



MEDIA RELEASE



Bloomington Police Department & McLean County Coroner's Office

For Immediate Release: February 3, 2025

Fatal Traffic Crash Involving a Pedestrian

McLean County Coroner Dr. Kathleen Yoder is releasing the following information regarding the incident that occurred in the parking lot of the Empire Plaza Shopping Center, located in the 1600 block of East Empire Street, on January 31, 2025, at 1:52 p.m.

Pronounced deceased on scene was Cherie D. Valentine, age 76, of Bloomington, IL. The preliminary autopsy opinion indicated that Ms. Valentine died from multiple blunt injuries sustained as a pedestrian struck and run over by a sports utility vehicle. Toxicology testing is pending.

"Life is precious, and when someone loses their life, the impact is devastating for family, friends, and our community. On behalf of the men and women of the Bloomington Police Department, I extend sympathies to the family and friends of Ms. Valentine," stated Chief Jamal Simington. "This incident is a stark reminder for all drivers to follow the best safety practices when operating vehicles and using the highway system."

The circumstances behind this incident are still pending investigation by the Bloomington Police Department, the McLean County Accident Reconstruction Team, and the McLean County Coroner's Office. Anyone with information should contact the Bloomington Police Department at 309-820-8888.

Previous Release

Bloomington, IL - On Friday, 1/31/25, at approximately 1:52 p.m., Bloomington police officers responded to the parking lot of the Empire Plaza Shopping Center, located in the 1600 Block of East Empire Street, for a traffic crash involving a single vehicle and a pedestrian. The Bloomington Fire Department was also dispatched to the scene.

Media Contacts:

Coroner - Dr. Kathleen Yoder
104 W. Front Street
P.O. Box 2400
Bloomington, IL 61701
Phone: (309) 888-5210

Officer Bryce Janssen
Bloomington Police Department
305 S. East St.
Bloomington, IL
Phone: (309)434-2355



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Upon arrival, officers observed the crash and began their investigation. Due to the severity of the injuries, the McLean County Accident Reconstruction Team and the McLean County Coroner's Office were called to the scene.

The pedestrian was pronounced deceased at the scene by the McLean County Coroner's Office. An autopsy is pending. No additional information will be released at this time.

The circumstances behind this incident are still pending investigation by the Bloomington Police Department, the McLean County Accident Reconstruction Team, and the McLean County Coroner's Office. Anyone with information should contact the Bloomington Police Department at 309-820-8888.

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If you wish to submit a crime tip and remain anonymous, please contact the Crime & Intelligence Analysis Unit (CIAU) at 309-434-2963 or email CIAU@cityblm.org. You can also text the number 847411 by texting the word "BPDTIPS", then a space, followed by your tip information.

The tip line is not monitored 24/7. The CIAU office is staffed from 8am-4:30pm, weekdays. If no one is available to answer your call, please leave the information on the voicemail or send it by e-mail.

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