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# Belleville MICHIGAN

## ABOUT OUR AREA



### WELCOME TO BELLEVILLE!

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The Belleville Area certainly has something for everyone-from the largest inland lake, Belleville Lake, to the largest wetlands preserve, Crosswinds Marsh, in Wayne County.

From the bustle of Interstate 94 in Van Buren Township to the serenity of the country in Sumpter Township, you will be welcomed as an old friend.

The City of Belleville is encircled by the Charter Township of Van Buren with Sumpter Township on Van Buren's southern border. Estimated population as of July 1st, 2008 is: Belleville 3,830; Van Buren 27,954; Sumpter 12,198. These 43,000+ residents invite you to come, visit and make this area your home. Population estimates are updated monthly by Sencog - [www.sencog.org](http://www.sencog.org).



### HISTORY OF BELLEVILLE

Van Buren Township was carved out of Huron Township in 1835, two years before Michigan became a state. During its pioneer days, several small settlements developed within the boundaries of the township including French Landing, Rawsonville and Belleville. The small community of Belleville (then spelled "Bellville") was planned in 1847, and the present-day pattern of streets including Main, Liberty and High was designated. In 1875, Van Buren Township erected a Town Hall on Belleville's Main Street.



In 1905, despite objections of the citizenry, Belleville separated from the township and became a village by an act of the State Legislature. On May 14, 1946, Belleville achieved city status.

Prior to 1840, Sumpter Township was also part of Huron Township. On April 6 of that year, Sumpter was formed and elected its first supervisor on that same day. Sumpter remains a rural community. Tree-lined roads and periodic roadside vegetable stands add to the country character and horseback riding is still a popular pastime among its residents.

Three major events contributed to the growth of the tri-community area: the coming of the Wabash Railroad to Van Buren Township in 1881, the construction of the French Landing Dam by Detroit Edison in 1925 and the creation of the Willow Run Expressway (now I-94) in 1941 to carry workers from Detroit to the World War II Bomber Plant at Willow Run.

The damming of the Huron River by Detroit Edison forever changed the face of Van Buren Township. Where once a narrow river flowed now lies seven-mile long Belleville Lake, covering over 1,200 acres of former farmland. When the lake was created, the community became something of a resort area as city dwellers from miles around came to swim, fish and build summer cottages on the beautiful lakeshore. Now surrounded by hundreds of lakeside homes, Belleville Lake remains a prime recreational site.



### TRANSPORTATION

The Belleville Area, including the communities of Belleville, Van Buren and Sumpter, is conveniently located on I-94 with I-275 on its Eastern border. Willow Run Airport is located on the Northwest border of Van Buren Township and Detroit Metropolitan Airport in Romulus is less than 10 miles to the East.

Advantageously situated between Ann Arbor and Detroit, residents have the best of both worlds - small town living with big town amenities. Children and adults alike take advantage of the inviting parks and open spaces sprinkled about the City and Townships.

The City and townships provide van transportation for seniors and disabled residents.

Boasting the largest inland lake in Wayne County, Belleville Lake provides water sports in the summer, ice sports in the winter and the backdrop for spectacular sunsets all year round.

### BUSINESS & INDUSTRY

The Belleville area is unique in its ability to encourage and invite industrial development without compromising the local quality of life. The City and townships offer several stimulating and effective programs specifically aimed at facilitating development.

From the Haggerty Road corridor in Van Buren Township to the Industrial Parks in the City and Sumpter Township, the industrial/manufacturing businesses are on the rise.

The business activity continues to grow on Belleville Road and Van Buren Township actively encourages the addition of growth both north and south of the expressway. The City through its DDA is a strong advocate of additional retail opportunities and Sumpter Township welcomes the addition of both retail and manufacturing to their country setting.

### TOURISM & EVENTS

Civic pride bursts throughout the year with popular events like the National Strawberry Festival, a Farmer's Market, Halloween and Christmas and the annual Christmas Parade sponsored by the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce. Visitors from surrounding communities visit the City for very serious shopping during the City-Wide Yard Sale held the fourth weekend in September. The City of Belleville, the Fred C. Fisher Library and the Belleville Area Museum started a Harvest Festival in October of 2001 with a multitude of free activities for area children. This festival continues to grow and new events are added each year.

For over 30 years, Belleville has been home to the National Strawberry Festival held annually over Father's Day weekend.

More than 150,000 people travel from all over the country to attend this three-day event. Held in several venues, this festival has numerous activities for all ages. This popular event celebrating strawberries is a major fundraiser for area churches and organizations.

The Wayne County Fairgrounds, located in Van Buren Township, hosts the Wayne County Fair each August. The fair features 4-H and animal exhibits, a carnival, a merchants building, monster trucks, tractor pulls and entertainment. Throughout the year, the Fairgrounds hosts a variety of events from dog and horse shows to traveling circuses. The Fairgrounds also offers overnight RV and tenting for a nominal fee.

In Sumpter Township, the Sumpter Country Fest is the highlight of the Memorial Day weekend. The Parks & Recreation Department sponsor this annual event with country entertainment, a carnival, a Princess Pageant, a parade and a car show. They also host the Don Rochoon Memorial Car Show in the fall.

The Belleville Area Museum, located in the Old Van Buren Township Hall in the City of Belleville, holds many collections and features special exhibits during the year. One of their most popular exhibits is the Festival of Holiday Trees and Wreaths held yearly in December. Every other year, the Historical Society hosts a Home Tour. The Museum is open to the public Tuesday through Saturday from Noon to 4:00 p.m.



The Yankee Air Museum, located at Willow Run Airport, preserves history one aircraft at a time. Visitors and residents alike enjoy the many historic aircrafts on display. Some are flyable, others are on static display. You may view the skilled mechanics and restoration crews actively bringing these "National Treasures" back to life. [www.yankeeairmuseum.org](http://www.yankeeairmuseum.org) The Museum lost their hanger to a fire and is in the middle of rebuilding. They continue to host their annual pancake breakfast on Memorial Day and a summer air show, "Thunder Over Michigan." In addition, numerous fundraisers are scheduled for the rebuilding.

Other popular area attractions are Greenfield Village and the Henry Ford Museum, the Detroit and Toledo Zoo, Motor City, Greek Town and MGM Grand Casinos, etc. Brochures are available on these and other points of interest in the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce office.

### RECREATION

All three communities have a parks department with Van Buren and Sumpter also offering recreation. The City of Belleville offers events for area children, but does not have an ongoing program. Van Buren Parks & Recreation offers a variety of programs throughout the year and provides a gym for a nominal fee.

All three communities have strong programs for senior citizens. September Days, located in Van Buren Township Hall, provides programs and trips for the seniors in the township and city. Sumpter Township Seniors meet in the Sumpter Community Center and have a full range of trips and activities. Both centers provide lunches and a place for seniors to congregate.

Our communities abound with lovely parks. The keystone to year-round recreational pleasure in Van Buren Township rests with beautiful Belleville Lake and the spacious 101-acre Van Buren Park located adjacent to the South I-94 Service Drive East of Rawsonville Road. The park features a swimming beach, picnic areas, a stage, as well as deer, owls and other birds and animals in a natural setting. The Lower Huron/Clinton Metropark, also located in Van Buren Township, contains 1,200 acres of land preserving the natural beauty of the area while providing for both active and passive recreational opportunities. The beautiful Turtle Cove Family Aquatic Center opened in summer 2008 and runs daily Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend. Other parks operated by the township include: Little League Park



(six baseball fields), French Landing Park and Quirk Park. The township also includes three public golf courses; miniature golf, two marinas and DNR public boat launch facilities.

The City of Belleville has four parks: Horizon Park & Duane's Landing on Belleville Lake, Victory Park at the five-point intersection and Village Park in front of the Victoria Commons subdivision. Horizon and Victory parks have lovely settings for weddings and the Mayor does a great job tying the knot. A new addition is a skate board park located just west of Village Park.

Sumpter Township's largest park is a wetlands interpretive preserve run by Wayne County. With 1,000 acres, the Crosswinds Marsh offers year-round activities including trails for hiking, horseback riding and cross-country skiing; and areas for picnicking, canoeing and fishing. There is no entrance fee or park permit required. Graham Park is located on Sumpter Road and the Marvin Banotai Municipal Park on Sherwood offers a fishing lake.

If you have questions or need further information, contact

Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce  
248 Main Street • Belleville, MI 48111  
(734) 697-7151 or visit our website at [www.bellevilleareachamber.org](http://www.bellevilleareachamber.org)



| No. | Advertiser                               | Map        | Grid |
|-----|------------------------------------------|------------|------|
| 1   | Atchinson Ford.....                      | Belleville | E-7  |
| 2   | Belleville DDA.....                      | Belleville | H-7  |
| 3   | Belleville Tax & Accounting.....         | Belleville | H-7  |
| 4   | BP / Quiznos.....                        | Belleville | F-7  |
| 5   | David C. Brown Funeral Home.....         | Belleville | H-8  |
| 6   | DLR Manufacturing, Inc.....              | Belleville | A-8  |
| 7   | Edward Jones - Alicia McGovern.....      | Belleville | H-2  |
| 8   | Environmental Quality Company, The.....  | Belleville | F-4  |
| 9   | Garden Fantasy.....                      | Belleville | F-11 |
| 10  | Gardener's Choice, The.....              | Belleville | C-7  |
| 11  | Girlstown Foundation.....                | Belleville | H-8  |
| 12  | Jack Demmer Automotive Group.....        | Area       |      |
| 13  | Johnston Lithograph, Inc.....            | Belleville | G-15 |
| 14  | Keystone Academy.....                    | Belleville | L-5  |
| 15  | Kidz Korner.....                         | Belleville | H-7  |
| 16  | Loranger Family Chiropractic Center..... | Belleville | H-7  |
| 17  | Main Street Realty.....                  | Belleville | E-7  |
| 18  | Marti's Gift Gallery.....                | Belleville | H-8  |
| 19  | Perspective Eyecare.....                 | Belleville | G-7  |
| 20  | Public Service Credit Union.....         | Area       |      |
| 20  | Public Service Credit Union.....         | Belleville | Q-7  |
| 21  | S.A.M. Cleaning & Janitorial LLC.....    | Belleville | C-7  |
| 22  | Schostak Brothers & Company.....         | Belleville | G-2  |
| 23  | Showroom of Elegance Fine Jewelry.....   | Area       |      |
| 24  | Stoney Creek Motorsports, Inc.....       | Belleville | H-6  |
| 25  | Van Buren Public Schools.....            | Belleville | H-7  |
| 26  | Van Buren Urgent Care.....               | Belleville | G-7  |

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Invest in the community by becoming a member of the Chamber! Membership benefits, such as networking and advertising opportunities, access to a wealth of community information and group rates for various insurances and other services, all help to propel your business forward. Check out the Chamber website, [www.bellevilleareachamber.org](http://www.bellevilleareachamber.org), for updated information including our monthly newsletter and community events.

The Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce serves three communities: the City of Belleville, Sumpter Township and Charter Township of Van Buren. The Chamber is also a proud member of other Chambers, including the Michigan Chamber of Commerce and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Welcome to the Belleville Area and we hope to see you soon!

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|       |                  |                          |                    |
|-------|------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| E-7   | 112-V9           | Miller Elementary School | M-1                |
| I-14  | Bald Eagle Trail | V-10                     | Monterey Park      |
| F-9   | Blue Gull Trail  | V-10                     | Municipal School   |
| G8-H8 | Blue Heron Trail | 110-110                  | Municipal Building |

|      |                             |      |                            |     |
|------|-----------------------------|------|----------------------------|-----|
| B-1  | Zugmeient Elementary School | H-8  | Romulus Business Center    | B-8 |
| V-16 | Elmer Johnson Park          | E-14 | Romulus City Cemetery      | F-1 |
| F-2  | Elwell Elementary School    | L-6  | Romulus Middle School      | D-2 |
| A-16 | Felt Cemetery               | T-14 | Romulus Senior High School | E-1 |

|      |                          |      |                                |      |
|------|--------------------------|------|--------------------------------|------|
| B-7  | Haggerty Road Elementary | E-10 | Tyler Elementary School        | E-11 |
| B-7  | School                   | I-11 | University of Michigan Grounds | D-11 |
| A-16 | Harbor Club Golf Course  | G-5  | Van Buren Park                 | G-5  |

|       |                                 |      |                        |     |
|-------|---------------------------------|------|------------------------|-----|
| F6.J8 | Group Camp.....                 | K-12 | Woodlands of Van Buren |     |
| J-14  | Hawthorn Glade Picnic Area..... | K-12 | Golf Course, The.....  | C-1 |
| F-5   | Park Office.....                | L-12 | Woodmere Cemetery..... | V-1 |

|          |                           |      |                                  |      |
|----------|---------------------------|------|----------------------------------|------|
| .....H-7 | Par 3 Golf Course         | K-13 | Yankee Air Museum                | D-13 |
| .....H-7 | Paw Paw Nature Trail      | K-13 | Ypsilanti Transmission Operation | D-13 |
| .....H-7 | Sycamore Bend Picnic Area | K-12 | 4th St Square                    | H-12 |
| .....I-6 | Tulip Tree Picnic Area    | I-12 | 34th District Court              | G-12 |