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Website: www.brownstown-mi.org

FACEBOOK PAGES:

Charter Township of Brownstown Government
Brownstown Twp Police
Brownstown Park and Recreation
Charter Township of Brownstown Downtown Development Authority

Comcast Cable PEG Channel: 12
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TOWNSHIP DEPARTMENTS

Police
Non-Emergency: (734) 675-1300

Fire
Non-Emergency: (734) 955-2600

Township Hall
Hours: 7:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Monday-Thursday
Main Number: (734) 365-0065

Parks and Recreation
(734) 675-0920

Department of Public Works (DPW)
(734) 675-4000

Community Services:
(Building Department/Economic Development)
(734) 675-0166

Supervisor's Office/Township Manager
(734) 675-0071

Clerk's Office
(734) 675-0910

Treasurer's Office
(734) 675-0052

Assessing Office
(734) 675-5929

Downtown Development Authority (DDA)
(734) 675-5911

Brownstown Animal Control
(734) 675-4008

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From the
SUPERVISOR

See You at Summerfest!

As summer begins to wind down, I hope you and your family have had a chance to relax, enjoy the sunshine and make some wonderful memories. It's hard to believe we're already looking forward to one of Brownstown's favorite traditions—The Brownstown Summerfest—and before we know it, students will be heading back to school.

Brownstown Summerfest is one of my favorite times of the year because it brings our community together. I hope you'll join us for live entertainment, great food, family activities, local vendors, and an amazing fireworks display as we celebrate everything that makes Brownstown Township such a special place to call home.

Thank you to the Summerfest Committee, our volunteers, sponsors, township staff, and public safety personnel for all they do to make this event possible.

As the new school year begins, I'd also like to wish all of our students, teachers and school staff a safe, successful and exciting year ahead. Please remember to slow down in school zones and keep an eye out for children walking and riding their bikes.

It is truly an honor to serve as your township supervisor. Thank you for your continued support and for making Brownstown Township such a caring and welcoming community. I hope to see you at Brownstown Summerfest, and I wish you and your family a wonderful end to summer and a great start to the fall season.

Sherry Berecz
Township Supervisor

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Helpful Information

Tax Bills Due Date(s):

- Summer tax bills are mailed on July 1 and due by September 14.
- Winter tax bills are mailed on December 1 and due by February 16.
- Please note that taxes are billed for the fiscal year ahead, not for the previous year. If you recently purchased a home and paid an amount toward the taxes in your closing costs, you may have paid a prorated amount toward the previous tax year. In most cases, bills issued after the closing date are not covered in your closing costs. Please read your paperwork carefully.

You may make payments over the phone by calling the number below. Please follow the prompts to complete your payment.

(734) 365-7766

Late Payment:

- A 3 percent penalty/late fee is applied on any payment received after 5:00 p.m. on either September 14 (summer tax) or February 16 (winter tax).
- On March 2, all delinquent real property is transferred to the Wayne County Treasurer and must then be paid either on their website at www.waynecounty.com/treasurer, by phone (313) 224-5990 or in person at 400 Monroe, 5th Floor, Detroit, MI 48226.

How to Pay your Tax Bill:

- **Mail ▶** Return the bottom portion of the tax bill with your check/money order made payable to: Brownstown Township. Post-dated checks will not be accepted, please date your check for the actual day you write it. Postmarks are not proof of receipt of payment. Payment will be recorded on the date received in our office, not the day it was mailed or the date on the envelope and/or check.
- **Drop Box ▶** Leave the bottom portion of your tax bill along with your check or money order (no cash) in the secure drive-up, locked drop box located on the sidewalk in front of the main entrance of Township Hall. It can be utilized 24 hours a day, and is under 24/7 video surveillance to ensure accuracy and safety.
- **Credit/Debit Card ▶** We accept Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Discover. For Water or Miscellaneous invoices, the fee is 2.95%; and for Tax bills it is 2.80%. ACH transactions from $0-$1,000 are $3/transaction, $1,001-$5,000 are $6.00/transaction and $5,001+ are $12/transaction.

BROWNSTOWN TREASURER'S OFFICE
Treasurer: Michael Eberth
Deputy Treasurer: Victoria Taplin
Monday – Thursday 7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
(734) 675-0052
www.brownstown-mi.org

- **In Person ▶** Please bring your entire tax bill with you so we can date stamp the top portion for your records.
- **Online Banking ▶** Use caution when you pay this bill via your online banking system as it is not a guarantee of our timely receipt of your payment. When you use online banking, it may automatically debit your account but your bank still sends us a check and this process can take 5-7 business days longer. If not received by the due date, it will be considered late.
- **Partial Payments ▶** We now accept partial payments.
- **Escrow/Mortgage Company ▶** If your taxes are paid through an escrow or mortgage company, you will not receive a tax bill. However, if you do, please forward it to your mortgage company.
- **Income Tax Info ▶** Please keep a copy of your tax bill for Income Tax purposes. Brownstown cannot advise you on what to claim. All income tax questions must be directed to a professional or to the State of Michigan.

Non-Sufficient Check Fee:

- Checks are accepted as conditional payment. Brownstown will charge any individual or company a fee of $30 (cash or money order only) for a returned check. The Township is not liable for any difficulty that may occur with a bank or mortgage company. A returned check must be paid in full within five (5) days of Brownstown receiving it.
- A 3 percent penalty/late fee is applied on any payment received after 5:00 p.m. on either September 14 (summer tax) or February 16 (winter tax).

Senior Property Tax Deferments:

- Brownstown Treasurers Office July 14, 2005 Public Act 24 of 2005 has amended Section 51 of the Michigan General Property Tax Act (MCL 211.51) to allow the following residents: Senior Citizens (age 62 and older), Paraplegic or Quadriplegic, Eligible Serviceperson, Eligible Veteran, Eligible Widow or Widower, Blind

Person or Totally and Permanently Disabled person, to defer their summer property taxes if they have a household income below $40,000. To qualify for the deferment under the new income limit, a resident must meet one or more of the following conditions as defined by the State Income Tax Act:

- Household income below $40,000 for the current year
- Is 62 years of age or older, including the unmarried surviving spouse of a person who was 62 years of age or older at the time of death
- Is a paraplegic, quadriplegic, eligible serviceperson, eligible veteran, eligible widow or widower, blind person or a totally and permanently disabled person
- Residents who believe they qualify under the new limit and wish to defer their summer property taxes can obtain an Application for Deferment of Summer Taxes from the Brownstown Treasurers Office. Deferment forms must be on file with the Brownstown Treasurers Office no later than September 14. If the deferment is approved, individuals will have until February 16 to pay their summer property tax without penalty. You may obtain a form on our website.

Employment Opportunities for All Abilities

STEP
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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.

Join us for National Thrift Store Day on Monday, August 17!

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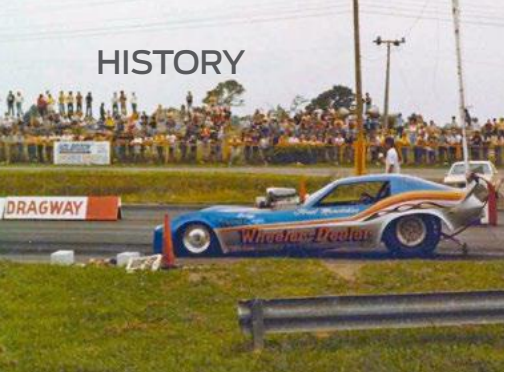

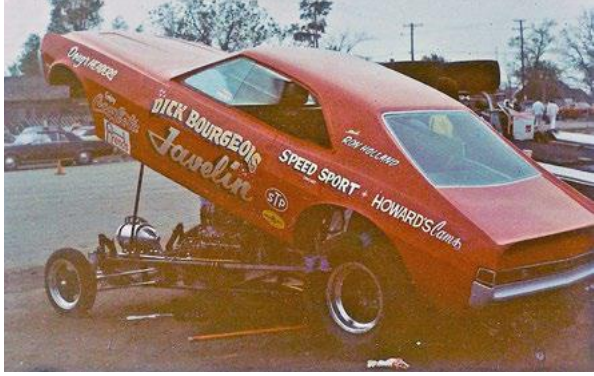

Remembering Detroit Dragway

By Mike Sollars

Photos courtesy of Gerry Kaleniecki.

IF you ask people about their memories of Detroit Dragway, they will tell you about ground-shaking funny cars, the smell of octane and all the weekends spent watching friends and family race their cars. People from miles away recall hearing the sounds of the engines roar.

It all started in 1959 with track owner and promoter Gil Kohn, who opened Detroit Dragway.

Located on Sibley Road between Dix and Allen Roads, it was a quarter-mile strip that became closely associated with the booming Detroit muscle-car era. The dragway quickly became one of the country's best-known straight-line racing venues.

The track was also widely recognized for its iconic "Sunday! Sunday! Sunday!" radio advertisements, which aimed to draw crowds out to race on Sundays. Its most legendary commercial highlighted the voices of popular local disc jockeys Joel Sebastian and Rube Weiss.

During the 1960s and 1970s, the track drew top names such as Connie Kalitta, Don Garlits, Don Nicholson, Dick Landy, Ronnie Sox, and Shirley Muldowney. It was especially important because Detroit-area factories, tuners and racers used it as a proving ground for performance cars.

By the 1990s, attendance had fallen among changing times. The last races were held in 1997. Today, the site of the dragway is an industrial/logistics complex.

www.brownstownhistory.org

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Hard Work, Dedication, Discipline

CMAC Transportation leans on lessons learned from military service for success

By Terry Jacoby

IN 2001, Dave Christie took the lessons of hard work, dedication and discipline that he developed from his time serving his country, and applied them to serving his family and employees when he founded CMAC Transportation in Brownstown. Twenty-five years later his company has become a national logistics heavyweight, with more than 100 trucks, 400 trailers, and 1 million square feet of warehouse space in the Detroit area.

A certified Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business (SDVOSB), CMAC Transportation continues to put its foot on the gas with even higher expectations and goals to become bigger and better.

"My goal was to run an honest, disciplined, customer-first transportation company rooted in the values I learned during my time in the service," Christie said. "Twenty-five years later, I am proud to say we have done that and more. I believe my military background has shaped CMAC's culture of precision, reliability and accountability – and why it still shows in every load."

This milestone anniversary isn't just a number – it's a story about what happens when military discipline meets entrepreneurial grit, and how a southeast Michigan company quietly became an indispensable part of the regional supply chain, serving automotive giants, industrial manufacturers and beyond.

Today, CMAC's leadership team – including Scott Christie, Stephen Tripp, Jacob Christie, and Brad New – reflects the company's values of trust, teamwork and long-term relationships.

"It's been a long run for us," said Scott Christie, president/CEO. "When we started we had five trucks and 15 people. Over the years, we have been fortunate to have good customers, good business relationships and partnerships and some of the best people in the trucking industry working for us. And it's these people who have driven this company to where it's at right now."

The business has earned a truck load of accomplishments, honors and accolades over the past 25 years, including Brownstown Township Business of the Year, Yanfeng Automotive Supplier Excellence Award, Ford Motor Company Leadership Profile, Expeditors Supplier of the Year, VOBRT Lifetime Achievement Award (Dave Christie), SmartWay Transport Partner, and Certified SDVOSB | Women-Owned via MSH Logistics (WBENC).

CMAC Transportation, which provides domestic and international warehousing, consolidation, transportation, and logistics, took delivery in late 2022 of an all-electric, zero-emissions semi-tractor to haul auto parts within Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties. The company was selected by the state for this FTP grant project because of their longstanding reputation and commitment to technology and driver safety.

"We are continuously pushing the bar as far as technology in our organization," Scott Christie said. "We have been in business for 25 years with one mission, and have grown from a local carrier to a national logistics provider while staying true to our small-business roots."

Roughly 20 percent of the CMAC workforce is made up of veterans, with over 265 years of combined military service across the company.

For more information, visit cmactrans.com.

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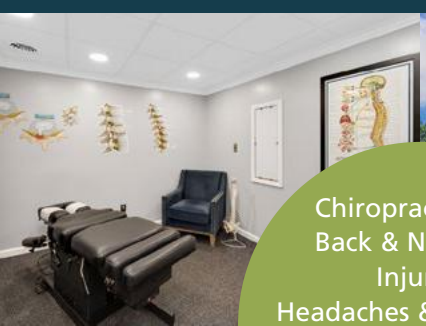

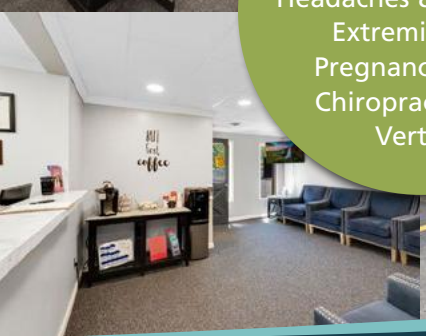

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Caterina Berry
Principal
734.692.2212

Gudith Elementary
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Thomas Martin
Principal
734.783.5386

Wegienka Elementary
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Michelle Briegel
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734.783.3367

Yake Elementary
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Timothy Podlewski
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Woodhaven Upper Elementary
24825 Hall Road • Woodhaven 48183
Roger Gurganus
Principal
734.362.6100

Brownstown Middle
20135 Inkster Road • Brownstown 48174
Andrew Clark
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734.783.3400

Woodhaven High School
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Jay Vesperman
Principal
734.783.3333

Maple Grove Virtual School
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734.789.2064

Matthew Salah
Superintendent

FROM YOUR NEW SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Woodhaven-Brownstown School District Families,

Welcome to the 2026–2027 school year!

It is with tremendous excitement and gratitude that I welcome both our returning families and those joining the Woodhaven-Brownstown School District community for the first time. As superintendent of schools, I am honored to serve this district and look forward to partnering with you throughout another year of learning, growth and opportunity.

At WBSD, our mission remains clear: to Engage, Empower, and Enlighten every student. That mission continues to guide our work as we create exceptional experiences and opportunities for all learners. Our commitment is to provide each student with a safe, inclusive, challenging, and supportive environment where they can grow academically, socially, emotionally, and personally.

As we begin this new school year, we remain focused on preparing students not only for success in the classroom but for success in life. We believe every student deserves meaningful opportunities, strong relationships and experiences that inspire curiosity, leadership and a sense of belonging.

Over the last several years, our community has made a significant investment in our schools through the 2021 bond program, and we continue to see the impact of that work across the district. Improvements to learning spaces, building infrastructure, safety enhancements, and instructional environments have strengthened our ability to serve students today while preparing for tomorrow.

This summer, teams across the district worked diligently to prepare our schools for opening day. From facility improvements and technology upgrades to classroom enhancements and continued investments in student programming, our staff has remained focused on creating environments where students can thrive.

Safety continues to be our highest operational priority. Woodhaven-Brownstown School District maintains a comprehensive and proactive approach to school safety through strong partnerships with the Woodhaven and Brownstown police departments, dedicated school resource officers, secured entry systems, visitor management protocols, emergency preparedness procedures, regular safety drills, crisis response planning, and advanced communication systems.

In addition, the district continues to strengthen our school safety practices through ongoing staff training, implementation of our wearable crisis alert system, coordinated emergency planning, and continuous review of procedures to ensure safe, orderly and welcoming learning environments for all students and staff.

Beyond academics, we remain committed to developing the whole child. Through expanded student supports, extracurricular opportunities, athletics, fine arts, early literacy initiatives, and social-emotional learning experiences, WBSD continues to create opportunities for students to discover passions and reach their full potential.

Our commitment to early learners also remains strong. Through our Birth to Five programming, including partnerships and services that support early literacy, preschool readiness, developmental growth, and family engagement, we continue building strong foundations before students ever enter kindergarten.

Programs and opportunities available to families include:

- Dolly Parton's Imagination Library partnership to promote early literacy through access to free books for eligible children.
- Kinder Lit Lab programming designed to support a successful transition into kindergarten.
- Early On services focused on early identification and developmental support for children and families.
- Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) preschool opportunities across our district.
- Family and community engagement opportunities centered on school readiness and literacy.

As superintendent, one of my greatest priorities is ensuring that every family feels connected, informed and valued. Our schools are strongest when we work together, and I encourage you to stay engaged throughout the year – attend events, connect with staff, celebrate successes, and continue partnering with us in support of our students.

The 2026–2027 school year holds incredible promise. Together, we will continue building upon our tradition of excellence and ensuring that every student is Learning and Leading for Tomorrow.

Thank you for your continued trust, support and partnership.

Sincerely,
Matthew Salah
Superintendent of Schools
Woodhaven-Brownstown School District

ABOUT OUR EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Today it's more important than ever to come together as a community — which is what the **Woodhaven-Brownstown Education Foundation (WBEF)** is all about: **Community.**

Founded on the premise that it takes an entire community to support education, the Foundation was created to provide an avenue for businesses and members of our community to contribute to the education of our children — and to strengthen the future of our school district.

With funds it raises through donations and special events, the WBEF has awarded more than $750,000 in grants over the past 10 years to district teachers for creative and exciting educational opportunities.

In addition, some of the award-winning school programs the WBEF have funded include School/Parent Partnerships, FIRST Tech Challenge Robotics, Elementary Reading Initiatives, Teen Entrepreneur Software and No Child Without a Lunch.

Please consider donating to the Foundation.

Our community thanks you.

ABOUT BEING DIGITAL

In today's busy world, the need to stay connected has become part of daily life.

It's become especially important for parents who need to stay in touch with their children — not only about their social lives, but also about their scholastic lives.

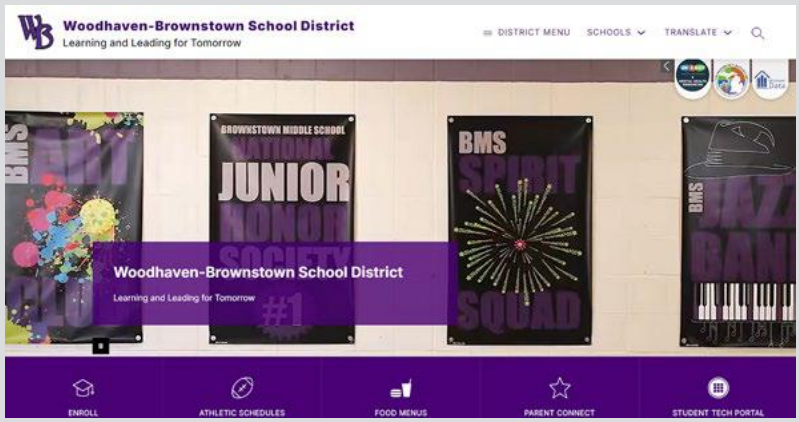
To that end, our district has a number of ways to stay in touch electronically with our students, our parents and our community.

Our district website – **mywbsd.org** – hosts core district information, as well as links to every school and programs within our community.

Drop downs and clickable links can put you in touch with whatever program or service you need.

But our digital footprint doesn't end with our website.

Parents can use our special parent portal to check the status of their students' progress in real time.



To get started, ask your student's school office for login information — or call the district office at **734.783.3300.**

We also have an engaging mobile presence that provides additional layers of real-time communication.

First, you can follow us on **Facebook** by searching for "Woodhaven-Brownstown School District."

Next, you can follow our hashtags on **X** (formerly Twitter) at: #WhyWBSD and @WBSDStrong and on Instagram #WBSDRelentless

We also use **Instagram** accounts — via school specific social media platforms, so check with your school.

Finally, you can download the district's app (above) and gain access to everything you need right at your fingertips. Search for the app Woodhaven Brownstown SD MI and download it today.

ATHLETICS

Keith Christnagel
Athletic Director
Woodhaven High School
24787 Van Horn Road
Brownstown, MI 48134
734.783.3333 - Ext. 1818

Jared Nicholls
Middle School Athletic Director
Brownstown Middle School
20135 Inkster Road
Brownstown, MI 48174
734.783.3400 - Ext. 1232

Athletic Trainers: **Brittany Tyler & Tim Relou**
734.783.3333 – Ext. 1845

Scan QR code for athletic events.

ABOUT ENROLLING

To register your child for school, you must complete the pre-enrollment online. Click on "enroll" on the district's website, mywbsd.org, and follow the instructions.

After you submit the application, a calendar will pop up allowing you to schedule an appointment with our enrollment specialist to finalize the enrollment and turn in necessary documentation.

This meeting will take place at the Administration & Board of Education Offices at:

24821 Hall Road
Woodhaven, MI 48183
734-783-3300

Required documents are:
- Original Birth Certificate
- Immunization Record
- Valid Michigan Identification
- Proof of Residency
- IEP/504/Health documents, if applicable
- Custody documents, if applicable

Proof of Residency consists of:

Primary
- Current property taxes
- Current lease (occupants must be listed)
- Mortgage statement

Supporting
- Utility bill (gas/electric/water/cable/phone)
- Bank statement
- Legal paperwork

About Kindergarten and Young 5's:
- A health appraisal form must be completed by your child's doctor and turned into the school by the first day.
- A waiver is needed if your child turns 5 years old between September 2 and December 1.

Kindergarten and Young 5 Age Waiver:

If your child is turning 5 between September 2 and December 1 of this year, complete the Waiver Form, which also can be downloaded online.

On our site, you also can access information about our free and reduced lunch program.

ABOUT GETTING YOUR CHILD STARTED

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

In education, everything begins at the beginning — and today, that "beginning" is earlier than ever.

Studies have shown that the earlier a child enters a structured educational environment, the better s/he will do in later grades.

To help parents give their youngsters a leg up on their education, we have a number of early childhood development programs aimed at doing just that:

- First, our **all-day kindergarten** program is available in all five elementary schools.
- Our **Young Fives** program is designed for younger children whose parents feel they are not yet ready for traditional kindergarten.
- In partnership with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, WBSD provides free books on a monthly basis for children ages 0 to 5 years old who live in the school district.
- Kinder Lit Lab is a four-week summer program developed by Wayne RESA that focuses on literacy and STEM. Each elementary school has one section with up to 15 students. This program is facilitated by WBSD teachers and paraprofessionals.
- **Early Childhood Special Education** preschool is for children 3-5 years old who qualify for services under an Individual Educational Plan.
- **TOTE/Early On — the Teach Our Tots Early program** provides early intervention special education home visits for children up to 3 years old with moderate to severe developmental delays.
- **Great Start Readiness (GSRP)** — is a free preschool program for 4-year-olds who have identified risks for academic difficulties and/or meet low-income requirements.

For more information on these programs, call: **734.783.3322** or **734.783.3300**

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Each of our elementary schools —**Bates, Erving, Gudith, Wegienka and Yake** are PreK-4 educational facilities dedicated to developing a community of independent and productive life-long learners.

We're a group of neighborhood schools — with many of our students walking from nearby homes and the rest receiving district transportation services or are driven by their parents.

Our schools are self-contained communities in which our parents know our staff, our staff knows our students — and we work together to create a bright future for every child.

Our students have consistently performed well on state and other standardized tests.

Our students also excel in classroom learning and the desire to succeed — while maintaining good citizenship and developing quality interpersonal skills.

Each of our schools offers all-day Kindergarten and a full day of classroom study aligned with state standards — with an emphasis on literacy and based on a demanding, comprehensive curriculum.

We also offer:
- Interactive whiteboards throughout each school
- 1 to 1 devices for students district wide
- State-of-the-art SMARTLabs
- Intervention programs with a literacy specialist in each school
- Social workers in each school
- Robust program offerings in the arts, physical education and technology
- Active Student Councils
- Robotics Clubs

All of this is supported by an experienced and caring teaching staff in each school, with many bringing additional experience from other facilities.

CHERIE GODFREY
Principal
Bates
22811 Gudith Road
Woodhaven, 48183
734.692.2217

CATERINA BERRY
Principal
Erving
24175 Hall Road
Woodhaven, 48183
734.692.2212

THOMAS MARTIN
Principal
Gudith
22700 Sibley Road
Brownstown, 48193
734.783.5386

MICHELLE BRIEGEL
Principal
Wegienka
23925 Arsenal Road
Brownstown, 48134
734.783.3367

TIMOTHY PODLEWSKI
Principal
Yake
16400 Carter
Woodhaven, 48183
734.692.2230

WOODHAVEN UPPER ELEMENTARY

Woodhaven Upper Elementary is the home to fifth- and sixth-grade students in the district.

The WBSD developed a comprehensive reconfiguration plan that involved years of research and development. The fifth- and sixth-grade Woodhaven Upper Elementary School began large-scale updates to include new playgrounds, a STEM classroom, a technology lab, middle and high-school robotics, Learning Commons, classroom renovations, new art studios, and a new band and choir space.

Students are in houses of approximately 100-115 students. They travel to specials and lunch with their house each day. The fifth-grade students have two core subject teachers who each teach mathematics and reading to their homeroom class, and either science or social studies. The sixth-grade students have four core subject teachers, one for mathematics, reading, social studies, and science. Along with the four core academic areas, fifth graders will have music, art, STEM and gym specials.

Sixth graders will have the same core academic areas, including advanced math, as they do now and the following non-core courses, including STEM, gym, art, world language, band and choir.

ROGER GURGANUS
Principal
Woodhaven Upper Elementary
24825 Hall Road
Woodhaven, 48183
734.362.6100

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

KEEP STUDENTS "YOUNGER LONGER"

We developed a program that includes playgrounds and intentionally designed houses within the building to keep it smaller. This isn't a middle school, but rather an upper elementary.

GRADUAL RELEASE OF RESPONSIBILITY

In the program, fifth graders have two teachers and four teachers in sixth grade. This gradual release is developmentally appropriate and sets our students up for success.

STUDENT-CENTERED

From the core and beyond, each element of the program is student-centered. The building also has implemented time to provide daily academic and social-emotional intervention and enrichment.

ABOUT BEING COLLEGE BOUND

In 2016, the WBSD partnered with Wayne County Community College District (WCCCD) to offer an Early/Middle College (ECM) program.

ECM is a blend of high school and college courses leading to a tuition-free associate degree while still in high school. We are proud to announce that two students successfully earned certification in EMT services and auto electrical technology.

We are proud to report that, to date, the WBSD program is WCCCD's largest Early/Middle College program. Our students are taking full advantage of this unique opportunity, and the EMC program is one of the district's greatest successes.

In the ninth and 10th grades, students take both district and college courses at the same time, with the latter taught by college staff at WHS.

Wayne County Community College District

In 11th and 12th grades, students take courses at WHS and on the college's Taylor campus.

The student would finish up his or her college degree courses the first year out of high school and then receive both a high school diploma and an associate degree.

In addition to free tuition, the district provides books, fees and supplies to all students.

If accepted into the program, students and their parents will attend an orientation prior to actually joining the program.

To learn more, contact Curriculum Supervisor, Phil Short at:
734.783.3300, Ext. 1005

ABOUT OUR MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOLS

Our middle school is designed to help our students transition smoothly from elementary to high school by providing interim steps along the way.

Brownstown Middle School is home to our seventh and eighth grades.

ANDREW CLARK
Principal
Brownstown
20135 Inkster Road
Brownstown, 48174
734.783.3400

BMS is dedicated to continuing the process of nurturing independent and productive life-long learners.

Our middle school students have consistently performed well on state and other standardized tests.

On a day-to-day basis, our students also excel in classroom learning — while maintaining good citizenship and developing quality interpersonal skills.

Making this system work are the experienced and dedicated teachers we have in our classrooms — many of whom bring additional experience from other facilities to their classrooms.

Each school offers a curriculum and technology support designed to meet the needs of each grade level — and they share some common features:

- Leading-edge technology throughout each building
- 1 to 1 devices for students district wide
- SMARTLab and Learning Commons
- Foreign language experience
- Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS) programs
- Guidance counseling services

In addition, BMS offers a variety of elective classes in the areas of technology, theatre arts, choir, band and art.

As a perfect companion to their classroom work, students can participate in a wide variety of extracurricular programs: track, cross country, swimming, basketball, volleyball, softball, baseball, football, wrestling and cheerleading.

Our middle school students are involved in a number of community projects, including food and clothing drives and various fund-raisers.

BMS offers a number of building-wide programs, events and activities designed to engage, motivate and reward students for their efforts:

- Educational field trips
- Student Council
- National Junior Honor Society
- Robotics/STEM activities
- Cyber Safety programs

Woodhaven High School is a ninth-12th grade educational facility that completes the process of developing independent and productive life-long learners.

Although we're a major high school, we act like a smaller school; a place where our parents know our staff, our staff knows our students — and we work together to create a bright future for every individual.

For students to achieve future goals, our exceptional teaching staff provides both theoretical and hands-on instruction, offering a complete educational experience.

As a result of this level of professionalism, our students have consistently performed well on state and other standardized tests.

Academically, WHS offers a full day of classroom study aligned with state standards, comprehensive curriculum that's focused on college/career readiness.

We also offer:

- Leading-edge technology throughout our building
- 1 to 1 devices for students district wide
- Large science classrooms that include lab areas
- Online learning options
- Dual Enrollment
- Multiple opportunities for AP courses
- NCAA-approved courses
- A credit recovery program
- Project-based learning zone
- State-of-the-art athletic facilities

JAY VESPERMAN
Principal
WHS
24787 Van Horn Road
Brownstown, 48134
734.783.3333

ABOUT SPECIAL EDUCATION

Nearly 1,200 eligible special education students in our district receive a broad spectrum of education services that include:

Academic and psychological assessments, speech and language services, teacher and behavioral consultant services, social work services, nursing services and attendance in out-of-district programs among other services.

Our programs are supported by a term of more than 110 certified professionals and paraprofessionals. Our special education students are provided the greatest access to our curriculum. To learn more, call our office: 734.783.3322.

ABOUT MAPLE GROVE

MAPLE GROVE
734.783.3300

MapleGrove Virtual School

A completely online high school, Maple Grove offers a full slate of virtual courses designed to get any student through to graduation.

Students enrolled in Maple Grove not only complete courses at their own pace, but they're also able to take AP courses that grant college credit.

Overall, Maple Grove is an online learning program with in-person tutoring that allows students to earn a high school diploma.

ABOUT DCTC

In order to get a jump on the kinds of jobs that may be available to them after they graduate, many WB students take advantage of one of the most unique programs in the nation: The **Downriver Career Technical Consortium** (DCTC).

DCTC 22000 Gibraltar Road
Flat Rock 48134
JOHN NASARZEWSKI Director
734.782.3194

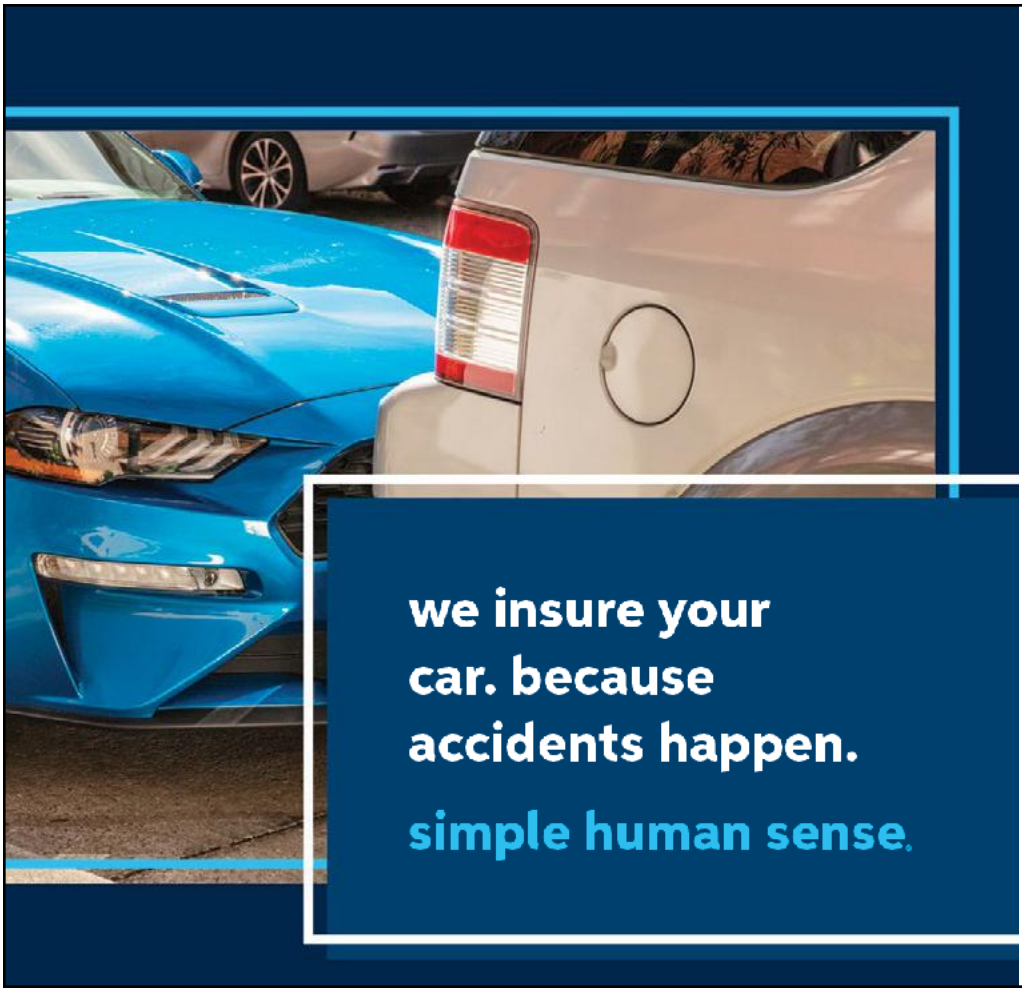
Founded in 1965, the DCTC offers a way for local districts to share vocational education programs.

Today, the DCTC consists of nine local districts that share more than 33 programs.

Woodhaven High School is home to courses in business management, dental technology, finance, marketing, graphics communications, welding and cosmetology.

Many DCTC programs offer college credit, some offer state licensure, most provide math and visual and applied arts credit and some provide science credit.

To learn more about how your student could benefit from a DCTC-enhanced experience, visit: **www.dctc-cte.org**



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3RD ANNUAL BROWNSTOWN SUMMER FEST

This summer community event has something for the whole family

ONE of Downriver's fastest-growing community celebrations is returning August 14–15, 2026, at the Brownstown Recreation Campus on King Road. An emerging favorite, Brownstown Summer Fest continues to build on its reputation as a family-friendly destination that celebrates everything residents love about this township: community, entertainment, local businesses, and summertime fun.

A Festival for Every Generation

Whether you're visiting for the first time or making it an annual tradition, Brownstown Summer Fest offers something for every age. Families can spend the day exploring the Kids Zone, enjoying interactive activities, games and attractions designed for younger visitors. Shoppers will discover dozens of artisan vendors, handmade crafts, specialty products, and local businesses throughout the festival marketplace, while food trucks serve up everything from festival favorites to sweet treats.

As the sun begins to set, the festival comes alive with two unforgettable nights of live entertainment. Friday is Country Night, featuring an evening of country music that captures the spirit of summer with energetic performances, dancing and a laid-back atmosphere perfect for kicking off the weekend. On Saturday, the festival turns back the clock for Decades Night, celebrating the greatest hits of the '70s, '80s and '90s. From disco and classic rock to pop anthems and nostalgic favorites, the music promises something every generation can enjoy.

Each night concludes with one of the festival's signature traditions – a spectacular fireworks display illuminating the Downriver sky. Festival entertainment also includes the popular Downriver's Got Talent, a reptile show, a magic show, an eating competition and much more!

Celebrating Local Pride

This event shines a spotlight on local entrepreneurs, nonprofits, community organizations, and volunteers who work together to create an unforgettable weekend. Every booth tells a story, every sponsor helps strengthen community connections and every visitor contributes to the welcoming atmosphere that has become the festival's signature.

For many businesses, the festival serves as an opportunity to introduce themselves to thousands of potential customers while reinforcing Brownstown Township's growing reputation as a vibrant place to live, work and invest.

Mark Your Calendar

The 2026 Brownstown Summer Fest takes place:

Friday, August 14, 5:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. – Country Night

Saturday, August 15, 2:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. – Decades Night, featuring the best music of the '70s, '80s, and '90s

Festival activities include:

- Live themed entertainment
- Fireworks
- Kids Zone
- Food trucks and festival favorites
- Shopping marketplace
- Beer tent
- Downriver's Got Talent
- Family-friendly attractions and community exhibits
- Corn Hole Tournament

A Downriver Tradition in the Making

As summer begins its final stretch, Brownstown Summer Fest provides the perfect reason to gather with family, reconnect with friends and celebrate everything that makes Downriver communities special.

Whether you're singing along to your favorite country hits on Friday, dancing to the unforgettable sounds of the '70s, '80s and '90s on Saturday, enjoying the fireworks or simply spending time with neighbors, one thing is certain: Brownstown Township knows how to celebrate summer.

This August bring your lawn chairs, your appetite and the whole family. The memories you'll make may become your favorite summer tradition.

Please visit https://brownstownsummerfest.com for more details.

BROWNSTOWN SUMMER FEST

Country Night

Friday, August 14th

3:00p – 6:00p Bingo at the Event Center

5:00p – 9:00p Kids Zone

5:00p – 9:00p Vendor Market

5:00p – Beer Tent Opens

5:00p – Music by **Nate Jones**

6:00p – Musical Special Guest **Rob Stone**

6:30p – Corn Hole Tournament

7:15p – Musical Special Guest **Tyler Booth**

8:45p – National Country Artist **Travis Denning**

10:00p – Fireworks

BROWNSTOWN SUMMER FEST

DECADES NIGHT

Saturday, August 15th

12:00p-4:00p - Bingo at the Event Center

2:00p-5:00p - Downriver's Got Talent

2:00p-9:00p - Kids Zone

2:00p-9:00p - Vendor Market

5:00p - Beer Tent Opens

5:00p - Music by **Itchycoo Park**

6:30p - Music by **Sunset BLVD**

8:30p - Headliner **Saved by the 90s**

10:00p - Fireworks

SPONSORED MESSAGE

'It's About People'

Downriver wealth advisors help clients build a strong financial future

By Terry Jacoby

KEY CONCERNS, an independent, fee-based Registered Investment Adviser, helps people create a plan that best fits their current situation today while helping build a strong financial future for tomorrow.

Founded in 1998 and based out of Wyandotte and Monroe, Key Concerns takes a relationship-first approach, where clients feel comfortable asking questions, understand the recommendations that are made and know they are always acting in their best interests as fiduciaries.

Co-owners Jennifer Brown and Erin Shelton want to work with people who share their values, want to be involved in the process and want a relationship built on trust.

"We take our fiduciary responsibility to our clients very seriously and will not hesitate to recommend a route that makes us less money, so long as it is the right decision for our clients," Shelton said. "Working with us requires laying a lot of cards on the table and opening up your finances so we first need to build trust."

Financial planning isn't just for those close to retirement.

"Whether someone is just beginning to build wealth, preparing for retirement or navigating a major life transition, having a trusted financial professional can provide clarity and confidence," Brown said. "We believe good financial planning isn't about selling products – it's about helping people make informed decisions and feel more confident about their future."

Key Concerns was founded in 1998 by Sue Waterhouse and Barb Grose, and the two served their many clients for almost 20 years. Waterhouse retired in 2015; Grose retired three years later. Shelton, Grose's daughter, and Brown took over the business in 2018.

Brown brings experience from the banking industry. Shelton worked in the nonprofit sector after getting her BA from U-M before joining the family business.

"One of the most rewarding parts of my job is to help people sort through investments and finances when they lose a loved one," Shelton said. "We help the executors, often adult children, sort through their parent's financial situation at a very critical and poignant time in their lives. I like that we can walk alongside them and help differentiate what needs to be done and when it needs to be done to help make that process easier, so they can focus more on the emotional aspect of their loss."

Key Concerns Inc.
Registered Investment Advisor

What sets Key Concerns apart is that they build relationships.

"We're intentionally a smaller, relationship-focused firm that takes the time to get to know our clients and understand what matters most to them," Brown said. "We believe financial planning should never feel intimidating, so we focus on making complex topics easier to understand and helping clients feel comfortable asking questions."

That relationship begins with a meeting to see if the fit is right – from both sides of the table.

"Our first meeting isn't really about investments – it's about people," Brown said. "We talk about retirement goals, family, career, major life transitions, and what financial success looks like from their perspective. We determine whether we're the right fit for each other. We believe financial planning works best when it's a true partnership."

In a field dominated by men, Key Concerns has always been owned and operated by women and has stayed in the family since day one.

"I like that we are an independent firm, which means that we can use any investment strategy or platform that we feel is right for our clients, so we are not fenced in by any one wealth manager or fund family, as some of the larger firms are," Shelton said.

For more information on Key Concerns, visit www.keyconcerns.com or call (734) 692-9282.

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734-785-7700

www.guidance-center.org

SPONSORED MESSAGE

Jabro Carpet One

Downriver's destination for all things flooring

By Kelsi Klein

WHEN it comes to all things flooring, Jabro Carpet One has been a Downriver staple for more than 73 years.

Built on nearly a century of professionalism and expertise, Jabro has always been a proudly family-owned business rooted in the heart of Southgate.

Sarah D'Ziurman's grandfather and great uncle started the business in 1953 and now she serves as co-manager along with her sister, Dana Rodriguez, with their mother, Sheree Jabro Smith, continuing the multi-generational legacy as owner.

Over the years, Jabro Carpet One has become a trusted name in flooring in southeast Michigan and beyond, serving local families with a strong commitment to quality, customer care and community involvement.

"We've always been Downriver and we've always stuck with the same thing," D'Ziurman said. "We love helping people make their homes beautiful and somewhere they can be happy and relax."

Jabro's customer-first mindset guides each aspect of its business from product selection to final installation and has earned it the News Herald's Best of the Best Readers' Choice Award for #1 Carpet and Flooring Store for six years in a row.

The store has built a strong reputation on exceptional customer service. Whether it's helping a homeowner find the perfect flooring for their space or coordinating a large-scale commercial project, the Jabro team works closely with each client to ensure the final result of each project exceeds their expectations.

To simplify decision-making, Jabro even offers a virtual room visualizer through its website. The interactive tool allows customers to upload a photo of their room and test different flooring materials, colors, patterns and textures for a realistic preview of how new flooring would look in their space.

The store specializes in a wide array of premium flooring products including hardwood, luxury vinyl, carpet, laminate and area rugs. The expert design consultation, professional installation services and seamless experience from beginning to end sets Jabro Carpet One apart from other flooring stores.

Jabro specializes in not only residential floor covering, but also maintains a diverse commercial portfolio including offices, churches, courthouses, police stations, municipal buildings and more.

Every installation comes with a lifetime warranty of the product, ensuring Jabro's confidence in the quality of its product and the craftsmanship it provides.

In addition to high quality products, expert installation and top-notch customer service, Jabro Carpet One is dedicated to the community. Supporting local organizations, schools and churches in the area is a cornerstone of the business.

"Our team all live in the Downriver area, which makes giving back to our community even more important to us," D'Ziurman said.

Notable contributions include sponsorships for youth sports teams and collaborations with groups like Fish & Loaves Community Food Pantry.

This year, Jabro is expanding its support through a partial sponsorship of Fish & Loaves' "Happy Soles" 5K fundraiser, with members of the Jabro team participating in the event as walkers and runners.

Recently, the business donated carpet to the Woodhaven High School Robotics Team, who named their practice field in Jabro's honor.

Jabro Carpet One Floor & Home is located at 13460 Northline Road in Southgate and is open from 9-6 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday; 9-8 p.m. on Thursday, and 9-5 p.m. on Saturday. For more information or to request an estimate, visit www.jabrocarpetonesouthgate.com or call (734) 720-9115.

Downriver's premier restaurant showcase!

Southern Wayne County Regional Chamber
SWCRC.com

DESTINATION DOWNRIVER DETROIT

Taste of Downriver

Presented by Public Service Credit Union

Tuesday, August 11
6 - 9:00 PM

Join us in
Downtown Allen Park | Sample delicacies from around the region!

Featuring Delicious Downriver Eateries

Allen Park | **Allen Park Nutrition, Culver's, Nothing Bundt Cakes, Prestige Banquet Hall, Ted's Coney Island**

Riverview | **A Serendipity Cakery**
Southgate | **The Grecian Center**
Trenton | **Hungry Howie's**
Wyandotte | **Tru Pizza**

Romulus | **Normans Catering**
And More! **Kona Ice, Mission BBQ The Slush Queen**

More Eateries To Be Announced!

Tickets: www.SWCRC.com/Taste2026 | (734) 284-6000

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WCCCD Wayne County Community College District

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Parks and Recreation

Brownstown Community Garden Plots

Located near the Brownstown Historical Building off King Road or behind the Brownstown Police Station. Call the Recreation Department beginning October 1 to renew for 2027. Deadline to renew is December 17. Please call the center after January 12 for new availability in 2027.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Halloween fun in Brownstown!

The Beautification/Historical Commission will be giving awards this fall/Halloween for yard decorating. Nominate your home or a neighbor's home! Please check the Brownstown Rec Facebook page for more info on this contest.

Halloween Movie in the Park: "Beetlejuice, Beetlejuice"

Join us for Halloween fun sponsored by All Weather Comfort Solutions.
Friday, October 2
Activities begin at 6 p.m. Movie starts at dusk
Location: Fairway Villa Park, Flowers Creek Sub.

Sensory Friendly Halloween Party-Free!

Saturday, October 10, 1-2:30 p.m.
Location: Event Center, 23345 King Road

Celebrate Halloween with us! Pizza, games, crafts and more! This program is for neuro-divergent individuals and their families/caretakers. Measures will be taken to ensure a sensory friendly environment for participants.You may wear a costume but not required!

Trick or Treat Trail-Free!

Sponsored in part by local businesses. If your business is interested in having a table, please email matthewww@brownstown-mi.org by September 30.
Sunday, October 11, 1-2:30 p.m.
Please arrive between 1 and 2:30 p.m. to walk the trail.
Admission: Free.
Location: Event Center Trails, 23345 King Road

Geared for ages 12 and under. Anyone under 18 needs an adult to accompany them on the walk. Local businesses will be handing out candy/prizes along the trail, so bring your favorite bag to collect!

Brownstown's Haunted Trail

Saturday, October 17, 7-10 p.m.
Location: Event Center, 23345 King Road
Fee: $10 per person at the door, electronic payment only.
It's back! Come if you dare and prepare for a scare! Not recommended for young children. This program is geared toward teens and adults.
Anyone interested in volunteering for the trail should email teresag@brownstown-mi.org by September 30.

Thanksgiving Candy Bar Bingo!

Saturday, November 7, 1 p.m. (We will play until we run out of prizes – around 2 hrs.)
Location: Community Center
Fee: Please bring one nonperishable food item or more if you are able, and one candy bar per player for entry. Goods donated to local families in need for the holidays.
Holiday-themed bingo. Prizes for every bingo! Let's have some holiday fun while helping those in need in our community.

Brownstown Tree Lighting – Free

Thursday, December 3, 6-8 p.m.
Location: Community Center and grounds
Join us in celebrating the beginning of the season with fun-filled family activities. Indoor and outdoor activities, as well as food trucks, and of course, Santa!

Brownstown Recreation Department Office
Hours: Monday-Thursday
8 a.m.-6 p.m.
at the Community Center

Call us at (734) 675-0920 or visit www.brownstown-mi.org and go to the Parks and Recreation tab for information and to register for programs.

Recreation Department Closures:
The Recreation Department Office is not open Friday-Sunday.
Monday, October 12, Wednesday, November 11,
Thursday November 26-Friday November 27
Wednesday, December 23-Thursday, December 24
Thursday, December 31, 2027

Check us out on FACEBOOK!

Holiday Breakfast with Santa

Saturday, December 5, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
Location: Community Center
Fee: $20 per person
Enjoy a pancake breakfast with your family and share your Christmas wishes with Santa. There will also be a special holiday magic show while you wait to see Santa. Online registration begins November 1.

Sensory Friendly visit with Santa – Free

Saturday, December 5, 1-2:30 p.m.
Location: Community Center
A sensory friendly program for those who are neuro-divergent, and their families or caretakers. Santa will be visiting and there will be treats and kids activities.

Carriage Rides and Cocoa

Friday, December 11, 6-10 p.m.
Location: Event Center, 23345 King Road
Fee: $5 per person; all attending this event must pay.
Advance payment required. Fee includes your carriage ride (rides are not exclusive) Cocoa and treats. Registration begins November 2 at 8 a.m. You will be given specific time for your carriage ride.
Join us for a fun carriage ride, cocoa and holiday fun at the Brownstown Event Center

Parks & Rec *continued on page 28*

Parks and Recreation

continued from page 27

AQUATICS PROGRAMS

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

Red Cross-Swim Lessons

Location: Woodhaven High School, 24787 Van Horn. Please use the athletics entrance on the northeast side of the building. Instructor: Blake Bannon.

Levels 2 and up must present Red Cross Swim level card to register.

Fee: $75 per session.

- **Fall 1 (7 classes/4-week session):** Registration begins Thursday, August 27
  Mondays and Wednesdays, September 9-30
  (7-week session; Wednesday, September 23 lesson will be on Thursday, September 24.)
- **Fall 2 (8 classes/4-week session):** Registration begins Thursday, October 1
  Mondays and Wednesdays, October 5-28 (8-week session)
  - **Parent-Child:** 5:00 p.m.
    American Red Cross Parent-Tot Aquatics familiarizes young children to the water and prepares them to learn to swim. This course gives parents safety information and teaches techniques to help orient their children to water.
  - **Level 1 - Intro to Water Skills:** 5:30 p.m.
    The student will continue to gain comfort in the water and will learn water safety.
  - **Level 2 - Aquatic Skills:** 6:00 p.m.
    The student will move toward solidifying fundamental water skills to become a competent swimmer.
  - **Level 3 - Stroke Development:** 6:30 p.m.
    Builds on skills learned in Level 2 by providing additional guided practice.
  - **Level 4 - Stroke Improvement:** 7:00 p.m.
    Objective is to build confidence in the strokes learned in previous levels and to improve other aquatic skills. By the end of Level 4, the student will have been introduced to all strokes and will work toward mastery of front and back crawl.
  - **Level 5 - Stroke Refinement:** 7:30 p.m.
    Deep water lessons
    -Front and back crawl for 100 yards
    -Elementary backstroke for 75 yards
    -Breaststroke and sidestroke for 50 yards
    -Racing starts and flip turns for all strokes
    -Preparation to join a swim club/ team and stroke technique drills
  - **Adult and Teen – Wednesdays only:** 8:00 p.m.

Sensory Friendly Swim Lessons will return in 2027

In the interim, those who have participated in the sensory friendly class may come to the Woodhaven/ Brownstown School District's community enrichment open swims. Parents must always be in the water with their children. Please visit the school's website or Facebook page for a schedule.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

All programs held at the Brownstown Community Center, 21311 Telegraph, unless otherwise noted.
Register at brownstown-mi.org

Tot Music Group with Brownstown Early-on TOTE

In partnership with Woodhaven Brownstown Schools
September 16, 30; October 14, 28; November 25, December 9, every other Wednesday 10-10:45 a.m.

This class is designed to promote language, motor, cognition, and social skills in infants and toddlers through music. Drop in Free.

Special Olympics – Young Athletes Program

In partnership with Woodhaven Brownstown Schools
September 9, 23; October 7, 21; November 4, 18; December 2, 16, every other Wednesday 10-10:45 a.m.

This is an early childhood play program for children with and without intellectual disabilities, age 2 to 4 years old. The Young Athletes Program will introduce basic sport skills, like running, kicking and throwing. Drop in free.

Young Rembrandts: Learn to Draw *(offered to those attending Weginka elementary school)*

Power of Drawing: Grades 1-5, 8 weeks, $132

Back-to-school season is bursting with creativity at YR! During this session, students will explore a fascinating world of characters, patterns, texture and vibrant color. Our students will create a realistic pizza drawing, macaw, pirate ships and sloth drawing as they focus on proportion, detail and shading techniques. As the seasons shift, students will dive into cartoon classes, drawing cat and dog expressions, festive holiday expressions and action-packed football poses – learning how line, shape and gesture bring characters to life. Each engaging lesson blends imagination, technique and storytelling. Give your child the gift of creativity, learning and fun – enroll today!
Wegienka: Thursday
September 24 – November 19
Time: 3:50 - 4:50 p.m.

Karate with Progressive Tactics

Classes held at the Brownstown Community Center. Visit www.progressivetactics.com for more information. Registration takes place with the instructor at class.

- **Little Tigers (3-4 year olds):** Monday, 5:30-6 p.m. $50/month. Instructor: Guro Theresa
- **Little Dragons (ages 5-6):** Monday, 6:05-6:45 p.m. $50/month. Instructor: Guro Theresa
- **Youth (ages 7-12):** Monday and Wednesday, 6-6:55 p.m. $65/month. Instructor: Mr. Barker
- **Teen/Adult (13+):** Monday and Wednesday, 7-7:55 p.m. $65/month. Instructor: Mr. Barker
- **Filipino Martial Arts (teens/adults):** Wednesday, 8-9:30 p.m. $50/month. Instructor: Mr. Barker

Free trial first class. Register with Mr. Barker at (313) 520-2057. Uniforms available for purchase. Family discounts available.

Downriver Jaguars Soccer

Fall Soccer begins after Labor Day

Location: Brownstown Soccer Fields, 23345 King Road (Thorn Park soccer fields at the Corner of King and Telegraph.

To register call (734) 215-5352, email John.McIntyre@michiganjaguarsfc.com or visit https://michiganjaguarsfc.com/club/downriver.

Downriver Ski and Snowboard Club (DSSC)

Starting January 2027, DSSC will host eight trips to Mt. Holly on Fridays, January 8 - February 26.

For grades 6-12 (ages 11-18)

Membership registration begins Tuesday, December 1, 2026.

Club membership fee is $40 for both students and adult members. Membership in DSSC allows access to discounted skiing, rentals, transportation from the Community Center to the hill, and lessons on club nights and lesser discounts on non-club nights.

ADULT PROGRAMS

All programs held at the Community Center
Register at brownstown-mi.org

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.

Location: Community Center

Fall Session 1 (8 weeks)

- **Tuesdays, 6:15-7:15 p.m.**
  September 1-October 20
  Fee: $48
- **Thursdays, 6:15-7:15 p.m.**
  September 3-October 22
  Fee: $48

Fall Session 2

- **Tuesdays, 6:15-7:15 p.m.**
  October 27-December 15 (8 weeks)
  Fee: $48
- **Thursdays, 6:15-7:15 p.m.**
  October 29-December 17 (no class 11/26, 7 weeks)*
  Fee: $42
  *Class held at the Event Center on 12/3.

Pilates

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

Location: Community Center

Fall Session 1 (8 weeks)

- **Wednesdays, 6-7 p.m.**
  September 2-October 21
  Fee: $48

Fall Session 2

- **Wednesdays, 6-7 p.m.**
  October 28-December 16 (no class 11/25, 7 weeks)
  Fee: $42

Parks & Rec *continued on page 30*

Parks and Recreation

continued from page 29

SENIOR PROGRAMS

All registration and programs held at the Brownstown Community Center, or call (734) 675-0920.

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 www.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 residents who are disabled or residents over 60 years of age. The cost starts at $1 for shopping trips to Meijer, Kroger, Target, Aldi, Walmart, and Trentwood Market, or educational and social field trips. You can apply for the Transportation Program by completing an application and submitting a copy of your Driver's License or State ID to the Brownstown Twp. Senior Coordinator. If you need an application or current transportation calendar mailed to you, call Cindy Sawyer at (734) 675-0920 and provide your name, address and return phone number.

Senior Bus Transportation is currently providing a $3 roundtrip ride to a medical or dental appointment with a seven-day advance registration for appointments on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. Approved Senior Bus Transportation residents can call (734) 675-0920 to register for transportation with a seven-day notice prior to appointment time within our service area.

The Senior Nutrition Program

Sponsored by Wayne County Meals on Wheels, offering hot meals Monday through Thursday at 12:00 p.m. There is a suggested donation of $3 per meal. This is a delicious way to make friends! Meals on Wheels home delivery are also available Monday-Thursday for seniors who sign up. You must call Joanie at (734) 675-5902 for more information or to sign up.

Monthly Activities

- **Travel Club –** First Monday of each month at 11 a.m., with three vendors presenting trips. The September meeting will be on Monday, September 14 due to the Labor Day holiday.
- **Pleasure Seekers –** Monthly meetings, accepting new members!
- **Brownstown Book Buffs Book Club (Trenton Library during the Community Center Renovation) –** Second Thursday, 10 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., with coffee and cookies. No meeting in August. In September we are reading "The Chanel Sisters" by Judithe Little. This historical fiction traces the early lives of Gabrielle "Coco" Chanel and her younger sister, Antoinette, as they escape a convent orphanage to build a fashion empire. We meet at the Trenton Veterans Memorial Library.
- **Game Day –** Game Day meets the 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. Fee: $4 per person.
- **Breakfast Bingo –** Third Monday of every month, 9:00 a.m. Brownstown firefighters cook pancakes and sausage. Sign up in advance for a $2 breakfast. Bingo is $3 and collected to play after breakfast.
- **Evening Taste of Brownstown –** On the fourth Monday of each month at 5 p.m., our seniors will be dining together at a local restaurant. Sign up in advance or call (734) 675-0920 so we can let the restaurant know how many to expect. In August we will go to Olympic Coney Island, 23748 West Avenue. In September we will gather at Francesca's Brick Oven Pizzeria, 21729 Telegraph Road. October takes us to Maxhari's Family Restaurant, 31966 W. Jefferson Avenue.
- **Feisty Red Hats Club –** Second Monday of each month. This group will meet at the Community Center. Currently expanding their membership.

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! –** Monday-Thursday, 10-11 a.m. Free.
- **Senior Card Day –** Tuesdays at 10 a.m. for drop-in cards at the senior lounge in the Community Center.

In-House Special Events and Trips

August

- **Downriver Senior Olympics**
  Registration ended June 30.
  Lincoln Park, Michigan – 2026 Host City
  Date: Monday, August 10-Friday, August 14
  Location: Kennedy Memorial Park, 3240 Ferris Avenue, Lincoln Park, MI 48146.
  See Senior Olympic brochure for specific locations and events.
- **Brownstown Summerfest Bingo**
  Brownstown Pleasure Seekers are hosting a Bingo open to the public. Bingo sheets are $1
  Date: Friday, August 14, 3-6 p.m. and Saturday, August 15, 12-4 p.m.
  Location: Brownstown Event Center, 23345 King Road

- **Lunch and Melodies at the Museum**
  Music with Standards at The DIA.
  Date: Thursday, August 27, departs 10:15 a.m.
  Fee: $35 lunch and museum – register in advance

September

- **Senior Health Expo**
  Date: Thursday, September 17, 2026, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
  Fee: Free
  Location: Brownstown Event Center, 23345 King Road
- **Brownstown Senior Magic of Motown**
  A themed luncheon and music
  Date: Friday, September 25, 1 p.m.
  Fee: $15 – register in advance by Thursday, September 17
  Location: Community Center
- **Toledo Zoo**
  Senior Day
  Date: Wednesday, September 30
  Fee: $10 in advance, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

October

- **Once Upon a Time Senior Halloween Party**
  Come dressed in costume for games, contests, lunch, music and more.
  Date: Friday, October 30, 1 p.m.
  Fee: $15 – register in advance.
  Location: Community Center, 21311 Telegraph Road

November

- **Golden Girls and 90th Birthday Party!**
  Lunch and live music with a Golden Girls theme, celebrating those 90 and over.
  Date: Friday, November 20, 1 p.m.
  Fee: $15 for seniors under 90 – all seniors welcome
  Seniors 90 years or older get in for free but must register in advance. Seniors 90-plus are sponsored by the Woodhaven Brownstown Rotary. Please register by Thursday, November 6. Guests of 90-plus seniors will also need to register and pay $15 fee.
  Location: Community Center, 21311 Telegraph Road

December

- **Christmas Carols and Cookies**
  Seniors are entertained at a concert by the Woodhaven High School Chorus groups, followed by cookie decorating and fellowship with the students.
  Date: Wednesday, December 2, 1 p.m. (time and date subject to change based on WHS Choral group schedule)
  Fee: Free
  Location: Community Center 21311 Telegraph Road

Parks & Rec *continued on page 32*

FACILITY RENTALS

We will announce rental availability for the Community Center as we are able. Please call for updates to the renovation.

All rentals and deposits from Brownstown Parks and Recreation are payable by electronic payment only (credit card, Apple Pay, etc.) We will not accept cash or check for rentals or deposits.

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, a large outdoor area provides a beautiful space for wedding ceremonies. In the off season it provides a beautiful backdrop for any special occasion.

The Brownstown Event Center is available for rent. Rentals for 2028 begin Tuesday, January 4, 2027.

Call today to discuss your event or check availability. Rentals require an agreement and deposit and must be made in person Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m. We do not hold rooms without payment and contract.

Brownstown Community Center*

Not accepting rentals currently due to renovations. Opening Soon! Call for updates.

Located at 21311 Telegraph, the Brownstown Community Center has been the place for special events Downriver 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.

Thorn Park Shelter Rental*

Available for rent to Brownstown residents only. $200 fee with an additional $200 refundable deposit.

Reservations will be taken for summer 2027 beginning Tuesday, April 6, 2027. Shelter will be available for use starting Saturday, May 1, 2027. Alcohol is not permitted in the shelter or the park. Please see list of rules posted online and at Thorn Park Shelter.

Parks and Recreation

continued from page 31

- **Holiday Party – "An Elf Christmas"**
  Date: Friday, December 11, 1 p.m.
  Fee: $15 in advance for lunch, gifting. Live music starts at 1 p.m.
  Location: Community Center, 21311 Telegraph Road

Travel

Travel Opportunities with Bianco

- **Pioneer Trail:** September 24, $124
- **Fiesta Detroit:** October 13, $126
- **The Parade Company:** November 17, $121

Extended travel opportunities with Premier World Discoveries

Call (877) 953-8687 for more information. Please give the Brownstown Travel Club booking number to receive your Travel Club Discount.

- **Music cities – New Orleans, Memphis and Nashville:**
  October 5, 2026, 8 days at $4,024 pp/dbl w/BD*
  Group Booking # 202582
- **Discover Japan by Bullet Train:** November 5, 2026, 12 days at $8,224 pp/dbl w/BD*
  Group Booking # 209760
- **Historic Savannah and Charleston holiday:**
  December 4, 2026, 7 days at $3,899 pp/dbl w/BD*
  Group Booking # 203620
- **Fantastic Florida and the Keys:** February 25-March 4, 2027, $4,624 pp/dbl w/BD
  Group Booking # 221866

Brownstown Seniors also travel with Custom Holidays. Please check customholidaysonline.com for trips.

All trips will depart from the north side of the Community Center Parking lot by the clock tower (next to King Road) unless otherwise noted.

Stronger Together

A COMMUNITY UNITED THROUGH SERVICE

COMMUNITIES are strongest when people come together with a shared purpose. That spirit was on full display last April during the inaugural Thriving Together Action Day, where nonprofits, local businesses, municipalities, community leaders, and volunteers united to make a lasting impact across Downriver.

Led by the Southern Wayne County Regional Chamber, the event brought together 14 participating nonprofit organizations offering projects that ranged from gardening and construction to organizing donations, sorting clothing, and supporting community improvement efforts. More than 150 volunteers dedicated their time to making a difference, demonstrating the power of service and collaboration.

Volunteer projects took place simultaneously across the region—from River Rouge and Dearborn Heights in the north, to Romulus in the west, Wyandotte along the riverfront, and south to Brownstown—highlighting the shared commitment of communities throughout Downriver to invest in one another.

Together, volunteers contributed approximately 600 hours of community service, creating an impact that will continue to benefit local organizations and the residents they serve long after the day concluded.

Community Focus Federal Credit Union was honored to serve as the Presenting Sponsor, supporting an initiative that reflects our commitment to strengthening the communities we call home.

"Thriving Together Action Day showcased the very best of our Downriver community," said Andrew Gregoire, CEO of Community Focus Federal Credit Union. "Watching nonprofits, businesses, municipalities, and volunteers come together with a shared purpose reminds us that our greatest strength isn't found in any one organization—it's found in our willingness to support one another. When we invest in our community together, everyone benefits."

COMMUNITY FOCUS
Federal Credit Union

The success of this inaugural event belongs to every volunteer who gave their time, every nonprofit that opened its doors and every business that stepped forward. The event wasn't simply about completing projects—it was about building relationships, strengthening partnerships, and showing what is possible when an entire community comes together.

Because when neighbors, organizations, businesses, and volunteers work together, we don't just improve individual communities—we strengthen an entire region.

Everyone is Welcome

Enjoy Mother Nature, lots of activities at the Pointe Mouillee Waterfowl Festival

By Terry Jacoby

THE Pointe Mouillee Waterfowl Festival is not only America's oldest Waterfowl Festival but helps support a number of important groups, including the Pointe Mouillee State Game Area and conservation efforts, youth organizations and the local community.

Proceeds will benefit habitat at Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, the largest freshwater marsh restoration project in North America, located in the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge.

This family-friendly event has been a Downriver tradition where nature lovers truly enjoy a wide range of fun outdoor activities, including popular events such as dog-jumping competitions and archery challenges.

"It all started in 1947 when duck hunters debated who was best at various duck-hunting techniques, such as setting decoys, shooting, punting, rowing, and carving decoys. It has since blossomed into what we have today," said Bob Whitwam, executive director of the Pointe Mouillee Waterfowl Festival. "There is something to see, do or buy for all ages."

This year's event, September 19-20, will feature longtime favorites including the large trading post, art tent, decoy tent, lake championship layout shoot (Saturday), Michigan Duck Hunters tour (Sunday), Huron River championship dog jump, puppy row, dog demonstration, kids tent (free), bow and arrow shoots (free), BB gun shoot (free), muck race (for ages, free and $100 for winners), food trucks, beer tent, and live music.

The event also includes hourly raffles.

"This event could not be done without the help of the festival board/committee, volunteers and our great sponsors who make this work possible," Whitwam said.

"Pointe Mouillee Waterfowl Festival is a 501(c)(3) organization and our funds support various projects, youth activities and equipment. The latest project is our second ADA hunting blind/walkway, which makes Pointe Mouillee Game Area accessible year-round."

Pointe Mouillee is rich in duck-hunting tradition, but it is so much more: it is in the middle of the international wildlife refuge and is one of the major hubs for migratory birds and home to many other animals.

Pet-friendly events are planned for this year's festival, along with the annual arts and crafts show where vendors offer a variety of waterfowl and wildlife art-based items for sale. Also continuing this year will be a kids tent with face painting and outdoor-themed games sponsored by the Huron-Clinton Metroparks and other local sponsors.

Pointe Mouillee Waterfowl Festival

It does not matter if you are not a hunter – everyone is welcome to come and enjoy the festival.

"So spend a day or two with us – bring the family to enjoy Mother Nature at the Pointe Mouillee Waterfowl Festival," Whitwam said.

The Pointe Mouillee State Game Area also hosts an annual walleye tournament (May 30) and Bill Barrow Memorial Sporting Clay Shoot (July 25).

There are opportunities to become a sponsor, either for the ADA Blind or for an event. Please contact pte.mouilleewaterfowlfestival.org or Bob Whitwam at Bobpmwf@gmail.com. Visit Ptemouilleewaterfowlfestival.org for further information on upcoming events.

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Spinning Records, Building Community

Justin McMillen blends automotive expertise, electronic music and a passion for collecting

By Ryan M. Place

FROM automotive paint shops to underground warehouses, Brownstown's Justin McMillen has spent most of his life immersed in two worlds: the automotive industry and Detroit's legendary electronic music scene.

Born and raised Downriver in Riverview, McMillen credits his family and upbringing for shaping his career and lifelong love of music.

"My mom is from Southgate and my dad grew up in Newcomerstown, Ohio," he said. "We were always a music family."

McMillen graduated from Light and Life Christian School in Taylor before earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Exercise Physiology from Wayne State University.

Today, he works for PPG Industries, one of the world's largest paint manufacturers, where he supports multi-shop organizations (MSOs) and collision repair centers throughout the automotive refinish industry.

"I've spent most of my career in automotive," he said. "I've worked in OEM roles, business development, sales, and even as a plant manager. Every position taught me something different."

In 2016, Justin and his wife Jamie moved to Brownstown.

"We built our house and moved here with our sons, Brady and Liam," he said. "The location is fantastic. We feel close to everything, and the township has seen a lot of positive growth over the past several years."

Outside of work, McMillen is perhaps best known in music circles for a passion that stretches back more than three decades.

"I started DJing in 1993," he said. "Back then, Detroit's underground scene was incredible."

He performed at legendary venues and events including Motor Lounge in Hamtramck, warehouse parties in Belleville, Under the Bridge, the Firehouse, Timbo's, and several other spots during the golden age of Detroit's electronic music scene.

"My very first rave was a Richie Hawtin event," he recalled with a laugh. "The police showed up, and all 400 of us ended up getting trespassing tickets."

In 2005, McMillen launched Kolour Recordings, an independent vinyl label devoted to soulful and deep house music.

"We eventually expanded into several sub-labels," he said. "One project I was especially proud of was House Is The Cure. Artists donated tracks, we'd press records and the proceeds helped families dealing with cancer, funeral expenses and other hardships."

After 15 years, McMillen sold the Kolour catalog to a major distributor in 2020, while ensuring artists retained ownership of their music. His music collection remains legendary among friends.

"I have over 9,000 vinyl records," he said. "Everything from house and techno to jazz, soul, rock, and hip hop."

His collecting interests extend well beyond music. McMillen also accumulates vintage horror memorabilia, Detroit-related antiques, sports cards, and 1980s Santa Cruz skateboard decks.

"My favorite horror movie is Return of the Living Dead," he said. "One of the stars, Linnea Quigley, actually sent me her cast jacket from the original film. It's one of my favorite collectibles."

When it's time to travel, McMillen enjoys exploring Detroit itself.

"I'm a big believer in the Detroit staycation," he said. "But we also love Chicago and Fort Lauderdale."

Closer to home, you'll often find him enjoying Baldo's Restaurant, Olympic Coney Island or walking around downtown Wyandotte.

For McMillen, life ultimately comes down to a few key things.

"Collect the music, cherish the memories and take care of the people around you," he said. "Those are the things that matter most."

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Good Neighbors

Z Plumberz offers experience, resources to better serve customers

By Terry Jacoby

WHEN Tom Wallen wanted to expand and take his local plumbing business to the next level, he went looking for someone who could help support his goals – like a P-trap supporting a faucet – while he maintained that steady flow and confidence found in a locally owned and operated business.

Wallen, 38, is a lifelong resident of Wyandotte who graduated from Roosevelt High School in 2006. When he was just 15 years old, he started doing plumbing with Tom and Mark Stanko, and gained experience and skills in residential plumbing.

"That's where I first learned the importance of high-quality craftsmanship," said Wallen, who also spent a year at Central Michigan University studying construction management. "After returning home from CMU that summer I decided to continue my plumbing career with Quint Plumbing. There I acquired a wide variety of plumbing skills, from underground sewer and water lines to commercial and industrial scale systems."

After earning his master plumbing license, Wallen started his own business, Wallen Plumbing. With the help of his apprentice and now-journeyman Michael Jasinski, they built a loyal customer base throughout the Downriver area.

"As time went on it became harder for us to keep up with the increasing demands from customers, and our response times increased to unacceptable levels," he said. "As I began to explore options to grow our business, one of my customers named Brian Harnos reached out with a proposal. Brian had just begun working as the general manager at Z Plumberz of North America, and they were looking for someone to take over the Downriver territory."

It turned out to be a win-win-win – for Z Plumberz, Wallen and his growing customer base.

"It was a great fit," Wallen said. "It's exactly what we were looking for."

Z Plumberz franchises are all locally owned and operated by individual businesses committed to their communities.

Founded in 2020 and based in Ann Arbor, Z Plumberz currently has around 20 franchises, including many in Metro Detroit such as Ann Arbor, Livingston and Downriver. They offer their franchise's experience and resources, including marketing and professional branding, a world-class training platform, home office staff support with a 24-hour in-house call center and access to commercial and industry connections.

Wallen's Z Plumberz of Downriver not only covers all of Downriver, but also communities all the way down to and including Toledo.

"Since joining Z Plumberz nine months ago we've been able to add employees, equipment and services to better serve our existing customers and simultaneously build the capacity to take on new customers," Wallen said. "As we continue to grow, our goal is to provide the highest level of service and offer professional solutions for the plumbing needs of the Downriver community."

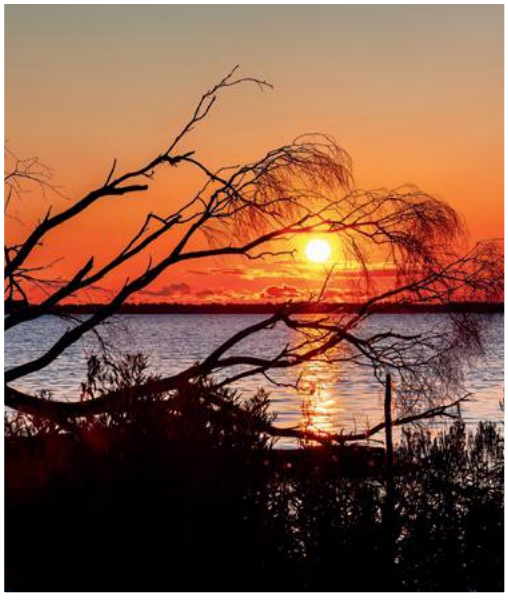
Z Plumberz of Downriver also strives to promote the plumbing industry as a valuable career option, and provide consistent training to its employees.

"Because of our training programs, they know how to properly diagnose and repair any plumbing problems we come across," Wallen said. "Here at Z Plumberz of Downriver we have an experienced team of licensed professionals to provide permanent code compliant solutions and installations. Whether you need a new faucet or a whole new sewer line installed, you can count on us to get it done right the first time and on time."

They also believe in giving back to the community and being good neighbors – they live here after all. For example, they recently teamed up with the SWCRC to do garden bed clean ups in and around Wyandotte.

For more information, visit zplumberz.com or call Z Plumberz of Downriver at (734) 977-1433.

DOWNRIVER'S FALL PALETTE



This fall, discover a palette of unforgettable experiences & colors across Downriver. Show us your fall colors and inspire someone's next Downriver adventure.

WAYS TO EXPLORE THIS FALL:

- ★ **Explore fall markets and events**
- ★ **Dine fine or casual**
- ★ **View nature's beauty with outdoor recreation**

DESTINATION DOWNRIVER DETROIT

DestinationDownriver.com

Water Wonderland

Exploring Southeast Michigan's lakes, rivers and beaches

By Kelsi Klein

IN 1953, Michigan became known as the "Water Wonderland" when the state adopted the slogan to promote its booming post-war tourism industry.

With more than 3,000 miles of Great Lakes shoreline, Michigan is home to the longest freshwater coastline in the mainland United States, but there are also thousands of inland lakes, rivers and streams to enjoy right here in Southeast Michigan.

This summer, take advantage of some of the best public water access right in your own backyard.

Kensington Metropark

4570 Huron River Parkway
Milford, MI 48380
Park Hours: 6 a.m.-10 p.m.
(810) 227-8910

Enjoy access to two sandy beaches, Maple and Martindale, with nearby modern restrooms, a food bar, playground and more. Paddleboats, kayaks and rowboats are available to rent. Access to the Metropark requires a vehicle pass ($10/day or $40/annual). Annual passes can be used at any of the 13 Huron-Clinton Metroparks throughout the season.

William C. Sterling State Park

2800 State Park Road
Monroe, MI 48162
Park Hours: 8 a.m.-10 p.m.
(734) 289-2715

Visitors can access about one mile of Lake Erie's sandy shoreline, perfect for a beach day. There is a buoyed swimming area, modern restrooms, changing stalls and more. A recreation passport is required for vehicle entrance can be purchased for $20 at the park entrance.

Island Lake Recreation Area

6301 Kensington Road
Brighton, MI 48116
Park Hours: 6 a.m.-10 p.m.
(810) 229-7067

For an "up north" experience in southeastern Michigan, visit the natural, undeveloped area and enjoy access to trails and beaches with four inland lakes and the Huron River. A recreation passport is required for vehicle entrance can be purchased for $20 at the park entrance.

Van Buren Park Beach

50901 N. Interstate 94 Service Drive
Belleville, MI 48111
Park Hours: 10 a.m.-8 p.m.
(734) 699-8921

Families can enjoy beach access, pavilions, playgrounds and more. Daily park entry fees are $6/resident, $8/non-resident, $3/senior resident, $4/senior non-resident and free for active-duty service members and veterans. Annual park passes are available.

Pontiac Lake Recreation Area

2401 N. Williams Lake Road
Waterford, MI 48327
Park Hours: 8 a.m.-10 p.m.
(248) 666-1020

Visitors can access the half-mile long beach with a buoyed swim area along with a play area, modern restrooms, picnic tables and grills. A recreation passport is required for vehicle entrance can be purchased for $20 at the park entrance.

Belle Isle Beach

7845 Riverbank Drive
Detroit, MI 48207
Park Hours: 5 a.m.-9 p.m.
(313) 821-9844

The buoyed swimming area is actively maintained from Memorial Day to Labor Day, providing Detroit's only beach located within Belle Isle State Park. The historic Belle Isle Beach House provides restrooms and changing rooms, and food trucks are often on-site during peak summer hours. Pedestrian and bicycle access is free, but a recreation passport is required for vehicles, and can be purchased for $20 at the park entrance.

Huron River Water Trail

From the rapids at Delhi and Dexter to the flat water at the entrance of Lake Erie, there are over 104 miles of water to paddle and enjoy. The Huron River Water Trail is a designated route for small boats like kayaks, canoes, paddleboards and tubes, with more than 40 established launch points. Several outfitters along the river offer paddling equipment for rent with transportation available to the drop-off or pick-up point. Visit www.huronriverwatertrail.org for a full map and list of launch points.

GIBRALTAR SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOND PROGRAM UPDATE

SUMMER 2026

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Construction continues to make steady progress on projects funded through the 2023 Bond Program, bringing meaningful improvements to learning environments across Gibraltar School District.

At the elementary level, students at Hunter Elementary, Parsons Elementary, and Rockwood Early Learning Center will soon enjoy new playgrounds designed to encourage active play, collaboration, and social development. Playground improvements are scheduled for completion in summer 2026.

At Parsons Elementary, heating system improvements and updated classrooms painting, casework, including new cabinets and bookshelves, are underway and expected to be completed in summer 2026. Construction also continues on the school's new classrooms and Gym addition, which is anticipated to be completed in fall 2027.

Rockwood Early Learning Center is receiving several important upgrades this summer. Classroom flooring is being replaced, the parking lot is being updated to improve traffic flow and accessibility, and the building's exterior façade is being refreshed to create a welcoming environment for students, families, and staff.

Carlson High School is undergoing a significant transformation. The auditorium is being renovated with new seating, flooring, lighting, sound systems, and a refinished stage, creating an enhanced space for student performances and community events. These improvements are scheduled for completion in summer 2026. Also the South Main entrance façade is being replaced with a new brick and metal panel for a new modern feel.

These projects reflect the district's continued commitment to providing safe, modern, and engaging learning environments that support student success for years to come.

For the latest bond updates and project progress, visit gibdist.net/bond.

Your partner in education,

Amy Conway

Amy Conway, Superintendent

IN-PROGRESS PROJECTS

CARLSON HIGH SCHOOL

Auditorium: New seats, flooring, lighting and sound, refinishing the stage

COMPLETION: SUMMER 2026

Exterior Facade Upgrade

COMPLETION: SUMMER 2026

ROCKWOOD EARLY LEARNING CENTER

Classroom Upgrades

COMPLETION: SUMMER 2026

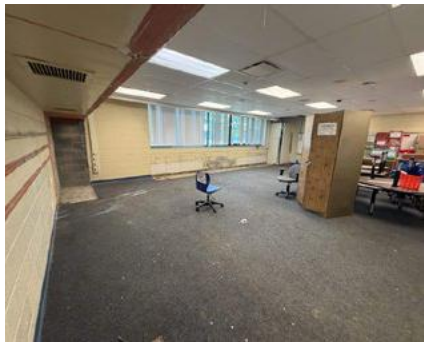
Bathroom Renovations

COMPLETION: SUMMER 2026

PARSONS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

NEW Addition

COMPLETION: FALL 2027



Updated Classrooms

COMPLETION: SUMMER 2026

WANT MORE? VISIT **GIBDIST.NET/BOND** FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ON-GOING DISTRICT BOND PROJECTS!

From Undefeated to State Finalists

A Historic Run for Carlson Girls Flag Football

THE Carlson High School Girls Flag Football team capped off a historic 2026 season by earning its second consecutive undefeated regular season and regional championship before finishing as the MHSAA state runner-up at Ford Field.

Entering the state finals, the Marauders had not allowed a single point during the regular season. They opened tournament play with a dominant 46-0 victory over Detroit Leadership Academy in the Sweet 16. Sophomore Jillian Gates led the ground attack with 125 rushing yards and two touchdowns, while junior quarterback Jordan Sikora threw for 166 yards and three touchdowns.

Carlson followed with a hard-fought 6-0 win over a talented Brighton team. The game's only score came on a spectacular interception return for a touchdown by senior Addison Wallace, who will continue her athletic career playing Division I flag football at Eastern Michigan University.

The Marauders continued their impressive run in the state semifinals, defeating L'Anse Creuse North 19-0. Sophomore All-State receiver Jillian Farago starred with eight receptions for 101 yards and two touchdowns.

Although Carlson's remarkable season came to an end in the championship game with a 28-12 loss to St. Joseph High School, the team battled until the final whistle. Freshman receivers Juju Atcheson and Blake Zachary each caught touchdown passes from senior quarterback Lauren Dunwoody as the Marauders mounted a late comeback effort.

Girls flag football continues to be the fastest-growing sport in Michigan. More than 85 schools participated during the 2026 season, and participation is expected to double over the next two years. Carlson's back-to-back undefeated regular seasons, consecutive regional championships and appearance in the state championship game have firmly established the Marauders as one of the premier programs in the state.

***Gibraltar** continued on page 44*

GIBRALTAR SCHOOL DISTRICT

FALL SPORTS SCHEDULES

CROSS COUNTRY

MARCHING BAND

SIDELINE CHEER

GOLF

FOOTBALL

SOCCER

TENNIS

VOLLEYBALL

#MARAUDERPRIDE

Gibraltar continued from page 43

Downriver STEM @ Weiss: Learning Beyond the Classroom

AT Downriver STEM @ Weiss, learning extends beyond traditional classroom lessons. Through project-based learning, community partnerships and authentic experiences, students are challenged to think critically, solve problems, collaborate with others, and take ownership of their learning. This year, students had numerous opportunities to apply their knowledge in meaningful ways while developing skills for future success.

One of the most exciting examples of authentic learning was our student-driven Makerspace project. Rather than simply using the space, students researched equipment, developed plans and helped bring their vision to life.

Their work was so impressive that Wayne RESA invited 10 Weiss students and their teachers to present at the Maker STEM Summit in the grand ballroom of The Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation. These students shared their learning journey with educators from across southeast Michigan, demonstrating the power of student leadership and innovation.

Students also showcased their creativity and problem-solving skills during our annual Innovation Night. Families and community members explored student-created robots, inventions, LEGO robotics projects, terrariums, plant packaging designs, innovative art creations, and other STEM-based projects. Students explained how they used the engineering design process to improve their ideas and solve problems. Innovation Night provided an authentic audience and a chance for students to proudly share their learning with the community.

Real-world connections remained a priority throughout the year. Our fifth-grade student government planned and organized a school-wide trip to the Toledo Zoo, gaining valuable leadership experience while creating a memorable learning opportunity for the entire school.

Students also explored future careers during our fifth annual Career Day, where professionals from aerospace, healthcare, engineering, law enforcement, robotics, and skilled trades shared their experiences. Third graders even connected virtually with aerospace leader Jerry Jason, a flight director with Sierra Space and former NASA flight director, who inspired students by showing how today's learning can lead to extraordinary careers tomorrow.

Beyond STEM, students also learned the importance of community, culture and service. Our annual Culture Day celebrated more than 10 cultures and nations represented within our school community, while fifth-grade students participated in a community outreach project with seniors at the Flat Rock Community Center.

These experiences remind us that while STEM and innovation are important, developing empathy, leadership and strong relationships remains at the heart of everything we do at Downriver STEM @ Weiss.

It Shouldn't Replace Thinking

Artificial Intelligence and Your Child

By Tracy Willis

WHETHER we like it or not, artificial intelligence is all around us. It's a part of your child's daily life – be it homework help, search engines or browsing recommendations on Tik Tok, your child's world view is already shaped by AI.

You've probably wondered: Is this safe? Will this replace real learning? How do I support my child when AI technology is changing at lightning speed? Luckily, you don't need to know all the ins and outs to support your child.

Take fear out of the equation.

Conversations about AI are often fear-based. Instead, start from a place of curiosity.

"How do you use AI?"

"What do you like about it?"

"What is frustrating about artificial intelligence?"

You might share your own experiences after listening to those of your child. If you start from a place of curiosity instead of judgment, you'll get honesty.

Recognize AI as a tool.

When first exposed to AI, students often see a potential shortcut: I can use this to do my homework! A healthier way to think about and use AI is as a tool for thinking. It shouldn't replace thinking.

One of your important roles is to help your child learn the difference between using AI to explore a topic versus using AI to replace thinking. Topic exploration could mean using AI to brainstorm ideas, ask follow-up questions or get deeper explanations. Using AI to replace thinking looks like copying answers or submitting writing or work that your child doesn't really understand.

Teach critical thinking, not rules.

Your child needs to understand that AI makes mistakes. It is faulty.

- It can be biased.
- It can misrepresent facts.
- It sounds confident, even when it's incorrect.
- It doesn't consider values, ethics or truth when it shares information.

If your child chooses to use AI, they need to understand that they must fact check by comparing it to multiple sources. They need to ask: Who might benefit from sharing this information in this way? Information, artificial or otherwise, is often angled to persuade or sway thinking. You should also discuss how the information that is shared is influenced by the number of clicks something gets, not by the quality of the information.

Be open about ethics and values.

Author Sherrilyn Kenyon once said, "Just because you can doesn't mean you should." Artificial intelligence is a powerful tool. That doesn't mean it should be used for everything.

At-home discussions with you about the following questions will help set boundaries around AI for you and your family:

- Is it okay to use AI for art or writing?
- When is it acceptable to use AI for homework? When isn't it?
- Who owns AI-generated work?
- How do we protect our personal data when we use it?
- What types of AI feel unsafe or inappropriate to use?

One of the most powerful statements you can say to your child is, "I don't know all the answers. I'm learning this, too." This isn't about being the perfect parent. Helping your child navigate AI is about open conversations, your presence and attention to their lives and your willingness to learn with them.

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.

Crowd Pleasing Dishes to Pass at this Summer's Cookouts

By Kelsi Klein

IF there's one thing that brings people together during Michigan summers, it's gathering with loved ones and enjoying good food.

From backyard barbecues and family picnics to graduation parties and cookouts, there is always a summer occasion to prepare crowd-pleasing appetizers and desserts to enhance the main course.

The following dishes travel well and are easy to make in large batches:

Appetizers

Caprese Skewers: This easy, no-cook recipe offers a fresh bite, perfect for a summer day. Assemble cherry tomatoes, fresh basil leaves and fresh mozzarella pearls sequentially on toothpicks. Top with a sprinkle of salt and pepper and drizzle with extra virgin olive oil and balsamic glaze.

Zippy Corn Dip: This simple dip recipe will be gone before you know it. Mix 1 can of drained corn with peppers, 1 cup of sour cream, 1 cup of mayonnaise, 8 ounces of shredded Mexican-style cheese, a 4-ounce can of diced green chiles, a fresh diced jalapeño and 2 diced green onions together in a bowl. Chill in the fridge for a few hours or overnight and serve with your favorite tortilla chips.

Peach Salsa: This sweet and spicy salsa will bring a fresh kick to any event. All you need to do is mix together 2 or 3 ripe diced peaches, half of a diced red bell pepper, a 1/4 cup of diced red onion, a 1/4 cup of fresh chopped cilantro, the juice and zest of 1 lime, 1 small grated garlic clove, 1/2 of a minced jalapeño and a 1/4 teaspoon of sea salt. Serve with tortilla chips.

Veggie Pizza: In a bowl, combine 4 ounces of cream cheese, a 1/2 cup of sour cream and 1 tablespoon each of fresh chives and dill, chopped. Chill for 15 minutes in the fridge. Bake an 8-ounce can of refrigerated crescent dough sheets according to package directions and let cool. Spread chilled cream cheese mixture on cooled dough and top with fresh chopped vegetables like broccoli, peppers, carrots, etc. Slice into individual pieces for serving.

Desserts

Cornbread Muffins: Nothing goes with barbecue quite like cornbread. To make things easier for serving, buy a box of your favorite cornbread mix (or make your own from scratch) and bake it in muffin pans with liners to skip the mess.

Frozen Graham Cracker Cool Whip Sandwiches: You just need two ingredients and a freezer for this easy, light dessert that's sure to satisfy any sweet tooth. For each sandwich you will need 1 graham cracker sheet (chocolate works well for this recipe) broken in half to form two squares. Place 2 tablespoons of thawed cool whip on the bottom cracker and top with the other half. Freeze until solid.

Mini Fruit Tarts: For a simple, refreshing treat, buy pre-made tart shells from the baking aisle or freezer aisle at your local grocery store. Keep it simple by filling each shell with instant pudding in flavors like vanilla, French vanilla, lemon or cheesecake. Top with classic fruit tart toppings like berries, mandarin orange slices and kiwi.

WHERE'S TEAM A TODAY?

WHERE LOCAL BRANDS GET THEIR MOMENT

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

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

TODAY
MAGAZINES

Our TODAY Magazines are an incredible platform that allows the entire community to coalesce, interact and tout successes, initiatives, events and achievements on a yearly basis.

Our quarterly publications allow cities/townships, chambers, DDAs, schools, businesses, residents, etc. to connect and be proud of where they work, play and live.

Our TODAY medium is truly the most cost-effective avenue to tout your business's services and/or products to your exact target audience, each quarterly season throughout the year.

CommunityPublishing.com

CHECK US OUT ON **FACEBOOK** @TodayPubs

Recent Ordinance Amendments Approved by the Brownstown Township Board of Trustees

ORDINANCE Amendment 141-84 permits accessory structures up to 200 square feet without permanent foundations to be placed within a dedicated easement, provided the property owner submits a completed easement awareness form. Property owners must still request a Placement Inspection and obtain a Zoning Permit. The amendment also prohibits shipping containers in residential zoning districts.

Ordinance Amendment 141-85 establishes rules for portable temporary storage containers, including temporary loading and unloading in any zoning district within specified timeframes, use on construction sites according to the applicable building permit timeline, and a formal definition of these containers.

Working Without a Permit

At the beginning of the year, the Building Department added penalties to the Inspection and Services Fee Schedule for Building and Zoning, Electrical, Mechanical, and Plumbing. These penalties are intended to discourage contractors from starting work without the required permits, failing to schedule required inspections or reopening expired permits.

As construction activity increased, Building Department staff began working random, non-office hours to confirm that contractors have the proper permits and that projects meet code standards for the health, safety and welfare of homeowners and the general public.

Registration of Vacant Structures

The Building Department has added a new registration and inspection process for vacant structures. Property owners must register vacant residential or commercial buildings and pay the required fees. Registration must be renewed annually until the structure is ready for occupancy and a certificate of compliance has been issued. Property owners who fail to re-register, update information or renew the vacant property registration may be issued a Municipal Civil Infraction.

For questions about permits, work performed without a permit or vacant structure registration, or if you need guidance or clarification, please call or visit the Building Department at (734) 675-0166. A Frequently Asked Questions section is also available on the Brownstown Township website.

www.brownstown-mi.org/government/township_departments/community_services

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COMMUNITY PUBLISHING & MARKETING

CALL TODAY TO RESERVE YOUR SPACE IN OUR NEXT ISSUE.

734-247-8000

Connecting Beyond the Call

Why Community Engagement matters to the Brownstown Fire Department

By Fire Chief Ryan Raumen and Deputy Fire Chief Dave Zurawski

WHEN residents see a Brownstown Fire Department fire engine or ambulance driving down the road, it is often responding to an emergency. While emergency response remains our primary mission, some of the most important work we do happens long before anyone dials 911.

Throughout the year, the Brownstown Fire Department participates in a variety of community events, including station open houses, school visits, safety fairs, parades, smoke alarm programs, and other public outreach activities. These events provide opportunities for us to connect with the residents we serve in a setting that is both educational and enjoyable.

At its core, community engagement is about building relationships. We believe that a strong fire department is built on more than equipment, training and emergency response. It is built on trust. When residents know the firefighters who serve their community, it creates a stronger partnership and a greater understanding of the services we provide.

Public education is one of the greatest benefits of these events. Every year, firefighters respond to emergencies that could have been prevented through awareness and preparedness. Whether we are teaching children how to develop a home escape plan, discussing the importance of working smoke alarms or sharing information about severe weather preparedness, our goal is to help keep Brownstown families safe before an emergency occurs.

Community events also allow residents to see firsthand what today's fire department does. While many people naturally associate firefighters with structure fires, the reality is that our personnel respond to a wide variety of emergencies, including medical emergencies, vehicle crashes, hazardous materials incidents, and severe weather events. Public outreach provides an opportunity to showcase the many ways the department serves the community every day.

For our younger residents, these events can be especially meaningful. A child who visits a fire station, sits in a fire engine or meets a firefighter at a school event often leaves with a better understanding of fire safety and a positive impression of public service. These experiences can reduce fear during emergencies and sometimes inspire future careers in the fire service, healthcare or other public safety professions.

The Brownstown Fire Department is proud to be part of this community. Our firefighters are not just emergency responders – they are your neighbors, coaches, volunteers, parents, and friends. We share the same commitment to making Brownstown a safe and welcoming place to live, work and raise a family.

Emergency response will always be at the heart of what we do, but building connections with the people we serve is what makes us truly effective. At the Brownstown Fire Department, we believe that community safety begins long before the sirens sound.

This Page Sponsored By
C*MAC TRANSPORTATION

COP ON THE BLOCK

Policing Where You Live

By Deputy Chief Andrew Starzec

THERE is something powerful about a police officer who doesn't wait for the phone to ring. The Brownstown Police Department believes that true public safety isn't in the response to crime; instead, it's built in neighborhoods, on sidewalks and in kitchen table conversations to stop crime before it happens. That belief is the foundation of Cop on the Block.

What Is Cop on the Block?

Cop on the Block is a community meeting unlike any other because we come to you! Rather than asking residents to drive to a station or sit in a municipal building, we partner with a community host and bring our officers, detectives and senior administration directly into a subdivision, apartment complex or mobile home park. We meet you where you live.

These one-hour sessions give residents direct access to Chief Jeff Watson and members of our command staff. You will hear about current crime trends from a law enforcement perspective, ask questions you've always wondered and share concerns that matter most to you and your family.

More importantly, we listen. Not just to acknowledge what we've heard, but to build an action plan to begin addressing those issues right away.

Why It Matters

While Cop on the Block has become a cornerstone of community engagement in Brownstown Township, the concept did not originate here. The initiative was originally created by Detective Jim Thorburn (Ret.) of the Allen Park Police Department, who recognized the value of bringing officers directly into neighborhoods to build trust and address community concerns in a more personal setting. Detective Thorburn graciously shared this idea with our department, allowing us to adapt and implement it for the residents of Brownstown Township.

Our mission is rooted in a simple truth: trust is earned through relationships. Our mission statement calls us to "build and maintain trusting relationships to ensure our residents feel safe in their homes and neighborhood."

Cop on the Block is one of the most direct ways we live that out.

Quality of life issues like traffic safety concerns, vandalism and drug activity rarely make the evening news, but they shape how safe you feel every single day. These are exactly the issues Cop on the Block is designed to surface and solve. When a resident tells us their street has a speeding problem, we don't just write it down – we act.

Who Should Attend?

Everyone! Whether you have a complaint, a compliment, a question, or simply a concern you've been hesitant to raise, Cop on the Block is your forum. We are there to listen, engage and work alongside you. Every voice matters.

How to Host a Cop on the Block Event

Bringing Cop on the Block to your neighborhood is simple. All it takes is one resident willing to serve as a community host – someone to help identify a gathering space, whether that's a driveway, a community room or a common area, and then spread the word. We handle the rest.

To request a Cop on the Block event in your neighborhood, contact Deputy Chief Starzec at astarzec@brownstownpolice-mi.org or visit us on Facebook at Brownstown Twp Police and we will work with you to find a date, promote the event and ensure your concerns are heard. We are committed to being a police department that reflects the values and priorities that matter most to you.

VOTE

November 3, 2026

Brownstown Township

GENERAL ELECTION

REQUEST A BALLOT

REQUEST AN ABSENTEE BALLOT FOR THE UPCOMING ELECTION BY EITHER:

- VISITING THE CLERK'S OFFICE IN PERSON
- SCANNING THE QR CODE BELOW AND FILLING OUT AN ONLINE APPLICATION

Reminder

- THE LAST DAY TO REQUEST AN ABSENTEE BALLOT IN PERSON AT THE CLERK'S OFFICE IS MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND BY 4 P.M.

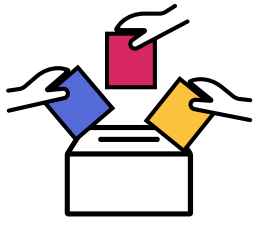
RETURN ABSENTEE APPLICATIONS AND BALLOTS

- US MAIL (NO POSTAGE REQUIRED)
- DROP BOXES LOCATED AT:
  - TOWNSHIP HALL (24/7 AT THE CURB)
  - INSIDE TOWNSHIP HALL (MONDAY-THURSDAY 7:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.)
  - FORT-GIB PARK (24/7 NEXT TO FIRE STATION 3 ON GIBRALTAR RD.)

★ ABSENTEE BALLOTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 8 P.M. ON ELECTION DAY TO COUNT!

EARLY VOTING

VOTERS CAN NOW VOTE EARLY FOR ALL STATE AND FEDERAL ELECTIONS AND TABULATE THEIR BALLOT BEFORE ELECTION DAY.



EARLY VOTING WILL BE AVAILABLE:
OCTOBER 24, 2026 THROUGH
NOVEMBER 1, 2026
FROM 8 A.M. TO 4 P.M.
BROWNSTOWN EVENT CENTER
23345 KING RD.

ELECTION DAY

POLLS ARE OPEN
7 A.M. TO 8 P.M.

FIND YOUR PRECINCT OR CHECK YOUR VOTER REGISTRATION STATUS BY VISITING MICHIGAN.GOV/VOTE

SCAN ME

ENSURE YOUR VOTES COUNT

STRAIGHT PARTY TICKET

- A voter has the option to vote a straight party ticket by selecting their desired party option on their ballot. This automatically gives a vote to the selected party in each of the individual partisan races with candidate(s) running for that specific party only.
- Voting a straight party ticket does not automatically vote selections in the non-partisan races of the ballot. The voter must make those selections for each individual race and proposal section.
- If a voter selects the straight party ticket option and also selects an individual candidate of the same party within a specific race, the ballot will still be counted. However, the vote will ONLY count once.

SPLIT PARTY TICKET

- If a voter selects the straight party ticket option and also selects an individual candidate of another party in a specific race(s), the individual vote will override the straight party ticket for that specific race(s) only. The voter has the option to vote any way they wish, voting for the maximum number of candidates permitted for each race.

MIXED TICKET

- Voters may choose to skip a selection in the straight party ticket section and directly select candidates of their choice from any party, or no party affiliations and write-ins up to the maximum votes allowed for each partisan race.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT THE CLERK'S OFFICE AT:

Phone: 734-675-0910
E-mail: elections@brownstown-mi.org

VOTE

ELECTION INFORMATION

MAUREEN BRINKER
CLERK

AROUND Brownstown

August - November

AUGUST

August 14-15

Brownstown Summer Fest

Friday: 5-10:30 p.m.
Saturday: 2-10:30 p.m.
Brownstown Event Center
23345 King Road

Don't miss the festival of the summer featuring live music, beer tent, vendors, food trucks, a kids zone, two nights of fireworks and much more. For more information and event times, visit www.brownstownsummerfest.com.

OCTOBER

October 2

Halloween Movie in the Park

Activities began at 6 p.m.; movie begins at dusk
Fairway Villa Park, Flowers Creek Sub (VanHorn, east of Telegraph)

Join us for Halloween fun sponsored by All Weather Comfort Solutions.

October 10

Sensory Friendly Halloween Party

1-2:30 p.m.
Brownstown Community Center
21311 Telegraph Road

Enjoy a fun-filled afternoon designed for neurodivergent individuals and their families with food, games, crafts and more. Costumes are welcome but not required. For more information, visit www.brownstown-mi.org.

October 11

Trick or Treat Trail

1-2:30 p.m.
Brownstown Event Center Trail
23345 King Road

Children are invited to trick or treat as local businesses will be handing out candy and prizes along the trail. Wear your Halloween costume and bring a bag to collect goodies. Those under 18 must have an adult accompany them. For more information, visit www.brownstown-mi.org.

October 17

Brownstown's Haunted Trail

7-10 p.m.
Brownstown Event Center
23345 King Road

Come if you dare, and prepare for a scare! This program is geared toward teens and adults. Fee: $10 per person at the door, electronic payment only. For more information visit www.brownstown-mi.org.

NOVEMBER

November 7

Thanksgiving Candy Bar Bingo

1-3 p.m.
Brownstown Community Center
21311 Telegraph Road

Save the date for a fun-filled family afternoon. For more information as it becomes available, visit www.brownstown-mi.org.

PLEASE NOTE: Event details may have changed. Please check event website or social pages for the most up-to-date information.

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