretary in the curriculum and instruction department for 20 years. Millie's duties required her to start making calls before sunrise to give substitute teachers their assignments for the day.

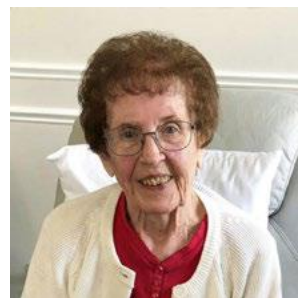
Millie and Bob were instrumental in bringing Belleville High School alumni from all graduating classes back to school for a yearly reunion. Millie and Bob worked together on this program, and after his passing in 2004, Millie remained as chairperson and later as treasurer. The reunion was well attended for over 20 years.

The Distinguished Graduate Program was also spearheaded by Millie and Bob. As a couple they were extremely active in the community. They saw first-hand the difference that one person's dedication and service can make to improve a small town or society.

"We felt those people should be recognized for all they have done," Millie said.

The first ceremony was for the 1997-1998 school year and is now an "annual honor recognizing BHS alumni who have demonstrated exceptional achievement in their professional fields or made significant contribution to the welfare and progress of their community."

The awards are presented before the National Honor Society induction of new members, serving as an inspiration for their futures as graduates of Belleville High School. Bob was inducted in 2000-2001, and Millie in 2004-2005.





## CELEBRATING COMMUNITY AT HARRIS PARK:

# *A Birthday to Remember*

By Merrie Coburn, Van Buren Township DDA Executive Director

**O**N a warm summer evening, laughter filled the air at Harris Park as families, friends and neighbors gathered to celebrate something truly special – community.

The Harris Park Birthday Celebration on August 27, 2025, brought together residents of all ages for an evening that perfectly captured the spirit of Van Buren Township. From children enjoying games and activities to families relaxing on blankets under the late-summer sky, the event served as a reminder of the simple joy found in spending time together.

Now established as a beloved annual tradition, the Harris Park Birthday Celebration takes place each year on the fourth Wednesday in August – giving residents something to look forward to as summer begins to wind down. What started as a community gathering has grown into a signature event that continues to bring people together year after year.

At the heart of the celebration was connection. Parents watched their children laugh and play, neighbors greeted one another and new friendships were formed. Events

like this are more than just a date on the calendar – they are the foundation of a thriving, welcoming community.

The Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority (DDA) continues to prioritize spaces and events that bring people together, and Harris Park has become a central gathering place for just that. With its scenic setting and family-friendly atmosphere, the park provides the perfect backdrop for moments that turn into lasting memories.



The cover image on this magazine captured from that evening tells the story best: a family enjoying time together, surrounded by the energy and warmth of a community that values connection. It's a snapshot of what makes Van Buren Township such a special place to call home.

As we look ahead, the DDA remains committed to creating opportunities for residents to come together, whether through seasonal celebrations, community events or everyday moments at Harris Park.

Because in Van Buren Township, community isn't just something we talk about – it's something we celebrate.



# Discover Art

The Downtown Development Authorities of  
City of Belleville & Van Buren Township  
proudly announce

**2027 - 2028**

**OUTDOOR SCULPTURES**



Sneak Peek Preview. Coming soon to prominent locations throughout our community for the whole family to enjoy. Anticipated installation late May, 2026

Van Buren Township DDA  
10151 Belleville Road Van Buren Township 48111  
734.699.8941 [VanBurenDDA.com](http://VanBurenDDA.com) #Proud2bVBT



### Adopt a Puppy

Smiles filled the room at the first Adopt a Puppy event at VBC, where kids learned about responsible pet care and fell in love with Jasper, the sweetest therapy dog.



# Spring in



### Family Sweetheart Dance

The Community Center's first Family Sweetheart Dance sparkled with laughter and lively music, making it a truly memorable evening for everyone.





### Hoppin Hullaballo

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who showered Baloo the Bunny with love. He hopped away, promising to return next year.



# Van Buren



### St. Patrick's Day

This year's St. Patrick's Day celebration at the Senior Center brought music, laughter, and a festive spirit to everyone who attended.



### Painting with Denise

Painting with Denise is enjoyable and creative. She always comes up with ways to make painting unique and interesting.





### DeBucks Tulip Festival

After a challenging Michigan winter, lovely displays of tulips are much appreciated.

# Spring in



### VBT. vs. First Responders

What an unforgettable showdown it was: Unified Belleville and Walled Lake Central taking on the Belleville and Van Buren Township Public Safety First Responders. Final score: Home 74. Visitors 24.





**March Reading Month**  
During March Reading Month, kids from Savage, Tyler Elementary, and the Early Childhood Center enjoyed private reading sessions.



# Van Buren



**Quilt Show at BAM**  
BAM, in collaboration with the Western Wayne County Quilting Guild, was excited to host the 2026 Quilt Show. Many beautifully designed quilts celebrated the 250th Anniversary of our country, while others told personal stories.



**2026 Robotics**  
The Bellevillains 6615 team, together with the BraveBots 4391 of Gladstone and the Linc-Bots 6538 of Ypsilanti, earned a well-deserved win after two days of steady effort and collaboration in the FIRST robotics competition.



# SUMMER COMMUNITY CENTER HAPPENINGS

**S**UMMER'S almost here and we're getting ready for another unforgettable season at the Van Buren Community Center!

Our summer camps kick off in June, featuring half-day specialty camps packed with active fun for kids of all interests. Registration is now open, so now's the time to lock in a summer full of excitement and new memories.

Want to keep the day going? Add on our Afternoon Camp, hosted by VBC staff, running Monday through Thursday from 12 to 4 PM. Just select the "Afternoon Camp" add-on during registration to turn it into a full-day experience.

If your child is joining us for the afternoon session, please send a sack lunch so they're fueled for all the fun ahead.

Early Bird pricing ends three weeks before the first day of camp, don't miss your chance to save and secure your spot!

- **Morning Specialized Sport Camps**  
Monday – Thursday | 9 AM – 12 PM  
Fee per week: VBC Member \$185 | Non-Member \$205
- **Additional Afternoon Camp Hour**  
Monday – Thursday | 12 – 4 PM  
Fee per week: VBC Member \$115 | Non-Member \$135

Morning and Afternoon Camps are subject to a minimum enrollment of 7 participants. If the minimum is not met, the camp may be canceled. \*Afternoon Camps must meet the minimum enrollment at least three weeks prior to the start date or may be canceled.

## Youth Sport Camps at the VBC

- **Soccer Camp presented by Soccer Stars**  
June 15 – 18, Monday – Thursday | 9 – 12 PM  
Ages: 5 -12 years old  
Our Soccer Camp is a great way for children of all skill levels to build basic soccer and teamwork skills in a fun, supportive setting. With a balanced mix of instruction, practice and play, young athletes will stay active, gain confidence and grow their love for the game. Camp will be held outdoors, with activities moving to the gymnasium in the event of inclement weather.
- **Basketball Camp presented by Fun Time Sports**  
June 22 – 25, Monday – Thursday | 9 – 12 PM  
Ages: 5 -12 years old  
Build skills, make friends and have a blast on the court at our Basketball Camp! Designed for kids of all skill levels, this camp mixes hands-on instruction, fun drills and game play to keep everyone moving and engaged. Whether they're learning the basics or leveling up their game, participants will grow their confidence in a positive, high-energy environment.

Summer continued on page 32

# VBC Summer Camp

Registration  
now open



Ages 5 -  
12 years

## MORNING SPECIALIZED SPORT CAMPS

Monday - Thursday | 9 AM - 12 PM

Fee per week: VBC Member \$185 | Non-Member \$205

Register at least 3 weeks prior to receive a \$20 discount

### WEEK 1

June 15 - 18  
Soccer

### WEEK 2

June 22 - 25  
Basketball

### WEEK 3

July 6 - 9  
Soccer w/ Art

### WEEK 4

July 13 - 16  
Volleyball

### WEEK 5

July 20 - 23  
Basketball

### WEEK 6

July 27 - 30  
Volleyball

## ADDITIONAL AFTERNOON CAMP HOURS

Monday - Thursday | 12 - 4 PM

Fee per week: VBC Member \$115 | Non-Member \$135



734.699.8921



vbcinfo@VBTmi.gov



vanburentwp.recdesk.com



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



Summer continued from page 30

- **Soccer & Art Camp presented by Soccer Stars**

July 6 – 9, Monday – Thursday | 9 – 12 PM

Ages: 5 -12 years old

Where creativity meets the field, this is summer camp at its best! Our Soccer & Art Camp blends active play with hands-on creativity, giving kids the chance to learn a new soccer skill each day and bring their imagination to life through fun art projects. It's the perfect mix of movement, expression and summer fun all in one place.



- **Volleyball presented by Fun Time Sports**

July 13 – 16, Monday – Thursday | 9 – 12 PM

Ages: 5 -12 years old

Bump, set and serve your way into summer fun at our Volleyball Camp! Perfect for all skill levels, this camp combines skill-building, teamwork and plenty of game play to keep kids active and engaged. With a supportive, high-energy atmosphere, participants will build confidence while discovering a love for the game.



- **Basketball presented by Fun Time Sports**

July 20 – 23, Monday – Thursday | 9 – 12 PM

Ages: 5 -12 years old

Back by popular demand, our second round of Basketball Camp is here! Designed for kids of all skill levels, this camp focuses on building fundamental basketball and teamwork skills through a balanced mix of instruction, practice and play. Participants will stay active, gain confidence and grow their love for the game in a supportive and energetic environment.



- **Volleyball presented by Fun Time Sports**

July 27 – 30, Monday – Thursday | 9 – 12 PM

Ages: 5 -12 years old

Round two is here, giving young athletes another chance to hit the court and keep the fun going at Volleyball Camp! Perfect for all skill levels, this camp focuses on building fundamental volleyball and teamwork skills through a balanced mix of instruction, practice and game play. Participants will stay active, gain confidence and develop a love for the game in a supportive, high-energy environment.

Summer fun starts here, camp registration is officially open! Sign up at the VBC or online at <https://vanburen.recdesk.com> and get ready for a season packed with energy and excitement. From soccer goals to volleyball spikes to basketball shots, there's something for every young athlete to enjoy. It's shaping up to be a summer full of laughter, learning and plenty of high-fives. We can't wait to see your camper there!





# BUSINESS GUIDE

# 2026



**BELLEVILLE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
MEMBER DIRECTORY, EVENTS & CONTACTS**

COVER PHOTO: ANN RICHENDOLLAR

## health markets®



### MORE THAN JUST A BUSINESS

HealthMarkets isn't just a local business — they're part of the fabric of the Belleville community.

You'll find them:

- Supporting local events and Chamber initiatives
- Partnering with local organizations, like the DDA, to strengthen our community
- Sponsoring Lake Fest
- Showing up for school programs & athletics
- Handing out flowers on Mother's Day
- Giving back to causes that matter to local families



### WHAT THEY DO

HealthMarkets provides FREE consultations to individuals, families, and local businesses to provide:

- Health and Supplemental Coverage
- Life Insurance Planning
- Long-Term Care Solutions
- Group Benefits Support

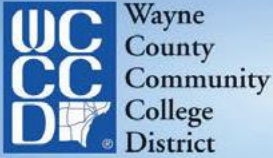
HealthMarkets doesn't just do business in Belleville—they invest in our community!



### TO LEARN MORE

#### The Gatteri Team

Mike.Gatteri@HealthMarkets.com  
(734) 252-0064  
186 Main Street, Belleville



**NEW!**

In partnership with



# BOAT AMERICA

## Boating Certificate Seminar

*Boat America* is a boating certificate class that offers an in-depth and interesting boating safety course and provides the knowledge needed to obtain a boating certificate.

Some insurance companies will also offer discounts on boating insurance to boaters who successfully complete this course.

### 2026 DATES:

**SATURDAY, MARCH 21**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 18**

**SATURDAY, MAY 23**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 20**

**SATURDAY, JULY 18**

**8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

### TED SCOTT CAMPUS

9555 Haggerty Road  
Van Buren Twp, MI 48111

*Ages: 13 years and up. Under 18 years old, guardian must be present.*

**Open to the Public at No Cost!**

### TOPICS INCLUDE:

**Introduction to Boating** – Types of power boats, boating vocabulary, sailboats, paddle boats, powering boats, and engine types.

**Boating Law** – Boat registration, regulations, hull identification numbers, required safety equipment, federal boating law, state boating law, and reporting accidents.

**Safety Equipment** – Life jackets, fire extinguishers, sound-producing devices, visual distress signals, anchors, and other safety equipment.

**Safe Operation and Navigation** – Buoys and beacons, aids to navigation, navigation rules, docking, and the dangers of alcohol on the water.

**Boating Emergencies** – Hypothermia, boating accidents, man overboard, capsizing, emergency radio calls, carbon monoxide dangers, and weather.

**Trailer** – Types of trailers, lights, hitches, towing a trailer.

**Sports and Boating** – Water-skiing, hunting and hunting gear, PWC operation, and other boating tips.

Registration is required, limited availability.

**REGISTER WITH AMANDA CONSIGLIO AT  
ACONSIG1@WCCCD.EDU, OR CALL 734-699-7008**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT [WWW.WCCCD.EDU](http://WWW.WCCCD.EDU) OR CALL 734-699-7008** Follow Us!   



# PINTER'S GREENHOUSE TURNS 100!

Van Buren Township and the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce (BACC) proudly celebrate the 100th anniversary of Pinter's Flowerland, a family-owned cornerstone of the 48111 community since 1926! Over four generations, this greenhouse has evolved from a rural floral provider into a premier destination for modern gardeners. Renowned for its rare continuity and personal touch, Pinter's remains a vital hub where neighbors connect and family traditions flourish. The Pinter family's century of success is rooted in an enduring dedication to quality and local service. As the township modernizes, this landmark stands as a living witness to local history, cultivating a storied legacy!



The original Pinter family team (1926) first opened its greenhouse doors 100 years ago when folks like Henry Ford and Thomas Edison lived nearby and frequented the area. 100 years later, they're still growing strong and were voted BACC Large Business of the Year!

# JOIN OUR TEAM!

Northern Lights Expedite is Seeking Class A CDL Truck Drivers for their Amazon Freight Partner Program.



 Text DRIVEAMAZON to 464646 to apply

## Municipal Contacts

### City of Belleville

City of Belleville	734-697-9323
Belleville DDA	734-697-9323
Belleville Police	734-699-2710
Belleville Fire Dept	734-699-2395
Secretary of State	888-767-6424

### Sumpter Township

Sumpter Township	734-461-6201
Supervisor's Office	734-461-6201
Sumpter Police	734-461-4833
Sumpter Fire Dept	734-697-0678
Community Center	734-461-9373



# JUNE 26-28, 2026

## DOWNTOWN BELLEVILLE

**J&T-Crova**  
TOWING

**meijer**



SCAN ME

### THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS!



BELLEVILLE AREA CHAMBER FOUNDATION



LAKE FEST 2026 PRESENTED BY



BACC48111.COM



## FRI JUNE 26TH

### "70s" THEMED PUB CRAWL

TIME: 6PM-9PM LOCATION: 4TH ST SQUARE

### SILENT DISCO

TIME: 8PM-10PM LOCATION: 4TH ST SQUARE

### TRAVELING YANCHOS- LIVE MUSIC

TIME: 8PM-10PM LOCATION: 4TH ST SQUARE

### MOVIE ON MAIN

TIME: DUSK LOCATION: MAIN ST AND 3RD ST

## SAT JUNE 27TH

### VBPSEF 5K RUN - TENTATIVE

TIME: TBD. LOCATION: TBD

### YOGA IN THE PARK

TIME: 9AM-10AM LOCATION: HORIZON PARK

### CARDIO DRUMMING

TIME: 10AM-11AM LOCATION: TBD

### PANCAKES WITH PRINCESSES (come dressed up!)

TIME: 10AM-NOON LOCATION: 4TH ST SQUARE

### KID ZONE + INFLATABLES + ROCK CLIMBING WALL

TIME: 11AM-7PM LOCATION: MAIN & 3RD

### MARKET ON MAIN

TIME: 10AM-7PM LOCATION: MAIN ST

### BELLEVILLE LAKE BOAT SHOW

TIME: NOON-7PM LOCATION: LAKEVIEW PLAZA

### TABLE TOP SCIENCE w/ TOMMY TECHNETIUM

TIME: NOON-5PM LOCATION: KID ZONE

### HOALOHA POLYNESIAN DANCE GROUP

TIME: 12PM LOCATION: 4TH ST SQUARE

### LIVE MUSIC + FOOD TRUCKS ALL DAY

TIME: 11AM-10:30PM LOCATION: 4TH ST SQUARE

### WILDLIFE SAFARI SHOWS

TIME: 11AM, 1PM and 3PM LOCATION: MAIN & 3RDE

### KIDS FOAM PARTY (two parties)

TIME: 2:30PM & 4:30PM LOCATION: MAIN & 3RD

### WATER SKI SHOW

TIME: 2PM LOCATION: 4TH ST SQUARE

### POLICE DEPT DONUT EATING CONTEST

TIME: 3PM LOCATION: 4TH ST SQUARE

## SAT JUNE 27TH (continued)

### MAIN STAGE- LOOKIN' BACK- A TRIBUTE TO BOB SEGER

TIME: 7PM LOCATION: 4TH ST SQUARE

### MAIN STAGE- ALLENTOWN- A BILLY JOEL TRIBUTE

TIME: 9PM. LOCATION: 4TH ST SQUARE

### VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP FIREWORKS SHOW

TIME: AT DARK LOCATION: BECK FIELD, VBT

## SUN JUNE 28TH

### BASS FISHING CHAMPIONSHIP

TIME: 7AM - 3PM LOCATION: BELLEVILLE LAKE EAST BOAT LAUNCH

### YOGA IN THE PARK + FITNESS LESSONS

TIME: 9AM-11AM LOCATION: HORIZON PARK/MAIN ST

### KID ZONE + INFLATABLES + ROCK CLIMBING WALL

TIME: 11AM-5PM LOCATION: MAIN & 3RD

### MARKET ON MAIN

TIME: 11AM-5PM LOCATION: MAIN ST

### BELLEVILLE LAKE BOAT SHOW

TIME: NOON-5PM LOCATION: LAKEVIEW PLAZA

### TOUCH A TRUCK WITH SUPERHEROES

TIME: 11AM-1PM LOCATION: MAIN & 3RD

### COOL CHEMISTRY w/ TOMMY TECHNETIUM

TIME: 1PM AND 3PM LOCATION: KID STAGE

### FERWOOD UNDERGROUND- JAZZ

TIME: NOON LOCATION: 4TH ST SQUARE

### DAN RAFFERTY BAND

TIME: 3PM LOCATION: 4TH ST SQUARE



J&T-Crova

meijer



## WEEKEND SCHEDULE



# LAKESIDE EVENTS IN BELLEVILLE

## June-Oct

MONDAYS 5:00 PM

### Egan's Car Show + Farmer's Market

Main St. is packed with classic cars and fun events. Stroll the Farmer's Market full of fresh produce and unique local goodies.

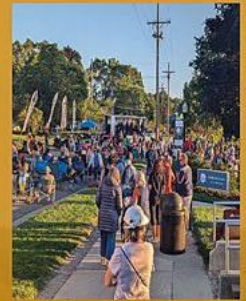


## June 18-Aug 20

Thursdays 7:00pm

### Music Lakeside

Horizon Park comes alive with live bands, food vendors and spectacular sunsets. Bring a chair but you probably will be dancing!



## July 4th

AT DARK

### Fireworks Over Belleville Lake



Celebrate America's 250th Birthday with a mind blowing fireworks show designed to a musical soundtrack! Best viewing by boat or at the DNR East launch park-- 765 E. Huron River Dr.

## Aug 15th

All day and evening

### Margaritas in the 'Ville

Don your best tropical attire as Belleville turns into Margaritaville for one day only! Featuring island fun for all ages, a sand beach, exciting contests and a tropical band!



## All Year Long Outdoor Sculpture Art Walk

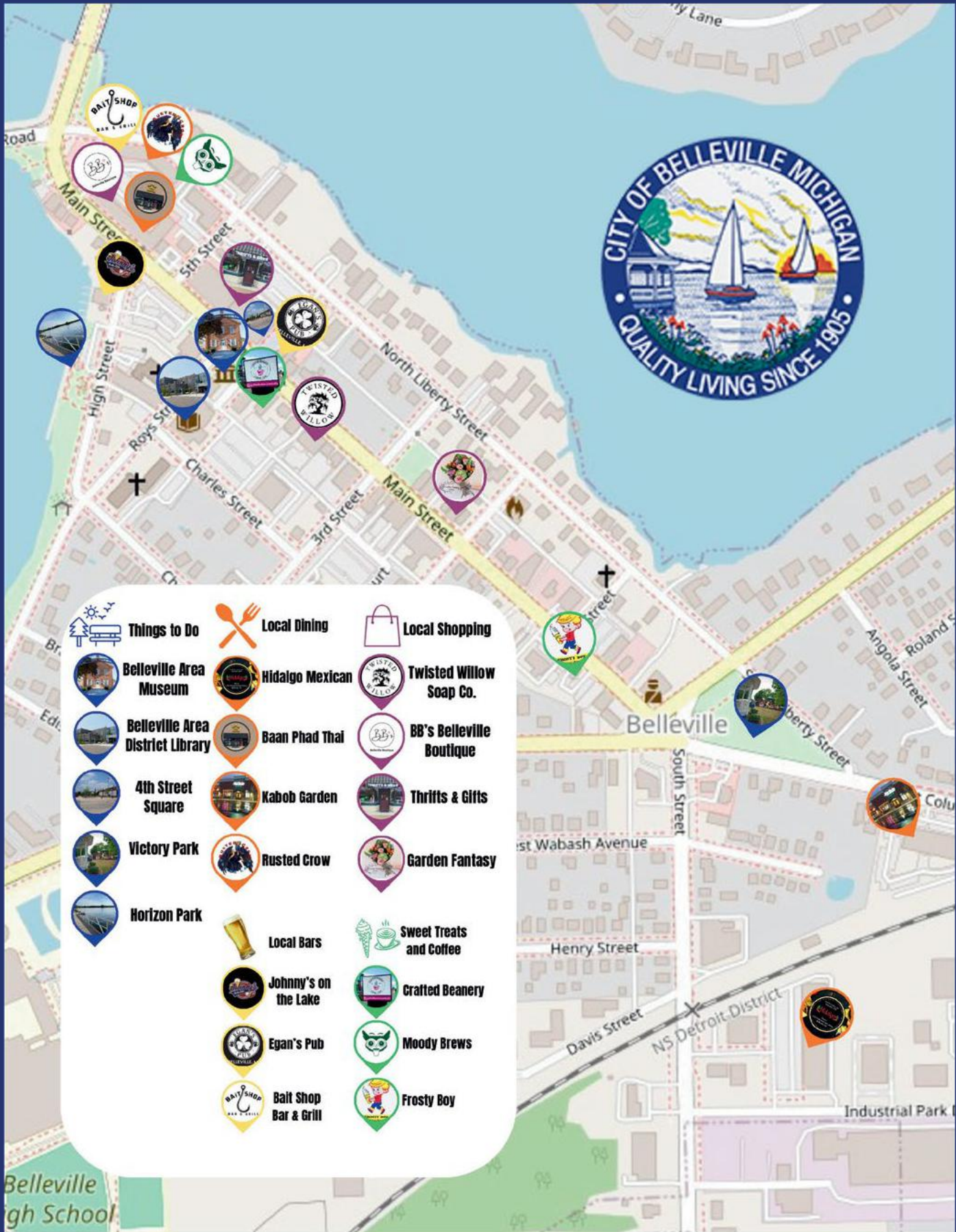
Belleville offers incredible works of art spread around town. The pieces change every year and each one is a unique display of wonderful artistic talent.



There's ALWAYS something fun happening in Belleville! Come visit our little Downtown On the Lake to experience lake life at its best.

Follow Belleville MI, DDA on Facebook so you never miss a moment of the exciting happenings in beautiful Belleville. We are excited to meet you lakeside!





Things to Do	Local Dining	Local Shopping
Belleville Area Museum	Hidalgo Mexican	Twisted Willow Soap Co.
Belleville Area District Library	Baan Phad Thai	BB's Belleville Boutique
4th Street Square	Kabob Garden	Thrifts & Gifts
Victory Park	Rusted Crow	Garden Fantasy
Horizon Park	Local Bars	Sweet Treats and Coffee
	Johnny's on the Lake	Crafted Beanery
	Egan's Pub	Moody Brews
	Bait Shop Bar & Grill	Frosty Boy



# MEMBER DIRECTORY

## ACCOUNTING/ ATTORNEYS/ FINANCIAL SERVICES

**Bovitz CPA, P.C.**  
1651 Kingsway Ct.  
Trenton, MI 48183  
(734) 671-5300  
*bovitzcpa.com*

**Cornerstone Financial Services**  
24359 Northwestern Hwy., Suite 225  
Southfield MI 48075  
(248) 519-5502

**Edward Jones - Financial Advisor:**  
**Alicia McGovern, CEPA®|AAMS®|CRPS™**  
337 Main St Suite C,  
Belleville, MI 48111  
(734) 697-1842

**Haven Group- CPAs**  
152 Main St., Suite 2,  
Belleville, MI 48111  
(734) 697-8000

**Kelley & Evanchek - Attorneys & Counselors At Law**  
43695 Michigan Ave.  
Canton, MI 48111  
(734) 397-4540  
*kelawpc.com*

## AUTOMOTIVE/ DEALERSHIP/REPAIR SERVICES

**Atchinson Ford**  
9800 Belleville Rd.  
Van Buren Twp, MI 48111  
(734) 697-9161  
*atchinson.net*

**Burhop's Collision & Auto Glass**  
112 Davis St.  
Belleville, MI 48111  
(734) 699-3641  
*burhopscollision.com*

**Car-Tech Complete Auto Repair & Tire**  
51300 W Huron River Dr.  
Suite B  
Van Buren Twp, MI 48111  
(734) 487-9999

**J&T Crova Towing**  
287 Industrial Park Dr.  
Belleville, MI 48111  
(734) 699-5300  
*crovatowing.com*

**JBs Convertibles**  
(313) 610-8397  
*facebook.com/jbsconvertibles*

**Mr. Muffler**  
106 Main St.  
Belleville, MI 48111  
(734) 699-2150  
*mrmuffler.com*

**BUSINESS CONSULTING/  
RESOURCES/STAFFING**  
**Effective Solutions Consulting**  
(734) 325-9849  
*effectivesolutionsconsulting.com*

**Metro Industrial Services**  
369 Main St.  
Belleville MI 48111  
(734) 371-0111

**Small Business Assoc. of Michigan**  
101 S Washington Square #900  
Lansing MI 48933  
(517) 482-8788  
*sbam.org*

**ZenBusiness-Sallie Clark**  
(512) 765-4985  
*zenbusiness.com*

**BUSINESS SERVICES/  
DESIGN/PRINTING**  
**A Design Line**  
10669 Belleville Rd.  
Van Buren Twp, MI 48111  
(734) 697-3545  
*adesignline.com*

**Hobo Graphic Arts LLC**  
Local/Mobile  
(734) 740-1769

**Johnston Enterprises**  
11376 Hunt St.  
Romulus, MI 48174  
(734) 891-7469

**KET Threadz & Print**  
Local/Mobile  
(313) 363-7432  
*kethreadz.com*

**Livonia Trophy & Screen Printing**  
38065 Ann Arbor Rd.  
Livonia, MI 48150  
(734) 464-9191  
*livoniatrophy.com*

**The UPS Store - Ypsilanti**  
4007 Carpenter Rd,  
Ypsilanti, MI 48197  
(734) 677-7877

## CHILD CARE

**Becky & Jessica's Place**  
970 Savage Rd.  
Van Buren Twp, MI  
(734) 697-0733  
*beckyandjessicas.com*

## COMMUNITY/SCHOOLS/ NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

**ATHENA Leaders of the Huron Valley**  
*athenawashtenaw.org*

**BE Church Food Pantry**  
494 W Columbia Ave.  
Belleville, MI 48111

**Belleville Area Council for the Arts**  
(734) 740-3126  
*bacaart.org*

**Belleville Area District Library**  
167 4th St.  
Belleville, MI 48111  
(734) 699-3291  
*belleville.lib.mi.us*

**Belleville Area Independent**  
152 Main St #9  
Belleville, MI 48111  
(734) 699-9020

**Belleville Central Business Community (CBC)**  
152 Main Street, Suite 2  
Belleville, MI 48111  
(734) 558-5368  
*bellevillecentralbusinesscommunity.com*

**Belleville Community Chorus**  
*facebook.com/bellevillechorus*

**Belleville First United Methodist Church**  
417 Charles St.  
Belleville, MI 48111  
(734) 697-9288

**Belleville Yacht Club**  
831 E Huron River Dr.  
Belleville, MI 48111  
(734) 325-7934  
*bellevilleyachtclub.com*

**Belleville Ypsilanti Young Life**  
P.O. Box 72  
Belleville, MI 48111  
(734) 252-9395  
*bellevilleypsi.younglife.org*

**Friends of Michigan Animal Rescue**  
51299 Arkona Rd.  
Belleville, MI 48111  
(734) 328-9517  
*friendsofmichigan.org*

**Friends of the Belleville Area Library**  
167 4th St.  
Belleville, MI 48111  
(734) 699-3291

**Guiding Harbor**  
525 E Huron River Dr.  
Belleville, MI 48111  
(734) 697-7242  
*guidingharbor.org*

**Keystone Charter Academy**  
47925 Bemis Rd.  
Belleville, MI 48111  
(734) 697-9470  
*nhaschools.com*

**Kiwanis Club of the Belleville Area**  
(313) 626-1822  
*k19033.site.kiwanis.org*

**Messiah Lutheran Church- Belleville**  
11900 Belleville Rd.  
Van Buren Twp, MI 48111  
(734) 740-4230  
*messiah48111.com*

**Rotary Club of Belleville MI**  
167 4th St.  
Belleville, MI 48111  
(734) 934-6855  
*bellevillerotary.org*

**Solid Rock Church of Belleville**  
417 Charles St,  
Belleville, MI 48111

**The Makana Foundation- Food Pantry**  
894 E Huron River Dr.  
Belleville, MI 48111  
(734) 740-0851

**Tiger Village BHS**  
*facebook.com/TigerVillageBHS*



# MEMBER DIRECTORY

## COMMUNITY/SCHOOLS/ NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS CONTINUED

**Van Buren Eagles #3996**  
9961 Beck Rd,  
Van Buren Twp, MI 48111  
(734) 699-8836  
[foe3996.com](http://foe3996.com)

**Van Buren Public Schools**  
555 W Columbia Ave.  
Belleville, MI 48111  
(734) 697-9123  
[vanburenschools.net](http://vanburenschools.net)

**Van Buren Public Schools Education Foundation**  
(734) 752-9118  
[facebook.com/VBPSEF](http://facebook.com/VBPSEF)

**VFW Post 4434**  
44170 Bemis Rd.  
Van Buren Twp, MI 48111  
(734) 697-0505

**WCCCD (Western Campus)**  
9555 Haggerty Rd.  
Van Buren Twp, MI 48111  
(734) 699-7008

## ENGINEERING/ LOGISTICS/TRUCKING

**Burke Sales and Engineering**  
392 Main St.  
Belleville, MI 48111  
(734) 697-9230  
[burkesales.com](http://burkesales.com)

**Moon Star Express LLC**  
309 Main St.  
Belleville, MI 48111  
(734) 485-1100  
[moonstarexpress.com](http://moonstarexpress.com)

**Northern Lights Expedite**  
43436 N I-94 Service Dr.  
Van Buren Twp, MI 48111  
(810) 422-8750

## FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS/ MORTGAGE LENDING

**Citizens Credit Union**  
105 Main St.  
Belleville, MI 48111  
(734) 697-8033  
[citizensbank.com](http://citizensbank.com)

**Genisys Credit Union**  
10444 Belleville Rd.  
Van Buren Twp, MI 48111  
(734) 485-8000  
[genisyscu.org](http://genisyscu.org)

**Security Mortgage-Christopher Pope**  
48440 Denton Rd #106  
Belleville, MI 48111  
(734) 368-0819

**Union Home Mortgage-Loan Officer Whitney Beaubien**  
480 E. Huron River Dr.  
Belleville MI 48111  
(734) 590-3010  
[uhm.com/loan-officers/whitney-beaubien](http://uhm.com/loan-officers/whitney-beaubien)

## FITNESS/ DANCE/YOGA

**Anytime Fitness**  
11780 Belleville Rd.  
Van Buren Twp, MI 48111  
(734) 325-2809  
[anytimefitness.com](http://anytimefitness.com)

**Belleville Lake Dance Company**  
500 E. Huron River Dr.  
Belleville, MI 48111  
(734) 787-0018  
[bellevillelakedance.com](http://bellevillelakedance.com)

**P&P Dance Centre**  
329 Industrial Park Dr,  
Van Buren Twp, MI 48111  
(734) 697-6110  
[pandpdancecentre.com](http://pandpdancecentre.com)

**Yoga Jule**  
10123 Willis Rd.  
Willis, MI 48191  
(734) 474-3049  
[yogajule.com](http://yogajule.com)

## FOOD & BEVERAGE

**A&W**  
148 W Columbia Ave.  
Belleville, MI 48111  
(734) 699-1800  
[awrestaurants.com](http://awrestaurants.com)

**Angel Food Catering**  
44850 N I-94 Service Dr.  
Van Buren Twp, MI 48111  
(734) 697-1100  
[angelfoodinc.com](http://angelfoodinc.com)

**Applebee's Grill & Bar**  
10526 Belleville Rd.  
Van Buren Twp, MI 48111  
(734) 699-6660  
[applebees.com](http://applebees.com)

**Atwater Street Tacos Bar & Grill**  
404 Main St.  
Belleville, MI 48111

**Belleville Bait Shop Bar & Grill**  
609 Main St.  
Belleville, MI 48111  
(734) 345-9209  
[www.bellevillebaitshop.com](http://www.bellevillebaitshop.com)

**Benito's Pizza**  
565 Main St.  
Belleville, MI 48111  
(734) 697-9128

**Crafted Beanery & Gift Shop**  
381 Main St.  
Belleville, MI 48111  
(734) 325-6226

**Creative Confections By Maria**  
149 South St.  
Belleville, MI 48111  
(734) 252-9144  
[creativeconfectionsbymaria.com](http://creativeconfectionsbymaria.com)

**Detroit Mini Donut**  
Local/Mobile  
(313) 528-6000  
[facebook.com/DetroitMiniDonut](http://facebook.com/DetroitMiniDonut)

**Double B'z Freeze & Tea'z**  
41007 E Huron River Dr.  
Belleville, MI 48111  
(734) 325-2365

**Dungeons & Draughts**  
1000 Sumpter Rd.  
Van Buren Twp, MI 48111  
[dungeonsanddraughtsmi.com](http://dungeonsanddraughtsmi.com)

**Egan's Pub**  
396 Main St.  
Belleville, MI 48111  
(734) 697-3000  
[facebook.com/EgansPub](http://facebook.com/EgansPub)

**Frios Gourmet Pops**  
Local/Mobile  
(313) 463-0737  
[facebook.com/friosedetroit](http://facebook.com/friosedetroit)

**Hayward's Liquor Store**  
573 Main St.  
Belleville, MI 48111  
(734) 699-0369

**Johnny's on the Lake**  
146 High St.  
Belleville, MI 48111  
(734) 699-1777  
[johnnysonthelake.com](http://johnnysonthelake.com)

**Kona Ice of Western Wayne County**  
Local/Mobile  
(734) 335-1964  
[kona-ice.com/local-site/kona-ice-of-western-wayne-county-ann-arbor](http://kona-ice.com/local-site/kona-ice-of-western-wayne-county-ann-arbor)

**Meijer**  
9701 Belleville Rd.  
Van Buren Twp, MI 48111  
(734) 697-1500

**Moody Brews Coffee House**  
519 Main St.  
Belleville, MI 48111  
(734) 865-3111

**Nemeth Concessions**  
Local/Mobile  
(734) 497-8951  
[nemethconcessions.com](http://nemethconcessions.com)

**Optimum Natural Distributors**  
307 Industrial Park Dr.  
Belleville, MI 48111  
(800) 680-2429

**Plant Head Bakery**  
Local/Mobile  
[plantheadbakery.org](http://plantheadbakery.org)

**Saan's Party Store**  
1200 Savage Rd.  
Belleville, MI 48111  
(734) 325-6553

**Sam's Place - Family Dining**  
60 Main St.  
Belleville, MI 48111  
(734) 697-3033  
[samsplacefamily.com](http://samsplacefamily.com)

**Shawarma Valley**  
6073 Rawsonville Rd.  
Van Buren Twp, MI 48111  
(734) 480-9293  
[shawarma-valley.restaurants-world.net/menu](http://shawarma-valley.restaurants-world.net/menu)



# MEMBER DIRECTORY

## FOOD & BEVERAGE

CONTINUED

### The Butcher Shop

510 Main St.  
Belleville, MI 48111  
(734) 796-2008  
*bellevillebutcher.com*

### Tim Horton's

10360 Belleville Rd.  
Van Buren Twp, MI 48111  
(734) 699-5278

### Tim Horton's

2141 Rawsonville Rd.  
Van Buren Twp, MI 48111  
(734) 485-5283

### Van Buren Nutrition

10810 Belleville Rd.  
Van Buren Twp, MI 48111  
(734) 325-6371

## FUNERAL/ CREMATION SERVICES

### David C Brown Funeral Home

460 E Huron River Dr,  
Belleville, MI 48111  
(734) 697-4500  
*davidcbrownfh.com*

### Simple Alternatives Cremation & Burial Services

19865 Sumpter Rd,  
Belleville, MI 48111  
(734) 699-6000

## GOVERNMENT/MUNICIPAL

### Belleville Downtown Development Authority (DDA)

330 Charles St.  
Belleville, MI 48111  
*bellevilleonthelake.com*

### City of Belleville

330 Charles St.  
Belleville, MI 48111  
(734) 697-9323  
*bellevilleonthelake.com*

### Hon. Judge Lisa Martin, 34th District Court

11129 Wayne Rd.  
Romulus MI 48111  
(734) 941-4462  
*mi34thdistrictcourt.com*

### Sumpter Township

23480 Sumpter Rd.  
Sumpter Twp, MI 48111  
(734) 461-6201  
*sumptertwp.org*

### Van Buren Charter Township

46425 Tyler Rd.  
Van Buren Twp, MI 48111  
(734) 699-8913  
*vbtmi.gov*

### Van Buren Twp DDA

10151 Belleville Rd.  
Van Buren Twp, MI 48111  
(734) 699-8941  
*vanburendda.com*

## HOTELS/LODGING/ HOUSING

### Belleville Lake House

Mid-Term Furnished  
Homes & Apartments  
(734) 377-4195

### Hampton Inn Detroit/Belleville - Airport Area

46280 N I-94 Service Dr.  
Van Buren Twp, MI 48111  
(734) 699-2424

### Holiday Inn Express & Suites - Belleville (Airport Area) by IHG

46194 N I-94 Service Dr.  
Van Buren Twp, MI 48111  
(734) 857-6200

### Townplace Suites by Marriott- Detroit/Belleville

46418 N I-94 Service Dr.  
Van Buren Twp, MI 48111  
(734) 699-2100

### Waverly On The Lake

49000 Denton Rd.  
Van Buren Twp, MI 48111  
(734) 304-7370  
*rentthewaverly.com*

## HUMAN SERVICES/ COUNSELING

### Brittany Sanders, LMSW PLLC

847 Sumpter Rd #5023  
Belleville, MI 48111  
(734) 251-2884  
*bsenough.com*

### Growth Works

50430 School House Rd.  
Canton, MI 48187  
(734) 495-1722  
*gwcares.org*

### Suburban Human Services Network

960 W. Ann Arbor Trail  
Plymouth MI 48170  
(734) 453-6879

## INSURANCE

### AAA Insurance- Willis

Insurance Agency  
10788 Belleville Rd.  
Van Buren Twp, MI 48111  
(734) 697-0170

### Clement Insurance

354 Main St.  
Belleville, MI 48111  
(734) 699-1300  
*clementinsurancellc.net*

### Detlor Insurance Agency

38 5th St.  
Belleville, MI 48111  
(734) 697-6000  
*detlor.com*

### HealthMarkets- Mike Gatteri

186 Main St.  
Belleville, MI 48111  
(734) 252-0064  
*healthmarkets.com*

### Karrie Leonard- Aflac Insurance

26400 Lahser Suite 109  
Southfield MI 48033  
(810) 406-6279  
*aflac.com*

### State Farm Insurance - Jake Hunt

8380 Belleville Rd.  
Van Buren Twp, MI 48111  
(734) 697-0773  
*jakehunt.com*

### Venture Insurance Group

649 N Van Dyke Rd.  
Imlay City, MI 48444  
(810) 356-3600  
*facebook.com/VentureInsGrp*

## MARKETING/BRANDING/ ADVERTISING

### Community Publishing & Marketing

(Today Magazines)  
26955 Northline Rd.  
Taylor, MI 48180  
(734) 247-8000

### KSpringer Media Management

264 E Columbia Ave.  
Suite A  
Belleville, MI 48111  
(734) 719-8780  
*kspringermedia management.com*

### Metaversal Media

Local/Mobile  
(323) 898-6277  
*metaversalmedia.com*

## PET SERVICES

### Main Street Pups, Inc.

265 Main St.  
Belleville, MI 48111  
(734) 325-7830

## REAL ESTATE

### Angela Lee, Realtor - The Lee Team

New Boston, MI 48164  
(313) 626-1822  
*angelaleeyour realtor.com*

### Belleville Main LLC

574 W Columbia Ave,  
Belleville, MI 48111  
(734) 740-9582



# MEMBER DIRECTORY

## REAL ESTATE

CONTINUED

### Castino Properties

P.O. Box 99  
Belleville, MI 48111  
(734) 658-7288

### Door to Door w/ Diedre

Local/Mobile  
(586) 212-5959

### Rivers House

769 Sumpter Rd.  
Belleville, MI 48111  
(248) 943-2523

### Social House Group

264 E Columbia Ave.  
Belleville, MI 48111  
(734) 252-6108  
[socialhousegroup.com](http://socialhousegroup.com)

### The Vesche Team- Coldwell Banker

Plymouth, MI 48170  
(734) 740-4165  
[vescheteam.com](http://vescheteam.com)

## SERVICES: RESIDENTIAL/ COMMERCIAL

### Ahearn Signs

290 Industrial Park Dr.  
Belleville MI 48111  
(734) 699-3777  
[ahearnsigns.com](http://ahearnsigns.com)

### Air Doctors

Heating & Cooling LLC  
18311 W 10 Mile Rd  
Suite 101  
Southfield MI 48075  
(734) 740-2961

### Air Temperature Control

687 E Huron River Dr.  
Suite 2B  
Belleville, MI 48111  
(734) 245-9881

### Blue Ribbon Contracting

38210 W Huron River Dr.  
Romulus, MI 48174  
(734) 955-2200

### BMF Plumbing & Drain

P.O. Box 211  
Willis, MI 48191  
(734) 545-6079

### Davenport Brothers Construction

301 Industrial Park Dr.  
Belleville, MI 48111  
(734) 697-2994  
[davenportbrothers.com](http://davenportbrothers.com)

### Friend's Fine Floor Covering

164 Main St.  
Belleville, MI 48111  
(734) 697-0599  
[friendsfinefloors.com](http://friendsfinefloors.com)

### Ground Control Landscaping

Local/Mobile  
(734) 280-2683

### Making A Difference Cleaning & Caregiving

Local/Mobile  
(517) 392-5382

### Men On The Move

573 E Huron River Dr.  
Belleville, MI 48111  
(734) 744-9547  
[michiganmovers.com](http://michiganmovers.com)

### Osier Electric

41227 S Interstate 94  
Service Dr.  
Van Buren Twp, MI 48111  
(734) 697-5300  
[osier-electric.com](http://osier-electric.com)

### Pacesetter Painting

132 Ecorse Rd.  
Ypsilanti, MI 48111  
(734) 612-4211

### Parkway Services, Inc.

2876 Tyler Rd.  
Ypsilanti, MI 48198  
(734) 482-7633

### Pinter's Flowerland

6830 Rawsonville Rd.  
Van Buren Twp, MI 48111  
(734) 482-2776  
[pinterflowerland.com](http://pinterflowerland.com)

### Roof One

Local/Mobile  
(248) 988-9228  
[roofone.com](http://roofone.com)

### S.A.M. Cleaning & Janitorial LLC

Local/Mobile  
(734) 320-9984  
[facebook.com/SAMJanitorial](http://facebook.com/SAMJanitorial)

### Temples Tree Service

Local/Mobile  
(734) 635-9840  
[facebook.com/TemplesTreeServiceLLC](http://facebook.com/TemplesTreeServiceLLC)

### The Gardener's Choice & Randy Brown Landscape

7580 Belleville Rd.  
Van Buren Twp, MI 48111  
(734) 697-1820  
[thegardenerschoice.com](http://thegardenerschoice.com)

### Trusted Heating

3104 Condie St,  
Richmond VA 23221  
(810) 546-3497

## SPECIALTY RETAIL/RECREATION/ PARTY RENTALS

### BB's Belleville Boutique

532 Main St.  
Belleville, MI 48111  
(734) 325-7485  
[facebook.com/BBsBellevilleBoutique](http://facebook.com/BBsBellevilleBoutique)

### Blooms & Balloons

10665 Belleville Rd.  
Van Buren Twp, MI 48111  
(734) 294-9288  
[bloomsandballoon.com](http://bloomsandballoon.com)

### Blue Sky Cannabis Co.

420 Savage Rd.  
Belleville, MI 48111  
(734) 252-6371

### Camping World

43646 N Interstate 94  
Service Dr.  
Van Buren Twp, MI 48111  
(800) 446-8929

### Cosmic Bounce

Local/Mobile  
(734) 280-9383  
[rentcosmicbounce.com](http://rentcosmicbounce.com)

### Delux Tents

489 E Huron River Dr.  
Belleville, MI 48111  
(734) 699-7775  
[deluxtents.com](http://deluxtents.com)

### Diamondback

Music Hall  
49345 S I-94 Service Dr.  
Van Buren Twp, MI 48111  
(734) 589-1111  
[diamondbackmusichall.com](http://diamondbackmusichall.com)

### Divine Grace & Lace

518 Main St.  
Belleville, MI 48111  
(734) 325-2233  
[divinegracelace.com](http://divinegracelace.com)

### Harlow House

204 E Columbia Ave.  
Belleville, MI 48111  
(734) 612-6412  
[harlowhouse.events](http://harlowhouse.events)

### Hometown

Thrift and Gift  
430 Main St.  
Belleville, MI 48111  
(734) 643-9757

### Intents Events by Margo

Local/Mobile  
(734) 752-9118  
[intentseventsbymargo.com](http://intentseventsbymargo.com)

### Lodge Lanes

46255 I-94 S Service Dr.  
Van Buren Twp, MI 48111  
(734) 697-9178

### Michigan Flight Museum

47884 D St.  
Van Buren Twp, MI 48111  
(734) 483-4030  
[miflightmuseum.org](http://miflightmuseum.org)

# bacc MEMBER DIRECTORY

Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce

## SPECIALTY RETAIL/RECREATION/ PARTY RENTALS

CONTINUED

**Mz Krista's Tarot & Spiritual Gifts**  
Local/Mobile  
[facebook.com/MzKristasTarot](https://www.facebook.com/MzKristasTarot)

**Next Level Carts**  
574 W Columbia Ave.  
Belleville, MI 48111  
(734) 740-9582

**Smokerville-House of Vapor**  
879 Sumpter Rd  
Belleville, MI 48111  
(734) 699-2550

**Steel & Stiletto's Firearm Training**  
Local/Mobile  
(734) 335-1545  
[steelandstilettostraining.com](https://www.steelandstilettostraining.com)

**TEAM Wireless, Verizon Authorized Retailer**  
10930 Belleville Rd.  
Van Buren Twp, MI 48111  
734-796-8200

**The Garden Fantasy On Main**  
210 Main St.  
Belleville, MI 48111  
(734) 697-7400  
[gardenfantasyonmain.com](https://www.gardenfantasyonmain.com)

**Tractor Supply Co.**  
15455 Sumpter Rd.  
Van Buren Twp, MI 48111  
(734) 322-9280  
[tractorsupply.com](https://www.tractorsupply.com)

**The Unlimited DJ**  
Local/Mobile  
(517) 403-0351

**Twisted Willow Soap Co.**  
331 Main St.  
Belleville, MI 48111  
(313) 886-9763  
[twistedwillowsoap.com](https://www.twistedwillowsoap.com)

## UTILITIES

**DTE Energy**  
(800) 477-4747  
[dteenergy.com](https://www.dteenergy.com)

## WELLNESS/HEALTH/ BEAUTY

**734 Beauty Lounge**  
990 Sumpter Rd.  
Van Buren Twp, MI 48111  
(734) 494-0510  
[734beautylounge.com](https://www.734beautylounge.com)

**Advanced Body Medical**  
125 W Columbia Ave.  
Belleville, MI 48111  
(734) 697-4244  
[advancedbodymedical.com](https://www.advancedbodymedical.com)

**Athletico Physical Therapy**  
11816 Belleville Rd.  
Van Buren Twp, MI 48111  
(734) 328-2060

**Belleville Bariatrics**  
159 Main St  
Belleville, MI 48111  
(734) 799-6047

**Belleville Smiles**  
35 Main St #102  
Belleville, MI 48111  
(734) 697-3011  
[belleville-smiles.com](https://www.belleville-smiles.com)

**Beltone Hearing Center**  
35 Main St, Unit 101  
Belleville, MI 48111  
(734) 697-5363  
[beltonehearingaid.com](https://www.beltonehearingaid.com)

**Blades n Fades**  
881 Sumpter Rd.  
Van Buren Twp, MI 48111  
(734) 345-8073

**Ivy Rehab**  
540 Main St.  
Belleville, MI 48111  
(734) 489-6440  
[ivyrehab.com](https://www.ivyrehab.com)

**Milton's Pharmacy**  
248 Main St.  
Belleville, MI 48111  
(734) 391-0190  
[miltonspharmacy.com](https://www.miltonspharmacy.com)

**Perspective Eye Care**  
240 Main St.  
Belleville, MI 48111  
(734) 699-1010  
[www.perspective-eyecare.com](https://www.perspective-eyecare.com)

**Purpose Dental**  
45520 Tyler Rd.  
Van Buren Twp, MI 48111  
(734) 766-4068  
[purposedental.com](https://www.purposedental.com)

**Relax & Renew by Amanda**  
51 5th St, Suite A  
Belleville, MI 48111  
(734) 707-6348  
[relaxandrennewbyamanda.com](https://www.relaxandrennewbyamanda.com)

**Sisu Health**  
243 Main St.  
Belleville, MI 48111  
(734) 337-4165  
[misisuhealth.com](https://www.misisuhealth.com)

**Team Designs**  
530 W Columbia Ave.  
Belleville, MI 48111  
(734) 345-8041  
[teamdesignssalon.net](https://www.teamdesignssalon.net)

**The Hair Station**  
151 Main St.  
Belleville, MI 48111  
(734) 796-4795

**Traditions on Main**  
504 Main St.  
Belleville, MI 48111  
(734) 345-8097  
[facebook.com/Traditionsonmainst](https://www.facebook.com/Traditionsonmainst)



Join the Chamber to List  
Your Business in the Guide!



# MEMORIAL DAY

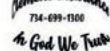
Monday, May 25

**PARADE 10 AM**  
Presented by **Belleville Central Business Community**

**2026 Grand Marshals: Pete Pitzen, VFW & Lori Day, PLAV**

Parade Route: 10 am Steps off at BHS parking lot on W. Columbia, turns left on Main Street - with Reviewing Stand at 4th St - turn left on Roys, return to BHS left on Church Street; OR Those attending the 11am commemoration ceremony turn right on High Street.

Thank you to our Presenting Sponsors



★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Remember and Honor ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

King Pancake Breakfast - All you can eat pancakes at 1st Methodist Church  
417 Charles - 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

**Memorial Ceremony at Horizon Park 11 AM**



Commemoration of local veterans who died in the line of duty by VFW Post 4434 and PLAV Post 167

- \* Prayer by Pastor Robert White
- \* National Anthem by Geof Bush & Lori Day
- \* Laying of the Wreaths
- \* Taps

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

All veterans and their spouses are invited to a luncheon at Grace Baptist Church immediately following the ceremony. Compliments of the church and Rachael Lynn Catering.



The Belleville Central Business Community invites you to join us!

**Third Thursday's 5pm - 8pm**  
**March - December**

Shop and dine during *extended hours* on the third Thursday of the month and enjoy special deals or discounts from our local participating businesses and pop-up shops!



Thank you to our sponsors

## ANNUAL BELLEVILLE BRIDGEWALK & TASTE OF BELLEVILLE

THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 2026

Rain Date: Friday, August 21, 2026

Horizon Park - High Street

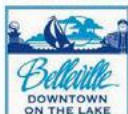


Belleville Central Business Community invites you to an evening lakeside. Taste Tickets \$1 50/50 Drawing and Door Prizes Menu in the Independent on 8/20

### Schedule of Events

- 5:30 pm Belleville Bridge Walk Meet at the Gateway Sign
- 6pm - 8pm Taste of Belleville on High Street Including Unlimited DJ & Face Painting
- 6:30 pm Rubber Ducky Race Sponsored by Belleville Rotary
- 7pm - 9pm Music Lakeside featuring D Tour Band

Special Thanks to the City of Belleville and Belleville CBC Sponsors



Vendors Welcome

4th Street Square and 4th Street Place  
**Mondays 4 - 7:30PM**  
June thru October 12<sup>th</sup>

Belleville Farmers Market

taste the LOCAL difference michigan

**LOCALLY GROWN MADE CRAFTED**

Thanks to all of our Presenting Sponsors



Join us for the Monday Night Main Street Cruise Classic Car Show June thru October 26th 5-8 PM

# NEXT LEVEL CARTS OPENS AT ORIGINAL ATCHINSON SITE



With the brand new arrival of Next Level Carts, Belleville’s storied transport history is returning to its scenic roots at the corner of High Street and West Huron River Drive. Atchinson Ford began its legendary journey right here in 1961, overlooking the shimmering waters of Belleville Lake, long before evolving into a national powerhouse dealership on Belleville Road. Today, that legacy of local vehicle retail comes beautifully full circle, as Belleville Main LLC proudly welcomes Next Level Carts and their high-end vehicles to this historic location, where carts are officially street-legal!



**ATCHINSON FORD THEN**



**ATCHINSON FORD NOW**

On September 11, 1961, Norman “Dutch” Atchinson opened Atchinson Ford at the scenic corner of High and Columbia, overlooking Belleville Lake. Selling 360 vehicles in their first year with just twelve employees, the business quickly outpaced its modest footprint. By 1967, the need for space drove them to Belleville Road in Van Buren Township, where they grew

into a national automotive leader. Today, the original site returns to its roots. From “Dutch” Atchinson’s first Ford to high-end, custom carts, this location continues its tradition as the heart of Belleville’s moving spirit—the perfect place to launch the next generation of mobility. Come check out their top-tier brands including Denago, Epic, and Icon!

# Van Buren Township

46425 Tyler Road | (734) 699-8900 | [www.vbtmi.gov](http://www.vbtmi.gov)

## *A Lake Community*

Van Buren Township is a thriving charter township in western Wayne County, strategically located between Detroit and Ann Arbor. Spanning 35 square miles, it offers a unique blend of accessibility, natural beauty and a welcoming community atmosphere that appeals to residents and business alike.

Established in 1835 from a portion of Huron Township and named after President Martin Van Buren, the township has grown from just 500 residents to more than 30,000 today. Its early development was driven by three key milestones: the arrival of the railroad in the 1800s, the creation of Belleville Lake in 1926 and the World War II-era Willow Run bomber plant and Willow Run Airport, now one of Metro Detroit's busiest aviation hubs.

Today, Van Buren Township strikes a balance between residential and agricultural living, alongside carefully planned commercial and industrial growth. With convenient access to I-94 and I-275, scenic parks, connected trails and strong civic pride, Van Buren Township continues to thrive as a vibrant gateway to southeast Michigan.

**Supervisor:** Kevin McNamara

**Clerk:** Leon Wright

**Treasurer:** Sharry Budd

**Trustees:** Byron Kelley, Kevin Martin, Donald Boynton Jr., William Frazier

**Assessor:** Jennifer Stamper

**DDA Executive Director:** Merrie Coburn

**Community Services Director:** Elizabeth Renaud

**Municipal Services Director:** Ron Akers

**Police Chief:** Jason Wright

**Fire Chief:** David McNally

### **Regular Meetings**

**Van Buren Board meetings:** 6 p.m. – First and third Tuesday

**Van Buren Planning Commission:** 5:30 p.m. – Second and fourth Wednesday

**Downtown Development Authority (DDA):** 3 p.m. – Fourth Tuesday



**VAN BUREN**  
CHARTER TOWNSHIP

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE

Phone: (734) 699-8910  
Fax: (734) 699-8952

### PUBLIC SAFETY

Phone: (734) 699-8930  
Fax: (734) 699-6469  
Fire: Station 1: (734) 699-8927  
Station 2: (734) 699-8928

### PARKS & RECREATION/ COMMUNITY SERVICES

Phone: (734) 699-8921  
Fax: (734) 699-8502

### ASSESSING OFFICE

Phone: (734) 699-8946  
Fax: (734) 699-8952

### HUMAN RESOURCES

Phone: (734) 699-8900 x9293  
Fax: (734) 699-8958

### TREASURER'S OFFICE

Phone: (734) 699-8903  
Fax: (734) 699-8955

### SENIOR CENTER

Phone: (734) 699-8918  
Fax: (734) 699-8502

### WATER & SEWER

Phone: (734) 699-8925  
Fax: (734) 699-8958

### CLERK'S OFFICE

Phone: (734) 699-8909  
Fax: (734) 699-5213

### DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

Phone: (734) 699-8913  
Fax: (734) 699-8958  
Inspection Scheduling Line: (734) 699-6564

### COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

Phone: (734) 699-6069

### DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Phone: (734) 699-8941

## Board of Trustees



**DONALD BOYNTON JR.**  
Trustee  
dboynton@vbtmi.gov



**SHARRY BUDD**  
Treasurer  
sbudd@vbtmi.gov



**WILLIAM FRAZIER**  
Trustee  
wfrazier@vbtmi.gov



**BRYON KELLEY**  
Trustee  
bkelley@vbtmi.gov



**KEVIN MARTIN**  
Trustee  
kmartin@vbtmi.gov



**KEVIN McNAMARA**  
Supervisor  
kmcnamara@vbtmi.gov



**LEON WRIGHT**  
Clerk  
lwright@vbtmi.gov



Welcome to

# VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY



CONTACT US



COMMUNITY INFORMATION



DOCUMENT CENTER



NEWS & INFORMATION

**BUSINESS RESOURCES GUIDE**

**VAN BUREN**  
CHAIRERT TOWNSHIP

VIEW THE GUIDE

**VBT DDA Business Directory**

Van Buren Township DDA  
Online Business Directory

SCAN TO EXPLORE

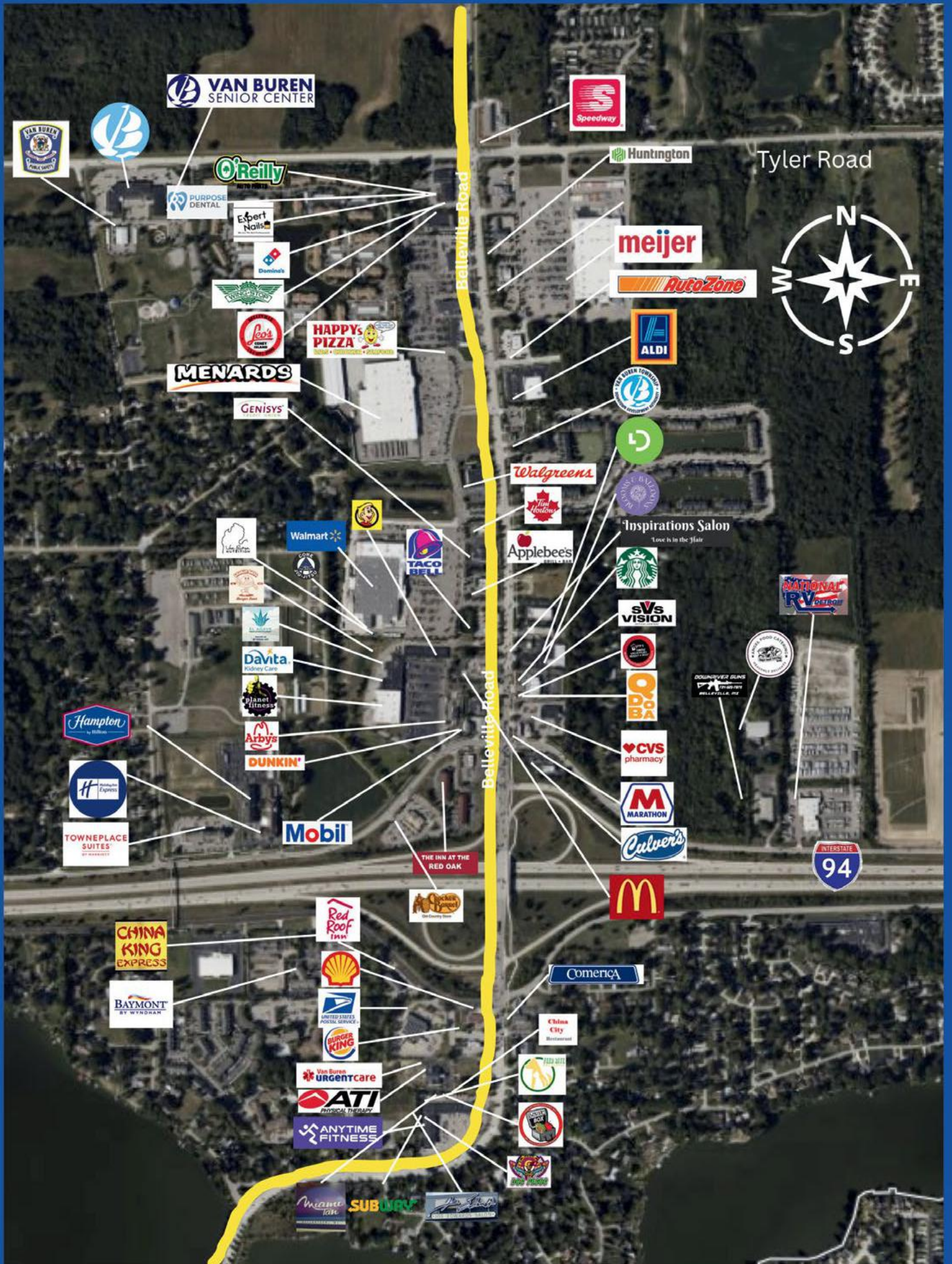
*Upcoming Events 2026*

<b>APR 9-15</b> "Downtown Street"	<b>APR 19-25</b> "Downtown Street"	
<b>MAY 19-23</b> "Downtown Street"	<b>MAY 24-26</b> "Downtown Street"	<b>MAY 26</b> "Downtown Street"
<b>JUN 2-2</b> "Downtown Street"	<b>JUN 18</b> "Downtown Street"	<b>JUN 2</b> "Downtown Street"

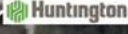


YOUR CONNECTION TO  
SMALL BUSINESS  
**RESOURCES**





**VAN BUREN**  
SENIOR CENTER



Tyler Road



Belleville Road

Belleville Road



# EVENT CALENDAR



3,10,17,  
& 24  
**JUN**

## MID-WEEK MUSIC

Music in Harris Park held  
Wednesdays in June from  
7pm-9pm



**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



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



734-699-8941



[mcoburn-dda@vbtmi.gov](mailto:mcoburn-dda@vbtmi.gov)



The Waverly on the Lake was pleased to take part in the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce walk-through, an event that reflected the strong sense of connection found throughout Belleville and Van Buren Township. Bringing local organizations and businesses together in this way helps strengthen community ties and highlights the value of staying involved at the local level. The partnership with the Chamber is one The Waverly on the Lake is proud to be part of.

Located in Belleville, The Waverly on the Lake is a residential community set against a peaceful lakeside backdrop. Its location offers convenient access to parks, dining, shopping, and major commuter routes, while still feeling connected to the natural beauty of the area. Prospective residents who would like to learn more or schedule a tour are encouraged to connect with the leasing team directly at (734) 290 - 4124.



Participation in events like the Chamber walk is an important reminder that community extends beyond where people live or work. It is built through relationships, shared experiences, and ongoing local support. The Waverly on the Lake values the opportunity to be part of that broader story and to continue building connections within the Belleville community.



# Our clients' interests come first.

## What matters most to you matters to us.

We'll help you identify and define your unique financial goals. And then we'll tailor investment strategies that help you work toward those goals.

Our single focus is helping you achieve what's most important to you. And you'll be backed by our entire team each step of the way.

## Let's talk.

**Alicia M McGovern, CEPA®, AAMS®, CRPS™**

Financial Advisor

337 Main Street Suite C

Belleville, MI 48111

734-697-1842



**Membership  
is Easy!**

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for every need.**




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**Belleville Branch** | 10444 Belleville Rd. | **734-485-8000**

   29 Southeast Michigan branches, find more at [genisyscu.org](https://www.genisyscu.org).

NMLS # 409008

INSURED BY NCUA





BELLEVILLE - AREA  
**INDEPENDENT**

INVITES YOU

**DINNER  
FUNDRAISER**

**THURSDAY | JULY 16 | 2026**

**6:00 - 8:00 pm**

**BELLEVILLE YACHT CLUB  
831 E HURON RIVER DR BELLEVILLE MI 48111**

Help protect the future of local journalism.  
Join us July 16 in support of the  
Belleville Area News Foundation

Event and ticket details will be shared in  
upcoming editions of the Belleville Area  
Independent

RSVP: [baindependent@ameritech.net](mailto:baindependent@ameritech.net)

Phone: 734-699-9020



# SUMMER KICK-OFF PARTY

Thursday, June 11 | 3 - 5 PM

Van Buren Community Center  
Entertainment Plaza  
46425 Tyler Road

**DJ | TREATS | KID'S ACTIVITIES**

## VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP FIREWORKS SHOW

**SATURDAY, JUNE 27**

RAIN DATE SUNDAY, JUNE 28

### BECK BALL FIELDS

10854 Beck Road  
Van Buren Township, MI 48111

 **8 PM - Music & Activities begin**

 **Dusk (9:45 PM) - Fireworks show**



**VAN BUREN**  
PARKS & RECREATION



**VAN BUREN**  
PARKS & RECREATION

# plan now. party later.

## summer starts here.

Early access for residents: Jan 5  
General reservations open: Mar 2


Van Buren Park, French Landing, or Riggs Park.  
*(Quirk Park pavilion closed for 2026 renovations.)*

Reserve at: [bit.ly/vbtpavilions](https://bit.ly/vbtpavilions)  
Or visit the Van Buren Community Center  
46425 Tyler Rd., Van Buren Township, MI 48111



# 2026 PAVILION RENTALS

[vbtmi.gov](https://vbtmi.gov) 

734.699.8921 

# THIS AIN'T YOUR GRANDMA'S SENIOR CENTER

*(but she'd love it here)*



## VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP: REDEFINING WHAT A SENIOR CENTER LOOKS LIKE

If your idea of a senior center involves quiet rooms, polite conversation, and maybe a puzzle or two... we should probably clear something up. That's not what's happening here. At the Van Buren Township Senior Center, the energy is high, the laughter is loud, and the calendar is packed with programs that feel a lot more like a social club than anything else.

## YES THERE'S COFFEE. NO, IT'S NOT QUIET.

On any given day, you might walk in to find a room full of people dancing their way through Sweatin' to the Oldies, led by none other than Richard Simmons on the screen and about 20 people fully committed to the moment. Equal parts workout and comedy hour, it's impossible to take yourself too seriously, which is kind of the point.

Down the hall, Senior Power Hour is in full swing. This isn't light stretching and calling it a day. We're talking real equipment, real workouts, and a group that shows up ready to put in the work and cheer each other on while they do it.

And then there's trivia. We'll just say this. The categories are creative. The answers are competitive. And some of the jokes are probably best kept within the room. It's one of our most popular programs for a reason.



**COME FOR THE COMMUNITY.  
STAY FOR THE STORIES YOU  
PROBABLY SHOULDN'T REPEAT.**



## PROGRAMS YOU DIDN'T SEE COMING

This past year alone, our group has:

- Hopped on a Dive Bar Bus Tour that turned into one of the most talked-about days of the season
- Planned a trip to Glo Mini Golf next quarter, because why not
- Turned crafting into something a little more unpredictable with Beading Gone Wild
- Built a weekly ritual around Wednesday Coffee Talk, where conversations range from heartfelt to completely unfiltered in the best way



## THE REAL STORY

What makes this place special is not just the programming. It is the people. It is the inside jokes that carry from week to week. The friendships that form faster than expected. The way someone new walks in and, before long, feels like they have always been part of the group. There is a sense of ownership here. This is their space, their community, their time to show up exactly as they are.

## COME SEE FOR YOURSELF

The hardest part to explain is the feeling of it. You kind of have to walk in, hear the laughter, see the energy, and experience it for yourself. And for VBT Residents, you can become a member for just \$20 a year.





# FROM YOUR FIRE DEPARTMENT

## FIRST QUARTER RUN NUMBERS FOR VBFD:

620 EMS calls

24 Fire calls

19 MVA calls



## Van Buren Fire

**IF WE CAN'T FIND YOU WE CAN'T HELP YOU**



**ONLY \$20**

MAILBOX MARKER



**REFLECTIVE ADDRESS MARKERS**

### FEATURES

- Highly Visible Day or Night Reflective Material
- Fade Resistant, Lasts for Years
- Pre-drilled Holes

**Order Your Reflective Address Marker Today..... It May Help Save Your Life or Someone You Love**

**Email Questions to [esmith@vbtmi.gov](mailto:esmith@vbtmi.gov)**



**FREE SMOKE DETECTOR INSPECTION AND INSTALLATION**

in partnership with MI Prevention

# YOU CALL WE'LL INSTALL!



Nothing is more important than the safety of you and your family. That's why the Van Buren Township Fire Department has partnered with MI Prevention and the State Fire Marshal to offer free smoke detector installations for Van Buren Township families.

If you need a smoke detector, call us today. There is no charge, and a VBFD team member will install brand new detectors in your home.

Remember: Smoke detectors older than 10 years old are outdated.

Replace yours call today!

Hearing impaired alarms available upon request.

**(734) 699-8900 x9426**

Emergency

**9-1-1**

[www.vanburen-mi.org/how\\_do\\_i](http://www.vanburen-mi.org/how_do_i)

Non-emergency  
734-699-8930

Station 1  
45400 Hull Rd

Station 2 -HQ  
7981 Belleville Rd



# Grilling Safety

There's nothing like outdoor grilling. It's one of the most popular ways to cook food. But, a grill placed too close to anything that can burn is a fire hazard. They can be very hot, causing burn injuries. Follow these simple tips and you will be on the way to safe grilling.

## SAFETY TIPS

- » Propane and charcoal BBQ grills should only be used outdoors.
- » The grill should be placed well away from the home, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- » Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the grill area.
- » Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from the grills and in trays below the grill.
- » Never leave your grill unattended.
- » Always make sure your gas grill lid is open before lighting it.

## CHARCOAL GRILLS

- » There are several ways to get the charcoal ready to use. Charcoal chimney starters allow you to start the charcoal using newspaper as a fuel.
- » If you use a starter fluid, use only charcoal starter fluid. Never add charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquids to the fire.
- » Keep charcoal fluid out of the reach of children and away from heat sources.
- » There are also electric charcoal starters, which do not use fire. Be sure to use an extension cord for outdoor use.
- » When you are finished grilling, let the coals completely cool before disposing in a metal container.

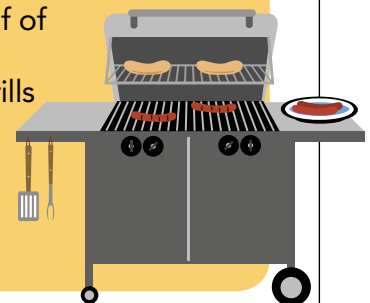
## PROPANE Grills

Check the gas tank hose for leaks before using it for the first time each year. Apply a light soap and water solution to the hose. A propane leak will release bubbles. If your grill has a gas leak, by smell or the soapy bubble test, and there is no flame, turn off both the gas tank and the grill. If the leak stops, get the grill serviced by a professional before using it again. If the leak does not stop, call the fire department. **If you smell gas while cooking, immediately get away from the grill and call the fire department.** Do not move the grill.

If the flame **goes out**, turn the grill and gas off and wait at least **5 minutes** before re-lighting it.

## FACTS

- ! July is the peak month for grill fires.
- ! Roughly half of the injuries involving grills are thermal burns.



**NATIONAL FIRE  
PROTECTION ASSOCIATION**

The leading information and knowledge resource  
on fire, electrical and related hazards



# CHARGE into Fire Safety™

## Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home

Most of the electronics we use in our homes every day are powered by lithium-ion batteries. In fact, most everything that's rechargeable uses this kind of battery.



e-bikes



hoverboards



tablets



cordless vacuum cleaners



e-vehicles



power tools



mobile phones



remote control cars



e-scooters



laptops



e-cigarettes/  
vapes



drones



golf carts



smart watches



headphones



toys

LITHIUM-ION BATTERIES store a lot of energy in a small place. These batteries can overheat, start a fire, or explode if overcharged or damaged. By learning how to **BUY**, **CHARGE**, and **RECYCLE** these batteries safely, you can help prevent a fire in your home.



**BUY** only listed products. When buying a product that uses a lithium-ion battery look for a safety certification mark such as UL, ETL, or CSA. This means it meets important safety standards.



**STOP** using your device right away if the battery smells weird, gets too hot, makes popping noises, changes in shape or color. If it is safe, move the device away from anything that can catch fire. Call **9-1-1**.



**CHARGE** devices safely. Always use the cables that came with the product to charge. Follow the instructions from the manufacturer. Buy new chargers from the manufacturer or one that the manufacturer has approved.



**RECYCLE** batteries responsibly. Don't throw lithium-ion batteries in the trash or regular recycling bins because they could start a fire.



**CHARGE** your device on a hard surface. Don't overcharge your device. Unplug it or remove the battery when it's fully charged.



**RECYCLE** your device or battery at a safe battery recycling location. Visit [call2recycle.org](http://call2recycle.org) to find a recycling spot near you.



**NATIONAL FIRE  
PROTECTION ASSOCIATION**

The Leading Information and Knowledge Resource on Fire,  
Electrical, and Related Hazards



# Go Paperless No Missed Bills

Sign up for paperless water & sewer billing  
and receive your statements electronically

## How To Sign Up

1. Visit [vbtmi.gov](http://vbtmi.gov)
2. Go to Water & Sewer Billing
3. Select Paperless Billing



# WHERE'S TEAM A TODAY?



WHERE LOCAL BRANDS GET THEIR MOMENT

Join AyLaina and Ashley as they visit your favorite hometown spots—and discover a few new ones along the way!

This weekly series from TODAY Magazines takes you behind the scenes with AyLaina and Ashley as they spotlight our advertising partners in fresh, creative ways that set us apart from other marketers.



# Van Buren Township Police Department

## Expanding Community Policing Partnership with Senior and Recreation Departments

**T**HE Van Buren Township Police Department is strengthening its commitment to community engagement through a developing partnership with the Township's Senior Program and Recreation Department. The collaboration focuses on creating opportunities for officers to positively interact with residents through township programming, educational outreach and community engagement initiatives.

On March 11, 2026, Sgt. Adam Byrd of the Van Buren Township Police Department met with Interim Senior Program Manager Breanna Shipley and Recreation Director Nicole Gerhart to discuss ways the departments can continue strengthening the already strong working relationship between the police department, the senior center, and the recreation department.

The purpose of the meeting was to reinforce and intentionally maintain this partnership while identifying opportunities where the police department can support programs offered through the senior center and recreation department and further enhance community policing efforts.

### Community Policing Engagement Strategy

During the discussion, the police department outlined three categories of engagement that will guide how officers support future programming and activities.

- **Immediate Support**

Situations where police presence or response is immediately required to address safety concerns or incidents.

- **Community Policing Support**

Opportunities for officers to interact directly with residents through presentations, mentoring, educational outreach, and other positive engagement activities.

- **Passive Support**

A visible police presence at community functions where interaction with officers occurs naturally as residents choose to engage.



### Future Collaboration Opportunities

Several initiatives were discussed as potential opportunities to enhance community engagement between township departments and the police department. These include educational presentations for seniors, community conversations with officers and possible partnerships involving behavioral health resources for youth and families.



The departments also discussed working together to support select community programming throughout the year, including educational presentations, senior engagement opportunities and family-oriented recreation activities where officers may attend to interact with residents and strengthen relationships within the community.

### Strengthening Community Connections

Chief Jason Wright emphasized the importance of partnerships between township departments and the police department.

"Community policing is about building relationships and maintaining trust with the people we serve," Chief Wright said. "We already have a strong relationship with our senior and recreation departments, and intentionally maintaining and strengthening that partnership is a priority for our department. These efforts help ensure that our officers remain accessible and connected to the community."

The Van Buren Township Police Department looks forward to continuing collaboration with the senior center and recreation department as these initiatives develop.

For additional information regarding community policing programs or partnership opportunities, please contact Sgt. Adam Byrd of the Van Buren Township Police Department at (734) 699-8932.





# BOATER SAFETY RULES



**Speed Limit is 40 MPH.**

**Operate in a Counter-Clockwise Direction.**

**Children under 6 years old MUST wear a PFD.**

**No Bow Riding.**

**Slow-No-Wake Zone 100 ft from:**

- Shore line
- Docks
- Bridges
- Swimming Areas



**Michigan Law states you are responsible for damage by your own wake.**

**Personal Watercraft (Jetski)**

- Cannot cross within 150-ft of another vessel
- Must be operated in a safe and prudent manner
- Can only be operated from 8:00 am until sunset
- If born after 1978, you must have a boaters safety certificate to operate



**Lighting is required for operation after dusk**

- Red/Green navigation lights when underway
- Red/Green navigation lights and a 360° degree with light when stopped/anchored



**All vessels should have:**

- Personal Flotation Device (Life Jacket) for everyone on board
- Type 4 throwable PFD
- Fire Extinguisher
- Signaling Device (horn or whistle)



From the

# CLERK'S OFFICE

Leon Wright, Clerk



## Voting Precincts

✓ Voting precinct locations have changed – voters can verify their polling location at [michigan.gov/vote](https://michigan.gov/vote) or use the QR code to go directly to the website.



✓ Absentee ballots for the August 2026 Primary will be mailed by the last Thursday of June to voters on the permanent ballot list.

✓ Early voting for the August Primary runs from Saturday, July 25 through Monday, August 3.

✓ Michigan is a closed primary so voters can't cross parties.

✓ Election Day is Tuesday, August 4 – polls are open 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**Precinct 1**  
Van Buren Township Hall

**Precinct 2**  
Van Buren Township Hall

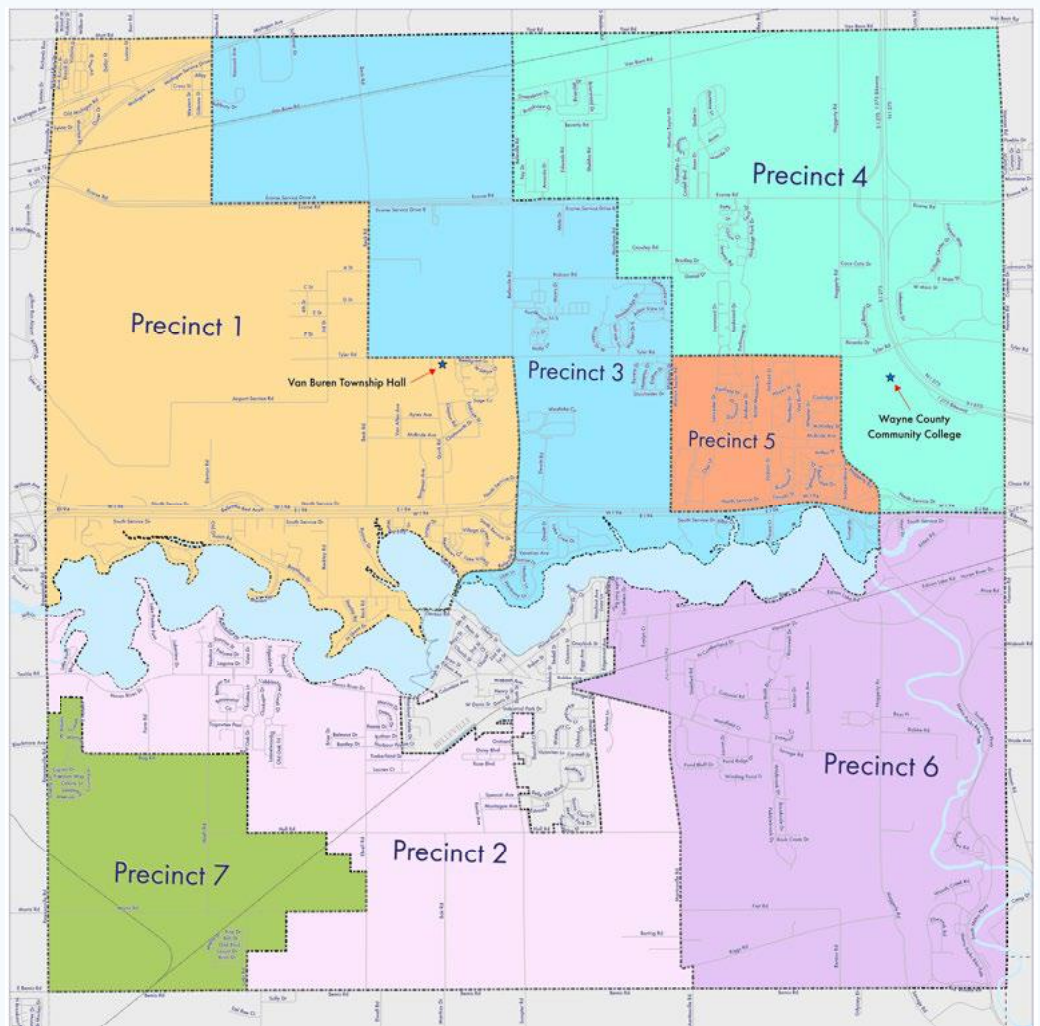
**Precinct 3**  
Wayne County  
Community College

**Precinct 4**  
Wayne County  
Community College

**Precinct 5**  
Wayne County  
Community College

**Precinct 6**  
Wayne County  
Community College

**Precinct 7**  
Van Buren Township Hall



# WATER QUALITY REPORT CITIZENS' GUIDE



VBT WATER SEWER | [publicservices@vanburen-mi.org](mailto:publicservices@vanburen-mi.org) | 734.699.8925

Every year, Van Buren Township, like all other community water suppliers in Michigan, must develop an annual Water Quality Report to reach consumers in the Township. **This Citizens' Guide is meant to share easy to digest information "bites" from Van Buren Township's Water Quality Report.** It is not intended to replace the full report. Consumers are encouraged to read the full Water Quality report. Van Buren Township's official 2025 Water Quality Report is included after this Citizens' Guide in the Van Buren Today and is available for the public to read or download at [vanburen-mi.org](http://vanburen-mi.org) on the Water & Sewer Department's page.



## **Where does my water come from?**

Your source water comes from the Detroit River, situated within the Lake St. Clair, Clinton River, Detroit River, Rouge River, Ecorse River, watersheds in the U.S. and parts of the Thames River, Little River, Turkey Creek and Sydenham watersheds in Canada. It is transported from Great Lakes Water Authority water treatment plants in transmission lines into Township distribution mains. Van Buren Township is served primarily from the Southwest Treatment Plant in Allen Park.

## **What's in my water?**

We are pleased to report that your drinking water meets or exceeds all government standards set for water quality and safety.

## **Why would there be contaminants in my water?**

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

## **SAFE DRINKING WATER IS ALL OUR RESPONSIBILITY**

Safe drinking water is a shared responsibility. The water that GLWA delivers to our community does not contain lead. Lead can leach into drinking water through home plumbing fixtures, and in some cases, customer service lines. Corrosion control and proper maintenance of home or business plumbing fixtures reduces the risk of lead and copper from leaching into your water.

*If at any time you notice a change in the look, smell or taste of your drinking water, please contact the Van Buren Township Department of Public Services-Water & Sewer Division at (734) 699-8925 or at [publicservices@vanburen-mi.org](mailto:publicservices@vanburen-mi.org)*



VAN BUREN  
CHARTER TOWNSHIP

# 2025 Water Quality Report

Water Supply Serial Number:06670

**T**HE Charter Township of Van Buren is proud to present the 2025 Water Quality Report. In complying with Federal legislative requirements, this report has been developed to provide you with valuable information about your drinking water. State and Federal regulations require us to test our water on a regular basis to ensure its safety. During the 2025 calendar year, the Township fulfilled all monitoring, testing and sampling requirements and found our water to have met all federal and state requirements for water quality. You will see as you review this report that your drinking water meets or exceeds all government standards set for water quality and safety. This report will explain where your water comes from, lists the results of testing conducted at the water treatment plant and in the water distribution system, and contains important information about water and health. The report also provides information on how you can minimize contaminants in our source water. Please help us to preserve the quality of our drinking water supply. If at any time you notice a change in the look, smell or taste of your drinking water, please contact the Van Buren Township Department of Public Services-Water & Sewer Division at (734) 699-8925.

Drinking water quality is important to our community and the region. The Charter Township of Van Buren and the Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) are committed to meeting state and federal water quality standards including the Lead and Copper Rule. With the Great Lakes as our water source and proven

treatment technologies, the GLWA consistently delivers safe drinking water to our community. The Charter Township of Van Buren operates the system of water mains that carry this water to your home's service line. This year's Water Quality Report highlights the performance of GLWA and the Charter Township of Van Buren water professionals in delivering some of the nation's best drinking water. Together, we remain committed to protecting public health and maintaining open communication with the public about our drinking water.

## Health Considerations

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as person with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800- 426-4791).

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the

Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it can dissolve naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive materials, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharge, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally- occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in the water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for human health.

### Information about lead

Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and in home plumbing. Van Buren Township is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in the plumbing in your home. Because lead levels may vary over time, lead exposure is possible even when your tap sampling results do not detect lead at one point in time. You can help protect yourself and your family by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Using a filter, certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead, is effective in reducing lead exposures. Follow the instructions provided with the filter to ensure the filter is used properly. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling water does not remove lead from water. Before using tap water for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula, flush your pipes for several minutes, you can do this by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry, or a load of dishes. If you have a lead service line or galvanized requiring replacement service line, you may need to flush your pipes for at least 5 minutes to flush water from both your home plumbing and the lead service line. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact Van Buren Township 734-699-8925 for available resources. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

### Where Does My Water Come From?

Your source water comes from the Detroit River, situated within the Lake St. Clair, Clinton River, Detroit River, Rouge River, Ecorse River, watersheds in the U.S. and parts of the Thames River, Little River, Turkey Creek and Sydenham watersheds in Canada. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality in partnership with the U.S. Geological Survey, the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department, and the Michigan Public Health Institute performed a source water assessment in 2004 to determine the susceptibility of GLWA's Detroit River source water for potential contamination. The susceptibility rating is based on a seven-tiered scale and ranges from very low to very high determined primarily using geologic sensitivity, water chemistry, and potential contaminant sources. The report

described GLWA's Detroit River intakes as highly susceptible to potential contamination. GLWA's Southwest water treatment plant that draws water from the Detroit River has historically provided satisfactory treatment and meets drinking water standards.

GLWA has initiated source-water protection activities that include chemical containment, spill response, and a mercury reduction program. GLWA participates in the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit discharge program and has an emergency response management plan. GLWA has an updated Surface Water Intake Protection plan for the Fighting Island Intake. The plan has seven elements that include: roles and duties of government units and water supply agencies, delineation of a source water protection areas, identification of potential sources of contamination, management approaches for protection, contingency plans, siting of new water sources, public participation, and public education activities. If you would like to know more information about the Source Water Assessment Report, please contact GLWA at (313 926-8127).



### What's In My Water?

We are pleased to report that during the past year, the water delivered to your homes or businesses complied with, or did better than, all State and Federal drinking water requirements. For your information, we have compiled a list in the following tables showing what substances were detected in our drinking water and the last year in which the test was conducted. Although all of the substances listed are under the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) set by the U.S. EPA, and therefore

not expected to cause any health risk, we feel it is important that you know exactly what was detected and how much of the substances were present in the water.

### Regulatory Compliance

During the 2025 calendar year, the Township fulfilled all monitoring, testing and sampling requirements and found our water to have met all federal and state requirements for water quality.

*Water Report continued on page 72*



# SAFE DRINKING WATER IS ALL OUR RESPONSIBILITY

**S**AFE drinking water is a shared responsibility. The water that GLWA delivers to our community does not contain lead. Lead can leach into drinking water through home plumbing fixtures, and in some cases, customer service lines. Corrosion control reduces the risk of lead and copper from leaching into your water. Orthophosphates are added during the treatment process as a corrosion control method to create a protective coating in service pipes throughout the system, including in your home or business. The Charter Township of Van Buren performs required lead and copper sampling and testing in our community. Water consumers also have a responsibility to maintain the plumbing in their homes and businesses, and can take steps to limit their exposure to lead. Below is a diagram illustrating who owns and is responsible for each part of the system.

## Important Information Regarding Sewer Backup Or Basement Flooding Claims

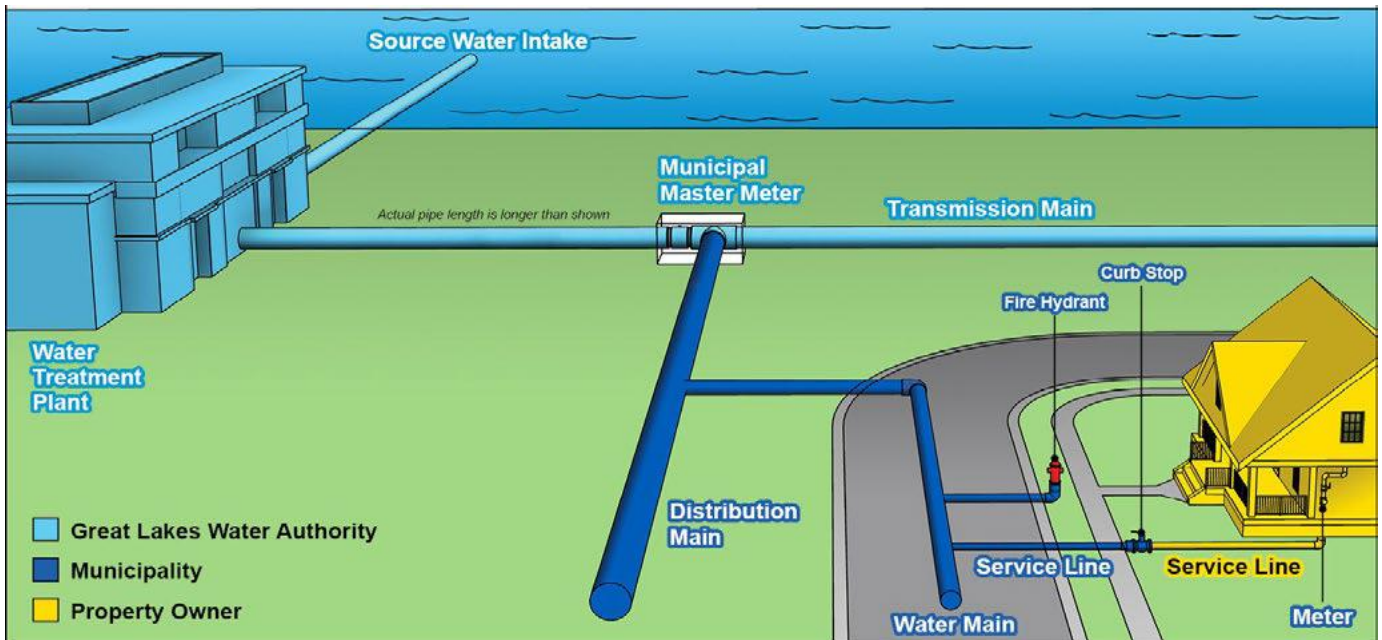
**Michigan statute, Act 222 Public Acts of 2001\***, clarifies municipal liability for sewer backups. A key

provision of the statute requires that a person seeking compensation for property damage or physical injury must file a written claim within 45 days of the event.

If you experience an overflow or backup of a sewage disposal system or storm water system, you must file a written claim with the Van Buren Township Water & Sewer Division within 45 days after the overflow or backup was discovered. Notice must be mailed to Van Buren Township Water & Sewer Division, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, MI 48111. Failure to provide the required notice will prevent recovery of damages.

Contact the Van Buren Department of Public Services at (734) 699-8925 immediately upon discovery of an overflow or backup. Like you, the Department of Public Services considers a sewer backup or basement flooding an emergency, and will respond to your call day or night, holidays and weekends (734) 699-8930.

\*the full text of P.A. 222 of 2001 is available on our web site: [www.vbtmi.gov](http://www.vbtmi.gov) under Departments, Municipal Services.



## 2025 Southwest Regulated Detected Contaminants Table

2025 Inorganic Chemicals - Annual Monitoring at Plant Finished Tap								
Regulated Contaminant	Test Date	Unit	Health Goal MCLG	Allowed Level MCL	Highest Level Detected	Range of Detection	Violation	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Fluoride	02-11-2025	ppm	4	4	0.50	n/a	no	Erosion of natural deposit; Water additive, which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate	02-11-2025	ppm	10	10	0.35	n/a	no	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.

Lead and Copper Monitoring at the Customer's Tap in 2025								
Regulated Contaminant	Unit	Year Sampled	Health Goal MCLG	Action Level AL	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Value*	Range of Individual Samples Results	Number of Samples Over AL	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Lead	ppb	2025	0	12	0	0-3	0	Lead services lines, corrosion of household plumbing including fittings and fixtures; erosion of natural deposits.
Copper	ppm	2025	1.3	1.3	0.1	0.0-0.2	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

\* The 90<sup>th</sup> percentile value means 90 percent of the homes tested have lead and copper levels below the given 90<sup>th</sup> percentile value. If the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile value is above the AL additional requirements must be met.

2025 Disinfection Residual - Monitoring in the Distribution System								
Regulated Contaminant	Test Date	Unit	Health Goal MRDLG	Allowed Level MRDL	Highest Level RAA	Range of Quarterly Results	Violation	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Total Chlorine Residual	2025	ppm	4	4	0.71	0.59-0.79	no	Water additive used to control microbes

2025 Disinfection By-Products - Stage 2 Disinfection By-Products Monitoring in the Distribution System								
Regulated Contaminant	Test Date	Unit	Health Goal MCLG	Allowed Level MCL	Highest Level LRAA	Range of Quarterly Results	Violation	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2025	ppb	n/a	80	52	13-52	no	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	2025	ppb	n/a	60	48	12-48	no	By-product of drinking water chlorination

2025 Turbidity - Monitored Every 4 Hours at the Plant Finished Water Tap								
Highest Single Measurement Cannot Exceed 1 NTU	Lowest Monthly % of Samples Meeting Turbidity Limit of 0.3 NTU (minimum 95%)					Violation	Major Sources in Drinking Water	
0.1 NTU	100%					no	Soil Runoff	

Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system

2025 Special Monitoring						
Contaminant	Test Date	Unit	MCLG	MCL	Highest Level Detected	Source of Contaminant
Sodium	02-11-2025	ppm	n/a	n/a	6.8	Erosion of natural deposits



Regulated Contaminant	Treatment Technique	Typical Source of Contaminant
Total Organic Carbon ppm	The Total Organic Carbon (TOC) removal ratio is calculated as the ratio between the actual TOC removal and the TOC removal requirements. The TOC is measured each quarter and because the level is low, there is no requirement for TOC removal.	Erosion of natural deposits

Regulated Contaminant	Test Date	Unit	Allowed Level MCL	Highest Level Detected	Range of Detection	Violation	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)	03-11-2025	ng/L	4	2	ND-2	no	Industrial manufacturing sites, fire-fighting foams (AFFF) used at airports/military bases, and waste management facilities like landfills.

These tables are based on tests conducted by GLWA in the year 2025 or the most recent testing done within the last five calendar years. GLWA conducts tests throughout the year only tests that show the presence of a substance or require special monitoring are presented in these tables. The State allows us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. The data is representative of the water quality, but some are more than one year old.

Service Lines	
Material	Number of lines
Non-Lead	7859
Unknown	0
Lead	n/a
<b>Total:</b>	<b>7859</b>

Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) is required to notify water users of any unresolved significant deficiencies identified by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy, Drinking Water and Environment Health Division (EGLE). Below is the status of significant deficiencies in the GLWA water system identified by EGLE:

Date Identified by EGLE	Description	Compliance Agreement Deadline	Status
08-02-2022	Improper rapid mixing and coagulant feed location at the Southwest water plant	12-31-2027	Coagulant feed was completed 12/11/2024. Rapid mix is in the design phase. On track to meet the deadline.
08-02-2022	Inoperable flocculation equipment at the Southwest water plant	07-31-2031	A contractor for the design portion of the project will be awarded shortly. On track to meet the deadline.

## Key to the Detected Contaminants Table

Symbol	Abbreviation	Definition/Explanation
>	Greater than	
°C	Celsius	A scale of temperature in which water freezes at 0° and boils at 100° under standard conditions.
AL	Action Level	The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
HAA5	Haloacetic Acids	HAA5 is the total of bromoacetic, chloroacetic, di-bromoacetic, dichloroacetic, and trichloroacetic acids. Compliance is based on the total.
Level 1	Level 1 Assessment	A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our system.
LRAA	Locational Running Annual Average	The average of analytical results for samples at a particular monitoring location during the previous four quarters.
MCL	Maximum Contaminant Level	The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
MCLG	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal	The level of contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow a margin of safety.
MRDL	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level	The highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
MRDLG	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal	The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLG's do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
n/a	not applicable	
ND	Not Detected	
NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Units	Measures the cloudiness of water.
pCi/L	Picocuries Per Liter	A measure of radioactivity
ppb	Parts Per Billion (one in one billion)	The ppb is equivalent to micrograms per liter. A microgram = 1/1000 milligram.
ppm	Parts Per Million (one in one million)	The ppm is equivalent to milligrams per liter. A milligram = 1/1000 gram.
RAA	Running Annual Average	The average of all analytical results for all samples during the previous four quarters.
SMCL	Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level	
TT	Treatment Technique	A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
TTHM	Total Trihalomethanes	Total Trihalomethanes is the sum of chloroform, bromodichloromethane, dibromochloromethane and bromoform. Compliance is based on the total.
µmhos	micromhos	Measure of electrical conductance of water

### 2025 Southwest Tap Water Mineral Analysis

Parameter	Units	Max.	Min.	Avg.	Parameter	Units	Max.	Min.	Avg.
Turbidity	N.T.U.	0.08	0.05	<b>0.06</b>	Phosphorus	mg/L	0.87	0.57	<b>0.78</b>
Total Solids	mg/L	165	82	<b>134</b>	Free Carbon Dioxide	mg/L	15.3	5.6	<b>11.2</b>
Total Dissolved Solids	mg/L	158	69	<b>119</b>	Total Hardness	mg/L	142	96	<b>109</b>
Aluminum	mg/L	0.089	0.013	<b>0.042</b>	Total Alkalinity	mg/L	76	62	<b>69</b>
Iron	mg/L	0.3	ND	<b>0.2</b>	Carbonate Alkalinity	mg/L	0	0	<b>0</b>
Copper	mg/L	0.034	ND	<b>0.004</b>	Bi-Carbonate Alkalinity	mg/L	76	62	<b>69</b>
Magnesium	mg/L	8.8	7.2	<b>8.0</b>	Non-Carbonate Hardness	mg/L	72	31	<b>40</b>
Calcium	mg/L	35.3	24.8	<b>28.1</b>	Chemical Oxygen Demand	mg/L	22.6	ND	<b>4.6</b>
Sodium	mg/L	9.0	0.4	<b>4.1</b>	Dissolved Oxygen	mg/L	19.3	7.5	<b>12.4</b>
Potassium	mg/L	1.6	1.0	<b>1.1</b>	Nitrite Nitrogen	mg/L	ND	ND	<b>0.0</b>
Manganese	mg/L	0.002	ND	<b>0.000</b>	Nitrate Nitrogen	mg/L	1.15	0.18	<b>0.43</b>
Lead	mg/L	ND	ND	<b>0.000</b>	Fluoride	mg/L	0.72	0.27	<b>0.54</b>
Zinc	mg/L	0.002	ND	<b>0.000</b>	pH		7.37	6.96	<b>7.11</b>
Silica	mg/L	3.9	1.0	<b>2.1</b>	Specific Conductance @ 25 °C	µmhos	258	168	<b>228</b>
Sulfate	mg/L	38.5	21.7	<b>30.4</b>	Temperature	°C	25.7	1.4	<b>12.2</b>
Chloride	mg/L	16.4	10.0	<b>11.8</b>					

# A Place to Remember Together

The Memory Café builds connection, creativity and community By Ryan M. Place

**O**N the third Wednesday of every month, something special happens inside the Belleville Area District Library (BADL). In the Cozadd Community Room, laughter mixes with conversation, paintbrushes fly across canvases and strangers quickly become friends.

This is the Memory Café. It's a free social program organized by outreach librarian Jenn Richardson for people experiencing memory challenges, along with their caregivers, family members and friends.



"It's really about connection," Richardson said. "We want people to feel comfortable, included and engaged. No one is asked about their condition. It's just a place to enjoy being together."

The Memory Café is informal. There's no pressure, no expectations, just a supportive environment where participants can relax and have fun. Attendance typically ranges from 20-25 people, and each session features light activities designed to spark joy and conversation.

"We usually have a theme," Richardson said. "We might play bingo, do icebreakers or work on a collaborative art project. The goal is to create special moments of interaction."

For many attendees, the Café provides something increasingly rare: a stigma-free space where memory

loss isn't the focus. Instead, the focus is on shared experience: laughing over snacks, reminiscing and creating something fun together.

The Café is also a group effort.

"Local artist Kathryn Wood volunteers to coordinate the art projects," Richardson said. "BADL's Lori Nadjuk and Haylee Seefeld help, and the Friends of BADL sponsor the snacks."

The program reflects Richardson's lifelong commitment to education and service. A former middle school Spanish teacher, she transitioned into librarianship after years in the classroom.

"I've always wanted to help people," she said. "As an outreach librarian, I bring books and resources to



assisted living residents, seniors and homebound individuals. The Memory Café is an extension of that."

Richardson joined the Belleville Area District Library full-time in November 2023. Today, she's helping shape one of the library's most meaningful programs, as the library itself has become much more than a place to check out books.

Founded in 1920 inside a furniture store with fewer than 200 books, the Belleville Area District Library has evolved into a 30,000-square-foot, multi-community resource hub serving the city of Belleville, and Van Buren and Sumpter townships.

Since becoming an independent district library in 2010, offerings have expanded to include everything from a Library of Things, where patrons can borrow items like ukuleles, to free tech tutoring and Books on Wheels deliveries.

"We're here for everyone," Richardson said. "It's not just about books. It's about having a great shared civic space where everyone can feel included and a part of something."

Connection takes many forms at the Memory Café, including creating works of art. On Friday, June 26 from 2 to 4 p.m., the library will host a free public art show featuring collaborative pieces created by Café participants.

"It's a celebration of what we've made together," Richardson said.

For Richardson, the program is also deeply personal. She speaks warmly of the area's friendliness, walkable downtown and sense of belonging.

"There's always something going on here," she said.

In a world that can feel increasingly disconnected, the Memory

Café offers something simple but powerful: a place to gather, create and remember together.

For more information, contact Jenn Richardson at [JRichardson@belleville.lib.mi.us](mailto:JRichardson@belleville.lib.mi.us).



# 2026 ANNUAL HISTORICAL LECTURE SERIES



Presented by  
**BELLEVILLE AREA  
MUSEUM**

**Join us for a free lecture and pizza!**

## Upcoming Events:

**Thursday, June 18th, 6-7PM (Pizza at 5:30)**

Steven Hilberg

*Michigan Historical Markers, from Application to Installation*

**Thursday, July 16th, 6-7PM (Pizza at 5:30)**

Mary Utz

*Historical Women of the Belleville Area*

**Thursday, August 27th, 6-7PM (Pizza at 5:30)**

Danielle Whitehead

*The Importance of Black Farmers in Wayne County*

Email [bam@vbtmi.gov](mailto:bam@vbtmi.gov) to save a seat  
or call us at 734-697-1944

# LOCAL HISTORY HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT

LOCAL EXPERTS SAY THE MUSEUM HOLDS FAR MORE THAN MANY RESIDENTS REALIZE, WITH MUCH STILL TO BE DISCOVERED.

## A Story Beneath the Surface

In a place as familiar as home, it can be easy to overlook the stories that came before it. The roads, the neighborhoods, even the names we say every day all carry a history that most residents have never fully explored. But just beneath the surface, those stories are waiting.

Inside the Belleville Area Museum, a quiet transformation has been taking place. Following a major renovation completed in December 2023, the space has been thoughtfully reimaged to do more than preserve the past. It invites residents to step into it and discover how deeply connected they already are.



## Not Just History. Your History.

Through genealogy guidance and local research support, the Museum helps piece together stories that may have been forgotten or never fully known. Old records, photographs, and archives begin to form a clearer picture, often revealing connections that feel both surprising and deeply personal.

It is not uncommon for someone to walk in curious and leave with a story they did not know belonged to them.

## The Faces of the BAM

At the heart of the Museum are the people who bring these stories to life every day.

Museum Curator Mary Utz has been instrumental in shaping the Museum's voice, from leading its lecture series to contributing thoughtful research and local history writing that continues to connect residents with the past in meaningful ways.

Museum Archivist Assistant Charity Fielder is typically the first to welcome visitors, offering a warm and inviting introduction to the Museum.

And for those drawn to one of the area's most fascinating landmarks, Dave Boohar, esteemed Museum volunteer and resident French Landing Dam expert, offers a depth of knowledge and passion that makes local history feel anything but distant.

Together, they create an environment that is welcoming, approachable, and rooted in a shared curiosity about the community.



THE STORIES ARE  
ALREADY HERE.



YOU JUST HAVE TO  
COME FIND THEM.

The Museum's regular  
business hours are:

Tuesdays:  
12 - 4 pm

Thursdays:  
1 - 7 pm

Saturdays:  
10 am - 4 pm





# BACA NEWS

## Coming Soon

New to the Belleville Area Council for the Arts are the Belleville Lakeside Singers. Under the direction of David Stultz, this new choral group is preparing for their spring concert, "Sing Hallelujah," to be held on Sunday, May 17, 5:00 p.m. at Faith Community Church, 894 E. Huron River Drive. Come and experience the music of the spring season.



The Lakeside Singers are welcoming new members who enjoy singing. Go to their Facebook page for more information.

## Missoula Children's Theater

The BACA is proud to announce that the Missoula Children's Theater will be returning this year with the musical "Rapunzel." A free summer day camp will be held at McBride Middle School, July 20-24. The auditions for children entering first grade through 12th grade will take place at McBride on July 20 starting at 1:00 p.m.

Two performances are planned for Saturday, July 25, at 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. For more information, go to BACA's website: [www.bacaart.org](http://www.bacaart.org)

## Art @ the Market

Art @ the Market will return this summer, starting in June and continuing through October. Local artists will be demonstrating their creative talent and selling their artwork at the Farmers Market bi-weekly on Mondays, 4:30-7:00 p.m.

## Neil Griffin Community Art Project

The Neil Griffin Community Art Project is underway. Artists of all ages are encouraged to paint and decorate a new fish cut-out this year. They will be added to the fish, sailboats and lighthouses that have been created in past years. Wooden blanks will be available at the Belleville Area District Library. The new additions are due by June 6, so that the community artwork can be



installed for the summer along the shore of Belleville Lake at Horizon Park on High Street.

## Music Lakeside

Music Lakeside will be returning for its 17th year at Horizon Park. There will be 10 great performances, starting June 18. Enjoy the music by boat along the shoreline or in your folding chair in the park every Thursday evening, 7-9:00 p.m. Each week a new food truck will be available for dinner and refreshments. Visit Music Lakeside on Facebook for updates.



### The 2026 lineup includes:

- June 18 – The Clockwork Band
- June 25 – Detroit Breakdown
- July 2 – Johnny Little
- July 9 – Smoke Jones
- July 16 – TBD
- July 23 – TBD
- July 30 – Magic Bus
- August 6 – TBD
- August 13 – The Kreezers
- August 20 - DTour

## Mark your calendars

The Annual Community Art Show will be celebrating its 17th year on October 16-18 at the Belleville Yacht Club. Artists are encouraged to plan on participating in the exhibit. Cash prizes will be awarded in various categories, including 2D, 3D, Fiber Art, Photography, Children and Teens. Applications will be available at the

Belleville Library or on the BACA website.

Community Art 48111 banners will be installed soon on the main streets of Belleville. Images of artwork from past art show participants, BACA members and other local artists will be on display on 70 light poles all summer.



# Helping Your Teen Navigate Friendships

By Tracy Willis

**S**o much of middle school and high school drama revolves around friendships. When your child reaches their teen years, friends can morph from besties into enemies, seemingly overnight. The desire to fit in with a social group comes with tons of pressure. Add social media into the mix, and friendships can feel like tiptoeing through a minefield.

Navigating the ups and downs of adolescent friendships is a rite of passage. How can you help your child manage the drama?

**Begin by helping your teen think about the qualities they value in their current friends.** What traits do they exemplify? Point these characteristics out when you see them in other people. Encourage them to seek friends who have the qualities they value.

**Next, teach your teen to recognize the trouble signs in friendships.** Discuss dysfunctional friendship patterns like one-sidedness, jealousy, competitiveness, or exclusion. Help your teen build emotional awareness: how does the friendship make you feel? Do you feel unsure or unsupported when you're around a certain friend? A big part of navigating friendships for teens is learning that they deserve to be treated well within the relationship.

**Boundaries.** It's a popular word that seems to be everywhere lately. It's the foundation of healthy friendships and relationships. Reassure your child that it's okay to assert themselves, to say "no" to friends, and to communicate honestly about their own limits and to respect the limits of others.

And finally, talk openly with your teen about rejection and exclusion. They're a normal aspect of life that everyone deals with. Let them know that rejection doesn't define their worth. It may feel like it does, but that's a normal feeling, too. There's nothing wrong with asking for support when those big feelings well up.

Even if you talk with your child about their friendships until you're blue in the face, chances are they will still ride the friendship rollercoaster. Pay attention to your teen's behaviors:

- Are they withdrawing from social situations?
- Do they seem sadder or irritable after social commitments or time on social media?
- Are they complaining frequently about certain friends?
- Are they engaging in negative self-talk?

Tuning into your teen on a regular basis will help you know when they need more support, as well as the level of support they might need.

Most of us have cringy teen memories about our own over-involved parents. Giving the right amount and type of support feels like riding a bucking bronco at the rodeo. Here are some things to avoid while you're riding that bull:

1. Don't minimize their feelings or qualify them as being "right" or "wrong."
2. Avoid criticizing their friends. Remember, a week from now, they might be besties again. Criticism makes communication shut down when your teen becomes defensive.
3. Don't pry. This is a hard one. You want to know the ins and outs of the situation, but your teen is learning to be independent. Respect their boundaries (it's how they learn to have boundaries themselves).
4. You're not a friendship mechanic. Don't try to fix it unless there are extreme circumstances. Leaping in with your relationship wrench undermines your child's confidence.

It's hard to watch your child struggle. Remind your teen that facing challenges is about growth. They might not have it all figured out yet, but they're moving in the right direction.

*Tracy has been teaching for over 30 years in and out of Michigan. She currently teaches middle school and spends her free time writing for publications and small businesses. When she's not putting pencil to paper or dreaming up ways to inspire her English students, she can be found in the woods on the trails.*



## TO YOUR HEALTH!

# Roots of Deliciousness

### Add (inexpensive) depth to your meals with hearty greens

By Lisa Howard

**C**REAMED spinach. Stewed collard greens. Kale chips. The base ingredient for all those beloved dishes is a hearty green.

As a group, hearty greens are inexpensive and outlast a lot of their produce neighbors in the fridge. Some even come as a two-for-one bonus, like kohlrabi greens, beet greens and turnip greens – they're often attached to the star of the show (i.e., the root) and are overlooked.

But there's no need to waste any of that culinary talent! Instead of ditching attached greens, when you get them home, cut them free from their roots and store them separately in the crisper drawer. Along with giving you a freebie ingredient, liberating the roots from the greens means the roots will stay juicier and fresher. (Otherwise, the roots will lend their energy to the greens and the greens will try to keep growing, leaving the roots drier and more fibrous.)

Thinner, more delicate greens like beet greens and chard won't last as long as their super-hearty cousins like kale and collards, but all greens can be rinsed, dried well and then chopped and frozen for later use. Do not rinse them before refrigerating them, though, as that will speed up their decline.

If you want to slowly braise your greens with deeply savory co-ingredients like bacon and onions or if you want to blanch them and use them as a wrap, go with thicker, more sturdy greens. (Collards make great wrappers!) Kale is ideal for making chips (see recipe below), especially the über-crenellated curly kale with its

myriad nooks and crannies for holding seasonings. Mustard and turnip greens stand out with their distinct flavors, while kohlrabi greens are milder but still quite sturdy.

Lighter-weight greens like spinach, beet greens, chard and dandelion greens cook faster and are more subtle companion ingredients to include in soups and stews. No matter which green you choose, though, smooth, rich ingredients like extra-virgin olive oil, cheese, butter and eggs are always welcome additions, as are counterbalancing acidic ingredients like lemon juice and tomatoes.

Although carrot greens aren't hearty greens, they are a twofer deal and they're well worth saving – they taste like parsley. You can use them as you'd use any tender herb: as a finishing garnish, as a flavoring herb, as the cornerstone of pesto. If nothing else, pop them into a narrow vase and let their airy fronds spill over and decorate your table.

*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](http://www.theculturedcook.com).*



## KALE CHIPS

- Preheat the oven to 325F and cover 2 baking sheets with parchment paper.
- Rip the tough ribs away from each curly kale leaf and discard them. Tear the leaves into small pieces and place them in a large bowl. Using a coffee/spice grinder, grind ¼ cup sunflower seeds with ¼ cup sesame seeds, 1 tablespoon dried Italian herbs and 1 tablespoon nutritional yeast.
- Drizzle the kale lightly with up to 1 tablespoon of tamari, shake on the seasoning and scrunch the leaves with your hands to get the seasoning to stick. (The goal is to use just enough tamari to make the leaves a little bit wet.)
- Spread the chips out on baking sheets so that none overlap and bake for 20 minutes or until the chips are crispy and starting to turn brown.
- Enjoy immediately!





# What's the Buzz?

## How to support Michigan's pollinators this spring By Kelsi Klein

**A**S we finally break free from winter and begin to welcome the sights and sounds of spring, there is a whole group of native pollinators awakening and emerging, ready to play a crucial, yet often unnoticed role in Michigan's ecosystem.

### What are pollinators and why are they important?

According to the National Park Service, pollinators are anything that helps move pollen from one part of a flower to another. This process is vital to the fertilization of plants, helping make seeds, fruits and even new plants.

Michigan is home to a wide variety of native pollinators including bees, butterflies, moths, flies, beetles and even hummingbirds and bats.

While some plants are pollinated by themselves, water or wind, approximately 75-95 percent of all flowering plants on Earth rely on animal pollinators.

The United States Department of Agriculture has reported that about 35 percent of the world's food crops, including Michigan staples like apples, blueberries, cherries, cucumbers, squash and countless others, are pollinated by animals.

In addition to food crops, pollinators are essential for reproducing plants that provide food and shelter for Michigan's wildlife as well as purifying the air and stabilizing soil.

### How are they in danger?

With more than 450 species of bees alone, Michigan's diverse pollinators work around the clock to keep the ecosystem running smoothly, but they are also facing real challenges.



Pollinators need natural spaces with flowering plants, grasses and shrubs for food and shelter. Agriculture, development and other human activities are causing habitat loss, pushing pollinators out of their homes.

When non-native plant species take over, native plants that pollinators rely on can die out. Even if non-native plants are attractive, they don't always offer the right nutrition or habitat for pollinators.

Even if they don't kill pollinators directly, pesticides can impact the plants that they rely on, leaving behind chemicals that can affect their health.

### How can residents help?

The easiest way to help pollinators is to spread the word. If people don't know how important they are, they won't know how important it is to protect them.

Planting native plants is one of the biggest ways to support pollinators. Early blooming plants like wild columbine and woodland phlox provide food in early spring, while black-eyed Susans and purple coneflower last through fall. Milkweed is another crucial native plant as it's the only plant on which Monarch butterflies lay their eggs.



Reducing or eliminating pesticides is another key step in helping pollinators. Hand-pulling weeds rather than spraying them with weed killer and tolerating minor plant damage can go a long way.

Homeowners can also rethink spring cleaning. Leaving old leaves, hollow plant stems and bark undisturbed until the weather stays consistently warm keeps pollinators' shelters intact and habitats preserved when they need it most.

Communities around Michigan are encouraging pollinator-friendly practices with education and conservation. Many city parks are allowing space for un-mowed grass and wildflowers to support pollinators, and homeowners can do the same in their own back yards.

# TODAY

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# AROUND Van Buren

## June - August

### JUNE

#### June 11

##### Summer Kick Off Party

3-5 p.m.  
Van Buren Community Center  
Entertainment Plaza  
46425 Tyler Road  
*Kick off summer with a free outdoor celebration full of fun, games and great energy. Enjoy time with family and friends on the climbing wall and inflatables, and don't forget to grab a refreshing frozen treat from the food truck!*

#### June 26-28

##### Belleville Lake Fest

(See inside BACC Business Guide page 38 for times and details)

#### June 27 (Rain Date June 28)

##### VBT Fireworks

8 p.m. - Kids Activity Tent and DJ Dusk (approx. 9:45 p.m.) - VBT Fireworks Show  
Beck Ball Fields  
10854 Beck Road  
*The show will be bigger than ever, and we cannot wait for you to come out and enjoy the fun! The Recreation Department will have some fun activities for the kids, and the DJ will be spinning the tunes prior to the main event.*



### JULY

#### July 15, 22, 29

##### Summer Beats on the Plaza

7-8:30 p.m.  
Van Buren Community Center  
Entertainment Plaza  
46425 Tyler Road  
*A FREE outdoor concert held on the south side of the building at the Van Buren Community Center, Entertainment Plaza. Bring a chair or blanket, relax with friends and family and enjoy a great night of live music under the evening sky.*

July 15: Toppermost, a high-energy Beatles tribute band

July 22: Packin Heat, Michigan's premier party and show band known for heating up the stage with high-energy dance music, unique arrangements and all-ages appeal

July 29: Steve King and the Dittilies, your go-to band for classic rock favorites and a dynamic mix of dance hits for any occasion, entertaining audiences across southeast Michigan (and beyond!) since the 1970s.

#### July 24

##### VBC Christmas in July BINGO

5:45-8 p.m.  
Van Buren Community Center  
46425 Tyler Road  
*Family Bingo Night is back with a twist as we celebrate Christmas in July! Join us for an evening of fun, food and prizes! Each participant will receive three bingo cards to play in five exciting rounds, with prizes for the winners. Enjoy pizza, pop and snacks while spending quality time with family and friends. Children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult.*



### AUGUST

#### August 14

##### Bubble Big Time - FREE

6:30-8 p.m.  
Van Buren Community Center  
Entertainment Plaza  
46425 Tyler Road  
*We don't always bubble, but when we do bubble, we Bubble Big Time! We will send summer off on a breeze with a bubble salute at this family-friendly event by celebrating all things bubble. Come prepared to get bubbly, make the biggest bubbles ever and have a blast doing it.*

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

# SUMMER MOVIE FEST!

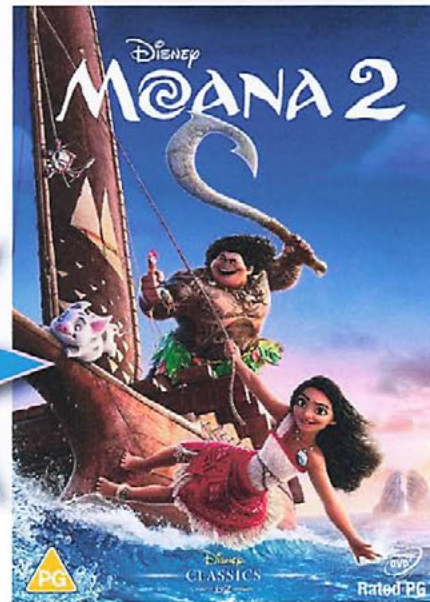
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Bring your blankets, chairs and coolers!!



**Thursday, July 9, 2026**  
**6:00 P.M.**

**TED SCOTT CAMPUS**  
 9555 HAGGERTY ROAD  
 VAN BUREN TWP., MI 48111

Brave rabbit cop Judy Hopps and her friend, the fox Nick Wilde, team up again to crack a new case, the most perilous and intricate of their careers.

**Thursday, August 6, 2026**  
**6:00 P.M.**

**TED SCOTT CAMPUS**  
 9555 HAGGERTY ROAD  
 VAN BUREN TWP., MI 48111

"Moana 2" reunites Moana and Maui three years later for an expansive new voyage alongside a crew of unlikely seafarers. After receiving an unexpected call from her wayfinding ancestors, Moana must journey to the far seas of Oceania and into dangerous, long-lost waters for an adventure unlike anything she's ever faced.

**MOVIES WILL BE SHOWN INDOORS. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AT NO COST.**  
 (ALCOHOL IS NOT PERMITTED ON PREMISES)



**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT 734-699-7008 OR VISIT [WWW.WCCCD.EDU](http://WWW.WCCCD.EDU)**

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