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# Woodhaven

## T O D A Y



*Inside*

**Hardcore Pawn's  
Rich Pyle**

**2026 Uncle Sam Jam**

**Athlete Mia Taylor**

2026 - Second Quarter



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**FREE ESTIMATES**

# Bridging the Gap

## CareGuard Home Safety provides accessible home modifications

By Kelsi Klein

**D**URING Anthony Contratto's time in the construction industry, he repeatedly encountered individuals in need of safety equipment and accessible modifications to be able to live comfortably and safely in their own homes.

From simple accessibility solutions like bathroom grab bars to outdoor wheelchair ramps, Contratto realized the need was prevalent and decided to shift the focus of his business to help meet that need.

"We saw so many people in need, so we figured we'd focus on safety modifications for anybody and everybody rather than home complete remodels like we were doing before," Contratto said.

In December 2025, CareGuard Home Safety was established to create safe home environments for seniors, individuals with mobility challenges and families planning ahead.

"We saw people waiting weeks and weeks and paying outrageous amounts of money to be able to stay in a rehab center or nursing facility while they waited for their homes to be ready," Contratto explained.

As a business focusing solely on accessible home safety modifications, CareGuard aims to eliminate the lengthy waiting period many people face when having to modify their home, especially after an injury or returning from the hospital.

"We're trying to bridge that gap to where when people are trying to get home, they can actually get home quickly," Contratto said.

CareGuard specializes in accessibility and fall prevention modifications, including grab bars and safety rails, walk-in and curbless showers, wheelchair ramps, door widening, stair and hallway handrails and other general ADA-compliant modifications.

Beyond installation alone, CareGuard provides each client with a personalized approach from start to finish.

The process starts with a free home safety assessment, where a CareGuard specialist makes a visit to the client's home to identify potential hazards and accessibility challenges and to set objectives for independent living.

Then, clients will receive a detailed written recommendation and transparent, no-obligation cost estimate to help them determine their next steps.

Collaboration is a key component of CareGuard's

approach. The business works closely with home care agencies, nurses, case managers, social workers and medical equipment providers to create safer living environments that support both clients and caregivers.



"We work side by side with a lot of home care companies that care for the patient and see them every day," Contratto explained. "They take care of the patient and we take care of the home."

As a local, family-owned business, CareGuard is dedicated to treating every client like their own family and operates with respect, integrity and transparency.

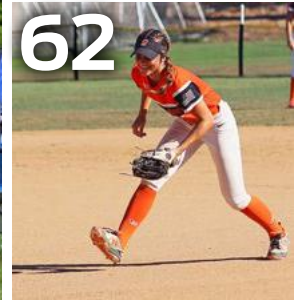
The business is licensed and insured, and each team member is thoroughly background checked and vetted with experience working in sensitive environments, including in homes with seniors, individuals with medical conditions and care facilities.

Recognizing that cost is a main barrier for many families requiring home safety modifications, CareGuard actively seeks out partnerships with local nonprofit organizations to help offset costs for those in need.

"We like to go out of our way to find options for people to get what they need," Contratto said. "It's not always about the money. It's about taking care of the people that took care of us."

To learn more, visit [www.careguardhomesafety.com](http://www.careguardhomesafety.com) or call (734) 575-9224.

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## From the EDITOR

# Meet the People, Know the Community

**P**EOPLE are what make a community interesting. Good communities are based on what I like to call the core tenets – effective and transparent public safety, good schools, robust parks and rec programming, and events that serve as occasions for bringing residents and visitors together.

But none of that would work well without the people to keep it all together.

As I've said many times over the years since I got this gig – my favorite part of it is helping to tell people's stories. Digging into why people live in a certain place, why they chose to be a business owner, or a teacher, or a community leader. Highlighting athletes, musicians, artists, activists, entrepreneurs, philanthropists – it's what makes dealing with the relentless deadlines and intense pace bearable.

In this issue, we again highlight Woodhaven's top students, while also saying goodbye to longtime superintendent Mark Greathead, who is retiring after many years as an educator. He has been a positive force in the district, driving many initiatives that have improved the environment for students, staff and families alike. We will miss him, and we wish him all the best!

Stepping into Mr. Greathead's shoes is Matthew Salah, who brings more than two decades of dedicated service to the district. We welcome him into the position, and look forward to the future!

So sit back, relax, and take in the stories we love telling and presenting to you. And if you have some stories you want to help us tell, please don't hesitate to reach out! I'm always looking for collaborators.

Have a safe and peaceful summer!

Angela Calabrese is editor of Woodhaven Today. She welcomes your comments at [acalabrese@communitypublishing.com](mailto:acalabrese@communitypublishing.com).

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Hours of Operation: Mon - Fri: 8:00AM - 5:00PM | Saturday: 8:00AM - 2:00PM



# Here's What's Happening at your Library!

## CHILDREN/YOUTH

### Ongoing Programs

#### **Budding Bookworms: Every Wednesday morning**

A weekly Storytime with Miss Ashley to each early literacy to the littlest of bookworms!

Toddlers: 0-3 years at 10 a.m.

Preschool: 3-5 years at 11 a.m.

#### **Literacy Littles: First Saturday @ 10:30 a.m.**

Led by Miss Ashley, this book club will explore the superpower of reading by focusing on a new book each month. Our focus is on building independent reading confidence for children in grades K-2. Registration required.

#### **Well-Read Wanderers: Third Saturday @10:30 a.m.**

A book club to expand on young readers' love of reading. Intended for grades 3-5. Registration required.

#### **LEGO Club: Fourth Monday @ 6:30 p.m.**

#### **Teen Writers Group: First Wednesday @ 6 p.m.**

Ages 12-17. Aspiring teen writers will meet up to work on their craft, share with their peers and gain helpful insight from local author Holly Ash, who will be attending the sessions! New members are always welcome.

### Special Programs

#### **Registration required for all programs**

**1000 Books before Kindergarten:** Passive program for families to do on their own all summer.

**Pajama Storytime with Special Guest Early On – Monday, June 22 at 6 p.m.**



**A 2026 Summer Reading Program – Monday, June 1- Saturday, August 1**

#### **Jurassic Discovery Tour – Passive Program June 1-6**

An opportunity for children to imagine being a paleontologist and learn about several species of dinosaurs while exploring the library space. \*This self-paced program is a passive program that will be set up around the library.

#### **Dinosaur Diamond Art – Thursday, June 11 @ 2 p.m.**

Ages 5-plus. We start Summer Reading with a relaxing craft of Dinosaur Diamond Art to get you in the summer mood!

#### **Crazy Craig Juggling – Thursday, June 18 @ 2:30 p.m.**

All ages. A high energy show full of comedy, audience participation, amazing juggling, tricks on various size unicycles, and balancing acts.

#### **Miss Lucy Goose's Silly Saurus Show! – Thursday, June 25 @ 2 p.m.**

Intended for toddler/preschool ages. Stomp, roar and explore with Miss Lucy Goose and her Silly Saurus!

#### **MythCrackers: Common Animal Myths – Thursday, July 9 @ 2 p.m.**

All ages. This program addresses common wildlife myths. \*Live Animals\*

#### **Dinosaur Bubble Dig – Thursday, July 16 @ 2 p.m.**

Ages 3 to 10. A 45-minute show where kids dance through bubbles to uncover dinosaurs of all sizes! Plus, a hands-on dino egg excavation craft where children can dig for their own dinosaur. This program includes a Dino egg and birth certificate for each child!

#### **STEM: Cookie Excavation – Thursday, July 23 @ 2 p.m.**

Ages 6-plus. Have fun uncovering artifacts like an archaeologist by carefully excavating chocolate chips from a cookie while using an excavation grid.

#### **End of Summer Reading Party – Last week of July, TBD**

## ADULT

### Ongoing Programs

**Morning Book Club: First Tuesday @ 10:30 a.m.**

**Genre of the Month Evening Book Club: Fourth Wednesday @ 6 p.m.**

### Trenton Veterans Memorial Library

2790 Westfield Road

Trenton, MI 48183

(734) 676-9777

<https://www.trenton.lib.mi.us/>

### Library Hours of Operation

Monday-Thursday:

9:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Friday and Saturday:

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Closed on Sunday

**Online Book Club for Adults (Facebook Group):** Every Thursday, 7-8 p.m.

**FREE Basic Computer Classes:** Second Saturday @ 10:30 a.m.

**Adult Writers Group:** Second Saturday @ 2 p.m.

**Quarterly Puzzle Competition**

**Quarterly Trivia Competition**

### **Special Events/Programs**

*Please register (734) 676-9777 or online Events Calendar*

**Adult Writers Showcase:** Saturday, June 13 from 2-3 p.m.

**Check our Events Calendar for a Trivia Night in June!**

**Adult Summer Reading Program: Unearth a Story!**  
**June-July**

Adults look forward to summer reading as much as kids do! Relax, take a book (physical or digital) with you on vacation and catch up on your TBR list. Please check our website and online Events Calendar for details on our reading challenge and summer programs for adults.

**Nature on Your Doorstep: Exploring Grosse Ile's Conserved Lands – Tuesday, June 16 @ 6-7 p.m.**

Dr. Paul Gloor, president of the Grosse Ile Nature and Land Conservancy, will guide attendees through the island's remarkable natural areas – wetlands, woodlands, prairies, and shoreline habitats that many residents have never fully explored. The presentation highlights which preserves are open to the public, what makes a few key sites ecologically special and how decades of citizen action protected these landscapes from development. Participants will also learn about the local and regional organizations that now steward these natural areas for future generations

**Daughters of the American Revolution: Free Genealogy Workshop – Saturday, June 20 @ 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

The DAR will help you research your family tree on a one-to-one basis. Come and get help from the volunteer assistants, who have learned the hard way, how to begin or move forward in your research. The workshop is open to anyone, regardless of age, who is interested in learning about their family tree. You are welcome to attend the workshop at any time throughout the session. Local DAR Chapter: <http://www.monc.michdar.net/>

**Fiction Writing Workshop: Know Your Characters; Know Your Story – Saturday, June 27 @ 2-3 p.m.**

Please join published romance author, Donna Kanso (writing as DK Marie) for this fiction writing workshop. She will cover the importance of knowing your characters and why you should know them before writing your first draft. She will discuss wounds, flaws and motivations of characters and share tips, tricks and books on character development. She will also share some of character write-ups she's done for her recent book release. Registration requested. This program is for adults.

### **ONGOING SPECIAL COLLECTIONS/ EVENTS**

#### **Special Collections/Events**

**Digital Navigator's One-On-One Tech Help –** Technology help including computer skills, phones and more!

**Pollinator Meadow: Planting in the spring.** Volunteers join our Facebook group. Search "Library Pollinator Meadow".

#### **Library of Things**

Check our website to see what's available as the collection continues to grow. You can also make suggestions for items you'd like to see in the collection! Includes iPads, Chromebooks and Hot Spots.

#### **Stay Sharp Kits & Pet Companions**

Stay Sharp kits are a wonderful resource for adults (and the caregivers of adults) who are experiencing memory loss and other cognitive issues related to dementia, Alzheimer's disease and other memory disorders.

#### **Book Club / Senior Center Visits**

Did you know that you can request book discussion kits from the library for your book club? We can also hold a program at your senior facility, rec center or visit your book club. Please call Adult Services Librarian Erin Chapman (734) 676-9777 to schedule.

Please check our Events Calendar: <https://www.trenton.lib.mi.us/events-1#/events/> for the latest listings of programs for children and adults and for registering. Call (734) 676-9777 for help with registration.

**ALL PROGRAMS REQUIRE REGISTRATION.**

# DOWNRIVER'S BIGGEST PARTY

## Uncle Sam Jam Festival returns to Woodhaven for 16th year of summer fun

**M**ICHIGAN'S biggest free festival returns to Woodhaven this summer from July 9-12 at Civic Center Park, 23977 Hall Road. Families from all over southeast Michigan will experience the classic carnival midway, free nightly concerts, monster truck rides, car and motorcycle shows, festival concessions and much more!

### Main attractions

The carnival midway, presented by Wade Shows, will feature dozens of classic amusement rides and attractions for all ages and be open all hours of the event. All-day ride passes are available onsite for \$38 daily or \$25 on Thursday for Family Fun Day. Discounted ride passes are available in advance at the Woodhaven Community Center, 23101 Hall Road.

Free concerts will be open to the public each night and feature a variety of genres. From bands and artists like Colt Ford, Vertical Horizon, Sunset Blvd., Wisteria and more, there will be music for all tastes. VIP tickets are available online for \$30, guaranteeing up-close seating and access to a private bar and restrooms. Visit [www.uncle-sam-jam.com/music](http://www.uncle-sam-jam.com/music) for a full lineup.

For \$10 per ride on Thursday-Sunday, thrill seekers can experience a ride on the Shell Camino monster truck, a certified MTRA approved truck sure to be an experience to remember.

New to the festival this year is the GellyBall Game System, "the revolutionary, lower-impact shooting game for all ages." The attraction features commercial-grade, battery powered blasters that competitors use to launch hydrated gel orbs at targets. The game experience will be available Thursday-Sunday.

Cornhole tournaments will be hosted by Mutha Shuckers, an official regional director for the American Cornhole League, at 12 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Onsite registration will begin at 11 a.m., and there is a fee to play. Top players and teams will earn cash prizes.

The Classic Car and Hot Rod Show will be held on Sunday from 12-5 p.m., presented by Shiny Rust Promotions. Check-in begins at 9 a.m. and there is a \$10 entry fee per vehicle. Awards will be presented at 4 p.m., and the first 50 cars will receive a dash plaque. Individuals can register their vehicles at [www.uncle-sam-jam.com/classic-car-show](http://www.uncle-sam-jam.com/classic-car-show).

The 2nd Annual Reasons to Ride Custom and Vintage Bike Show, sponsored by Bernstein Law, will be held on Saturday at 12 p.m., and feature over 20 classes including custom and radical baggers, garage builds, trikes, vintage, custom paint and more. Riders can pre-register online for \$15 and receive a free t-shirt and lanyard, or register onsite for \$20. Winners will receive trophies, placards and special prizes.

The annual firework show, presented by the City of Woodhaven Downtown Development Authority and Ford Motor Company, will light up the night on Friday at 10 p.m., a cherished tradition since 2010.

For details about this year's event and attractions, visit [www.uncle-sam-jam.com](http://www.uncle-sam-jam.com).



### Event Hours

Thursday: 4-11 p.m.  
Friday: 4-11:45 p.m.  
Saturday: Noon-11:45 p.m.  
Sunday: Noon-10:30 p.m.

Onsite parking is available for \$15 each day. Free, offsite parking is available at Kohl's (20840 West Road) with free shuttle to the event.

### Shuttle Schedule

Thursday: 3:30 p.m.-12 a.m.  
Friday: 3:30 p.m.-1 a.m.  
Saturday: 11:30 a.m.-1 a.m.  
Sunday: 11:30 a.m.-12 a.m.

### Items Allowed

Lawn chairs  
Strollers  
Service dogs (with papers)

### Items Not Allowed

No outside food or beverage  
Coolers  
Pets  
Skateboards  
Bikes





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# AUGUST 4, 2026

# VOTE!

# STATE PRIMARY

## WILL ALL OF YOUR VOTES COUNT IN THE PRIMARY?



IN AN AUGUST OPEN PRIMARY ELECTION, DEMOCRATIC AND REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES APPEAR ON THE SAME BALLOT IN SEPARATE COLUMNS.



IF A VOTER "SPLITS" OR "CROSSES OVER" BETWEEN PARTY COLUMNS, NONE OF THE VOTES IN THE ENTIRE PARTISAN SECTION OF THE BALLOT WILL COUNT PER MCL 168.576.



FOR ALL PARTISAN VOTES TO COUNT, VOTERS MUST SELECT ONE PARTY COLUMN (Democratic or Republican) AND VOTE IN THAT COLUMN ONLY, FOR THE ENTIRE PARTISAN SECTION OF THE BALLOT.



VOTERS CAN ALSO VOTE THE NONPARTISAN SECTION (Third column of the ballot) WHICH MAY CONTAIN JUDICIAL AND SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES AND PROPOSAL(S).

SEE BELOW FOR A SAMPLE OF A CORRECTLY VOTED PARTISAN BALLOT AND SPLIT TICKET OR CROSSOVER VOTED BALLOT, WHERE ONLY PART OF THE VOTES COUNT.

### Correctly Voted Ballot

Partisan Section Vote Only 1 Party Section		Nonpartisan Section
Democratic Party Section	Republican Party Section	Judicial
CONGRESSIONAL		Judge of Circuit Court 3 <sup>rd</sup> District
United States Senator (Vote for not more than ONE)		Non-Incumbent Position (Vote for not more than TWO)
CANDIDATE 1 CANDIDATE 2 CANDIDATE 3	CANDIDATE 1 CANDIDATE 2 CANDIDATE 3	CANDIDATE 1 CANDIDATE 2 CANDIDATE 3
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Representative in Congress 6 <sup>th</sup> District (Vote for not more than ONE)		Proposal Section
CANDIDATE 1 CANDIDATE 2 CANDIDATE 3		County
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Proposal 123 Operating Millage Renewal
		Should this millage be renewed?
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

### Split or Crossover Ballot

Partisan Section Vote Only 1 Party Section		Nonpartisan Section
Democratic Party Section	Republican Party Section	Judicial
CONGRESSIONAL		Judge of Circuit Court 3 <sup>rd</sup> District
United States Senator (Vote for not more than ONE)		Non-Incumbent Position (Vote for not more than TWO)
CANDIDATE 1 CANDIDATE 2 CANDIDATE 3	CANDIDATE 1 CANDIDATE 2 CANDIDATE 3	CANDIDATE 1 CANDIDATE 2 CANDIDATE 3
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Representative in Congress 6 <sup>th</sup> District (Vote for not more than ONE)		Proposal Section
CANDIDATE 1 CANDIDATE 2 CANDIDATE 3		County
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Proposal 123 Operating Millage Renewal
		Should this millage be renewed?
		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No



A VOTER'S POLITICAL PARTY SELECTION IN AN OPEN PRIMARY DOES NOT IMPACT THEIR FUTURE VOTING PREFERENCES.



TABULATING YOUR VOTE IN PERSON? IF YOU VOTE INCORRECTLY, THE TABULATOR WILL GIVE YOU AN ERROR MESSAGE. SELECT "Return", SEE AN ELECTION STAFF MEMBER TO SPOIL IT AND GET A NEW BALLOT TO ENSURE ALL OF YOUR VOTES COUNT.



MAUREEN BRINKER,  
CLERK

# AV APPLICATIONS

VOTERS ON THE PERMANENT ABSENT VOTER (AV) APPLICATION LIST WILL AUTOMATICALLY RECEIVE THEIR APPLICATION IN THE MAIL BY MID JUNE 2026. THIS IS A TWO-STEP PROCESS, VOTERS MUST COMPLETE AND RETURN THE SIGNED APPLICATION TO THE CLERK'S DEPARTMENT IN ORDER TO HAVE A BALLOT MAILED.

## PERMANENT BALLOTS

VOTERS ON THE PERMANENT BALLOT LIST WILL AUTOMATICALLY BE MAILED THEIR BALLOT (to the residential address, unless there is a mailing address on file) ON JUNE 25, 2026. PLEASE ALLOW 7-10 BUSINESS DAYS FOR DELIVERY BEFORE CONTACTING THE CLERK'S OFFICE.

## RETURNING AV APPLICATIONS AND BALLOTS

US MAIL (No postage necessary)

DROP BOXES LOCATED AT:

- Township Hall (24/7 - at the curb)
- Inside Township Hall (Monday - Thursday, 7:00AM - 5:00PM)
- Fort-Gib Park (24/7 - Next to Fire Station 3 on Gibraltar Road)

★ BALLOTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 8PM ON ELECTION DAY TO COUNT

## EARLY VOTING

VOTERS CAN NOW VOTE EARLY IN MICHIGAN FOR ALL STATE AND FEDERAL ELECTIONS AND TABULATE THEIR BALLOT PRIOR TO ELECTION DAY.



EARLY VOTING WILL BE AVAILABLE:  
JULY 25, 2026 - AUGUST 2, 2026  
8:00AM - 4:00PM  
BROWNSTOWN EVENT CENTER  
23345 KING ROAD

## MORE INFO

VISIT [MVIC.SOS.STATE.MI](https://mVIC.SOS.STATE.MI) OR SCAN THE QR CODE TO:

- Register to vote or update your voter information
- Check your voting status
- Complete an AV Application and/or join Permanent Ballot List
- Locate your polling place
- Confirm your ballot was received



ELECTION INFO

FOR MORE VOTING  
INFORMATION VISIT:

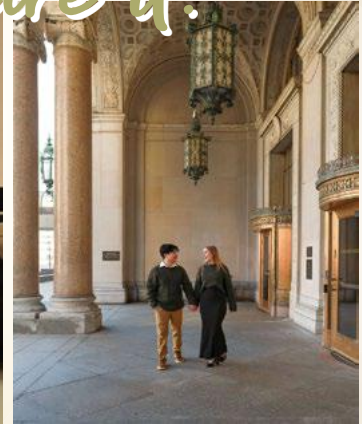
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OR  
SCAN THE QR CODE

SCAN ME





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For more details visit <https://brownstownsummerfest.com>



LEARNING AND LEADING FOR TOMORROW

# WOODHAVEN HIGH SCHOOL

## CLASS OF 2026

# TOP 10



Valedictorian

**YUSAF  
KAPADIA**

will be attending Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) to begin his course studies for a major in aerospace engineering.



Salutatorian

**MATEO  
REYES**

has plans to attend the University of Chicago to study theoretical physics.



**ABEERA  
ALI**

is undecided about where to attend college, but is planning to major in biology.



**EVA  
SMITH**

is planning to attend the University of Michigan - Ann Arbor and is undecided about her major.



**MATTHEW  
BOND**

plans to attend the University of Michigan and study space sciences and engineering.



**AVA  
GRAY**

plans to attend the University of Michigan to study neuroscience.



**ISABELLE  
SARKODY**

is undecided where she will attend college, but plans to major in biomedical engineering.



**KENDALL  
STEARNS**

is undecided where she will attend college, but plans to major in psychology.



**ELYSE  
HOSS**

is undecided where she will attend college, but plans to major in urban planning.



**GORDON  
CHEN**

is undecided where he will attend college, but plans to major in civil engineering.

# Woodhaven-Brownstown School District Board of Education Approves MATTHEW SALAH AS NEXT SUPERINTENDENT

**T**HE Woodhaven-Brownstown School District (WBSD) Board of Education officially approved Matthew Salah as the district's next superintendent during its regular meeting on April 14, 2026.

Mr. Salah's appointment follows final interviews held in March and a 7-0 vote by the Board of Education to extend him an offer. With board approval now complete and contract negotiations finalized, Mr. Salah is set to officially assume the role on July 1, 2026.

A familiar and respected leader within the WBSD community, Mr. Salah brings more than two decades of dedicated service to the district. Since 2024, he has served as executive director of special services. His extensive leadership experience within Woodhaven-Brownstown includes:

- Director of special services (2020–2024)
- Building principal and assistant principal at Patrick Henry Middle School (10 years)
- Special education teacher at Woodhaven High School (five years)

The Board's selection followed a comprehensive search process that began with five candidates.

After preliminary interviews in March, the field was narrowed to two finalists: Mr. Salah and Dr. Angela Jefferson. The final stage of the process included a community open house and formal interviews, where staff and community members had the opportunity to provide valuable feedback to the Board.



"The board was deeply impressed by the exceptional qualifications of both finalists," said Laura Berry, WBSD Board of Education president. "Ultimately, Mr. Salah's proven leadership and unwavering commitment to our district set him apart. He brings the stability we value, paired with a forward-thinking mindset that embraces growth and change. His student-centered approach made him the clear and overwhelming choice to lead our district."

The WBSD Board of Education extends its sincere appreciation to the staff, parents and community members who participated in the search process and shared their thoughtful input throughout.

Mr. Salah will succeed Superintendent Mark Greathead, who is retiring after 15 years of dedicated leadership to the district.




# WARRIORS GEAR UP

## FOR A SUMMER OF SPORTS, SKILLS AND SPIRIT

This summer, the Woodhaven-Brownstown School District is turning up the energy with a full lineup of youth and middle school sports camps designed to keep students active, learning and connected. From football and basketball to cheer, dance and volleyball, WBSD is offering opportunities for students in grades 3–9 to sharpen their skills, build teamwork and have fun – all while being coached by some of the district’s top athletes and coaches. Whether your student is just starting out or looking to level up, there’s a camp for every interest and experience level.



Scan this QR code for more information, and we look forward to seeing you this summer!



## WBSD UPCOMING PERFORMING ARTS CONCERTS MAY – JUNE 2026

- 5/27 – Brownstown Middle School Band Concert, 6:30 p.m.
- 5/28 – Brownstown Middle School Choir Concert, 6:30 p.m.
- 6/5 – Woodhaven High School Java and Jazz Concert, 7 p.m.



## Leaving the District in Exceptional Hands

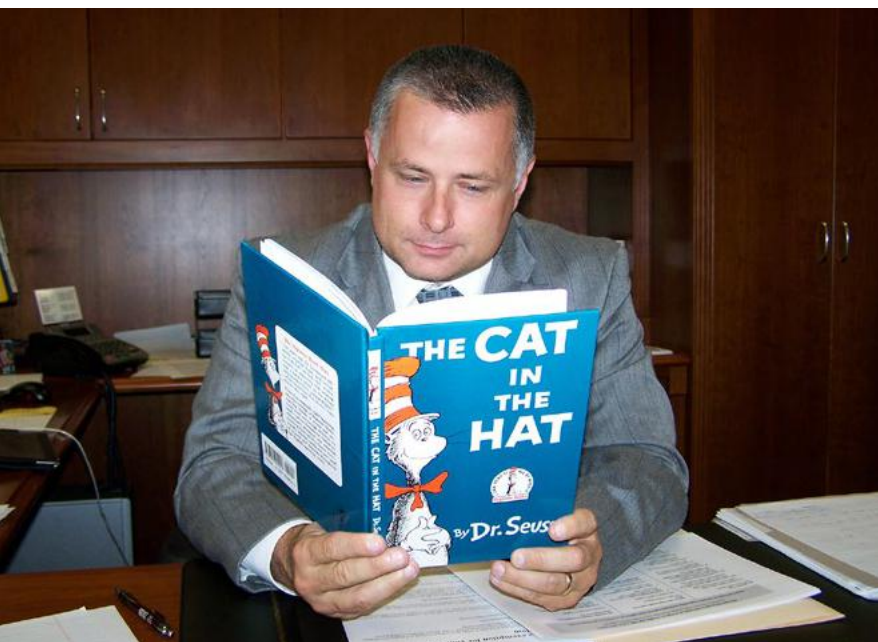
WBSD superintendent Mark Greathead to retire after 15 years

By Kelsi Klein

After 15 years at the helm of Woodhaven-Brownstown School District (WBSD), superintendent Mark Greathead will be stepping into retirement on June 30, 2026.

Greathead's tenure has been defined by dedication and passion as he led the district through periods of growth, innovation and positive change.

According to the WBSD Board of Education, under



Greathead's leadership, "the district has achieved significant milestones, including increased pupil enrollment, improved facilities, a stable general fund, and the grade reconfiguration."

Although Greathead spent 33 years in the field of education, it wasn't originally part of his career plan.

"I initially saw myself going into accounting or something in the business world," he said. "But after my first year of college, I really reflected on it and had a handful of pretty inspiring teachers that helped me rethink my career choice."

Greathead took over as WBSD's superintendent in 2011 after building an 18-year foundation in Allen Park, where he taught and held various administrative roles.

When he joined WBSD, he not only brought a wealth of experience, but a vision for growth that he is confident his successor, Matthew Salah, will continue.

"I'm leaving the district in exceptional hands," Greathead said. "I'm very proud of the position we're leaving it in, but I'm also excited to see continued growth here under new direction."

During his time as superintendent, the district experienced notable progress and Greathead credits the support of the community, bond programs and initiatives for helping provide WBSD students and staff with an "exceptional educational environment that would rival anybody's."

A major focus of Greathead's leadership has been expanding academic opportunities for students through programming like STEM, arts, DCTC programs and more, along with the

integration of modern technology to ensure students are prepared for future success.

Equally important to Greathead is the district's early education initiatives.

"For the past few years, we've put a focus on an early education process for our families to build a strong relationship between home and school district well before kindergarten," he said.

By building early connections, Greathead believes students are better positioned for long-term achievement while also strengthening their sense of community and involvement within the district.

To Greathead, successful leadership is about much more than just measurable accomplishments in academics and operations, it's about prioritizing meaningful relationships with students, staff and families.

"To me, the connection is what this job is all about," he said.

Whether reading to students in elementary schools, making classroom visits or taking middle and high schoolers on ski trips, Greathead believes that being present makes all the difference.



As he reflects on his career, it's the people he'll miss most.

"The students, teachers, administration, support staff, cafeteria workers, bus drivers, security monitors – every single one of them plays a role and has a significant impact on providing the best educational experience

possible," Greathead said.

While Greathead doesn't have any immediate plans as he transitions into retirement, he's looking forward to taking life as it comes.

"I'll take pleasure in watching the snow fall and not worrying about having to make a decision related to it," he laughed.

As Greathead leaves WBSD well-

positioned for the future, his advice for the district is simple: stay connected and communicate.

"There's a wealth of opportunity for growth and support available through the district," he said. "But it really takes everybody working together, at home and at school, to get the most out of our educational system."



## The Woodhaven-Brownstown School District is proud to offer Community Enrichment opportunities at Woodhaven High School for our local community!

These programs are free for Woodhaven or Brownstown residents, district employees and WBSD students and their families.

### Location:

Woodhaven High School  
Please park outside the Athletic Entrance on the east side of the building.

### Saturdays | 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

- Pickleball
- Walking the indoor track
- Open Gym (including basketball)
- Open Swim (first hour reserved for adults only)

### Sundays | 12 p.m. – 4 p.m.

- Pickleball
- Walking the indoor track
- Open Gym (including basketball)
- Open Swim (first hour reserved for adults only)

For questions, please contact Jared Nicholls, Middle School Athletic Director, at (734) 789-2934 or nicholj@wbsdweb.com

We look forward to welcoming our community into Woodhaven High School!

# I Feel Lost Trying to Negotiate Life with my Vision Loss

## Ask the Doctor

**Q:** Dr. Jacobi, I have been looking for help so I can function with my vision loss, but I feel I am on my own. I am getting injections into my eyes to control the damage from my diabetes and macular degeneration. I am grateful that has stabilized my condition, but I am struggling with reading and no one is able to help me. Also, it is questionable whether or not I will be able to continue to drive. I need help in order to stay independent. What are my options?

**A:** As you have found, few professionals really understand all the options that are available to help people with vision loss. Fortunately, there are "low vision specialists," who have access to a wealth of devices that have been designed specifically for someone like yourself.

As a low vision specialist, I believe that partially sighted patients must be made aware of all their low vision treatment options and that partially sighted patients can be at risk of becoming anxious/depressed when they are not presented with solutions that work.

There are many options available for you! As a low vision specialist, I am skilled in guiding low vision patients along this path to function independently whenever possible.

**Stop struggling with poor vision.  
To schedule an appointment**

**CALL TODAY (248) 731-9393**

### ABOUT BEYOND LOW VISION

For more than 35 years, John P. Jacobi, OD, FCOVD, FIALVS has been helping partially sighted people get their lives back. Dr. Jacobi is a Fellow of the Optometric Vision Development and Rehabilitation Association. He is a member of American Optometric Association (AOA), the Michigan Optometric Association (MOA), and a Fellow in the International Academy of Low Vision Specialists.



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

26850 Providence Pkwy Suite 150 | Novi, 48374



## TASTE THE DIFFERENCE

### Brownstown Local Market leaning more into food offerings this year

**T**HE Brownstown Local Market is gearing up for a fresh new season, and if last year was any indication the community has plenty to look forward to!

Despite the couple of rainouts, last year's markets proved to be a lively success. Vendors lined up with everything from handmade goods to fresh produce, while attendees gathered to browse, snack and catch up!

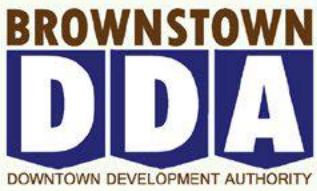
This year, the Brownstown DDA is changing it up and shifting the market to a once-a-month format. This change is designed as a test run, giving vendors and attendees alike a chance to settle into a more focused, high-energy experience. These markets will feel like an event worth marking on the calendar with activities, music and so much more!

For the 2026 season the local market is planning to lean more heavily into food-centered items. Visitors can expect a stronger lineup of food vendors, making it just as much about tasting as it is about shopping. Whether you come hungry or just curious, there will be plenty to enjoy!

Each month will also bring its own theme. Things kick off on June 10, with an exciting Kids Day featuring extra kid-friendly activities and family fun. On July 15, the market takes a festive turn with Christmas in July, blending summer heat with holiday cheer. Then on August 12, health and fitness day will spotlight wellness, offering a chance to explore healthier living in an approachable, community centered way.

With a successful year behind it and a couple changes ahead, the Brownstown Local Market is shaping up to be more than just a place to shop but a place to gather, celebrate and experience something new each month.





Presented by Brownstown DDA & GLP Events



**Local Market Dates (2pm-7pm)**

6/10-Kids Day  
7/15- Christmas In July  
8/12- Health & Fitness

**Brownstown Soccer Fields  
Parking Lot**

2355 King Rd Brownstown  
Township, MI 48183

Questions? email [madisonh@brownstown-mi.org](mailto:madisonh@brownstown-mi.org)



# Brownstown Local Market

Calling All Food Vendors!

Do you sell any of these items?

- Fresh Veggies and Fruits
- Fresh Pork, Chicken, or Beef
- Fresh Flowers
- Baked Goods
- Eggs

We want you at  
our next  
season of local  
markets!

Interested?

Visit <https://glpevents.com/brownstownlocalmarket/> to apply



# Fountain CHIROPRACTIC CLINIC

24640 Telegraph Rd, Flat Rock, MI 48134

**(734) 782-0200**

fountainchiropracticclinic.com



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- Affordable family discounts

**Most insurance policies cover chiropractic treatment. Our staff would be happy to look into your insurance and chiropractic benefits. *Call today!***

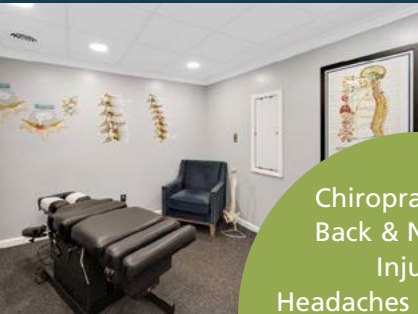
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examination with  
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"I've had lower back pain for 30 years that has affected my normal activities. Dr. Fountain has helped my spine become more flexible allowing me to play golf without any discomfort. Dr. Fountain and his staff are very accommodating with scheduling and let me walk in anytime I need to!"  
-Mark G.

**FIND RELIEF & WELLNESS TODAY**  
*FOR ALL OF LIFE'S CHANGES, LET US HELP YOU.*  
**IT'S TIME TO TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR HEALTH**



Chiropractic Care  
Back & Neck Pain  
Injuries  
Headaches & Migraines  
Extremity Pain  
Pregnancy & Kids  
Chiropractic Care  
Vertigo



**TAKING CHIROPRACTIC CARE TO THE NEXT LEVEL**

*Our team at Fountain Chiropractic Clinic is here to help you reach your goals.*

# BUILT FROM THE BACKYARD

## Josh Bates grows Mutha Shuckers cornhole into a powerhouse

By Ryan M. Place

**F**OR nearly two decades, Josh Bates has called Brownstown home, but his impact reaches far beyond his neighborhood. What began as a casual backyard discovery has grown into one of the USA's most recognizable cornhole communities, Mutha Shuckers.

"I didn't even know what cornhole was at first," Bates said. "Back in 2008, I was at a family reunion in Ohio and my uncle said, 'Let's play cornhole'. I said, 'Great. What's that?' We played all day and I never stopped."

When he returned home, Bates got to work. He built his own boards with a jigsaw and made his first set of bags by hand.

"Almost immediately, neighbors started asking for sets," he said. "That's when I realized the potential."

Mutha Shuckers, a grassroots cornhole collective, was born. What began in driveways and parking lots eventually grew into a full operation with leagues, regional tournaments and national recognition.

"Our very first league was in the Taylor AC parking lot," Bates said. "Now we're running leagues at Kudos Taproom (Taylor), Grizzly's (Wyandotte), Joe's Prime Time (Gibraltar). It's gotten bigger every single year."

Today, Bates runs a Tuesday night amateur league at Kudos with 56 teams, while his winter leagues regularly draw between 50-80 teams each. Once a side project supported by a day job, cornhole is now his full-time job.

"Cornhole is a mental game," he said. "The more you play, the better you get. It's fun, just get out there and throw."

Bates has served as a director for both the American Cornhole Organization and the American Cornhole League. In 2025, he was ACL's Regional Director of the Year out of 300 directors nationwide.

"That meant a lot," he said. "It shows how much this area has grown and how strong our community is."

He's watched the game evolve over nearly two decades, especially with the rise of younger players.

"There's some kids now, 13-16 years old, who are insanely good," Bates said. "The talent level is unbelievable."

Mutha Shuckers has also gained attention through its boards and bags. The group's "313" bags have been featured on ESPN, helping establish its name beyond Michigan.

Still, for Bates, the biggest draw isn't competition. It's the people.



"The people are amazing. That's what keeps me going," he said. "It's the social aspect. You meet so many great people doing this."

Mutha Shuckers hosts the annual cornhole challenge at the Brownstown Summer Festival and does events at the Brownstown Rec Center. He's also a regular at Champions Sports Grill.

Outside of cornhole, Bates enjoys watching Pistons and Wolverines basketball, supporting his son's travel basketball team, bass fishing on the Detroit River, and spending time glamping with friends at Jackson's Greenwood Acres.

"It's all about family, community and doing what I love," he said.

From homemade boards to a national powerhouse, Josh Bates has built more than a league. He's built an entire scene that keeps on growing.



# GLC Landscaping and Pools

Downriver's leader in professional landscaping By Kelsi Klein



**I**n today's saturated market, homeowners are faced with countless options for their landscaping needs, making it hard to decide which company to choose.

GLC Landscaping and Pools makes that decision easy for clients who are concerned with elevating their property to its fullest potential.

By raising the standards for professionalism, process and design, GLC offers a full-service approach for all landscaping projects, big or small, and has the ability to bring clients' visions to life.

From lawn care and landscape design to retaining walls and brick paving, GLC offers residential and commercial landscape services that include project planning, design, construction, installation and ongoing maintenance.

For over two decades, the family-owned business has been an integral part of the Downriver community, providing superior craftsmanship, tailored communication and seamless execution at every stage of each project they take on.

"Everything we do here is design-led, professionally built and carefully managed," said owner Eileen Lucia. "We design and tailor each project to make it unique to what are customers' needs are."

While GLC specializes in large-scale outdoor landscape construction projects, like custom pools and full backyard transformations, they follow the same design-first process and professionalism with smaller landscape makeovers.

Rather than taking a one-size-fits-all approach to clients' projects, GLC has a special intake process that ensures each

project is managed with care and attention at every stage.

First, prospective clients book a call with GLC to share their goals, objectives and style preferences.

"We talk through project ideas, goals, scope of work and what the design process looks like for us," said Lucia. "We really want them to know exactly what to expect before we send a consultant to their home."

The next step is scheduling an on-site consultation, where the GLC design team assesses the customer's property in person, going over details, measurements and budget.

When the customer decides to engage in design services with GLC, the creative process begins.

"Once we're all in agreement on the design and vision of where we're going, we would have a proposal with pricing and a plan of action for the

construction to

take place," Lucia explained. "Whether it's a front yard makeover or a complete pool and outdoor living space in the back, we do the same process regardless of the size of the project."

GLC creates a seamless, stress-free experience from concept to completion – through expert consultation, professional 3D design and award-winning installation. With more than 25 years of experience and 2,000-plus projects completed, they are committed to delivering results built on quality, expertise and trust.

To learn more about the GLC difference or to get started on your outdoor project, visit [www.glc landscapinginc.com](http://www.glc landscapinginc.com) or call (734) 472-2492.





# BRICKS & MINIFIGS

A LEGO® lovers' paradise By Kelsi Klein

**F**OR over 15 years, Bricks & Minifigs has been the number one aftermarket LEGO® toy store where customers can buy, sell and trade all things LEGO®.

This spring, Rick and Jennifer Jackson opened a new Bricks & Minifigs franchise in Brownstown, drawing hundreds to its grand opening in April.

For LEGO® enthusiasts and families alike, the locally owned shop is a welcome addition to the Downriver area, offering a large selection of minifigures, bulk bricks, accessories and much more.

"In the last five to 10 years, people have been telling me that I should open a LEGO® store because I have so much stuff," said Rick Jackson. "And I thought it would be awesome to be able to do that one day."

With that idea in the back of his mind, a late-night, fateful YouTube scroll introduced him to the Bricks & Minifigs franchise about three years ago.

After reaching out to the company on a whim, Jackson decided to go all in.

"I said that if I was going to make the leap to open a store, having a franchise with an established name would be the way to go," he said.

Choosing to go the franchise route allows the Jacksons to focus less on logistics and more on customers.

At Bricks & Minifigs Downriver, customers will find a wide range of everything, from retired LEGO® sets and old minifigures to brand new sets and everything in between.

The Brownstown location's inventory reflects both the Jacksons' dedication and resourcefulness.

Most of the used inventory was originally procured by the owners through Facebook Marketplace, yard sales and flea markets.

Many of the store's minifigures were purchased through online sources like BrickLink, the world's largest online marketplace to buy and sell LEGO®, and other franchise-

approved vendors.

What sets Bricks & Minifigs apart from other LEGO® retailers is the in-store experience. When customers enter the store, they might just leave with the oddly



specific LEGO® piece they have been looking for for years.

"I love helping customers. I want everyone to have that love of LEGO® like I have," said Rick, who personally helps customers find and order exactly what they're searching for.

The Jacksons aren't the only LEGO® experts at Bricks & Minifigs Downriver – their team members also have a wealth of knowledge, specializing in Star Wars, Marvel, DC and other popular LEGO® themes.

Beyond retail, the store allows customers to sell and trade at any time during business hours for in-store credit or cash.

While already having established a strong customer base since opening, Bricks & Minifigs is dedicated to becoming a community hub with a dedicated event space onsite for birthday parties, meetings and group activities starting this summer.

"One of the things I really liked about this franchise is that it's not just about being a retail store," said Jennifer Jackson. "It's about focusing on your community and getting involved."

For more information, visit the Bricks & Minifigs Downriver Facebook page or call (734) 301-3245.



# 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.



# Parks and Recreation



## Brownstown Recreation Department Office

Hours: Monday-Thursday  
8 a.m.-6 p.m.

Rentals taken until 5:30 p.m.

Call us at (734) 675-0920 or visit [www.brownstown-mi.org](http://www.brownstown-mi.org) and click on Recreation.

**Update:** We are currently taking registration at the Brownstown Event Center during the Community Center Renovation. We anticipate reopening the Community Center this summer. Please call (734) 675-0920 for current information.

Currently rentals, leagues and the splash pad all require electronic payment. (credit/debit/Apple Pay/ etc.). Beginning in fall of 2026 all payments to the Parks and Recreation Department will be required to be electronic. This means we will no longer accept cash or check payments. Please plan accordingly.

## Visit our Parks this Summer!

- **Capital Park** (East of Telegraph on Apollo Villa Road)
- **Culpepper Park** (South end, corner of West Jefferson and Culpepper)
- **Dawnshire Park** (South of Sibley in the Dawnshire subdivision)
- **Fairway Villa Park** (Van Horn, east of Telegraph)
- **Labo Island Park** (South end, off West Jefferson, between Leeland Street and Dan Street)
- **Prairie Creek Park** (King Road and Telegraph behind King Road ballfields.)
- **Thorn Park** (King Road/Telegraph Road)
- **Woodland Heights Park** (Sherry Drive in the Woodland Heights subdivision)

## Brownstown Community Garden Plots

Located near the Brownstown Historical House off King Road or behind the Brownstown Police station. Fee for the summer is \$20-\$25. Plots are still available for 2026 behind the police department. Historic House plots are currently full.



Check us out  
on **FACEBOOK!**

The township offices will be closed on the following days:  
May 25, July 2 and September 7

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### Youth Fishing Derby at Pointe Mouillee

Sunday, June 7

**Derby Runs:** 11 a.m.-1 p.m.  
Pointe Mouillee near the  
DNR office off Campau Road

Spend the morning at beautiful Pointe Mouillee. Kids must bring their own fishing gear.

Parents will register children 17 and under near the DNR Office the day of at Pointe Mouillee, there is no registration fee for this event. Registration starts at 10 a.m. Awards for biggest fish caught, most fish caught and smallest fish caught. All participants have a chance to win raffle prizes!



# BROWNSTOWN SUMMER FEST

Food Trucks • Live Music • Activities • So Much More!

## August 14 & 15 2026

Thorn Park Campus, 21311 Telegraph Road

For more details visit <https://brownstownsummerfest.com>

### Summer Carnival Program – New!

In partnership with the Woodhaven Brownstown School District

Get ready to turn up the summer fun! We are thrilled to invite families to the Summer Carnival Program – a series of high-energy, community-building events designed to keep the learning alive and the smiles even wider while school is out.

Whether you're looking to keep your student's brain sharp or just want a place to let the kids burn off some energy, we've got something for everyone. Mark your calendars for these five big days of sun and excitement:

- June 24, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
- July 6, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.\*
- July 21, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
- August 12, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
- August 19, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

All dates at the Brownstown Event Center, 23345 King Road except July 6 at Thorn Park.

### What's Happening at the Carnival?

We've packed the schedule with activities for all ages:

- Early On Music Class: A high-energy, rhythmic experience specifically designed for our littlest warriors.
- "Thinkstretch" Check-ins: Bring your workbooks! We're hosting dedicated check-in stations to celebrate your student's progress and keep those academic muscles flexed.
- School-Aged Fun: From interactive games to "much more" surprises, there are plenty of activities tailored to keep older kids engaged and entertained.
- "Young Athletes" Sessions: A couple dedicated sessions of this inclusive sports play program to get those hearts pumping and motor skills moving!

Don't let the summer slide get in the way of a good time. Come join your friends, meet your teachers and make some memories at the WBSD Summer Carnival!

*Parks & Rec continued on page 28*

## SPLASH PAD Located in Thorn Park

**OPEN SATURDAY, MAY 23 -  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2026**

Weather permitting

All payments for the splash pad  
must be made via electronic payment.  
(Credit card, Apple Pay, etc.)

Cash will not be accepted at the splash pad  
and staff will not have change.

\$3 per person per session.

Sunday-Saturday 11 a.m.-1p.m.,  
1:30-3:30 p.m. and 4-6 p.m.

Kids 12 and under need a paying adult  
in the splash pad with them. No presales.

*Please note that closures may occur and  
parking will be limited during construction.*

## THORN PARK PICKLEBALL COURTS

Opening Summer 2026

Please call (734) 675-0920  
for up-to-date information.

# Parks and Recreation

continued from page 27

## Summer Concerts in the Park

Sponsored by Gillium Insurance Services

At the Brownstown Event Center, 23345 King Road  
Music starts at 7 p.m. and continues until 9 p.m.

- **June 18: Jukebox Heroes Detroit** – Foreigner Tribute
- **July 16: Taylor Tucky** – Rock/Country
- **August 6: Detroit Light** – Classic Rock

Bottoms Up N' More will be selling beverages on June 18, July 16 and August 6. Busta Dawgs will be selling food onsite on June 18 and July 16

## Movies in the Park

Sponsored by All Weather Comfort Solutions

Join us Fridays at dusk!

At various township parks.

- **June 26:** Hunter Park – **Sponge Bob Movie**
- **July 24:** International Wildlife Refuge – **GOAT**
- **Aug. 7:** Woodland Heights Park – **Mario Galaxy 2**

Family activities will start by 7 p.m., and end when the movie starts at dusk. Sno Biz Delight will be selling treats onsite July 24.

## Brownstown Summer Beautification Awards

Judging: **August 18, 6:30 p.m.**

The Brownstown Beautification/Historical Commission will be accepting home nominations for beautification awards until Thursday, August 6. This contest is offered to all Brownstown residents and businesses. Residents may nominate themselves, another resident or a business. The nominator must provide name, address of nominated home or business. Commissioners and elected officials are not eligible. Properties will be judged on property attractiveness, landscaping and curb appeal. All nominations must be submitted via email to mattheww@brownstown-mi.org by 4 p.m. Thursday, August 6.

## 38th Annual Downriver Senior Olympics – hosted this year by the city of Lincoln Park

Starting Monday, August 10 with opening ceremonies at 9:00 a.m. Games and events continue throughout the week at the 18 participating Downriver communities. Closing ceremonies will be held at Prestige Banquet Hall at noon on Friday, August 14 during an Unity Awards Banquet honoring the senior olympians who participated throughout the week. All registrations due by June 30.

*All registration and programs held at the Brownstown Event at 23345 King Road unless otherwise noted. Once Community Center construction is complete, most programs will move back to the Community Center.*

*All swim lessons are in partnership with Woodhaven/Brownstown School District.*

## Red Cross-Swim Lessons

**Swimmers must live in the Woodhaven Brownstown School District**

Woodhaven High School, Instructor Blake Bannon  
Lessons are held on Monday/Wednesday each week. .

- **Summer 1:** Registration will begin on May 28  
Classes will run June 1-24 (8 Lessons)
- **Summer 2:** Registration will begin on June 25  
Classes run August 3-26 (8 Lessons)

**\*You must have passed previous Red Cross level to move up. Present Red Cross level card to sign up for levels 2-5. Lessons are \$75 per person, per session.**

- **Parent Tot:** 5-5:30 p.m. M//W
- **Level 1:** 5:30-6 p.m. M/W
- **Level 2:** 6-6:30 p.m. M/W
- **Level 3:** 6:30-7 p.m. M/W
- **Level 4:** 7-7:30 p.m. M/W
- **Level 5:** 7:30-8 p.m. M/W
- **Adult and Teen:** 8-9 p.m. W

## Sensory Friendly Swim Lessons with Arbor Autism Centers

Sponsored in part by Brownstown Professional Firefighters Union Local 4112 and Woodhaven-Brownstown Rotary

Swim Lessons for children with autism or other neuro-diversities. Is your child unable to attend regular swimming lessons? This class may be for them! An adult over the age of 18 must always be in the water with participant during the lesson. **Please call the Recreation Department for upcoming sessions. Next session will begin in fall 2026. Price for fall will be released in August.**

Lessons begin at \$195 and the price comes down as we receive sponsorships. If you are interested in sponsoring lessons to lower the cost to families, please contact [teresag@brownstown-mi.org](mailto:teresag@brownstown-mi.org).

Special thanks to Actron Systems for sponsoring \$1,000 toward our spring session his year.

## Youth Golf League: Grades 6-12

In partnership with Lake Erie Metro Park Golf Course

Wednesdays, June 24-July 22

Registration begins: April 27

Tee times: 9-11 a.m.

Fee: \$115 per participant.

You must bring your own equipment and know how to play. Declare your partners up to a foursome at time of registration. Participants without partners will be paired up with other participants. Games with prizes at the end of the season.

### Co-ed Youth Pickleball Clinic

In Partnership with Downriver Pickleball Club of Michigan

Saturday, TBD as soon as courts are finished.

Time: 12-2 p.m.

Ages: 8-14

Fee: \$50 all participants get their own paddles and ball

Register with Brownstown Parks and Recreation

Location: Thorn Park Pickleball Courts

This program will introduce young people to this fast-growing sport in a fun, structured and safe environment. Each child will take home their very own pickleball paddle and balls! Limit of 24 participants, we will take a waiting list and offer a second session if we have enough interest. Call the recreation department for more information.

### Karate with Progressive Tactics

Classes held at the Brownstown Event Center. Call for a free trial (313) 520-2057 or visit [progressivetactics.com](http://progressivetactics.com) for more



information. Registration takes place with the instructor at class. Family discount available. Instructor Bill Barker.

- **Youth 7-12:** Monday and Wednesday, 6-6:55 p.m. Fee: \$65/month, two days a week.
- **Little Dragon 4-6:** Monday, 6:05-6:45 p.m. Fee: \$50/month, one day a week.
- **Little Tigers 3-4:** Monday, 5:30-6:05 p.m. Fee: \$50/month, one day a week.
- **Adult 13+:** Monday and Wednesdays, 7-7:55 p.m. Fee: \$65/month, two days a week.
- **Adult/Filipino Arts 13+:** Wednesday, 8-9:30 p.m. Fee: \$50/month, one day a week.

### Soccer in Partnership with Michigan Jaguars FC

Location: Thorn Park Soccer Fields

Registration is open to both boys and girls, aged preschool (3 years) to sixth grade.

Information and registration online at <https://michiganjaguarsfc.com/>.



### Baseball/Softball in partnership with Taylor South/Brownstown Little League

Location: Arsenal or Fort/Gibraltar Fields

To register visit:

<https://clubs.bluesombrero.com/tsllmichigan>

or for information email:

[taylorssouthlittleleague@gmail.com](mailto:taylorssouthlittleleague@gmail.com)



## ADULT PROGRAMS Summer Exercise Classes

### Easy Flow Yoga

Have fun while you learn the gentle postures (asanas) and restorative breathing techniques. Let this class help you to remove all the damaging effects of



our stressful lives and improve your overall strength, balance and stamina. All ages and levels welcome. Wear comfortable, stretchy clothing and bring a mat, rug or blanket. Please refrain from eating an hour before class.

- **Tuesdays, 6:15-7:15 p.m.**  
Summer: July 7 - August 25
  - **Thursdays, 6:15-7:15 p.m.**  
Summer: July 9 - August 27
- Fee: \$48

### Pilates Mini-Session

Enjoy learning gentle postures that help you concentrate on a full body workout with an emphasis on core strength.

- **Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m.**  
Summer: June 9 - 30  
Fee: \$24  
Location: Brownstown Event Center,  
23345 King Road

### Co-ed Adult Pickleball League

Downriver Major League Pickleball (DMLP). In partnership with Downriver Pickleball League of Michigan

Days: Tuesdays, TBD as soon as courts are finished.

Times: 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Age: 18+

Fee: \$85

Location: Thorn Park Pickleball Courts

All wishing to play must enter the draft. Submit your info and \$45 deposit to the draft portal through the Downriver Pickleball Facebook page. The \$45 deposit will be returned if you are not chosen in the raffle.



### Fall Softball – Men's and Coed Leagues

Registration begins on Monday, August 3.

*Parks & Rec continued on page 30*

# Parks and Recreation

*continued from page 29*

## SENIOR PROGRAMS

All registration and programs held at the Brownstown Event Center unless otherwise noted. When renovations are complete, programs will return to the Community Center.

### Senior Activities And Events

Brownstown and surrounding community residents 50 and over are welcome to participate in a wide variety of programs, events and trips. Check out our monthly calendar at <https://brownstown-mi.org>.

### SMART SENIOR Transportation

Residents of Brownstown can take advantage of the Senior Bus Transportation services through a SMART Specialized Services Grant. This service is available to disabled residents of Brownstown or persons 60 years of age or older. The cost is \$1 for shopping trips (Meijer, Kroger, Target, Aldi, Walmart, and Trentwood Market) or occasional educational and social field trips. You can apply for the program by completing an application and submitting a copy of your driver's license or state ID at the Event Center.

Now offering medical trips, a \$3 roundtrip ride to a medical or dental appointment with a seven-day advance registration on Monday-Thursday between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. Approved residents can call (734) 675-0920 to register for transportation within our service area.

### The Senior Nutrition Program

You must meet the qualifications for these programs.

Sponsored by Wayne County, congregate meals are served at noon Monday through Thursday at the Event Center. There is a suggested donation of \$4 per meal. Sign up to join us by calling Joanie at (734) 675-5902, Monday-Thursday between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Meals on Wheels home delivery is also available Monday-Thursday for seniors. You must call the Lajoy Group at (734) 259-7584 Monday-Thursday 9 a.m.-12 p.m. to sign up or for more information.

### Monthly Activities

- **Travel Club** – First Monday of each month at 11 a.m., with three vendors presenting trips. Representatives from Bianco, Premiere World Discovery and Custom Holidays will be in attendance.
- **Pleasure Seekers** – Third Thursday of each month, 1:00 p.m. potluck lunch followed by Bingo. Annual membership is \$10. Accepting new members!
- **Brownstown Book Buffs Book Club (Trenton Library during the Community Center Renovation)** – Second Thursday of each month from 10 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., with coffee and cookies.

- **Game Day** – Second Thursday of each month at 1 p.m. Enjoy a light lunch and beverages while you play board games and cards of your choice. Sign up in advance and pay \$4 at the Event Center.
- **Breakfast Bingo** – Third Monday of every month at 9:00 a.m. Brownstown firefighters cook pancakes and sausage. Sign up in advance: \$2. Bingo is \$3 and paid for at the breakfast.
- **Taste of Brownstown** – Fourth Monday of each month at 5 p.m. Sign up in advance. We will visit different local restaurants each month.
- **Feisty Red Hats Club** – Second Monday of each month. This group meets offsite during the Community Center renovation. If you are interested in having fun, going to lunch, plays, teas, and more, then check out the Feisty Red Hat Club, call for more info.

### Weekly Activities

- **Beginner Line Dance** with Marion Baxter Tuesdays at 1 p.m. \$2 for drop-in class. Great exercise and a fun way to meet people!
- **Senior Exercise Drop-In-Free!** – Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Once back in the Community Center, class will be Monday-Thursday. No Fridays.

### Special Events

*Held at the Event Center unless otherwise noted.*

- **Tuesday, May 26** – Annual Senior Memorial Day Picnic at the Event Center. 1-3 p.m. Free, requires registration.
- **Saturday, June 13** – Wayne County Senior FunFest, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Bus departs around 10 a.m. Free, requires registration in advance.
- **Thursday, June 25** – Senior Garden Party. Themed lunch and music at Event Center, 1 p.m. Fee \$15, requires registration in advance.
- **Wednesday, July 1** – Brownstown Seniors America's 250 Independence Celebration. Lunch and music. Fee \$15, register in advance.
- **Thursday, July 30** – Melodies at the Museum with Maria Meirelles. Time TBD for bus ride. Lunch at Pegasus with a stop at Astoria Bakery, cost on your own. Fee \$10, require registration in advance.
- **August 10-14** – Downriver Senior Olympics, Lincoln Park. Register at the Event Center beginning the first week of June.
- **August 14 & 15** – Brownstown Summerfest – Senior Bingo. Open to the public, time TBD.

## Travel

### In partnership with Bianco Tours

Call (734) 675-0920 or online at [brownstown-mi.org](http://brownstown-mi.org)

- Fleetwood & Friends at Zehnder's: July 15, 8:45 a.m., \$136
- Michigan Grown: July 30, 7:45 a.m., \$99
- Saugatuck, MI: Aug. 19, 7:30 a.m., \$172
- Pioneer Trail: Sep. 24, 8:45 a.m., \$124
- Fiesta Detroit: Oct. 13, 8:30 a.m., \$126
- The Parade Company: Nov. 17, 8:30 a.m., \$121

### In Partnership with Premier World Discovery

To book Premiere World Discovery call (877) 953- 8687. Give the group agent the Brownstown booking number located on the back of the travel brochure in the upper-left corner to qualify for Brownstown amenities.

Premier World Discovery is an innovative tour operator specializing in Worldwide Guided Travel and is committed to providing extraordinary, guided travel programs and excellent customer service.

- Alpine countries – Switzerland, Austria and Germany: **June 4, 2026**, 9 days at \$5,699 pp/dbl w/BD\*
- Nova Scotia and the Canadian Maritimes: **August 10, 2026**, 9 days at \$4,625 pp/dbl w/BD\*
- Music cities – New Orleans, Memphis and Nashville: **October 5, 2026**, 8 days at \$4,024 pp/dbl w/BD\*
- Discover Japan by Bullet Train: **November 5, 2026**, 12 days at \$8,224 pp/dbl w/BD\*
- Santa Fe holiday: **December 2, 2026**, 5 days starting at \$2,750 pp/dbl w/BD\*
- Historic Savannah and Charleston holiday, **December 4, 2026**, 7 days at \$3,899 pp/dbl w/BD\*
- Prague, Budapest and Danube Christmas Markets River Cruise, **December 4, 2026**, 9 days at \$4,920 pp/dbl w/BD\*

*\*BD is a booking discount. If you make final payment by check 75 days prior to trip date, Premier World Discovery honors a \$100 per person booking discount. We have a couple more trips in the works, so look out for some new brochures.*

### In Partnership with Custom Holidays

Email [info@customholidaysonline.com](mailto:info@customholidaysonline.com) or call (313) 388-0448 to sign up.

Custom Holidays offers a variety of travel experiences that can be scheduled by calling them directly and mentioning that you are a member of the Brownstown Travel Club. Alternatively, you can complete the lower portion of the Custom Holidays travel flyer and submit it, along with your check or credit card details, to the front desk staff at the Brownstown Community Center.

Check out Custom Holidays website for one day trips, multi-day trips, cruises, and more at <https://customholidaysonline.com>.

## FACILITY RENTALS

**The Brownstown Community Center and the Thorn Park Shelter are not currently taking reservations due to renovations.** We plan to open rentals for 2026 and 2027 sometime soon. Event Center reservations are limited during this time. Please call for up-to-date information.

### Brownstown Event Center

Located at 23345 King Road, the Event Center is an elegant location to hold showers, graduation parties or even weddings. During the in-season time a large outdoor area provides a beautiful space for wedding ceremonies. In the offseason, it provides a beautiful backdrop for any special occasion.

### Thorn Park Shelter Rental\*

**Not available until renovations are complete**

A \$200 rental fee plus \$200 returnable deposit is required. Reserving the shelter does not guarantee the use of the splash pad. Thorn Park Shelter rentals are available for Brownstown residents only. Renter must remain present at party. If the shelter is not reserved, it will be available for public users of the splash pad and park. Only reserved parties are allowed in the shelter. This will be enforced by our park supervisor and staff.

Rentals must be done in person at the Community Center. No rentals Memorial Day weekend, Fourth of July or Labor Day weekend. Alcohol is not permitted in the shelter or the park. Please see list of rules posted online and at Thorn Park Shelter.

### Brownstown Community Center\*

**Not available until renovations are complete**

Located at 21311 Telegraph, the Brownstown Community Center has been the place for Downriver special events for many years. The Community Center has a total of six rooms for individual or combination rent. A full-service kitchen is also available for rent to those with a food handling license.

Whether you rent all rooms for your large wedding or a single room for a birthday, shower, anniversary or meeting, the Community Center is sure to have an affordable combination that will suit a variety of needs.

# Meaningful Connections

## Brownstown DDA Resource Fair brings big opportunities to small businesses

**T**HE Brownstown Downtown Development Authority recently welcomed Tech Town Detroit for the Brownstown Resource Fair. The event focused on connecting local businesses with the tools and support they need to grow.

Hosted as part of the Wayne County Small Business Initiative in partnership with TechTown Detroit, the event took place at Let Love Rule Screen Printing event space and delivered an afternoon filled with practical insights, one-on-one guidance and meaningful connections.

The Brownstown Resource Fair brought together a variety of organizations dedicated to small business success, including Develop Downriver, the Southern Wayne County Regional Chamber, the U.S. Small Business Administration, and the MOVE America Apex Accelerator. Representatives from these groups were on hand to share information about funding opportunities, business development programs and regional support services available to entrepreneurs.

Attendees had the opportunity to explore resources tailored to businesses at every stage, from startups just getting off the ground to established companies looking to expand.

One of the highlights of the event was the opportunity for participants to sit down with TechTown strategists for brief, one-on-one coaching sessions. These personalized conversations gave business owners the chance to ask questions, get feedback and walk away with actionable ideas specific to their needs.



Brownstown Trustee Patrick Killian talks with Tech Town Detroit staff.



SWCRC Senior Director of Membership Engagement Monique Reister speaks with Jonathan Stone and Jeff Karpinski from Greater Detroit Auto Auction.


From marketing strategies to operational improvements, the sessions provided immediate value and left many attendees feeling more confident about their next steps.

Beyond the educational component, the event created a welcoming space for networking and collaboration. Business owners connected with one another, exchanged ideas and began forming relationships.

Events like the Brownstown Resource Fair highlight the importance of local collaboration in strengthening our small business community by bringing together organizations, resources and entrepreneurs in one place. The initiative continues to make it easier for businesses to find the support they need to succeed.

As the Brownstown DDA continues to invest in its business community, opportunities like this serve as a reminder that help is always available.





# TOUCH



# A



# TRUCK

**FREE EVENT**

**June 20<sup>th</sup> 2026 10am-2pm**

Quiet Hour: 10am-11am

No horns and sirens for our friends with sensitive ears!

**Brownstown Ballfields**

23610 King Road

**Rotary**

Club of Woodhaven-Brownstown



**BROWNSTOWN**

**DDA**

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

# 'Accepted and Cared For'

## Success Virtual Learning Center offers flexible options for Downriver students By Kelsi Klein

**S**UCCESS Virtual Learning Centers of Michigan's Taylor Downriver location continues to provide an alternative path for high school students, offering flexible, personalized education options designed to meet a wide range of academic needs.

### Open to all students

While the Downriver location is physically located in Taylor, enrollment is not limited to those within the Taylor School District boundary.

"We want families to know we're available to all Downriver students," Nowicki said. "You don't have to go through an out-of-district process to attend."

Success Virtual Learning Centers of Michigan accepts expelled or suspended students following a review of their behavior records, and students with an IEP or 504 plan. Their vision is to "be a place where every student, regardless of their past, feels 100 percent accepted and cared for."

### How it works

Success Virtual Learning Centers of Michigan was designed to be a non-traditional education option for students ages 14-21 who may not thrive in a traditional classroom setting.

With 10 locations across the state, these centers have helped thousands of students stay on track academically and graduate at their own pace with individualized support.

The accredited, tuition-free public school allows students to complete high school courses on their own schedule and is an 18-credit Michigan Merit Curriculum only program without elective requirements.

Each student receives a customized learning plan tailored to their goals, schedule and academic standing. Certified teachers are available for one-on-one assistance, both in person at the center and virtually, ensuring students have consistent guidance throughout their coursework.

### Online learning extras

Opportunities for hands-on experiences through internships, mentorships, field trips, clubs, career fairs and extracurricular activities are also provided to students who choose to be more involved.

Different levels of support are available to students as needed including counseling, social and emotional

programming, intervention services, special education services, career advisors and much more.

Beyond academics, Success Virtual Learning Center also provides incentives for student success. Those in good academic standing may be eligible for free driver's training, an additional benefit meant to help support students both in and out of the classroom.



**SUCCESS**  
VIRTUAL LEARNING  
Centers of Michigan



### Credit recovery

In addition to standard school-year programming, Success Virtual Learning Centers of Michigan offers a free summer credit recovery program.

"We specialize in helping students who are behind in credits or potentially unable to graduate on time to graduate on time or as close to it as possible," Nowicki said. "We're a good fit for kids who just don't fit the mold of regular school."

Open to both enrolled students and those attending local districts with counselor approval, the six-week program provides an opportunity to catch up or get ahead without the financial burden of traditional summer school.

Families interested in enrolling can visit the Taylor Downriver center at 24680 Eureka Road from 8 a.m.-4 p.m., call (734) 992-6914 or visit [www.successmichigan.org](http://www.successmichigan.org) for more information.



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# Destination Downriver

DestinationDownriver.com

## Protecting a Rare Natural Treasure in Brownstown: The Sibley Prairie

Tucked within Brownstown Township lies one of Michigan's most extraordinary natural landscapes: Sibley Prairie. Spanning 440 acres, this rare ecosystem is one of the last remaining lake plain prairies in the state, a habitat that has nearly disappeared from southeast Michigan. Sibley Prairie is the largest and highest-quality example of its kind, supporting a diverse mix of prairie, wetland, and forest habitats. It has been identified as the top site among dozens surveyed across Michigan.

### Among its ecological highlights:

- 15 threatened or special concern plant species
- The state-threatened Duke's skipper butterfly
- An exceptional level of biodiversity



There is strong momentum to protect it. Brownstown Township is pursuing funding through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to acquire and preserve the property, with additional support possible through statewide conservation programs.

### If protected, Sibley Prairie would expand opportunities for:

- Birdwatching and wildlife observation
- Outdoor recreation
- Environmental education

### Beyond its beauty, the prairie provides critical environmental benefits:

- Reduces flooding risks
- Improves water quality by filtering runoff
- Supports climate resilience by storing carbon and moderating temperatures

In a rapidly developing region, spaces like this are essential infrastructure, not luxuries.

Opportunities to preserve land of this scale and quality are rare. Protecting Sibley Prairie would safeguard a unique ecosystem while expanding access to green space in Wayne County.

The future of Sibley Prairie depends on community awareness and action. For Brownstown Township and the Downriver region, this is a chance to protect a natural legacy and ensure future generations can experience one of Michigan's last remaining prairies. For more information go to [www.savesibleyprairie.org](http://www.savesibleyprairie.org)





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#### 1:1 Technology

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#### Cultural Appreciation

We celebrate the different cultures that make our school and community so bright!



#### Family Friendly

We're committed to partnering with families, so please volunteer!



#### Logistically Manageable

Bus transportation for K-12 students is available at local hubs.

## ENROLLMENT IS NOW OPEN

**Secure your child's spot for the 2026-2027 school year.**

Our program is 100% tuition-free and available to students throughout Southeast Michigan. Enrollment is now open!



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**If you have questions or would like additional information about our preschool-12 programming, please call 734-789-1428 or visit [www.summitacademy.com/visitus](http://www.summitacademy.com/visitus)**



# A DEDICATED PARTNER

## Advantage One Credit Union Strengthens Community Through Outreach and Support

By Kelsi Klein

**A**DVANTAGE ONE Credit Union has not only been a staple financial institution in the Brownstown area for years, but also a dedicated community partner.

Over the years, the credit union has built a strong reputation as a committed supporter of Downriver schools, teachers and students, consistently investing in initiatives that benefit students both inside and outside the classroom. From sponsoring school programs like robotics teams, softball teams and marching bands to donating raffle baskets and branded items for fundraisers, Advantage One plays an active role in strengthening a sense of community across Downriver schools.

One of the credit union's major education initiatives is its student scholarship program designed to provide financial aid to individuals pursuing further education. Each spring, Advantage One awards four \$2,500 scholarships to traditional college or university students, trade school attendees and adults continuing their education. One of the scholarships is reserved specifically for an Advantage One member, while another is designated specifically for an adult learner.

In recent years, the credit union has expanded its educational impact through a popular teacher grant program. Now in its third year, the campaign allows local teachers to share how they would use a \$500 grant to benefit their classroom. Ten winners are selected annually, and more than 100 teacher grant applications were submitted last year alone.

"Teacher grant time is my favorite time of year," said Community Outreach Coordinator Lindsay Dennis. "Teachers spend so much of their own money and time on their classrooms, and they don't always get the recognition they deserve, so I love seeing how we can help meet the needs that these teachers have and it brings instant tears

to my eyes to see how happy they are."

Beyond formal programs and initiatives, Advantage One is dedicated to supporting educators and students year-round. Last fall, after learning that some local teachers were personally covering the costs of snacks for students who came to school without adequate food, the credit union stepped in to provide classroom snacks, truly personifying their philosophy of "people helping people."

The same spirit of giving extends into Advantage One's daily operations as they prioritize giving back to the broader community. For the past three years, Advantage



One has donated \$5,000 to the Taylor School District's Resource Closet (formerly known as Blessings in a Backpack), which helps provide essential items and support to local families in need.

Financial education is another cornerstone of Advantage One's community outreach. The credit union teaches essential money management skills through interactive reality fairs and classroom presentations with hands-on experiences that help students build financial literacy

skills that will last a lifetime.

Additionally, the credit union volunteers annually at the Taylor Schools Special Olympics, works with Sleep in Heavenly Peace to help build beds for children in need and is actively involved with organizations like the Downriver West Kiwanis Club and the Woodhaven-Brownstown Rotary Club.

"I'm very blessed to have a job where I can see the difference we make in our community," Dennis said.

To learn more about Advantage One Credit Union, visit [www.myaocu.com](http://www.myaocu.com) or call the Brownstown branch at (734) 676-7000.



# 2025 Drinking Water Quality Report

MARCH 2026 – WQR NO. 28

## **ATTENTION: THIS IS AN IMPORTANT REPORT ON WATER QUALITY AND SAFETY**

**The Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) and the Brownstown Township Department of Public Works want you to know your tap water is safe to drink and that it meets or surpasses all federal and state standards for quality and safety.**

Drinking water quality is important to our community and the region. The Charter Township of Brownstown 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. Brownstown Township 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 Brownstown Township 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.

## **How Do We Know The Water Is Safe To Drink?**

GLWA treatment facilities operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The treatment process begins with disinfecting the source water with chlorine to kill harmful microorganisms that can cause illness. Next, a chemical called Alum is mixed with the water to remove fine particles that make the water cloudy or turbid. Alum causes the particles to clump together and settle to the bottom. Fluoride is also added to protect our teeth from cavities and decay.

The water then flows through fine sand filters called beds. These filters remove even more particles and certain microorganisms that are resistant to chlorine. Finally, small amounts of phosphoric acid and chlorine are added to the treated water just before it leaves the treatment plant. The phosphoric acid helps control the lead that may dissolve in water from household plumbing systems. The chlorine keeps the water disinfected as it travels through water mains to reach your home.

In addition to a carefully controlled and monitored treatment process, the water is tested for a variety of substances before treatment, during various stages of treatment, and throughout the distribution system. Highly

qualified trained staff test hundreds of samples each week in GLWA-certified laboratories. GLWA water not only meets safety and health standards, but also ranks among the top 10 in the country for quality and value.

## **Detroit River Intakes**

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 a 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.

The Charter Township of Brownstown and the Great Lakes Water Authority are committed to safeguarding our water supply and delivering the highest quality drinking water to protect public health. Please contact us with any questions or concerns about your water.

*Water Report continued on page 42*

## Key to the Detected Contaminants Table

Symbol	Abbreviation	Definition/Explanation
AL	Action Level	The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
°C	Celsius	A scale of temperature in which water freezes at 0° and boils at 100° under standard conditions.
>	Greater than	
HAA5	Haloacetic Acids	HAA5 is the total of bromoacetic, chloroacetic, dibromoacetic, 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	
ng/L	Nanograms per liter	The ng/L is equivalent to nanogram per liter. A nanogram = 1/1,000,000 milligram.
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.
µohms	Microohms	Measure of electrical conductance of water

## WATER QUALITY DATA TABLE

The tables below list all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA and/or the State require us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once a year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently.

### Southwest Water Treatment Plant 2025 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	2-11-2025	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	2-11-2025	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 ppb – 14 ppb	1	Lead services lines, corrosion of household plumbing including fittings and fixtures; erosion of natural deposits.
Copper	ppm	2025	1.3	1.3	0.1 ppm	0.0 ppm – 0.2 ppm	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	50	11 ppb – 50 ppb	no	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	2025	ppb	n/a	60	20	2.7 ppb – 20 ppb	no	By-product of drinking water chlorination

## Southwest Water Treatment Plant 2025 Regulated Detected Contaminants Table

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			

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.

2025 Special Monitoring						
Contaminant	Test Date	Unit	MCLG	MCL	Highest Level Detected	Source of Contaminant
Sodium	2-11-25	ppm	n/a	n/a	6.8	Erosion of natural deposits

*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.*

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. <i>On track to meet the deadline.</i>
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. <i>On track to meet the deadline.</i>

## Additional Information

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which provide the same protection for public health. 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 hot line (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 dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, 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 discharges, 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, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- **Radioactive contaminants**, which are naturally occurring or may 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 water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for "public health." Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in

drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as a 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).

## Information About Lead

There is no safe level of lead in drinking water. Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups. Infants and children can have decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can lead to new learning and behavior problems or exacerbate existing learning and behavior problems. The children of persons who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have increased risk of these adverse health effects. Adults can have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney, or nervous system problems.

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. Brownstown 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

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home plumbing and the lead service line. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact the Brownstown Water Department at 734-675-4000 for available resources. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <https://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

### Service Lines

Brownstown Township has 10,037 service lines. No lines are known to be lead and 80 are not known. The Complete Distribution System Materials Inventory can be found at <https://bit.ly/CDSMI>.

### Other Monitoring

In addition to testing we are required to perform, our water system voluntarily tests for hundreds of additional substances and microscopic organisms to make certain our water is safe and of the highest quality. For a more detailed report, contact the GLWA Water Quality Division at (313) 926-8102.

### Helpful Hints On Prevention Of Water Waste

- **Toilet Leaks:** This is the most common water waster but tends to be less noticeable than faucet leaks. To determine if your toilet is leaking, look at the toilet bowl after the tank has stopped filling. If water is still running, your toilet is leaking. Most leaks occur at the overflow pipe or at the plunger ball inside the tank. To locate a leak, take the tank lid off and flush. The water level should come up to about a half inch or so below the overflow pipe. Adjust the float level control screw, if necessary, so the valve shuts off the water at that level. If the valve itself is leaking you may need a plumber to fix it. Although you may not hear or see water running, your toilet could have a silent leak. To test for a silent leak, drop a little food coloring into the tank. DO NOT FLUSH. Wait for about 10 – 30 minutes. If food coloring appears in the bowl, you have a silent leak.
- **Lawn Watering:** If you have an automatic sprinkler system, check the heads periodically. Be sure they haven't shifted direction, causing water to be sprayed everywhere except on the lawn. Do your lawn sprinkling early in the morning, between 12:00 am and 5:00 am, when water demand is low. After about 10:00 a.m., both heat and evaporation go up, robbing the lawn of moisture. Don't water your lawn too much.
- **Running Water:** When brushing your teeth, washing your hair, shaving, rinsing vegetables, washing dishes etc., don't let the water run. You are probably using at least one (1) gallon a minute, most of it wasted.

- **Kitchen:** Use the automatic dishwasher for full loads only. Keep a bottle of drinking water in the refrigerator. Running tap water to cool it off for drinking water is wasteful. Check faucets and pipes for leaks. Leaks waste water 24 hours a day, seven days a week and often can be repaired with only an inexpensive washer.
- **Outside:** Many beautiful trees and plants thrive with far less watering than other species. Use a broom, not a hose, to clean driveways and sidewalks. Don't run the hose while washing your car. Clean the car with a pail of soapy water. Use the hose just to rinse it off. Check for leaks in pipes, hoses, faucets, and couplings. Leaks outside the house may not seem as bad since they're not as visible, but they can be just as wasteful as leaks inside. Check frequently and keep them drip-free.

Think about water. It's yours for the taking, 24 hours a day. All you have to do is turn on a faucet. But where does it come from? The water you use doesn't appear magically. It's a carefully manufactured product clean, safe and piped directly into your home. It is a valuable resource that shouldn't be wasted. Water will recycle itself eventually. But the high-quality water that we need and expect in our homes is not an infinite resource. Besides, you're paying for every drop whether it's used or wasted. So conservation can benefit your pocketbook, too.

### Help Save Water – Avoid 6 to 10

The Charter Township of Brownstown is seeking resident's cooperation to keep the increase in our Water Rates to a minimum. The major factor that contributes to the rate increase from our supplier, the Great Lakes Water Authority is our "Peak Demand" requirements. Demand for beautiful, lush green lawns has increased. For some unknown reason, sprinkler installers and residents have selected their lawn irrigation systems to automatically 'water' during the periods of highest water usage!

How can you assist? The greatest demand for water is between the hours of 6 and 10 in the morning, and then again from 6 to 10 in the evening! Drive down the street and you'll be amazed to see that this is also the most popular time to 'water' the lawn! It is suggested that you voluntarily water either on the 'odd' or 'even' days that correspond with your street address! Even more important-Totally avoid lawn irrigation between the heavy demand periods of 6 to 10 in the morning and again at 6 to 10 in the evening!

## SEVEN SIMPLE STEPS TO CLEAN WATER

- 1. Help keep pollution out of storm drains.** Storm drains lead to our lakes and streams. Any oil, pet waste, leaves, or dirty water from washing your car that enters a storm drain gets into our lakes and streams. With almost 5 million people living in Southeast Michigan, we all need to be aware of what goes in our storm drains. **REMEMBER, ONLY RAIN IN THE DRAIN!**
- 2. Fertilize sparingly and carefully.** Storm drains in our streets and yards empty into our lakes and streams. When we fertilize our lawn, we could also be fertilizing our lakes and streams. While fertilizer is good for our lawn, it's bad for our water. Fertilizer in our lakes and streams causes algae to grow. Algae can form large blooms and use oxygen that fish need to survive. With 1.5 million homes in southeast Michigan, all of us need to be aware of the cumulative effects of our lawn care practices. What can you do? Simple. **USE FERTILIZER LOW IN PHOSPHORUS**, select a slow-release fertilizer where at least half of the nitrogen is "water insoluble" (check the ingredients on the label), keep fertilizer away from lakes, streams, and storm drains, and **SWEEP EXCESS FERTILIZER** back into your lawn.
- 3. Carefully store and dispose of household cleaner, chemicals, and oil.** Antifreeze, household cleaners, gasoline, pesticides, oil paints, solvents, and motor oil are just some of the common household products that enter our storm drains. You can help keep these out of our lakes and streams. Instead of putting these items in the trash, down the storm drain, or on the ground, **TAKE THEM TO A LOCAL HAZARDOUS WASTE CENTER OR COLLECTION DAY.**
- 4. Clean up after your pet.** Most of us pick up after our pets to be a good neighbor and keep our yard clean. But there's another important reason. Pet waste contains bacteria that are harmful to us and our water. Leaving it on the sidewalk or lawn means harmful bacteria will be transported into the storm drains and then into our lakes and streams. So what can you do to help? Simple. Whether on a walk or in your yard, **DISPOSE OF YOUR PET'S WASTE PROMPTLY IN THE TOILET OR TRASH.**
- 5. Practice good car care.** Did you know that just four quarts of oil from your car's engine, can form an eight-acre oil slick if spilled or dumped down a storm drain? There are over 4 million cars in southeast Michigan, so even small leaks matter. **KEEP YOUR CAR TUNED, AND FIX LEAKS PROMPTLY.** Not only will this make your car run better and last longer, it will be good for our lakes, streams, and air. When washing your car, keep the polluted water from going into the street and storm drain. **CONSIDER TAKING YOUR CAR TO THE CAR WASH OR WASHING YOUR CAR ON THE GRASS.** Your lawn will gladly soak up the excess water.
- 6. Choose earth-friendly landscaping.** When landscaping your yard you can protect your kids, pets, and the environment from harm. **USE PESTICIDES SPARINGLY.** Put mulch around trees and plants. Water your lawn only when it needs it (one to two times a week is usually sufficient) and **CHOOSE PLANTS NATIVE TO MICHIGAN.** Once established, these plants tolerate dry weather and resist disease.
- 7. Save water.** Did you know that individually we use about 77 gallons of water each day? When we over-water our lawns, it can easily carry pollution to the storm drains and to our lakes and streams. **CONSIDER USING A BROOM INSTEAD OF A HOSE** to clean sidewalks and driveways. Direct hoses and sprinklers on the lawn, not the driveway. Water when necessary instead of on a fixed schedule. Remember - saving water also saves you money.

**Our Water – Our Future – Ours to Protect**

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## WATER DEPARTMENT UPDATES

### Paperless Billing

If you wish to receive your water bill by email, please email us at [dpw@brownstown-mi.org](mailto:dpw@brownstown-mi.org). Requests must be received from the email address you want your bill sent to. Please include your name, address, and phone number.

### Final Reads

Final water read is required if selling, buying and/or renting a home. Reads are done by appointment only. Final read billings are mailed to the Title Company/Realtors etc. holding escrow accounts. Access using **LOCK BOXES** is not permitted.

### Radio Read Devices

The Township has installed radio read devices on the exterior of homes replacing existing touch pads. Per Water Ordinance home owners are responsible for the safe keeping of these devices as well as the water meter. If damaged, removed, etc. a replacement fee will be charged. A two (2) foot diameter area around the device must be kept free of debris, vegetation to assure accurate reads.

### Irrigation Systems

All residents with an irrigation system installed will be required to have the back flow device tested every three (3) years. Testing must be performed by a Michigan State certified plumber with an ASSE 5110 cross connection certification. Test report must be filed and Company/Person needs to be registered with the DPW.

### Senior Citizen Affidavits

Property owners occupying the residence aged 62 or older should contact the DPW regarding information on water usage savings.

### Shut-Off Payment Requirements

Payments must be made by **CASH, MONEY ORDER, CERTIFIED CHECK, or Credit/Debit Card** for any account which is 60 days in arrears and/or receives a Shut-off notification. **NO PERSONAL CHECKS once in shut-off status.** Checks will be returned through the mail if received when in shut-off status.

### Automatic Deductions

Automatic deduction from your checking and/or saving account is available **at no charge**. Form available on line at [www.brownstown-mi.org](http://www.brownstown-mi.org) or contact DPW. Call 734-675-4000 for more information.

### Credit/Debit Cards Accepted

The Township accepts Visa, MasterCard, Discover, and American Express debit or credit cards for a fee. Payments can be made online at [www.brownstown-mi.org](http://www.brownstown-mi.org) or at the treasury department. The fee schedule for water bills only are as follows: If the bill is between:

- \$1-\$50 = \$1.50 fee
- \$51-\$100 = \$3.00 fee
- \$100 or more = \$3.00 per \$100



**LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED**

### Appliances & Fixtures

**Sewer Repair/ Replacements • Backflow Testing  
Hot Water Systems • Sump Pumps**

With same-day services, our licensed, trained, and expert local plumbers can deliver the solutions you need, when you need them. Our upfront pricing, comprehensive repairs, and trusted professional recommendations have made us the go-to choice for all your plumbing needs.



12527 Nixon Ave, Riverview MI

**(734) 977-1433**

[zplumberz.com/downriver](http://zplumberz.com/downriver) | [downriveroffice@zplumberz.com](mailto:downriveroffice@zplumberz.com)

Mon - Friday 8am to 5pm

# Eyes in the Sky

## How Brownstown's Police Drone Program makes our community safer

By Deputy Chief Andrew Starzec

**A**s public safety challenges grow more complex, law enforcement agencies must adapt with tools that improve both effectiveness and safety. The Brownstown Police Department's Unmanned Aerial System (UAS), or drone program, is a prime example of this evolution – providing officers with a critical advantage while directly contributing to a safer environment for the community.

At its core, the drone program enhances situational awareness. When officers respond to an incident, having immediate, real-time aerial intelligence changes how decisions are made. Instead of relying solely on ground-level observations, officers can quickly gain a comprehensive view of a scene – identifying threats, locating individuals and understanding the dynamics of a situation before engaging. This elevated perspective leads to more informed, controlled responses, reducing uncertainty and minimizing unnecessary risk.

One of the most significant benefits of the drone program is its ability to reduce danger to both officers and civilians. In high-risk situations – such as searching for a fleeing suspect, responding to a barricaded subject or clearing a large area – deploying a drone first allows officers to assess the environment without immediate physical exposure. This approach creates time and distance, two of the most important factors in de-escalation and safe resolution. By gathering intelligence before contact, officers can develop a plan that prioritizes safety at every level.



Search and rescue operations are another area where drones have a direct impact on community safety. Whether assisting in the search for a missing child, an endangered adult or a vulnerable individual, drones can cover large areas quickly and efficiently. Equipped with thermal imaging, they are especially effective in low-light conditions or challenging terrain. Faster location of missing persons not only improves outcomes but also reduces the likelihood of prolonged exposure to environmental dangers.



Drones also contribute to safer roadways. During serious traffic crashes, aerial imagery allows officers to document scenes accurately and efficiently. This reduces the amount of time roads need to be closed, lowering the risk of secondary accidents and minimizing disruption to the public. The ability to quickly clear roadways while still conducting thorough investigations is a direct benefit to both safety and quality of life.

In addition to emergency response, drones can assist during large public events by providing an added layer of oversight. In a world of mass casualty incidents, monitoring crowd movement to identify potential hazards helps officers proactively address concerns before they occur. This proactive capability strengthens the department's ability to maintain a safe and secure environment during gatherings of all sizes.

The Brownstown Police Department operates its drone program with strict policies, ensuring that every deployment is purposeful, lawful and focused on public safety. This is not a tool for routine surveillance – it is a targeted resource used when it can make a measurable difference in protecting life and property. Ultimately, the drone program represents a shift toward smarter, safer policing.



# STAYING SAFE

## During the Summer Storm Season

By Fire Chief Ryan Raumen and Deputy Fire Chief Dave Zurawski

**S**UMMER brings longer days, outdoor activities and time spent with family and friends. But it also marks the peak season for severe weather. Thunderstorms can develop quickly, bringing damaging winds, lightning, heavy rain, and even tornadoes. Staying aware and prepared is key to keeping you and all of Brownstown safe when these storms strike.



### Summer Storms and Severe Weather

Summer storms can develop rapidly and become dangerous with little warning. These storms often bring damaging winds, lightning, heavy rain, hail, and occasionally tornadoes.

Start by staying informed. Monitor forecasts regularly and make sure you have multiple ways to receive alerts, especially overnight. A NOAA weather radio, smartphone alerts or local emergency notifications can provide critical warnings when seconds count.

Brownstown Township has partnered with Hyper-Reach, a



mass emergency notification system designed to quickly alert residents of hazardous or urgent situations. The system delivers notifications through a combination of phone calls, text messages and email.

To receive weather alerts on mobile phones and email, residents and those who work in Brownstown can sign up by calling or texting "Alert" to (734) 789-3770 or by visiting: <http://hyper-reach.com/mibrownstownsignup.html>.

Residents may also download the free Hyper-Reach Anywhere app on their smartphones for additional access to alerts.

Preparation and awareness are key:

- Monitor weather forecasts daily, especially when planning outdoor events.
- Enable emergency alerts on your phone or use a weather radio for real-time warnings.
- Identify a safe shelter location in advance, such as a basement or an interior room away from windows.

When storms approach:

- At the first sound of thunder, move indoors immediately. Lightning can strike several miles from a storm.
- Avoid open areas, tall objects and water during lightning activity.



- Secure or bring inside outdoor furniture, grills and loose items that could become projectiles in high winds.

Power outages are common during summer storms:

- Keep flashlights, batteries and backup power sources readily available.
- Avoid using candles, when possible, to reduce fire risk.
- Keep refrigerators and freezers closed to preserve food.
- Stay clear of downed power lines. Treat all power lines as energized until confirmed safe by DTE or the fire department.

Heavy rainfall can quickly lead to flash flooding:

- Never drive through flooded roadways. Just a small amount of moving water can sweep a vehicle away.
- Be cautious in low-lying areas, underpasses and near drainage systems.
- Move to higher ground if flooding is observed or anticipated.

In the event of a tornado warning:

- Seek shelter immediately in a basement or interior room on the lowest level.
- Stay away from windows and protect your head.
- If outdoors with no shelter, lie flat in a low-lying area and cover your head.

Summer is meant to be enjoyed, but it also requires awareness and preparation. By taking a few simple precautions, monitoring the weather and practicing safe habits, you can make the most of the season while keeping safety a top priority.

# 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.*



## Expanding Opportunities

### Inside Our Innovative Career and Academic Programs

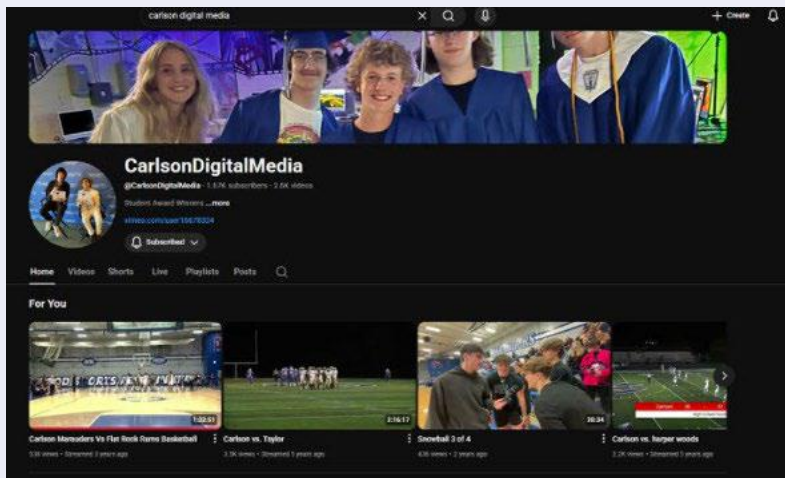
**O**UR district is proud to offer a diverse range of programs that prepare students for both college and career success. From hands-on technical training to cutting-edge digital skills, students are gaining real-world experience and building pathways toward their future. Among our standout offerings are construction trades, digital media, the Peppy Print Shop, aviation, and advanced placement computer science. Each provides unique opportunities for growth, creativity and career readiness.

#### Building the Future with Construction Trades

The Construction Trades program equips students with practical skills in carpentry, electrical work, blueprint reading, and general construction techniques. Through project-based learning, students gain firsthand experience using industry tools and safety practices. Whether building structures or learning renovation skills, students leave the program with a strong foundation for careers in the skilled trades, an industry that remains in high demand.

#### Telling Stories Through Digital Media

In the Digital Media program, creativity meets technology. Students learn photography, videography, graphic design, and content production using industry-standard software. From producing school announcements to designing promotional materials, students develop both technical expertise and storytelling skills that are essential in today's media-driven world.



#### Soaring to New Heights in Aviation

The Aviation program introduces students to the exciting world of flight and aerospace. Through coursework in aerodynamics, navigation and flight systems, students explore both the science and career pathways within aviation. With access to simulators and industry-aligned curriculum, students gain insight into careers such as piloting, air traffic control and aircraft maintenance.



#### Real-World Experience at the Peppy Print Shop

The Peppy Print Shop provides students with a true business environment where they design, produce, and manage print jobs for the school and community. Students gain experience in customer service, production workflows and business operations while creating items such as apparel, signage and promotional materials. This hands-on experience helps students build confidence, responsibility and entrepreneurial skills.



#### Advanced Placement Computer Science: Preparing Tomorrow's Innovators

The AP Computer Science program challenges students to think critically and solve complex problems through coding and computational thinking. Students learn programming languages, data structures and software development concepts that prepare them for college-level coursework and careers in technology. This rigorous course not only builds technical skills but also fosters creativity and innovation.

#### A Commitment to Student Success

Together, these programs reflect our commitment to providing students with meaningful, future-focused learning experiences. By blending academic rigor with hands-on application, we are ensuring that every student has the opportunity to explore their interests, develop valuable skills and graduate ready to succeed in an ever-changing world.



Gibraltar continued on page 54

# CARLSON HIGH SCHOOL

## Class of 2026



# TOP 10



**Rocco  
Stoney**

Rocco, this year's valedictorian, plans to study economics and mathematics at the University of Michigan.



**Jack  
Klotz**

Salutatorian Jack is off to New York University, where he's keeping his academic options open.



**Kali  
Slade**

Kali is off to the University of Michigan to dive into the world of biochemistry.



**Elizabeth  
Jenkin**

Elizabeth will attend the University of Michigan, where she'll focus on mathematics.



**Nathaniel  
Nichols**

Nathaniel is off to the University of Michigan to study computer science and build what comes next.



**Elena  
Bruner**

Elena is off to Eastern Michigan University to study elementary education.



**Leo  
Rowe**

Leo is headed to Wayne State University to study finance.



**Brayden  
Mantz**

Brayden is off to Wayne State University to study computer science.



**Morelia  
Perez-Rodriguez**

Morelia is headed to the University of Michigan-Dearborn to study finance and accounting



**Jerry  
Hocutt**

Jerry plans to study pharmacy, with Wayne State University among his top choices.



## Parsons Pirates Dominate at Wayne State Invention Convention Competition

**C**ONGRATULATIONS to our Parsons Pirates for sweeping the Wayne State Invention Convention Regional Competition! Our Inventor's Club has been hard at work since November under the dedicated coaching of Dan Chojnowski and Colleen Buscemi, and their efforts truly paid off.

The Invention Convention is an engaging, hands-on learning experience for students in grades three through 12 that focuses on solving real-world problems through the invention process. Students enhance existing products or design brand-new ideas while building critical thinking, teamwork and presentation skills. For months, students in grades three through five collaborated in teams to brainstorm ideas, build prototypes, create pitch videos, and design posters.

On March 21, 28 Parsons students presented independently to judges at Wayne State University. Out of the five teams advancing to the state finals, our Parsons Pirates earned places two through five!

Lucy Chojnowski, Nolan Jager, Brendan Krechnyak, and Ben Queen came in second place with their invention of the Weather Hat – a hat that cleverly stores a hidden poncho for unexpected weather. Isabelle Hall and Scarlett Pace secured third place with Zonked Out – an invention that alerts a cat to mice in a chicken coop. In fourth place, Frankie and Lily Green designed the Hot and Cold 2000, which warns a person taking a shower that the temperature is about to change. In fifth place, Callum Aherne, Jonah Putek, Ivy Shuman, and Katheryne Smith created the Glow Can – a glowing garbage can that

prevents accidents in the dark and signals when pickup is complete.

We are proud to share that four Parsons teams recently represented our school at the Regional Invention Convention, competing alongside more than 130 teams from across the state of Michigan at the Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation. Our students worked collaboratively to present their innovative ideas to a panel



of judges, demonstrating creativity, problem-solving and confidence.

In addition to their presentations, students enjoyed a special lunch and had the opportunity to explore the museum's inspiring exhibits, making it a truly memorable experience.

While our teams did not advance to the national competition this year, we are incredibly proud of their hard work and accomplishments. It was a fantastic first season for Parsons, and we are excited to build on this success in the years to come!



# HERE'S THE LATEST FROM *Hunter Elementary School*

## Hunter Elementary's 3rd Annual STEM Day!

If you stepped into the Hunter gym on February 18, you could feel it immediately: the excitement of Hunter's Outstanding STEM Day. Now in its third year under the leadership of Mrs. Brown, this event continues to grow as a highlight not only for students but for our entire community.

Each station was inspired by titles from this year's NSTA Outstanding Science Trade Book list and connected students to real-world STEM careers both within our schools and across the region. After the annual book list is released, Mrs. Brown brings the day to life by recruiting community partners and designing hands-on experiences that turn engaging stories into meaningful scientific



exploration, books that soon find their way into the hands of our Hunter Hornets.

Students had the opportunity to explore flower structures by creating wax windows, plant seed bombs alongside Huron Metroparks staff to support native

plants and examine real X-rays with medical professionals while creating cyanotype prints inspired by Inside In. Industry partners like NALCO and Ford demonstrated how sludge can be transformed into clean water, highlighting the role of science and engineering in protecting our environment.

Future engineers were inspired by Carlson Robotics through live demonstrations of building and programming. The University of Michigan Natural History Museum shared dinosaur fossils, while the DNR introduced students to Earth's rocks and natural resources. Consumers Energy and AT&T explained how underground gas and internet systems work, and health care professionals helped students understand topics like insulin and human health.

Students also explored pollination with a Fisheries and Wildlife ranger and discovered how engineers design solutions to help salamanders cross roadways safely.



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TO YOUR HEALTH!

# DECODING EGGS

## What are you really getting?

By Lisa Howard

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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





# 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.

# Where a Simple Problem Became a Lasting Legacy: Jennie's Backyard R.V. Storage

By Mike Sollars

In the 1970s, Jim and Jennie Sute were simply trying to do what so many families dream of – spend time together and see more of the world. With a large family and a newly purchased RV, they had found their ticket to adventure.



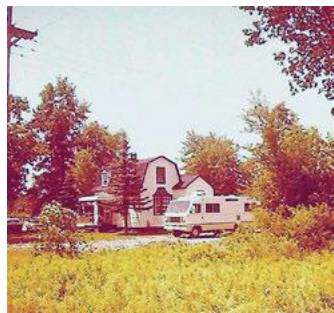
But back home in Lincoln Park, Michigan, reality quickly set in. Local ordinances made it impossible to park their RV on the street, and finding a place to store it became a constant challenge.

What began as a personal frustration soon sparked something bigger. Jim realized he wasn't alone and other families likely faced the same problem. And like so many great ideas, the solution was born from necessity.

Determined to turn that problem into an opportunity, Jim set out to find land where people like him could safely store their RVs, boats and campers. In 1977, he and Jennie found it: a nine-acre parcel on Telegraph Road, just north of West Road in Brownstown. It wasn't polished or ready – it was raw, wooded and full of work. But to the Sute family, it was possibility.

That land became the foundation of "Jennie's Backyard R.V. Storage".

What followed was not just the start of a business but a true family effort. The Sute children, extended family and many friends spent countless months transforming the property. They cleared trees, split logs, built and repaired fencing, and worked side by side with their parents. It was hard, physical work,



Where it all began (top): The original Sute family RV sits idle in the driveway shortly after they acquired the property. The Sute family (bottom) working to clear the timbers in order to make way for the parking lot.



Overlooking the vast numbers of RVs (top) and boats stored on the lot. Family members pose (right) in front of sign at Jennie's Backyard R.V. Storage.



but it was also something deeper. It was a shared purpose. It was pride. It was the building of something that belonged to all of them.

Over time, that once-wooded lot became something remarkable. What started as an idea grew into a space with more than 600 storage spots – room enough for several hundreds of families, each with their own journeys waiting just beyond the driveway. It became a trusted place for the community. A place where people could store not just their vehicles but the vessels of their memories and adventures.

Jennie (91) passed away in 2023 and James (91) one year later in 2024. For 48 years, Jennie's Backyard R.V. Storage stood as more than just a storage yard. It was a reflection of the values Jim and Jennie built it on: hard work, fairness and care for others.

Jim, who ran the yard day to day, took particular pride in one simple principle: keeping storage rates flat. In a world that constantly changes, that consistency meant something. It showed customers they were valued, not just as business but as neighbors.

What began as one family's challenge grew into a lasting legacy, proof that with determination, teamwork and a willingness to serve others, even the simplest idea can become something truly meaningful.

Jennie's Backyard R.V. Storage wasn't just built on land. It was built on heart.

# RICH PYLE

## From 'Hardcore Pawn' to the center of it all

By Ryan M. Place

If you recognize Rich Pyle, it is probably from the chaos. The shouting matches. The wild customers. The moments where everything felt one step away from spiraling out of control. On the hit truTV series "Hardcore Pawn", Rich was the calm in the middle of it all.

"My job was to keep the madness from going off the rails," he said. "And believe me, there was a lot you didn't see. Maybe 2 percent of what we filmed actually made it on TV."

For 25 years, Rich was the general manager at American Jewelry and Loan. The pressure was constant, the stakes were real and the line between entertainment and reality was often razor thin.

"I dealt with a lot on and off camera," he said. "But I love new adventures. That experience opened a lot of doors."

Born at Wyandotte Hospital and raised Downriver, Rich's story is grounded in something deeper than television. His early years in Southgate, Taylor and Wyandotte shaped a mindset built on loyalty, toughness and community. He's been in Woodhaven since 1999, drawn by the same values that defined his upbringing.

"Being Downriver means something," Rich said. "We look out for each other. We support each other. That's how I was raised."

When his time on "Hardcore Pawn" ended, Rich moved forward. With the support of his wife Tracey, he launched a national meet and greet tour, visiting pawn shops across the country.

"That's one of my favorite things," he said. "Getting out there, connecting with people, hearing their stories."

His adventurousness led to hosting the reality show "Meltdown on National Geographic", where Rich led urban prospectors searching for valuable metals in scrapyards and overlooked places.

"They came to me because of my background in metals and negotiation," he said.

"One of my favorite experiences was meeting Waldo Stakes, a guy with a rocket in his front yard. Just incredible."

Away from the cameras, Rich has always been a musician.

"God made me a drummer because I can't sing," he joked. "I've played in several bands and I'm now performing Southern rock with Daniel



Harrison and the \$2 Highway. I love it."

Rich has also found another outlet in the rapidly growing world of cornhole. What started as casual games at the campground turned into a national platform through ACO's "Hole Nation" TV show, where he travels the country covering tournaments and telling players' stories.

"I got hooked on it," he said. "The people, the competition, the community. I get to meet incredible people. That's what it's all about."

Through it all, Rich remains rooted in Woodhaven, where life revolves around family, friendships and music.

"There are so many great people in Michigan, I've never wanted to live anywhere else," he said.

From pawn shops to national television, from music stages to cornhole tournaments, Rich Pyle is always open to embracing whatever comes next, such as his upcoming series and documentary with 42 Jade Productions.

"I have always believed in saying yes to the next opportunity," he said. "You never know where it's going to take you."

Catch Rich June 12-13 at his annual Red, White and Blue Collar Fest cornhole tournament in Mio, Michigan.





Left: The tables were ready. Center: Senator Darrin Camilleri (second from left) with club officers (left to right): Second Vice President Dennis Mahaffey, President Ed Spivey, Vice President Carol Horn, Treasurer Paul Elsey, Secretary Louisa Elsey. Right: Kiwanian Jim Jorgensen celebrates 30 years of Kiwanis service.

# A Night of Recognition

## Woodhaven Kiwanians celebrate 50 years of service to the community

**T**HE Kiwanis Club of Woodhaven celebrated 50 years of community service on Wednesday, March 25. President Ed Spivey called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. and the festivities began, with governmental leaders, Kiwanis leaders and Downriver Kiwanians in attendance.



Proclamations were presented by Congresswoman Deborah Dingle's office, State Senator Darrin Camilleri, Brownstown Township Supervisor Sherry Berecz, and Woodhaven Councilman Darrel Penix. Charter members Bill Meadows and Mark Evans, as well as chartering Lt. Governor George Brown were able to attend our ceremony.

President Robin Azzopardi (2005-06) and President Deborah Lobb (2006-07).

The following Woodhaven Kiwanians were honored by Lt. Governor Jacob Waltz for their many years of Kiwanis service to the community:



Jim Robbins (17 years), Rosemary Robbins and Linda Cahalan (20 years), Louisa Elsey (22 years), Darrel Penix (24 years), Barb McCoy and Jim Jorgensen (30 years), Mike Gyolai (46 years), and Paul Elsey (49 years). Two new members were installed, bringing Woodhaven up to plus nine for the year.

Executive Director Ben Probert was on hand for those important announcements. Michigan District Governor Cindy Greening congratulated Woodhaven Kiwanians on their first 50 years of service and gave them their walking papers for the next 50 years.

The evening finished with a toast by Second Vice President Dennis Mahaffey, who quietly reminded Woodhaven Kiwanians not to live in our past but always look for the next opportunity to serve.



The room was literally filled with 29 Downriver Kiwanians celebrating with their Woodhaven sisters and brothers.

Three Kiwanis of Michigan Foundation "Skip Clack Warrior" Awards were presented to past club presidents who made a significant difference to the Woodhaven Kiwanis Club. The Skip Clack Warrior Award represents a \$500 gift to the Kiwanis of Michigan Foundation Endowment to perpetuate the work of our

foundation in helping hospitalized children and their families. Warrior awards were presented to President John Schultz (1979-80),

Top: Second Vice President Dennis Mahaffey toasts the next 50 years. Bottom: President Ed Spivey with Executive Director Ben Probert and District Governor Cynthia Greening.



Top: Past President Robin Azzopardi received the Skip Clack Warrior Award. Middle: Brownstown Township Supervisor Sherry Berecz. Bottom: Woodhaven Councilman Darrel Penix.

**Employment Opportunities for All Abilities**



**Services To Enhance Potential (STEP)** is a non-profit organization that provides support and services to more than 1,100 individuals with disabilities and mental health needs residing in Wayne County. STEP helps individuals with barriers to employment reach their full potential and achieve their life goals through various programs and trainings. These include skill building, supported employment, volunteer opportunities, vocational rehabilitation, and more. With offerings like the Progressive Art Studio Collective (PASC), STEP in the Kitchen, and training at our three STEP Thrift Store and Donation Centers, STEP offers opportunities to individuals of all abilities.

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## 'DON'T OVERTHINK IT'

Woodhaven athlete gives advice to those coming up, excited for future in Boston

By Terry Jacoby

**W**OODHAVEN senior Mia Taylor has turned her faith, hard work, dedication and a commitment to "being better every day" into a rewarding and satisfying high school career with a promising future.

The standout softball player says she has always pushed herself to be a difference-maker and tees up some sound advice for younger athletes looking to make a difference in their lives as they begin their journey.

"I'd say keep it simple and don't overthink it," Taylor said. "Work hard, be coachable and don't get too caught up in results right away. There are going to be good days and bad days, especially early on, and that's normal. Just focus on showing up, getting a little better each time and staying consistent."

Taylor has done exactly that since stepping on the campus at Woodhaven High School. The 17-year-old senior maintains a 3.7 GPA while also competing as a four-year varsity athlete.

Her softball career began at age 8, and along the way she has played for elite travel organizations, including the Beverly Bandits in Chicago and the Birmingham Thunderbolts in Alabama. These experiences allowed her to develop as a versatile player, competing in both the middle infield and the outfield.

"I originally fell in love with the game because of its competitive nature and the lifelong camaraderie I've built with my teammates," she said.

Those teammates include plenty of "Warriors."

"My high school career has been rooted in a culture of success and gratitude," she said. "During my freshman year, we went 15-1 in

the Downriver League and reached the Division 1 State Finals. Those early years were especially meaningful because I had the blessing of playing alongside my older sister, Brooke Taylor."

Woodhaven won league and district titles during her sophomore and junior seasons.

"Even in moments of disappointment – like our regional loss to Saline – I've learned to trust God's plan, knowing that every challenge is shaping me into a stronger athlete and person," said Taylor, who recorded 17 triples last season and entered her senior year setting her sights on challenging the all-time national records (22 in a season and 48 for a career).

Heading into May, Taylor had a .481 batting average, 30 triples and a .750 slugging percentage for her career. She has earned three All-League, All-District, and All-Regional honors, as well as First Team All-State recognition as a junior.

"None of this would be possible without the support of my coaches," she said. "I want to extend a sincere thank you to the coaching staff at Woodhaven High School, my travel coaches and the entire Birmingham Thunderbolts organization."

Taylor will continue her softball career next year at Boston College.

"I chose BC for its exceptional academic reputation and plan to study in the medical field and hopefully use that path to help others in the future," she said. "I am particularly excited for the opportunity to compete in the ACC,

facing some of the best talent in the country every single weekend. I've already met my future roommates and love the Boston area. I am incredibly excited for this next chapter and ready to give everything I have to the Eagles."

Taylor tees up one more swing of advice for younger student-athletes.

"Don't lose sight of why you started playing in the first place," she said. "For me, it was loving the game and the people around it. That part matters just as much as anything else."





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