

S

The 40th Annual
**BELLEVILLE
NATIONAL**

trawberry
FESTIVAL

**JUNE 17, 18 AND 19
2016**



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Police chief chosen as Grand Marshal

Sumpter Township Chief of Police Eric Luke is the grand marshal of the Belleville National Strawberry Festival this year.

Luke's roots run deep in the community. He is a lifelong resident of Van Buren Township and graduated from Belleville High School in 1988 as did his brother, Darrin in 1993. The siblings followed in the footsteps of their parents, James Luke, Jr. and Carol (Johnson) Luke, both 1967 graduates of Belleville High School.

His paternal grandfather, James Luke, Sr. and maternal grandparents, Jack and Mary Faye Johnson, still live in Belleville or Van Buren Township.

Luke graduated from the Washtenaw Police Academy in December 1993 and began his law enforcement career in Sumpter

Township in July 1994. He rose steadily through the ranks and was promoted to corporal in 2000, sergeant in 2008, lieutenant in 2010 and captain in 2013. He was named chief of police in February of this year.

"I am very proud to be the first Sumpter Township Police officer (at the time) to attend the School of Police Staff & Command, doing so through the Center of Regional and National Security at Eastern Michigan University. I am also extremely proud to be the first Sumpter Township Police Chief hired from within the department ranks since Chief Clinton Brown in 1978," Luke said.

Luke and his wife, Trully, met while she was a 911 dispatcher for Central Dispatch Network in 1997/98, he said. The couple was married in



Grand Marshal Sumpter Township Police Chief Eric Luke

Photography by Shannon

August 1999 and are the parents of twin sons, Alexander and Benjamin, who will be 6 in July.

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Welcome to Belleville

The 40th Annual Belleville National Strawberry Festival would like to welcome you to a weekend of family fun. The Belleville National Strawberry Festival is one of Southeastern Michigan's premier summer events presented by Meijer.

As executive director I would like to thank the City of Belleville, the police and fire department, the Boy Scouts, our sponsors, board of directors and everyone who has worked so hard to make the festival a success.

The Belleville National Strawberry Festival has six venues: Main Street; St. Anthony Church; Belleville Presbyterian Church; Trinity Church; Horizon Park and Victory Park.

Main Street features crafters, a carnival midway, vendors, a children's area featuring a White Tiger exhibit and Chobani Yogurt handing out samples. Be sure to stop by their site. Starting at 11 a.m. on Saturday, there will be a parade and at 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. Horizon Park will feature an exciting Extreme Water Sports show. Belleville Central Business District brings juried crafters to Main Street.

Trinity Church will feature all things strawberry including pies, breads, jam and much more. They also feature their famous sloppy joe lunches Saturday and Sunday.

St. Anthony's features bingo, great food, entertainment and a beer tent, plus so much more. There is also a carnival on their grounds sponsored by the Belleville Chamber of Commerce.

Belleville Presbyterian Church features tours of the church, one of the original seven Martha Mary Chapels built by Henry Ford and his wife to honor their mothers, on Saturday and Sunday.

The festival offers free shuttle service with free parking at the Belleville Presbyterian Church on Belleville Road. The trolley will make stops at all six venues.

Come on out to enjoy a weekend of family fun for everyone.

Again, thank you to all who helped with this year's festival.



Joan Bodnar,
Festival Executive Director

Behind the scenes

The members of the Belleville National Strawberry Committee work behind the scenes to ensure the success of the annual celebration of community, and of course, the strawberry harvest.

Members this year include:

Executive Director - Joan Bodnar

President - Thomas Fielder

Vice President - Diane Shew

Treasurer - Janet Millard

Secretary - Sharon Pokerwinski

Parade Coordinator - Tina Brooks Green

Vendor Coordinator - Sharon Pokerwinski

Vendor Coordinator Assistant - Freddy Giovannoni, Jr. of Mr. G's Concessions

Car Show Coordinator - Steve and Anna Cinnamon

Certified Public Accountant - Gayl Parr of Criss, Wilmarth & Parr, P.C.

Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce - Randy Brown

Belleville Presbyterian Church - Diane Shew

Belleville Trinity Episcopal Church - Virg Stoltz

St. Anthony Catholic Church - Frank Sobbecki

Central Business Community - Robert (Bob) Stoner

City of Belleville - Kim Tindall Council Member

Belleville Police Department - Police Chief Hal Berriman

Belleville Fire Department - Aaron Zehel

Wayne County Fair Association - Cheryl Toms

Legal Counsel - Attorney Robert Coutts



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June 17, 18, 19, 2016
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Horizon Park



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October, 2016
HALLOWEEN
October 31, 2016



**CHRISTMAS
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December 10 and
December 17, 2016
Main Street



**FLOP-E-BUNNY
CANDY HUNT**
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Victory Park

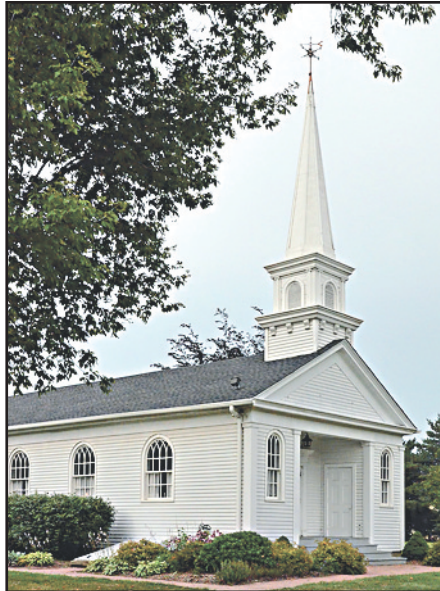
Tours of Martha-Mary Chapel available

One of the famous historic Mary Martha Chapels will be open to the public during the Strawberry Festival this year.

The chapel at the Belleville Presbyterian Church is one of the seven historic chapels designed by architect Edward J. Cutler under the direction of Henry and Clara Ford. The chapels were erected throughout the state by the couple as a tribute to their respective mothers, Mary Ford and Martha Bryant.

The Belleville chapel will be open for tours from noon until 6 p.m. on Friday, Saturday and Sunday during the Strawberry Festival and parking at the church is free.

The first Martha Mary Chapel is located in historic Greenfield Village. The Belleville chapel, built in 1939, on Belleville Road was the third of the



seven to be constructed. It was erected at the Camp Legion site of Willow Run, approximately 3 miles from where it

stands today.

In 1954, the Cherry Hill Baptist Church transferred the chapel from the Willow Run location to Dearborn but the congregation quickly outgrew the capacity of the church.

In 1978, the Belleville United Presbyterian Church in Van Buren Township bought the chapel for \$1. It was moved to the current location and an official dedication ceremony took place on Nov. 11, 1979 which was also a celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Belleville United Presbyterian congregation.

The church is listed on the State of Michigan Register of Historic Places and the tours during the festival are free.

The church is located at 11900 Belleville Road. For more information, call (734) 697-8687.




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Strawberry delights

Trinity Church offers famous sweet treats, Sloppy Joes

One of the first sights visitors to the Belleville National Strawberry Festival will see is Trinity Episcopal Church, where the culinary treats have helped make the festival famous.

Trinity Episcopal Church is located at 11575 Belleville Road and has been a part of the Belleville National Strawberry Festival since 1977. Trinity has been serving freshly-made glazed strawberry pies and the famous homemade Sloppy Joes for nearly 40 years and has become one of the main attractions for many festival visitors.

In addition to the famous freshly made strawberry pies,



the Trinity bakery features a variety of homemade treats such as strawberry bread and muffins, regular and no-sugar-added strawberry freezer jam, tangy strawberry tarts, and strawberry cheesecake. The Trinity food tent has become a traditional place for visitors to stop for lunch or dinner during the Strawberry Festival. Their homemade Sloppy Joes, made from scratch in the Trinity kitchen, have been a favorite of festival goers for 39 years. They are prepared by members of the congregation

from a well-guarded recipe.

The church also offers sloppy nachos which smother



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crunchy tortilla chips with meaty Sloppy Joe and nacho cheese sauce. The church also offers regular nachos and all-beef hot dogs, along with their equally famous strawberry shortcake. The light and tender shortcakes, baked specially for the festival, are covered with a heaping scoop of sweetened strawberries and topped with real whipped cream. There are also strawberry or hot fudge sundaes, personal glazed pies, strawberry tarts, slices of strawberry cheesecake or fresh strawberries to dip in powdered sugar or hot fudge.

Thirsty? Many festival goers say they wait all year for the sweet and creamy strawberry smoothie offered only at Trinity Church.

Visitors can also enjoy the many crafters and vendors set up at Trinity home during the festival. Offerings this year include honey and beeswax, sea salt scrubs, handcrafted jewelry, blown glass items, soy comfort candles, henna



tattoos, gourmet dog treats, quilts, baby gifts and crafts, face painting and caricatures, therapeutic magnetic jewelry, handmade chocolate candies, Mary

Kay Cosmetics, Perfectly Posh, Tupperware and many others.

See Trinity, page 6

Kona Strawberry Run



June 17, 2016

8K  5K

Belleville, MI

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Trinity from page 5

New at Trinity this year is the free Karaoke Tent which will be open from 6-9 p.m. on Friday, from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. and from 5-8 p.m. on Saturday and from noon until 3 p.m. on Sunday. Everyone who sings will receive a raffle ticket for a great prize to be awarded after each session.

Fifty percent of the proceeds from the Trinity Strawberry Festival activities are used to support community projects. In years past, the proceeds have helped support Hope Clinic, Helping Hand Food Pantry, Belleville Emergency Food Closet, Alternatives for Girls, Crossroads, Mariner's Inn, and Adopt-A-Child Size among others. The other half of the proceeds is used to fund special projects and events at the church.

The Trinity kitchen will be open from 4-9 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. until 9 p.m. on Saturday and from 11 a.m. until



6 p.m. on Sunday. Trinity is the first church visible when drivers exit I-94 into Belleville.

Credit cards will be accepted at the bakery and food tent, the parking is

free. Trinity is also one of the National Strawberry Festival Trolley stops. For more information about Trinity or the Strawberry Festival activities, visit www.trinitybell.org.



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**The 40th Annual
BELLEVILLE
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Strawberry
FESTIVAL**

**JUNE 17, 18 AND 19
2016**

St. Anthony's Catholic Church

409 West Columbia Belleville, MI 48111

www.stanthonybelleville.parishesonline.com

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**Friday, June 17
Noon - Midnight**

**Saturday, June 18
Noon - Midnight**

**Sunday, June 19
Noon - 8 p.m.**

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**St. Anthony Men's Club
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Ongoing all Weekend**

**FRIDAY, JUNE 17
Noon- Midnight**

Activities and Events

- Raffle
 - Bingo
 - Inflatables
 - Crazy Kids Jump
 - Baked Goods
 - Pony Rides
 - Special Olympics Dunk Tank
 - Big Carnival Midway
 - Food Vendors with Food for all Tastes
 - Juried and Crafter Vendor Exhibits
 - Strawberry Extravaganza
- Dessert in Pole Barn
with Strawberry Desserts of all kinds

Beer and Wine Tent with
Live Entertainment
Open 5p.m. - Midnight
Cold Beer and Wine Coolers
\$3 Admission
MUST BE 21 TO ENTER!

WINGMAN (Rock 'n' Roll Band)
6 p.m. - Midnight

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FESTIVAL

**JUNE 17, 18 AND 19
2016**

St. Anthony's Catholic Church

409 West Columbia Belleville, MI 48111

www.stanthonybelleville.parishesonline.com

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

SATURDAY, JUNE 18

Noon- Midnight

Activities and Events

- Raffle
 - Bingo
 - Inflatables
 - Crazy Kids Jump
 - Baked Goods
 - Pony Rides
 - Special Olympics Dunk Tank
 - Big Carnival Midway
 - Food Vendors with Food for all Tastes
 - Juried and Crafter Vendor Exhibits
 - Strawberry Extravaganza Dessert in Pole Barn with Strawberry Desserts of all kinds Polish Dinner
- 2 - 7p.m.
(\$11) Stuffed Cabbage, Pierogi (2), Kielbasa and Sauerkraut/Vegetable Salad, Dessert, and Beverage

Beer and Wine Tent with Live Entertainment
2 p.m.- Midnight
Cold Beer and Wine Coolers
\$3 Admission
MUST BE 21 TO ENTER!

NEW GENERATION
(Polish Band)
2-6 p.m.
T J THOMAS and KENTUCKY STRAIT (Country Band)
7 p.m.-Midnight

SUNDAY, JUNE 19

Noon- 8p.m.

(FATHER'S DAY)

Activities and Events

- Raffle
 - Bingo
 - Inflatables
 - Crazy Kids Jump
 - Baked Goods
 - Pony Rides
 - Special Olympics Dunk Tank
 - Big Carnival Midway
 - Food Vendors with Food for all Tastes
 - Juried and Crafter Vendor Exhibits
 - Strawberry Extravaganza Dessert in Pole Barn with Strawberry Desserts of all kinds Charcoal Grilled Chicken Dinner
- 1- 6 p.m.
(\$10) 1/2 Chicken, Mashed Potatoes w/ Gravy, Green Beans, Cole Slaw, Roll w/ Butter, Dessert, and Beverage

Beer and Wine Tent with Live Entertainment
Noon-8 p.m.
Cold Beer and Wine Coolers
TALL COOL ONE
Robert Plant/Led Zepplin Tribute Band
1-3:30 p.m.

TWO TIMIN BAND (Rock 'n' Roll Band)
4-8 p.m.
RAFFLE DRAWING
7 p.m. Entertainment Tent on Stage





DIRECTIONS: Take I-94 to Belleville Road (exit 190). Head South on Belleville Road to reach festival events.



★ BOARD WALK - - - PARADE ROUTE

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- 2 HORIZON PARK
- 3 ST. ANTHONY'S
- 4 VICTORY PARK
- 5 LIBERTY & THIRD
- 6 TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH



Showing off

This year will mark the 15th Annual Cinnamon's Father's Day Car Show during the Belleville National Strawberry Festival. Entry fee for vehicles is \$20 at the gate or \$10 during the pre-registration event from 6-8 p.m. Friday, June 17 at 894 E. Huron River Dr. which will include free hot dogs, chips cookies and a soft drink. All makes, models and years of vehicles can be entered and more than 30 awards will be presented at the show from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. Sunday in Victory Park.

ST. ANTHONY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

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RICHARD and SHARON POKERWINSKI

CHAIRPERSONS AND COMMITTEES

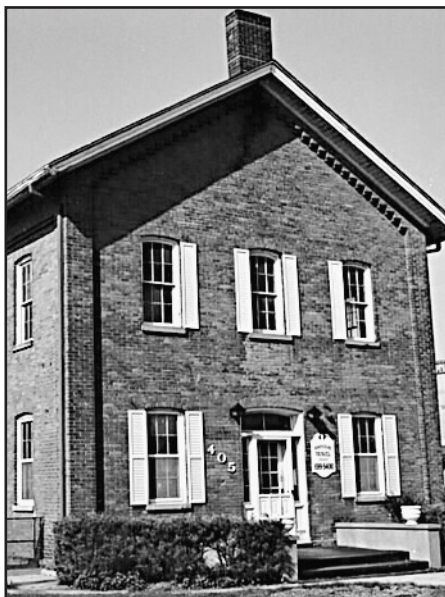
- ADMISSIONS**
 - ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - BEER TENT**
 - SET-UP and TEAR DOWN**
 - BINGO**
 - CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES**
 - CRAFTERS/VENDORS**
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 - GROUND MAINTENANCE**
 - PARKING/BOY SCOUTS**
 - RAFFLE**
 - RECTORY**
 - WHITE ELEPHANT TENT**
 - SET-UP, TEAR-DOWN and OVER ALL OPERATIONS**
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 - MIKE LORIA/JOHN ZAROFF (SATURDAY NIGHT)
 - WALTER ROCHOWIAK (SUNDAY)
 - VIRGINIA CARNAHAN
 - SHARON POKERWINSKI/FREDDY GIOVANNONI
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 - SUNDAY-GRILLED CHICKEN
 - ED MANIER/RICHARD POKERWINSKI
 - RICHARD & SHARON POKERWINSKI/ FESTIVAL COMMITTEE
 - MARGE PLUCINICZAK
 - SHARON MANIER
 - TONY ATTARD
 - JOE WALKER/ROBERT VANASSCHE
 - FRANK SOBECKI/MARTIN CHURCH/ DAVID RADECKI
 - MARY PALAZZOLO
 - CINDY WEIPERT
 - MAXINE SMITH
 - RICHARD and SHARON POKERWINSKI/ FESTIVAL COMMITTEE

Township Hall is part of area history

Visitors to the Strawberry Festival will also have the opportunity to see one of the most historic buildings in the area, constructed in 1875,

The building is now the home of the Belleville Area Museum and Historical Society and houses many artifacts and treasures marking the history of the city and Van Buren Township. The building is still owned by Van Buren Township and was the first official town hall of the community. In 1875, after official business of the township had been conducted for 40 years in private homes, stores and rented quarters, voters in the township agreed during the spring election to erect a one-story brick town hall.

The township leaders agreed to appropriate \$1,500 for the construction and Robert Patterson Clark,



William Crawford and Thomas Quirk were appointed to oversee the project, now located on Main Street in

what is downtown Belleville.

Members of the Belleville Grange No. 331 requested permission from the township officials to add a second story onto the planned building to be used for their meetings. The group had been organized for about a year and township voters approved the proposal to double the size of the town hall. The Grange donated the brick and lumber for the construction.

Township business and Grange meetings took place in the town hall and continued even after the Village of Belleville incorporated in 1905. The Main Street building was no longer part of Van Buren Township, but now in Belleville. Nevertheless, official township business and offices

See **Hall**, page 12



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Belleville National Strawberry Festival



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Hall from page 11

were housed in the building until 1959 when new offices were constructed on Tyler Road at a site located within township boundaries.

The building, now 141 years old, has served numerous functions in addition to the town meetings. Residents voted in the building, got their drivers licenses, paid their taxes and even borrowed library books. The building has been the site of dances, concerts, showers, church services, service club meetings, blood drives and was even an Army recruiting station.

After the move of township hall to Tyler Road, however, the building was the home of Oxbow Realty, The Belleville Enterprise, Adventure Travel and the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce before it was dedicated to the preservation of local history.




In 1995, a major restoration took place at the old township hall and the museum moved into the historic

building from the old Quirk School where it first opened in 1989. Many exhibits have been added to the small scale replicas of historic buildings it once housed. Two years later, in 1997, original receipts from the 1875 construction of the building were donated to the museum by a descendant of one of the original building, Robert Patterson Clark.

The building, located at 405 Main St. has regularly scheduled hours from 1-5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. It is funded by a tri-community agreement with Van Buren and Sumpter townships and the City of Belleville.

For information about the museum, call (734) 697-1944.

*** Historical information from Water Under the Bridge: A History of Van Buren Township by Cathy S. Horste and Diane F. Wilson, Copyright, 1977. ***




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Strawberry delight

Annual queen pageant will choose festival royalty, award scholarships

Six young women from Belleville are vying this week to become the queen of the 40th Annual National Strawberry Festival.

It's a lot more than just a pageant, however. The Queen Pageant has long been a major part of the annual festival which is celebrated throughout the community.

Originally the Strawberry Queen Pageant took place on St. Anthony's Catholic Church grounds under the direction of 24-year coordinator and volunteer organizer Diane Ferguson.

The Queen Pageant moved to Belleville High School Auditorium in 1982 and Hazel Bigham was mistress of ceremonies and continued in that position until 1992. In 1993 and 1994, Martha Piney took over those responsibilities and then in 1995 and 1996 former Strawberry Queens Veronica Watson and Angela Myers co-hosted the event. In 1997, former Queens Mitzie Herkimer and Shannon Tarris were the co-hosts. In 1998, Angela Myers, the 1993 Queen, and Andrea Brown, the 1994 Queen, co-hosted the event. Angela Myers Kerner became the Pageant Coordinator in 1999 through 2006.

In 2007 through 2009 Jennifer Leonard was the pageant coordinator. In 2010 through 2014 there was no Belleville Strawberry Queen Pageant

”

The queen will be selected during the pageant which is planned for 7:30 p.m. Friday, June 17 at the Belleville High School auditorium on West Columbia.

because of funding. The Belleville Strawberry Queen Pageant was brought back in 2015 and Joyce Rochowiak of Garden Fantasy has been the pageant coordinator since then with other volunteers.

The women hoping to take home the honor, and the scholarship money this year, are all residents of the Belleville area, single and between the ages of 16 and 20. The Strawberry Queen will take home a \$1,000 scholarship, trophy and assorted gifts that accompany the title. The second and third place runners up will each receive a \$500 scholarship and gifts donated by local merchants.

The contestants will each participate in a dance performance by the group, perform an individual talent, appear in evening wear and answer questions presented to them by the

pageant moderator.

The queen will be selected during the pageant which is planned for 7:30 p.m. Friday, June 17 at the Belleville High School auditorium on West Columbia.

The contestants this year including sisters, all of whom will be seen in the parade Saturday, include, in alphabetical order:



Evelyn Gitzen, 17, of Westland. She is the daughter of Tom and Jen Gitzen and is currently a student at Belleville High School. Her creative talent in the pageant is singing and she is a member of the choir at school. She said that music is a special interest and she is planning a career as a hair stylist.

See **Queen**, page 14




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Ivy Gitzen, 16, also the daughter of Tom and Jen Gitzen of Westland. She, too, is a student at Belleville High School and is involved in graphic design at school. Her hobbies include singing, baking and cooking along with interior design. Her performing talent, like her sister's, is singing. She is hoping for a career in interior design and was involved in the New Tech Soup Project.



Alexis Hatchard, 19, is currently pursuing pre-law studies at Eastern Michigan University. The future attorney hopes to practice corporate law when she completes her education. She is the daughter of James and Deidre Hatchard of Belleville. She is also a member of the parish at St. Anthony Church and enjoys reading, acting, baking and cooking. Her creative talent in the pageant was acting.



Savanna Titsworth, 17, is a student at Belleville High School. She is the daughter of Angela Miller and is also interested in singing and the choir: Her special interests include art and music and she performed as a singer during the talent portion of the pageant. She hopes to pursue a career in nursing after leaving high school.



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Isabel Stimach, 17, of Belleville is a student at Garbirl Richard High School in Ann Arbor. She is the daughter of Eric and Ingre Stimach and her school activities include the dance and tennis teams, ecology club and the yearbook. She is a member of the National Honor Society. She is a volunteer at Hope Clinic in the Feed the Poor Program. For her talent, she performed a dance.



Alexyia Yost, 16, of Belleville is also a student at Belleville High School. She is the daughter of Michael and Georgia Yost and her hobbies include basketball, farming, singing, baking and cooking. She is involved with the 4-H Club and the Belleville Bake Off. For her talent, she sang during the pageant. She hopes for a career in interior design after graduation.

Belleville National Strawberry Festival Queens

1978	Debra Ann Juchartz
1979	Elizabeth Nota
1980	Lisa Duff
1981	Valarie Bechtold
1982	Elizabeth Gruebel
1983	Melissa Sowder
1984	Dawn Finley
1985	Tina Benson
1986	Jill Ann Karolyi
1987	Tina Berones
1988	Jill Jobe
1989	Amy Jo Sutton
1990	Mitzi Herkimer
1991	Veronica Watson
1992	Shannon Tarris
1993	Emily Bohler
<small>(She moved from Belleville, was taken over by 1st runner-up, Angela Myers)</small>	
1994	Jennifer Cornell
1995	Ginger Thorne
1996	Andrea Brown
1997	Linzi Bokor
1998	Starr Burke
1999	Danielle Paige
2000	Carmen Richison
2001	Stephanie Shepard
2002	Delissha Woods
2003	Crystal Ross
2004	Alisha Clark
2005	Carey Marie Huff
2006	Cathy Laskaska
2007	Cathy Laskaska
2008	Tiffini Grant
2009	Erin Williams
2010 - 2014	No Pageant
2015	Ryann Patton

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