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Woodhaven T O D A Y



Inside

**Gibraltar Robotics
Rules!**

Fabric Yarns

**Woodhaven
Yeti Club**

2026 - First Quarter



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TODAY

M A G A Z I N E S



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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.



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CHECK US OUT ON **FACEBOOK** @TodayPubs

- 6** **Library News**
- 8** Trentwood Farms Says Family Businesses Are Here to Stay
- 12** **Woodhaven-Brownstown School District News**
- 17** **Brownstown Business Expo & Taste Tour**
- 18** Brownstown DDA Facade Grants Strengthen District Through Reinvestment
- 20** **To Your Health!**
Add depth to your meals with hearty greens
- 22** **Brownstown Parks and Recreation/ Senior Information**
- 29** **Destination Downriver**
- 31** Homework Doesn't Have To Be So Hard
- 32** **Gibraltar Public Schools News**
- 38** **Get Your Steps In, Have Fun!**
Metroparks Trail Challenge encourages outdoor exploration
- 39** **Save The Date!** Brownstown Summerfest
- 40** **2026 Brownstown DDA Events**
- 41** Fire and Health Tips for the Winter-to-Spring Transition
- 42** **Investing In Those Who Serve:**
A Modern Approach to Police Wellness



- 44** **Spotlight: Storytelling Through Fabric**
Woodhaven's Charlene Hart creates layered artwork
- 45** **Woodhaven Kiwanians**
Annual Kids Against Hunger event; Pillowcase Project
- 46** **Sports:** Woodhaven senior athlete recounts high school experiences, looks to future



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From the EDITOR

#WeRollAsOne

WELCOME to 2026! Another year, another reason to take stock and have gratitude for where we live and what we have.

Specifically, I want to call out the schools, both Woodhaven-Browntown and Gibraltar, for continuing to expand their resources to help kids learn while also setting them up for success in life after school.

In this issue, we highlight Gibraltar's robotics programs, which have been accomplishing a great deal in recent years. In addition to building cool robots, the students are learning invaluable skills they can take with them and use throughout their lives, like teamwork, tenacity and curiosity – that drive to never give up learning, no matter what it is.

Fostering that sense of wonder in kids is a gift that keeps on giving – for them and the people around them.

Also exciting is the district's all-girls FTC team, the Rockwood Rancor. Having a program that encourages female involvement in what's usually a male-dominated field shows that innovation knows no gender.

Both Gibraltar and Woodhaven-Brownstown Schools have programs that encourage growth, diversity and innovation, in a competitive arena that allows for students to learn what it means to earn honors or realize that they can take their falling-just-short experience and shoot for something better next time.

We should also recognize the supporters of these programs – the parents, teachers, mentors, advisors, members of the community – who volunteer their time, effort, knowledge and funds to make all this possible. Without them, these programs wouldn't exist.

So let's take a cue from the folks who are involved in the Gibraltar Robotics programs, and say #WeRollAsOne.

I couldn't have said it better myself.

Angela Calabrese is editor of Woodhaven Today. She welcomes your comments at acalabrese@communitypublishing.com.

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HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING AT YOUR LIBRARY!

Adult

Grass Carp: Dissecting the Details

Tuesday, March 24, 6-7 p.m.

Join fisheries biologist, Hayley, from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Detroit River Substation to learn about research goals and projects, particularly about grass carp. We will take a detailed look at fish anatomy and explore this invasive species. Registration requested. Intended for adults. Older kids and teens are welcome with adult supervision.

Daughters of the American Revolution – Free Genealogy Workshop

March 28, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

The Daughters of the American Revolution will help you research your family tree. We will assist those attending on a one-to-one basis. Come and get help from the volunteer assistants, who have learned the hard way, how to begin or move forward in your research.

Bring in any useful data about your family such as:

- Birth, marriage and death certificates
- Wills, land and probate records
- Census records, bible records
- Obituaries, tombstone photos
- Printed family histories

Registration is not required but is available on the online or by calling the library at (734) 676-9777. The workshop is open to anyone, regardless of age, who is interested in learning about their family tree. You are welcome to attend the workshop at any time throughout the session. Local DAR Chapter: <http://www.monc.michdar.net/>

National Kidney Foundation of Michigan presents High Blood Pressure Control Class Series

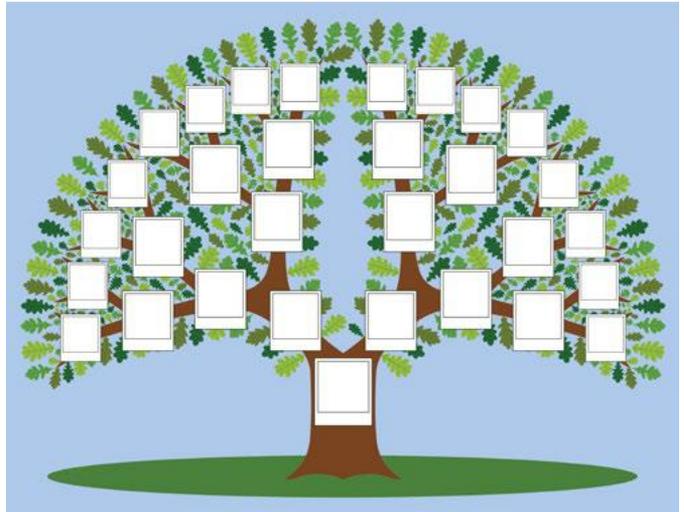
April 2 – May 28, 1-3 p.m.

High Blood Pressure Control (HBP Control) is a class that will help you build skills and tools to manage your high blood pressure. It is an eight-week, interactive workshop led by certified leaders. To enroll: call (734) 222-9200 or visit www.nkfm.org/HBPC

Beginners Genealogy Workshop: Part 1

Tuesday, April 21, 2-4 p.m.

Downriver Genealogical Society will have a free beginners workshop to help those interested in genealogy. We can all learn information that we may not have known to help us with our research. Also, this will give you a good start if you are just beginning your genealogy. Registration required. Please register by calling the library (734) 676-9777 or via our online events calendar.



Beginners Genealogy Workshop: Part 2

Tuesday, April 28, 2-4 p.m.

This workshop will build on research techniques learned in Part 1. Downriver Genealogical Society will have a free beginners workshop to help those interested in genealogy. We can all learn information that we may not have known to help us with our research. Also, this will give you a good start if you are just beginning your genealogy. Registration required. Please register by calling the library (734) 676-9777 or via our online events calendar.



Calling Adult Crafters: Craft & Chill

Saturday, April 25, 2-3 p.m.

Unwind with a fun and creative craft session. No experience needed – just relax, experiment with color and make something uniquely yours. All supplies provided. Adults only. Please register by calling (734) 676-9777 or through our online events calendar.

Youth

Mario Day

Tuesday, March 10, 6-7:30 p.m.

March 10 is Mario Day, and we want to celebrate with you! We will have a Mario Kart tournament, Mario-themed crafts, pizza, and more! For Children ages 5 to 17 | Registration is Required

Book Tasting

Thursday, March 19, 6 p.m. | Intended for children in grades four to six. Registration required.

It's no secret that children tend to gravitate to books they're familiar with, and it's difficult to get them to try new things. Join Chef Ashley in an engaging cafe-themed evening where they will "sample" various books to explore new genres, and maybe find their new favorite read! Participants will spend about five minutes with each book, reviewing the cover, blurb and perhaps a couple of pages. They will then reflect and rate their interest in that particular book.



Turtles, Snakes & Frogs, Oh My!

Thursday, April 6, 6-7 p.m. | All ages.

Immerse yourself in the terrestrial and aquatic worlds of Michigan's amphibians and reptiles. During the months of April through September, we will also bring live native amphibians and/or reptiles. These animals cannot travel during the cold winter months.

Please check our online Events Calendar for the most up-to-date programs and events. *To register for events/programs, please call the library at (734) 676-9777 or register online at <https://www.trenton.lib.mi.us/events-1#/events/>.



Return bins in Brownstown, Grosse Ile and Woodhaven

The library now offers book return bins at the Brownstown Community Center, Grosse Ile Police Department and the Woodhaven Community Center.

The Friends of the Library

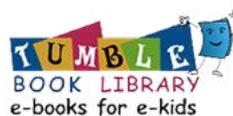
Most of our programming is sponsored by The Friends of the Library. The Friends are a volunteer group whose mission is to raise awareness and funds to support the services and programs of the Library. JOIN TODAY!! <https://www.trenton.lib.mi.us/friends-of-the-library/become-a-member-1>.

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Trentwood Farms Has A Clear Message: Family-Run Businesses Are Here to Stay

FAMILY-RUN businesses last for generations, not because of the building or product or services but because of the knowledge, work ethic and passion that is passed down to the younger generations from those who helped create and build the company's success.

Trentwood Farms, with locations in Southgate and Woodhaven, is a family owned and operated retailer of fresh fruits, vegetables, meats, premium deli products, groceries, and a lot more. The origins and blueprint for Trentwood Farms' success and growth began many years earlier in Dearborn.

In 1983, Arthur Hughes (known as Art to his customers) opened the Dearborn Farm Market, a beloved and neighborhood favorite that he ran for 35 years.

It was his caring personality and the personal relationships he created with his customers over the years that made Hughes a familiar and popular figure for three-plus decades in west Dearborn.

"My grandfather started the family business with Dearborn Farm Market and it was the first of three stores," said his grandson, Samuel Hughes. "Dearborn was where my dad's (Patrick Hughes) excellence came from, gaining experience from my grandfather. He made sure his business was managed properly with thorough instructions."

At the top of the instruction list was and still is customer service.

"It has always been the biggest factor in running our business," Hughes said. "As we are always respectful, trust their words and make sure they leave our stores with a smile. We carry the business with our hearts and take pride in everything we do."

Art Hughes, who passed away in 2019, opened Trentwood Farm Market in Woodhaven in 1987. Patrick

Hughes expanded Trentwood Farm Market when he added the Southgate location in 2010.

"My father worked underneath my grandfather when he was at Dearborn, eventually leading up to his promotion to store manager/owner of Trentwood," said Samuel, who grew up in New Boston and learned a lot from both men over the years.

"I have learned a lot from my dad," he said. "I was never into the business, but slowly gained interest. My grandfather and father both showed me how to be a hard worker. They taught me how to be kind, respectful and work for the love of our families as well as our customers."

Trentwood Farms, which has around 125 employees between the two locations, is a high-quality store with local produce, fresh meat and deli. They offer many unique specials throughout the stores and feature a loyalty program where customers earn points every time they make a purchase. Once they reach 50,000 points, they earn a \$25 in-store coupon.

"We always carry local items as well as seasonal arrangements," Hughes said. "Most of our produce from summer/early fall is mostly Michigan grown. We have a large

selection of annual flowers, seasonal pumpkins and other items for certain times of year."

Hughes is proud to be carrying on the family tradition and enjoys telling people the family-run business is here to stay.

"I dedicate every day to my parents and the legacy my grandfather left us," he said. "I only want to learn more and engage in more opportunities every day."

Trentwood Farms is located at 11055 Allen Road in Southgate and 16135 West Road in Woodhaven. For more information, visit trentwoodfarms.com.





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'We Take Care of People, Not Just Their Cars'

Guardian Car Care's excellent customer service is the foundation of its business

MIKE Powers has mastered the art of organized chaos inside his garage. On a recent winter afternoon, the parking lot is full, the phone is ringing and customers are coming and going at a rapid pace. On his front desk, Powers has work orders perfectly lined up with keys attached, and when a mechanic comes through the door he knows exactly which one to hand him.

Auto repair, especially in the cold of a Michigan winter, can get quite hectic to say the least, but Powers is able to keep everything running smoothly at Guardian Car Care on West Road in Trenton. A long-running family business founded and owned by the Gardner family, Powers bought the auto repair garage more than five years ago, and has been able to keep his foot on the gas with longtime customers while attracting new ones.

Powers, 34, of Grosse Ile, has been working in the auto repair industry for years.

"Travis Maxson of Downriver Spring gave me an opportunity to work with him 10 years ago at one of his previous shop locations," Powers said. "I learned how to operate a successful business from him, and shortly after he helped me take over Guardian Car Care."

The "keys" to his success are based on customer loyalty, trust and using the latest in technology to best identify the problem to help get his customers back on the road.

"It all starts with trust, which is essential in this business," he said. "Our customers bring their cars in and rely on us to keep them safe and on the road. Honesty and clear communication keeps trust and builds long-term relationships. We take care of people, not just their cars. We focus on doing the job right the first time, explaining repairs in a way our customers can understand."

Powers also wants to keep Guardian Car Care on the cutting edge of advances in the field.

"We keep up with the times utilizing technology and can handle any alignment, brake, exhaust and suspension issues," he said. "Our

mechanics, along with our decades of experience, guarantee our customers the highest quality of work possible with outstanding results at competitive prices."

Powers hires only the best mechanics and people around him – people he can trust with keeping his customers not only safe but coming back.

"I have built a team who all share the same mindset – to do honest work and take care of the customer," he said. "Experience matters just as much as attitude. At the end of the day, I just want people who treat every car like it belongs to their own family. All of our technicians are certified and eager to keep learning the trade. We take pride in our work and one another."

Guardian Car Care specialties include complete brake repair, suspension work, muffler and exhaust systems, and alignments for foreign and domestic cars and trucks. They also provide diagnostics on auto repairs and light-duty trucks.

"Word of mouth has been huge for us but we know our reputation is built one customer at a time," Powers said.

"Communication is very important to us. We discuss what work needs to be done, how much it will cost and remain available for any questions or concerns throughout and after the process.

"Our focus is on providing excellent customer service that has been the foundation of our business for many years."

Guardian Car Care is located at 18720 West Road in Trenton. For more information, call (734) 676-3227 or visit guardianwoodhaven.com.





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THINK SNOW:

A Decade of Growth, Adventure and Belonging with the WBSD Yeti Ski Club

By Kristi Stamey, Director, Communications and Public Relations, WBSD

What started as a simple idea between two educators who loved skiing has grown into one of the Woodhaven-Brownstown School District's most popular and enduring extracurricular programs.

Now celebrating its 10th season, the WBSD Yeti Ski Club serves students in grades 6–12 from Woodhaven Upper Elementary, Brownstown Middle School and Woodhaven High School. With anywhere from 80 to 100 students participating each year – and waitlists to prove it – the club continues to thrive.

Superintendent Mark Greathead and Brownstown Middle School Principal Andrew Clark serve as the club's advisors. Both grew up skiing and saw an opportunity to bring that experience to WBSD students.

"Mark and I both skied, and we thought, 'Why don't we start a ski club?'" Clark said. "We started it together, and here we are 10 years later."

In the early years, Clark and Greathead were joined by Cheryl McEmeel and Lori Holder as the four primary organizers. With leadership representation spanning grades six and seven, eight and nine and high school, the group built a structure that worked – and one that allowed the program to grow steadily.

Each season, the Yeti Ski Club offers multiple trips,

beginning with a popular day trip that often requires two buses. Later trips allow students to choose which outings they attend, but demand remains high. This season alone, 92 students participated on the most recent trip.

"We're full every year, and we usually have a waiting list," Clark said.



The club originally traveled to Pine Knob during its first five years, but eventually transitioned to Mt. Holly to better support student learning – especially for beginners.

"We have kids who come in with zero skills – who have never been on skis or a snowboard before," Clark explained. "Mt. Holly allows us to provide a better ski school experience. On that first trip alone, we might have nine or more instructors working with our students."

All students are required to take a lesson on the first trip to assess their skill level. From there, they earn color-coded patches – green for beginners through black for

expert riders – allowing them to progress as their skills improve.

"You have students who really want to show their growth," Clark said. "They're talking on the bus about what they want to try next, learning tricks, pushing themselves, and getting better each trip."

That growth is one of the most rewarding parts of the club for both advisors.



LEARNING AND LEADING FOR TOMORROW

"You see students come in as sixth graders and stick with it all the way through senior year," Clark said. "Even my own child improved year after year and was able to take on bigger hills."

Students can choose between skiing and snowboarding, and regardless of skill level, the emphasis is always on fun, confidence and community.

Superintendent Greathead said the club offers students far more than just time on the slopes.

"They develop friendships, independence and confidence," Greathead said. "They're learning to try something new, take risks and commit to getting better."

Greathead, who skied growing up, credits his own school ski club experience – and the relationships he built with advisors – for shaping his lifelong love of the sport.

"I just love being out there with the students," he said. "From the bus rides to the lessons to skiing alongside them – it's all about building those connections."

After a decade of snowy nights, full buses, earned patches, and countless memories, the Yeti Ski Club continues to be a highlight for students across the district.

As Greathead likes to say: "Think snow."



Woodhaven Unified Basketball Teams *VICTORIOUS* Over Woodhaven Police



In early February, the Woodhaven Unified Basketball Warriors squared off with the Woodhaven Police Department, marking the fourth time these teams have met. The Unified Warriors defeated the WPD 104-97.

Thank you to the families, friends, staff and community who come out to show support for these athletes!



LEARNING AND LEADING FOR TOMORROW

FUTURE
WARRIOR



BATES, ERVING, GUDITH, WEGIENKA
AND YAKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS



WOODHAVEN-BROWNSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT

2026 / 2027 KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION KICK OFF

— MARCH 16, 2026 —

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We offer safe, welcoming and joyful learning environments for all students, where parents work hand-in-hand with our dedicated and highly skilled teaching and support staff. We look forward to welcoming your kindergarten learner to our district.

Begin your journey with the WBSD by enrolling online at mywbsd.org, then click on ENROLL to start the process. Further direction will be provided upon submittal of forms.

All students benefit from our one-to-one learning device initiative and our 21st Century classroom technology. We also offer specialized programs that meet all students' interests and abilities.

We are committed to our students' continued academic growth and social emotional health and offer many programs that support our students' needs.

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KINDERGARTEN ORIENTATION

Thursday, April 23, 2026
6:00 - 7:00 pm

Hosted by each elementary school.

ENGAGE, ENLIGHTEN, EMPOWER

#WHYWBSD



Woodhaven-Brownstown School District Board of Education Approves 2026 Refunding Bond Sale, Generating More Than \$6 Million in Savings

At its regular meeting on Tuesday, February 10, 2026, the Woodhaven-Brownstown School District Board of Education formally approved the sale of the district's 2026 Refunding Bonds, a financial action that will result in more than \$6 million in total debt service savings for local taxpayers over the life of the bonds.

The 2026 Refunding Bonds refinance a portion of the district's previously issued 2016 School Building and Site and Refunding Bonds. By taking advantage of favorable market conditions and strong investor interest, the district was able to significantly reduce borrowing costs without extending the repayment timeline or increasing the tax burden on residents.

As part of the bond sale process, the district's financial position and management practices were reviewed by S&P Global Ratings. The district received a strong A+ bond rating, reflecting sound fiscal stewardship and prudent financial management. In addition, the bonds received an AA rating through participation in the Michigan School Bond Qualification and Loan Program.

Competition for the bonds was robust, with 17 bids submitted by national and regional financial institutions. Fifth Third Securities, Inc. was selected as the winning bidder after submitting the lowest True Interest Cost (TIC) of 2.815252 percent, well below the 5.00 percent interest rate on the refunded bonds. The refinancing achieved yields ranging from approximately 2.31 percent to 3.15 percent, resulting in gross debt service savings of approximately \$6.03 million.

"This bond refinancing is an example of responsible financial management and strategic planning," said Superintendent Mark Greathead. "By closely monitoring the market and acting at the right time, we are able to reduce costs for taxpayers while preserving resources for classrooms, programs and future facility needs."

The savings generated through this refinancing provide the district with additional flexibility for long-term capital planning and help ensure that previously voter-approved bond investments continue to be managed efficiently and transparently.

For additional information regarding the 2026 Refunding Bonds or the district's long-term financial planning, community members are encouraged to visit the district's website or contact the superintendent's office.





LEARNING AND LEADING FOR TOMORROW

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

These programs are free for Woodhaven or Brownstown residents, district employees and WBSD students and their families, and are available through March 31, 2026 (hours may change for the second quarter).

Location:

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

Saturdays | 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

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

Sundays | 12 p.m. – 4 p.m.

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

Please Note:

Community Enrichment will be closed on the following dates:
• Saturday and Sunday, March 14–15 (Robotics Competition)

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

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

ENGAGE, ENLIGHTEN, EMPOWER

#WHYWBSD

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Employment Opportunities for All Abilities

Services To Enhance Potential (STEP) is a non-profit organization that provides support and services to more than 1,400 individuals with disabilities and mental health needs residing in Washtenaw and Wayne counties. 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), What's Cooking at STEP, and training at our three STEP Thrift Store and Donation Centers, STEP offers opportunities to individuals of all abilities.

STEP Thrift Store & Donation Center
13705 Eureka Road
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Progressive Art Studio Collective (PASC) - Southgate Studio & Gallery
13721 Eureka Rd
Southgate, MI 48195
(734) 250-8695

For more information, please call 734-718-0483 or visit www.STEPcentral.org

Brownstown Business Expo & Taste Tour

Wednesday May 20, 2026
11am-2pm

23345 King Rd
Brownstown Event Center

Enjoy tasty bites from local eateries, raffles and giveaways,
swag and surprises for all ages.

Questions? email madisonh@brownstown-mi.org



Free
Event!





Enhancing

THE DOWNTOWN EXPERIENCE

DDA façade grants strengthen district through reinvestment

THE Brownstown Township Downtown Development Authority (DDA) was created with one core purpose: to strengthen the local business district through reinvestment, improvement and long-term economic growth.

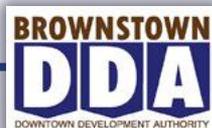
One of the primary tools that makes this possible is Tax Increment Financing (TIF), a funding mechanism that ensures growth within the district directly benefits the district itself.

As property values increase within the DDA boundaries, a portion of the additional tax revenue generated does not leave the area. Instead, those dollars are captured and reinvested locally to support projects that enhance the downtown experience for residents, visitors and business owners.

How TIF Funds Support the DDA District

TIF funding allows the Brownstown Township DDA to make strategic improvements that encourage business retention, attract new investment and create a stronger sense of place. These funds support a wide range of efforts, including streetscape and beautification projects, public infrastructure improvements, district marketing, community programming, business assistance initiatives, and facade improvement grants.

Among these efforts, facade improvements remain one of the most visible and impactful ways TIF dollars are reinvested back into the district.



Facade Improvement Grants: Supporting Local Investment

The DDA Facade Improvement Grant Program assists eligible business and property owners with the cost of exterior building upgrades. These grants are designed to encourage reinvestment while maintaining the character of the district and enhancing overall curb appeal.

Projects may include exterior painting, masonry restoration, updated signage, improved lighting, window and door replacements, architectural enhancements, accessibility upgrades, and general exterior repairs. By sharing in the cost of these improvements, the DDA helps reduce financial barriers for property and business owners while encouraging continued investment in the district.

Why Facade Improvements Matter

A strong and visually appealing business district does more than enhance aesthetics, it plays a vital role in long-term economic success.

Facade improvements help create a welcoming environment for customers, increase visibility and walkability, strengthen property values, support business retention, and improve the overall identity of the

downtown area. Each completed project contributes to a more cohesive streetscape and reinforces pride throughout the Brownstown Township community.

Recent Facade Improvement Projects

Through continued investment made possible by TIF funding, several businesses within the Brownstown Township DDA district have recently completed facade improvement projects. These improvements highlight how locally generated tax dollars are reinvested locally to create meaningful and lasting change.

Together, these projects reflect the mission of the Brownstown Township DDA: supporting local businesses, strengthening the district and building a vibrant downtown for today and the future.

Interested in Learning More?

Business and property owners located within the Brownstown Township DDA district who have questions about the Facade Improvement Grant Program or other improvement opportunities are encouraged to reach out. Email Strussell@brownstown-mi.org

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TO YOUR HEALTH!

Roots of Deliciousness

Add (inexpensive) depth to your meals with hearty greens

By Lisa Howard

CREAMED spinach. Stewed collard greens. Kale chips. The base ingredient for all those beloved dishes is a hearty green.

As a group, hearty greens are inexpensive and outlast a lot of their produce neighbors in the fridge. Some even come as a two-for-one bonus, like kohlrabi greens, beet greens and turnip greens – they're often attached to the star of the show (i.e., the root) and are overlooked.

But there's no need to waste any of that culinary talent! Instead of ditching attached greens, when you get them home, cut them free from their roots and store them separately in the crisper drawer. Along with giving you a freebie ingredient, liberating the roots from the greens means the roots will stay juicier and fresher. (Otherwise, the roots will lend their energy to the greens and the greens will try to keep growing, leaving the roots drier and more fibrous.)

Thinner, more delicate greens like beet greens and chard won't last as long as their super-hearty cousins like kale and collards, but all greens can be rinsed, dried well and then chopped and frozen for later use. Do not rinse them before refrigerating them, though, as that will speed up their decline.

If you want to slowly braise your greens with deeply savory co-ingredients like bacon and onions or if you want to blanch them and use them as a wrap, go with thicker, more sturdy greens. (Collards make great wrappers!) Kale is ideal for making chips (see recipe below), especially the über-crenellated curly kale with its



myriad nooks and crannies for holding seasonings. Mustard and turnip greens stand out with their distinct flavors, while kohlrabi greens are milder but still quite sturdy.

Lighter-weight greens like spinach, beet greens, chard and dandelion greens cook faster and are more subtle companion ingredients to include in soups and stews. No matter which green you choose, though, smooth, rich ingredients like extra-virgin olive oil, cheese, butter and eggs are always welcome additions, as are counterbalancing acidic ingredients like lemon juice and tomatoes.

Although carrot greens aren't hearty greens, they are a twofer deal and they're well worth saving – they taste like parsley. You can use them as you'd use any tender herb: as a finishing garnish, as a flavoring herb, as the cornerstone of pesto. If nothing else, pop them into a narrow vase and let their airy fronds spill over and decorate your table.

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



KALE CHIPS

- Preheat the oven to 325F and cover 2 baking sheets with parchment paper.
- Rip the tough ribs away from each curly kale leaf and discard them. Tear the leaves into small pieces and place them in a large bowl. Using a coffee/spice grinder, grind ¼ cup sunflower seeds with ¼ cup sesame seeds, 1 tablespoon dried Italian herbs and 1 tablespoon nutritional yeast.
- Drizzle the kale lightly with up to 1 tablespoon of tamari, shake on the seasoning and scrunch the leaves with your hands to get the seasoning to stick. (The goal is to use just enough tamari to make the leaves a little bit wet.)
- Spread the chips out on baking sheets so that none overlap and bake for 20 minutes or until the chips are crispy and starting to turn brown.
- Enjoy immediately!



April 9, 2026



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MAGAZINES
COMMUNITY PUBLISHING & MARKETING

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6:30 - 9:30 pm | Food, Music, Gala, & Expo

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#ItsHappeningDownriver



Parks and Recreation



SPECIAL EVENTS

Special Events – FREE unless otherwise noted.

St. Patrick's Day Candy Bar Bingo Saturday, March 14

Brownstown Event Center,
23345 King Road – FREE

This is an all-ages event! Children need to be supervised by an adult 18 or older.

Entry fee is one candy bar per player and one donation to the friends of the Brownstown Animal Shelter collected at entry. New/unopened toys, treats, supplies, food and monetary donations welcome. No need to sign up ahead of time! Bingo will run 1-3 p.m. at the Event Center. Bingo prizes will be candy bars! Don't forget to wear your green in honor of St. Patrick's Day!



Sensory Friendly visit with the Bunny

Sunday, March 15 – Hop in
between 1-2:30 p.m.

Brownstown Event Center,
23345 King Road

All ages, abilities, family, and caregivers welcome. Fun spring crafts and outdoor egg hunt weather permitting.

Free! This event is geared toward those individuals with sensory issues and special needs and their families.



Brownstown Egg Scramble

Sunday, March 22, 1 p.m. - SHARP!

Thorn Park, 21311 Telegraph Road - Soccer Field
Ages 12 and under. All participants will receive a goodie bag!

Magic show inside the Event Center, 23345 King Road, immediately following the scramble.

Brownstown Recreation Department Office
Hours: Monday-Thursday 8 a.m.-6 p.m.

Rentals taken until 5:30 p.m.
Call us at (734) 675-0920 or visit Brownstown-mi.org
For the most up-to-date info, check us out on FACEBOOK.

Township office closings:

Monday, May 25
Thursday, July 2
Monday, September 7



Kids to the Parks Day!

Saturday, May 16

Activities from 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Join us at Thorn Park, 21311 Telegraph Road

Kids to Parks Day is a national day of outdoor play celebrated annually on the third Saturday of May. There will be kids activities in the park and hot dogs will be served around 11:30 a.m. and given out while they last! Hot dogs sponsored by Woodhaven Brownstown Rotary. Water sponsored by Downriver-West Kiwanis. Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge will be onsite with fun activities.



Spring Fishing Derby

Sunday, June 7 –

Registration begins onsite at 10 a.m.

Contest runs 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
Pointe Mouillee by the DNR Office

Ages 17 and under welcome.

Trophies by age groups for most fish caught, littlest and biggest fish. Raffle for all kids participating in the derby!



Save the dates for Movies and Concerts in the Park Summer 2026

Concerts in the Park

Join us Thursdays from 7-9 p.m. at the Brownstown Event Center.

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



Movies in the Park

Join us Fridays at dusk!

At various township parks.

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



YOUTH PROGRAMS

All Registration and programs held at the Brownstown Event Center unless otherwise noted.

When renovations are complete programs will return to the Community Center.

Music Group with Early On – TOTE

Class is designed to promote language, motor, cognition, and social skills in infants and toddlers through music. Drop-in Free to the Brownstown Event Center, 23345 King Road, every other Wednesday 10-10:45 a.m.

Dates: March 18, April 15 & 29, May 13 & 27.

Special Olympics – Young Athletes Program

In partnership with Woodhaven Brownstown Schools

This is an early childhood play program for children with and without intellectual disabilities, ages 2 to 4 years old. The Young Athletes Program will introduce basic sport skills, like running, kicking and throwing. Drop-in Free to the Brownstown Event Center, 23345 King Road, every other Wednesday 10-10:45 a.m.

Dates: March 11 & 25, April 8 & 22, May 6.

LOOKING FOR AN AWESOME SUMMER JOB?



The Brownstown Recreation Department is hiring now! Positions start in May!

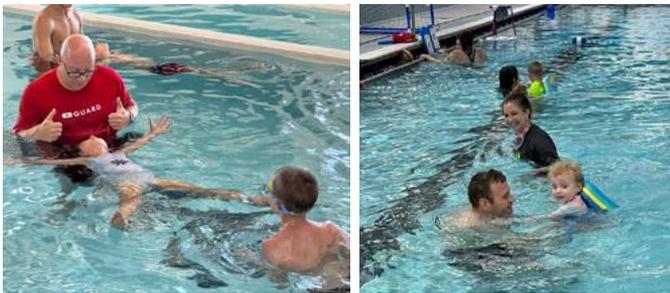
Part-time seasonal positions for splash pad attendants and recreation laborer.

Come enjoy the summer with us! Apply at www.brownstown-mi.org

Parks & Rec continued on page 24

Parks and Recreation

continued from page 23



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

Red Cross-Swim Lessons

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

- **Spring 1:** Registration began on March 2
Classes will run April 8-29 (7 Lessons)
 - **Spring 2:** Registration will begin on April 30
Classes will run May 4-27 (8 Lessons)
No class 5/25, make up 5/26
 - **Summer 1:** Registration will begin on May 28
Classes will run June 1-24 (8 Lessons)
 - **Summer 2:** Registration will begin on June 25
Classes run August 3-26 (8 Lessons)
- *You must have passed previous Red Cross level to move up. Present Red Cross level card to sign up for levels 2-5. Lessons are \$75 per person, per session.**
- **Parent Tot:** 5-5:30 p.m. M//W
 - **Level 1:** 5:30-6 p.m. M/W
 - **Level 2:** 6- 6:30 p.m. M/W
 - **Level 3:** 6:30-7 p.m. M/W
 - **Level 4:** 7-7:30 p.m. M/W
 - **Level 5:** 7:30-8 p.m. M/W
 - **Adult and Teen:** 8-9 p.m. W

Sensory Friendly swim lessons with Arbor Autism Trained Instructor Blake Bannon.

Swim lessons for children with autism or other neuro-diversities. Is your child unable to attend regular swimming lessons? This class may be for them! An adult over the age of 18 must always be in the water with participant during the lesson.

Dates: Sundays, April 12-June 7 (no lessons May 24 due to memorial weekend)

Price: \$120

Please call the Recreation Department for upcoming sessions.

If you are interested in sponsoring lessons to lower the cost to families, please contact teresag@brownstown-mi.org

Tee ball/Coach Pitch Program

We offer a combined co-ed internal league for ages 4-8. Registration begins April 13.

Fee: \$60 per child

Depending on ability, coaches will work with your child using t-ball or coach pitch techniques.

Your child will be assigned a coach, and that coach will contact you with practice/game times.

Shirt/hat provided. Fun party with awards at the end of the season! Register at the Brownstown Event Center.



CHECK OUT OUR LOCAL SPORTS PARTNERS!

Taylor South/Brownstown Little League

To register visit: <https://clubs.bluesombrero.com/tsllmichigan>

For information email:

taylorssouthlittleleague@gmail.com



Michigan Jaguars FC Youth Soccer

Downriver Cubs: U4/U5

Register online at

<https://michiganjaguarsfc.com/>

For information email:

John.McIntyre@michiganjaguarsfc.com



Coed Youth Golf League

Registration begins Monday, April 27. Declare your foursome at registration.

For more info visit our website Brownstown-mi.org under recreation.



Karate with Progressive Tactics

Classes held at the Brownstown Events Center. Call for a free trial (313) 520-2057 or visit progressivetactics.com for more information. Registration takes place with the instructor at class.

There is a 20 percent discount on additional participating family members. Instructor Bill Barker.

- **Youth 7-12:** Monday and Wednesday, 6-6:55 p.m. Fee: \$65/month, two days a week.
- **Little Dragon 5-6:** Monday, 6:05-6:45 p.m. Fee: \$50/month, one day a week.
- **Little Tigers 3-4:** Monday, 5:30-6:00 p.m. Fee: \$50/month, one day a week.
- **Adult 13+:** Monday and Wednesdays, 7-7:55 p.m. Fee: \$65/month, two days a week.
- **Adult/Filipino Arts 13+:** Wednesday, 8-9:30 p.m. Fee: \$50/month, one day a week.

ADULT PROGRAMS

All programs held at the Brownstown Event Center,
23345 King Road, unless otherwise noted.

Register at brownstown-mi.org

Softball – Men’s and Coed Leagues

Registration begins March 16 and must be done by electronic/card payment. Forfeit fees will be charged per cancellation at \$80.

- Sunday – Men’s DH 3
- Tuesday – Men’s DH
- Wednesday – CO-ED DH
- Thursday – Men’s DH

\$500 per team/umpire fees due at the field. Games played between 6:30-10 p.m. Games start the week of May 1.

Fields: King Road.

Adult Kickball – Mondays

Coed team registration begins March 16 and must be done by electronic/card payment.

\$200 per team plus umpire fees at the field. Games are held on Mondays 6:30-10 p.m. Games start June 8. Fields: King Road.

Fitness Classes

8-week sessions for 16+ with parent signed waiver

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 fitness levels welcome. Wear comfortable, stretchy clothing and bring a mat, rug or blanket. Please refrain from eating an hour before class.

- **Tuesdays, 6:15-7:15 p.m.**

Session 1: March 3 - April 21

Session 2: May 15 - June 23

- **Thursdays, 6:15-7:15 p.m.**

Session 1: March 5 - April 23

Session 2: May 5-June 23

Instructor: Tracy Fee: \$48

Location: Brownstown Event Center

Pilates

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

- **Wednesdays, 6-7 p.m.**

Session 1: March 4 - April 29

Session 2: May 6 - June 24

Instructor: Donna Fee: \$48

Location: Gudith Elementary School. No Class April 1.

Make up March 31 at the Event Center.

Parks & Rec continued on page 26



FACILITY RENTALS

Thorn Park Shelter

Rental-Available for Brownstown Residents Only.

Fee: \$200, Refundable Deposit \$200

Will not rent during construction. Parties not permitted during construction. Call for information.

Reserving the shelter does not guarantee use of the splash pad. Additionally, if open, the splash pad is an additional cost per person. Parties are not permitted without a contract, reservation and payment. Staff will be onsite to monitor.

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. During the off season it provides a beautiful backdrop for any special occasion. Fees vary, please call for more details. Currently renting for 2026 and 2027.

Brownstown Community Center

2026 and 2027 rental availability will be announced soon.

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 a 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.

Please call the Recreation Department at (734) 675-0920 to make a reservation or for up-to-date information on any facility rental.

Parks and Recreation

continued from page 25



SENIOR PROGRAMS

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

- **Senior Activities And Events** – Brownstown and surrounding community residents 50 and over are welcome to participate in a wide variety of programs, events and trips. Check out our monthly calendar at <https://brownstown-mi.org>
- **SMART SENIOR Transportation** – Residents of Brownstown can take advantage of the Senior Bus Transportation services through a SMART Specialized Services Grant. This service is available to disabled residents of Brownstown or persons 60 years of age or older. The cost is \$1 for shopping trips (Meijer, Kroger, Target, Aldi, Walmart, and Trentwood Market) or occasional educational and social field trips. You can apply for the program by completing an application and submitting a copy of your Driver's License or State ID at the Event Center.

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

- **The Senior Nutrition Program** – Sponsored by Wayne County and offering Congregate Meals and Meals on Wheels Monday through Thursday with a suggested donation of \$3 per meal. Meals on Wheels is also available Monday-Thursday for seniors who sign up. You must call Joanie Monday-Thursday 9 a.m.-12 p.m. at (313) 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. Representatives from Bianco, Premiere World Discovery and Custom Holidays will be in attendance.
- **Pleasure Seekers Social Club** – Third Thursday of each month at 1:00 p.m., potluck lunch followed by Bingo. Annual membership is \$10. Accepting new members!
- **Brownstown Book Buffs Book Club (Trenton Library during the Community Center Renovation)** – Second Thursday of each month is from 10 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. with coffee and cookies.
- **Game Day** – Second Thursday of each month at 1 p.m. Enjoy a light lunch and beverages while you play board games and cards of your choice. Sign up in advance and pay \$4 at the Event Center.
- **Breakfast Bingo** – Third Monday of every month at 9:00 a.m. Brownstown Firefighters cook pancakes and sausage. Sign up in advance \$2. Bingo is \$3 and paid for at the breakfast.
- **Taste of Brownstown** – Fourth Monday of each month at 5 p.m. Sign up in advance. We will visit different local restaurants each month.
- **Feisty Red Hats Club** – Second Monday of each month. This group meets offsite during the community center renovation. If you are interested in having fun, going to lunch, plays, teas, and more, then check out the Feisty Red Hat Club. Call for more info.

Weekly Activities

- **Beginner Line Dance** with Marion Baxter Tuesdays at 1 p.m. \$2 for drop-in class. Great exercise and a fun way to meet people!
- **Senior Exercise Drop-In-Free!** – Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Special Events

Held at the Event Center unless otherwise noted.

- **St. Patrick's Day Party** – Tuesday, March 17, 1-3 p.m.
- **Spring Fling Party** – Friday, April 17, 1-3 p.m.
- **Mexican Fiesta Party** – Friday, May 15, 1-3 p.m.
- **Annual Senior Memorial Day Picnic at the Thorn Park Shelter** – Tuesday, May 26, 1-3 p.m.

Travel

• The Grand Experience

Wednesday, May 6-Saturday, May 9

Take a trip to the historic Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island for three amazing nights! Enjoy round-trip motor coach transportation to Shepler's Ferry Docks, food, bingo, games, crafts, tournaments, special pricing on activities and more!

\$1,557 for private room, \$1,216 PP/Double, \$1,128PP/Triple.

A deposit of \$425 per person holds your spot. Final payment is due March 26.

• Bianco Travel

Call (734) 675-0920 or online at brownstown-mi.org

- **Menopause 2 The Musical at Macomb Center:** Sunday, March 15, 2026
- **Murder on the links-Purple Rose:** Thursday, April 9, 2026
- **Ann Arbor Adventure:** Tuesday, May 19, 2026
- **Canal Days:** Wednesday, June 24, 2026
- **Fleetwood & Friends at Zehnder's:** Wednesday, July 15, 2026
- **Michigan Grown:** Thursday, July 30, 2026
- **Saugatuck:** Wednesday, August 19, 2026
- **Pioneer Trail Wine Tour:** Thursday, September 24, 2026

• Premier World Discovery

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

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

- **Great Trains & Grand Canyons,** April 12, 2026, six days at \$3,699 pp/dbl w/BD*
- **Alpine Countries: Switzerland, Austria & Germany,** June 4, 2026, nine days at \$5,699 pp/dbl w/BD*
- **Nova Scotia & the Canadian Maritimes,** August 10, 2026, nine days at \$4,625 pp/dbl w/BD*
- **Music Cities - New Orleans, Memphis and Nashville,** October 5, 2026, eight days at \$4,024 pp/dbl w/BD*
- **Historic Savannah and Charleston Holiday,** December 4, 2026, seven days at \$3,899 pp/dbl w/BD*

• Custom Holidays

To sign up, email info@customholidaysonline.com or call (313) 388-0448. Tell them you are from Brownstown!

Brownstown Community Gardens

Located near the Brownstown Historical Building off King Road or behind the Brownstown Police station. Garden plots are \$20-\$25. Please call the Recreation Department for availability.

Brownstown Historical Society & Museum

The Historical Society was established in 1993 to promote education by historical study as well as collect, preserve and exhibit historical materials showing the history of our community.

The Martin / DuChene Farmhouse: Built by Miles Duchene in 1916, this farmhouse has been restored by the Brownstown Historical Society and is now known as the Brownstown Historical Museum. The museum is open to the public once per month (second Saturday of each month) from 1-4 p.m.

We are also open for private tours upon request. (brownstownhistory@gmail.com)

Splash Pad-located in Thorn Park

Open Saturday May 23-Monday, September 7, 2026. Weather permitting.

All payments for the splash pad must be made via electronic payment (credit card, Apple Pay, etc.) Cash will not be accepted at the Splash Pad.

\$3 per person per session. Sunday-Saturday 11 a.m.-1p.m., 1:30-3:30 p.m. and 4-6 p.m.

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

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

VISIT ONE OF OUR BEAUTIFUL PARKS!

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

New Year New You?

How to set goals without stressing yourself out

FOR many people, with each new year comes a new set of goals aimed at self-improvement. What most people don't realize is that unrealistic goal setting can actually be counterproductive, causing added stress and negatively affecting mental health.

Dr. Dalia Mammo, Medical Director of Crisis Services for Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network (DWIHN), shares practical tips on how to set smart goals that actually stick.



Dr. Dalia Mammo

Set realistic goals

"Good goals are designed with consideration," Dr. Mammo said.

She explained that unrealistic goals often lead to discouragement and discouragement can negatively affect mental health.

"Resolutions should support mental health instead of becoming another source of pressure or another thing to do in the new year," she said.

Simple, achievable goals are more likely to stick with people and help them feel successful

Dr. Mammo explained that the brain responds better to small, specific goals rather than large, vague goals because the smaller goals create frequent, manageable signals of progress that trigger dopamine release and help sustain motivation.

Set fewer priorities

"As we know, life is very demanding and too many goals can become overwhelming, which doesn't help with progress," Dr. Mammo said.

It's important

for people to prioritize the goals that matter most to them, and can be done without feeling like a chore or a burden.



Give goals personal meaning

When it comes to deciding what goals to make, Dr. Mammo encourages people to ask themselves, "Why does this matter to me right now?"

Today, especially with the prevalence of social media, many people are subconsciously comparing themselves to others.

"Instead of making it something that other people are doing, people should make their goals something that brings joy to their lives and makes them grow as a person," she said.

Understand that setbacks happen

Just like with anything else, setbacks are a part of working toward a goal. Dr. Mammo said the important part is getting back up when you fall. Self-compassion is an important part of goal setting.

"Setbacks are completely normal. Having a bad day or a bad week doesn't erase any progress," she said. "The whole point of a goal is to improve, not be perfect."

Regardless of the goal, it's important to make sure that mental health is a priority when people are working to achieve their resolutions.

"Especially during this time of year, when the sky is dark and gloomy, the holidays are over and seasonal changes can impact people's mood and motivation," Dr. Mammo said. "It's important to pay attention if you or someone you know are feeling overwhelmed – seek out professional resources if quality of life is being impacted."

DWPHN offers free, confidential help for Wayne County residents and provides an array of integrated services that improve behavioral and physical health. If you have or think you might have mental health issues, visit www.dwphn.org to find a trusted provider or access the clinical call center for an outpatient clinic screening and referral. For 24/7 help, call the DWPHN Crisis Helpline at (800) 241-4949 and speak to a mental health professional.



Destination Downriver

In case you missed it, Downriver is undergoing a regional renaissance.

Downriver's shift from its industrial past has accelerated in recent years. Milestones like the demolition of the Trenton Channel Power Plant, redevelopment of the former McLouth Steel riverfront, and multiple brownfield projects mark a turning point for what was once the rustbelt backbone of Detroit's automotive era. Areas once dominated by heavy industry are now becoming attractive places to live, work, and grow a business.



Led by organizations like the Southern Wayne County Regional Chamber and the Downriver Community Conference, the region has focused on remediation, entrepreneurship, and sustainable development - rebranding itself through collaboration and community investment.

Key drivers of Downriver's resurgence include:

- **Recreational Rebranding:** More than 100 miles of shoreline along the Huron and Detroit Rivers and nearly 10,000 acres of parkland are reshaping the region's identity around outdoor access and quality of life.
- **Demographic Growth:** An influx of young families and increasingly diverse populations are choosing Downriver for attainable homeownership and community-centered living.
- **Economic Diversification:** Strong support for entrepreneurship and emerging industries has led to hundreds of new businesses opening during the region's recent growth phase.
- **Downtown Revitalization:** Communities including Allen Park, Flat Rock, Romulus, Trenton, Wyandotte, and Grosse Ile are reinvesting in walkable, vibrant downtown districts.
- **Riverfront & Green Space Investment:** Former industrial land is being converted into parks, trails, launches, and accessible waterfront destinations.
- **Infrastructure & Connectivity:** Major projects like the Gordie Howe International Bridge and I-94 reconstruction are strengthening regional access and mobility.

Together, these efforts position Downriver as an affordable, connected, and recreation-rich option within the greater Metro Detroit region with momentum that continues to grow.



Tired of struggling with poor vision? Not sure what to do?

Ask the Doctor

Q: Dr. Jacobi, my usual eye doctor said she could no longer improve my vision with regular eyeglasses or surgery, but I still struggle with everything from driving to reading. I have been told I have "low vision. What does that mean, and what could I hope for from a low vision evaluation?

- Mabel M.

A: The first step is to determine how much actual vision or usable vision you have. In addition, we need to identify your needs. I find most patients who are struggling with poor vision due to various eye diseases still have very usable vision when they are given the right eyewear.

One of the first things I ask my patients is what they would like to accomplish with improved sight. I ask about activities they have given up due to their visual limitations. The only limitation for the solution is usually the motivation of the patient, as they come to terms with a permanent, lowered visual status. However, this is often the best time to see a low vision specialist such as myself, because the sooner you get the right eyewear, life will be easier.

During the first appointment, I spend one hour with each patient in order to pinpoint the best optical solutions (beyond regular eyeglasses). Next I will show you what it would look like with the vision restored by the new eyewear, so you can determine if that will work for you. In other words, the patient will experience exactly how they will see with their prescribed devices before they leave the office.

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

CALL TODAY (248) 731-9393

ABOUT BEYOND LOW VISION

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



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HOMework

It Doesn't Have To Be So Hard

By Tracy Willis

"BUT I don't get it! You didn't explain it the way my math teacher did."

Fat tears rolled down my cheeks and plopped onto the worksheet of 20 impossible math problems.

"Oh, go ask your father for help then."

This scenario happened at least once a week in my household. My mother was a teacher but she lacked the patience for my math drama, and I wanted nothing to do with her help. Math homework was a particularly harrowing experience.

If you're a parent, chances are you've run the homework gauntlet with your child. Sometimes you win, and other times you wear the battle scars to bed.

Homework doesn't have to be so hard. The purpose of homework isn't to torture. It's meant to provide a point of practice for skills your child has learned in class. And while there are many experts with big opinions about the pros and cons of homework, the fact remains that your child will have homework in their school career. There are strategies to support your child and keep your sanity.

It's time to organize.

One factor that keeps students from being successful with homework is that the home environment lacks structures to support success. Children crave routines that support them as they move through their day. That need doesn't stop when they come home from school.

- **Set a homework time with your student.** Does she need to decompress after school, or would she rather jump into homework right away? Set a homework time together.
- **Create a homework spot.** Younger students may need to have you nearby to stay focused. Try the kitchen table during dinner prep. Keep a basket nearby of necessary materials like pencils, scissors, etc. Older students may handle more privacy. Set up a desk in their bedroom. Wherever you choose, make sure that it's free from distractions. Cell phones off!



- **Create a battle plan.** Look over your child's assignment planner or homework tasks. Help them organize their backpack with folders if things are getting lost or destroyed. Discuss how they want to tackle the tasks.

You're the guide-on-the-side.

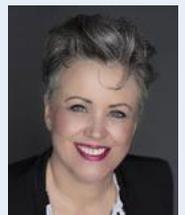
Think of yourself as a guide-on-the-side. Homework usually isn't graded, but it's important for mastering skills and preparing for future learning.

- **Stay close.** Stay close by to monitor and give assistance to younger students. With middle school and high school students, check on them to see if they need support. Offer it. They may not accept it but communicate that you're there if they need help.
- **Value productive struggle.** Don't rush in to rescue at the first sign of distress. It's one of the hardest impulses to ignore. Teachers call this productive struggle. Talk through the issue with your child, ask questions, offer suggestions, but if you rescue, you're doing the learning, not your child.

Flip the mindset.

Having a growth mindset helps everyone's stress levels. Helping your child change her mindset of "I don't know how to do this" to "I can't remember how to do this, but I can find out" diminishes the stress. Today's students have so many digital tools that parents never had growing up. There are countless YouTube videos that show content and step-by-step processes, as well as homework-support sites on the internet. Teach your child to ask questions when she returns to school the next day. Children can talk to teachers about what they didn't understand or remember when working on homework. This is an important part of the learning process.

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.





Growing Confident Learners

Early Childhood and Kindergarten in Gibraltar School District

AT Gibraltar School District, we believe a strong beginning makes all the difference. Our early childhood and kindergarten programs are thoughtfully designed to support young learners academically, socially and emotionally, setting the stage for long-term success in school and beyond.

Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP)

Located at the Rockwood Early Childhood Building, our Great Start Readiness Program offers a high-quality, full-day preschool experience led by certified teachers. This research-based program focuses on early literacy, social-emotional development and school readiness, while also providing nutritious meals and meaningful opportunities for family engagement. GSRP is available to qualifying families, helping ensure access to strong early learning opportunities for our community.

Champions Preschool: Learning Through Play

Champions Preschool provides a warm, engaging environment where children learn through hands-on exploration. With learning centers that include language, math, science, art, music, technology, dramatic play, and gross motor activities, students develop confidence, creativity and collaboration skills. Caring teachers guide children at their own pace, helping them build both academic foundations and positive character traits as they prepare for elementary school.



Full-Day Kindergarten and Young Fives

Gibraltar proudly offers full-day kindergarten and a full-day Young Fives program, giving every child the time and support they need to thrive. Students benefit from individualized literacy instruction, updated classroom materials, weekly specials such as art, music, physical education, and STEMtech, and purposeful use of 1:1 technology.

Our Young Fives program, now in its 49th year, is a free, full-day option for children who may benefit from additional time to grow socially, emotionally or academically before entering traditional kindergarten.

A Memorable Start: Mock Signing Day

To celebrate this important milestone, Gibraltar hosts a kindergarten and Young Fives Mock Signing Day. Students meet their teachers, sign a certificate and officially “commit” to starting school, creating excitement and easing the transition for our youngest learners.

Building Bright Futures Together

With dedicated educators, innovative programming and a strong sense of community, Gibraltar School District is proud to provide exceptional early learning experiences that help children begin their educational journey with confidence and joy.

For enrollment information, visit www.gibdist.net or call (734) 379-6350.

Gibraltar continued on page 34

Gibraltar School District
**Kindergarten
Round-Up**

Kindergarten



Wednesday April 29th, 2026 at 6:00pm

Online pre-enrollment and registration begins
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Hunter: 734-379-6390 | Weiss: 734-379-7060



Gibraltar continued from page 33

Where Learning Fits

Inside Lakeshore Virtual School

A virtual school with a strong community connection – that’s the foundation of Lakeshore Virtual School (LVS). Serving students in kindergarten through 12th grade, LVS offers flexible learning options designed to meet students where they are, whether they learn best fully online or through a blend of virtual instruction and in-person support.

LVS combines the convenience of online learning with meaningful academic guidance. Students follow Michigan state standards while receiving support from highly qualified teachers, mentors, tutoring opportunities, and counseling services. This flexible structure supports a wide range of learners, including students seeking individualized pacing, credit recovery or a nontraditional learning environment.

Beyond academics, LVS emphasizes connection and involvement. Students can participate in leadership opportunities, social activities and community service projects throughout the year. Initiatives this year have included outreach to nursing homes, Meals on Wheels and local staff members – showing that virtual learning can still make a real-world impact.

At Lakeshore Virtual School, education is about more than coursework. It’s about flexibility, support and belonging – helping every student succeed while staying connected to their community.



SCIENCE IS ALIVE

at Hunter Elementary School

WALK into any classroom at Hunter Elementary School and you’ll quickly see that science isn’t just a subject, it’s a way of learning. From Pre-K through fifth grade, science is intentionally embedded across the curriculum, coming to life through reading, hands-on exploration and engaging STEM experiences.

Students don’t just read about science concepts – they experience them. In literacy lessons, students explore nonfiction texts about animal life and habitats, investigate rock formation and geology and discuss how scientists observe and ask questions about the world. These reading experiences are paired with meaningful discussions, writing and inquiry that deepen understanding and spark curiosity.



In STEM classes, learning becomes even more hands-on. Students engage in activities such as coding to fly drones, problem-solving through engineering challenges and applying scientific thinking to real-world scenarios. These experiences help students build critical thinking, collaboration and creativity – skills that are essential for future success.

Hunter’s commitment to strong science instruction is further enhanced by the support of the Hunter Family School Association, which proudly sponsors the Science Alive Assembly. This interactive program brings science directly to students through live demonstrations and engaging presentations, making learning memorable and exciting for all grade levels.

At Hunter Elementary School, science truly is alive, woven throughout the curriculum, supported by families and designed to inspire young learners to explore, question and discover the world around them.

Gibraltar continued on page 36





BASEBALL



SOCCER



TRACK



GOLF



ROWING



SOFTBALL



FLAG FOOTBALL



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GIBRALTAR SCHOOL DISTRICT

SPRING SPORTS SCHEDULES

MARAUDER ROBOTICS: Building the Future One Gear at a Time

How Gibraltar School District's robotics program is inspiring the next generation of engineers, creators and innovators

In classrooms, hallways and competition pits across the Downriver area, something exciting is taking shape – and it's not just metal and wires. It's the future.

Welcome to the world of Marauder Robotics, where students in the Gibraltar School District are building robots, learning teamwork and discovering that anything is possible with curiosity and grit.

At its core, Marauder Robotics isn't just one team. It's a comprehensive robotics ecosystem that spans all grade levels – from elementary explorers to high school builders – giving students hands-on experiences with engineering, programming and creative problem solving.

Sparking Curiosity Early: FLL at Downriver STEM

The journey begins at the elementary level with FIRST Lego League (FLL) at Downriver STEM @ Weiss Elementary in Woodhaven. Here, younger students are introduced to robotics through playful challenges that spark big thinking. Using LEGO robots and guided by mentors and teachers, these young engineers learn how to design and build solutions, think like problem solvers and work together – skills that will serve them long after elementary school.

Middle School Momentum: FTC Teams at Shumate

At Shumate Middle School, the robotics buzz grows louder. Students have the opportunity to join one of four FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) teams during the fall and spring seasons. Marauder Robotics FTC roster includes FTC 12303 Shumate Sith, FTC 12379 Rockwood Rancor, FTC 12459 Gibraltar Jedi, and FTC 15446 Brownstown Bounty Hunters.

Each team tackles the annual FTC challenge by designing, building and programming robots to perform tasks in a competitive setting. The experience cultivates real engineering skills, teamwork and resilience.

Particularly notable is Team 12379 Rockwood Rancor, the district's all-girls FTC team. Rockwood Rancor is doing amazing work encouraging more female students to jump into STEM fields while building strong, competitive robots – showing that innovation knows no gender.

Speaking of competitive success, Team 12459 Gibraltar Jedi were the only

Downriver FTC team to advance to the 2025 FIRST in Michigan State Championship SE held at Grand Blanc High School, where they battled among the best and were selected to compete in the final rounds. This is a huge accomplishment and a testament to the dedication and engineering skill of these young students.

Want to learn more about robotics at Shumate Middle School? Visit shumateftc.com to see teams, mentors and programs in action.



High School Excellence: FRC and the Terror Bytes

The robotics journey continues at Carlson High School, home of FRC Team 6528, the Terror Bytes. In the world of FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) – where high school students design, build and compete with full-sized robots – the Terror Bytes are making a big impression.

Committed to gracious professionalism, the Terror Bytes not only compete, they give back. From mentoring FLL and FTC teams to community service like Celeron Island beach cleanups, these students embrace leadership on and off the field.

Over the past nine years, the team has grown dramatically, both in membership and capability. With support from the district and generous sponsors, the Terror Bytes have expanded their in-house technology, including tools for custom parts creation, laser cutting and 3D printing in the Shumate STEM Lab, empowering students to bring their boldest ideas to life.

This year, the team is competing in the 2026 FIRST Rebuilt season, hitting the competition circuit at two exciting FIRST in Michigan district events – Week 2 in Woodhaven and Week 3 in Belleville – where robots and students alike are ready to shine.

For more on the Terror Bytes – from robot reveals, event results, sponsors, scholarship opportunities, and social media – visit terrorbytes6528.com.





Celebrating Success and Community Support

From tinkering with LEGO motors to mastering code and drafting designs that work on competition fields, the students of Marauder Robotics are proving that STEM education is alive and thriving in the Downriver area. Their achievements speak to hard work, creativity and an enthusiastic community that believes in preparing students for tomorrow's challenges today.

A heartfelt thank you to all the sponsors, mentors, educators, and families who make this program possible! Your support keeps the gears turning, the wrenches turning and the sparks flying. Together, we truly #WeRollAsOne.

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GET YOUR STEPS IN, HAVE FUN!

Metroparks Trail Challenge encourages outdoor exploration

By Kelsi Klein

THERE'S nothing like exploring Michigan's great outdoors, and the Metroparks Trail Challenge gives participants a chance to not only experience more than a dozen trails but also earn prizes along the way.

The Huron-Clinton Metroparks make up nearly 25,000 acres of woods, water and recreational facilities across 14 parks in Livingston, Macomb, Oakland, Washtenaw and Wayne counties, offering a variety of outdoor activities for Michiganders.

Since 2023, the self-paced Trail Challenge, which runs from May 1 through October 31, has drawn thousands of participants.

"We have designated challenge trails in each of the parks where participants need to find the kiosk and take a selfie," said Metroparks marketing specialist Hilary Simmet. "That selfie gets loaded to an online leaderboard and the more trails you hit, the more prizes you earn."

Last year, registrants received a customized tumbler featuring a space to collect a sticker from every park they visited. At the end of the Trail Challenge, participants received the park-specific stickers they earned to add to their tumbler. Participants who visited all 13 parks earned a 2026 Metroparks annual pass, giving them even more reasons to come back and explore.

Over the past three years, the Trail Challenge has grown from 500 to over 1,100 participants, and is expected to be even bigger this year.

Simmet said that word-of-mouth recommendations have been one of the biggest growth factors for the Trail Challenge and a great way to get people out and enjoying nature.

Another reason repeat participants keep coming back

each year is because the program stays fresh.

"Each year we change the location of the Challenge Trails, so participants are exploring new trails each year," Simmet said. "And sometimes there's a new amenity, program or activity that they can do in the area, allowing participants to experience more of the park."

For park visitors, the Trail Challenge is a perfect excuse to branch out and spend time at Metroparks they might not normally visit. This year, the Metroparks expanded their reach, opening their 14th location and their first within Detroit city limits – the Huron-Clinton Metroparks Water Garden at Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Centennial Park along the Detroit Riverfront, which will have its own kiosk for the 2026 Trail Challenge.

The Trail Challenge is built for everyone of all ages and abilities. This past year, the Metroparks added accessible and pet-friendly challenge trails at each of the parks, giving participants more options to choose routes that fit their needs and even offering a special Trail Challenge dog tag for pets that joined in on the fun.



Looking ahead at Lake Erie Metropark

This year, families can look forward to the Great Wave Pool reopening at Lake Erie Metropark, located at 32481 West Jefferson Avenue in Brownstown, as well as the annual Kids Fishing Tournament in June, a completely free community event where kids will receive a brand-new fishing rod, tackle, free lunch, activities, giveaways and much more.

For more information, to see what's happening at the Metroparks or to purchase an annual pass, visit www.metroparks.com.

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MAY 20

Business Expo

11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Event Center
23345 King Road
Free Event

JUNE 20

Touch a Truck

10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Brownstown Ballfields
23555 King Road
Free Event

JUNE 10, JULY 8, AUGUST 12

Local Markets

2-7 p.m.
Event Center Parking Lot
23345 King Road
Free Event
Local Vendor and Food Trucks

AUGUST 14

Brownstown Summer Fest

5-10 p.m.
Brownstown Soccer Fields and Event Center
23555 King Road
Free Event with some paid activities
Beer tent, kids activities, fireworks, bands,
food and much more.

AUGUST 15

Brownstown Summer Fest

2-10 p.m.
Brownstown Soccer Fields and Event Center
23555 King Road
Free Event with some paid activities
Beer tent, kids activities, fireworks, bands,
food and much more.

Details may be subject to change, and this may not be the most current information. Be sure to follow @ Charter Township of Brownstown Downtown Development Authority on Facebook for the most recent information.



SPRING FORWARD SAFELY

Fire and health tips for the winter-to-spring transition

By Fire Chief Ryan Raumen and Deputy Fire Chief Dave Zurawski

AS winter loosens its grip and spring starts to peek through, most of us are thinking about warmer days, open windows and getting back outside. But that in-between season, when cold mornings meet mild afternoons, can quietly introduce new safety risks at home and in the community. Fire departments often see a shift in call types this time of year, and a little awareness can go a long way.

Here are some practical fire and health safety tips to help you, and your home, transition safely from winter to spring.



Heating Season Isn't Over (Yet)

Early spring is notorious for temperature swings. One day you're shutting off the furnace, the next you're cranking it back on. That back-and-forth can strain heating systems.



What to do:

- Clean out space heaters and store them properly when not in use. Never leave them plugged in "just in case."
- Keep combustible materials at least three feet away from any heat source.

Bonus reminder: Test your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors. Daylight Saving Time is a perfect cue to replace batteries.

Spring Cleaning = Fire Prevention

Spring cleaning isn't just about decluttering. It's also one of the easiest ways to reduce fire risk.

Watch for:

- Overloaded power strips and extension cords that were used all winter for heaters, lights or holiday décor.
- Lint buildup behind dryers and inside dryer vents.

A cleaner home breathes better and burns less easily. It's a win on both fronts.

Outdoor Burning and Yard Work Hazards

As snow melts and yards reappear, many people start raking leaves, burning brush or using outdoor equipment for the first time in months.

Stay safe by:

- Remembering to check the township website for the fire ordinance before any open burning. Many springtime fires start with illegal burns.

- Using lawn equipment safely – sparks from chains, rocks or malfunctioning tools can ignite dry grass quickly.

Spring grass may look green, but last year's dry material underneath can burn fast! Especially on windy days.

Health Risks During Seasonal Transitions

Spring brings fresh air, but it also brings allergens, changing humidity and increased activity levels.

Keep in mind:

- Allergy season can aggravate asthma or respiratory conditions. Keep medications current and accessible.
- Take it slow when resuming outdoor projects. Heart attacks and injuries often spike when people overexert themselves after a sedentary winter.



Listen to your body. Spring enthusiasm shouldn't come at the cost of your health.

Emergency Access Matters

Melting snow can reveal blocked hydrants, hidden address numbers or damaged walkways.

Help first responders help you:

- Make sure house numbers are visible from the street.
- Repair loose steps, railings or uneven sidewalks that could cause falls.

Small fixes now can save critical time during an emergency.

A Season of Awareness

The transition from winter to spring is a reset for homes, routines and habits. Taking a few proactive steps now can prevent fires, injuries and medical emergencies later. Fire and health safety aren't seasonal concerns – they simply change with the weather.

As you open the windows and welcome spring, take a moment to check your safety basics. A little prevention today helps ensure the warmer months ahead are healthy, active and incident-free.

Stay safe and enjoy the season, from your Brownstown Fire Fighters!

This Page Sponsored By



Investing In Those Who Serve

A Modern Approach to Police Wellness By Deputy Chief Andrew Starzec

THE Brownstown Police Department has taken a meaningful step forward in supporting its most valuable asset – its employees. A newly renovated gym and innovative wellness policy now allow all department personnel to engage in one hour of approved wellness activity while on duty.

This progressive initiative reflects a growing recognition within modern law enforcement that employee wellness is directly tied to morale, performance and the quality of service provided to the community.

Policing is an inherently demanding profession, requiring employees to manage physical risk, emotional stress, irregular schedules, and the cumulative impact of critical incidents. When left unaddressed, these challenges can contribute to burnout, injury and long-term health consequences. The department's wellness policy is designed to address these realities proactively by integrating wellness into the workday, rather than treating it as something that must be pursued exclusively off duty.

In support of this policy, the department recently completed a comprehensive upgrade to its onsite fitness facility. New equipment includes a Torque Fitness rack system with bench press and squat capabilities, an infinity rope pulley system and a ski-rower system – providing versatile strength and functional training options. A dedicated deadlift platform accommodates both traditional and trap bar lifting, enhanced by the versatility of rubberized weight plates for Olympic lifting and CrossFit-style workouts. A Concept2 rowing machine, Matrix treadmill and a Torque Fitness air bike complete the setup for high-intensity cardiovascular training.

Physical fitness, particularly structured strength training, plays a critical role in law enforcement readiness. Resistance training improves musculoskeletal health, reduces injury risk, enhances functional movement, and supports cardiovascular conditioning. Regular exercise is also strongly associated with improved mood, better sleep quality and increased resilience to stress – all factors especially relevant in the law enforcement profession.



Research has identified a connection between consistent physical activity and a reduced risk of suicide, making accessible fitness opportunities a vital component of comprehensive officer wellness and mental health support.



The wellness policy allows flexibility in how employees use their wellness hour, including physical fitness, strength training, cardiovascular exercise, yoga, meditation, and other approved wellness activities. This approach recognizes that wellness is not one-size-fits-all and empowers employees to select activities that best support their individual physical and mental health needs.

By providing on-duty opportunities for wellness and fitness, the Brownstown Police Department is taking a proactive approach to building physical capability, fostering mental resilience and strengthening organizational culture. Healthier, more engaged employees are better positioned to interact with the public professionally, patiently and empathetically, which ultimately reinforces trust and enhances service to the Brownstown community.

As law enforcement continues to evolve, Brownstown is leading the area with initiatives like this wellness policy and facility upgrade, which demonstrate a balanced, forward-thinking approach – one that recognizes caring for those who serve is a critical component to effective, modern policing.



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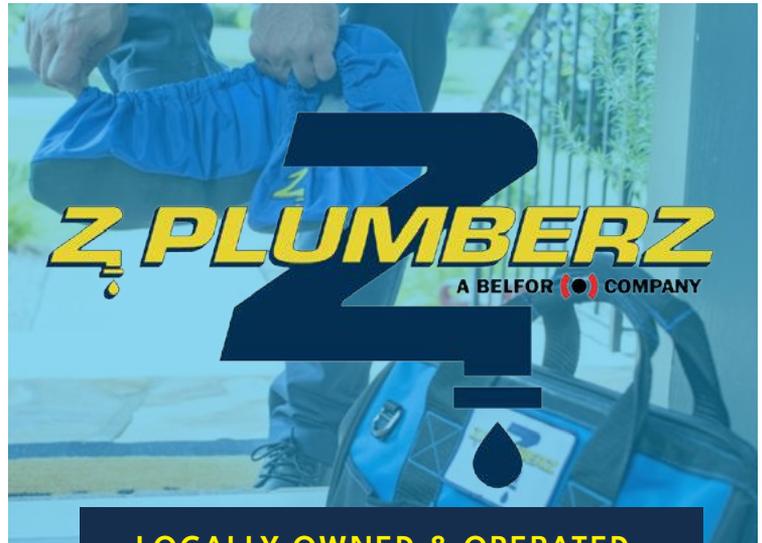
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Storytelling Through Fabric

Woodhaven's Charlene Hart creates layered artwork By Ryan M. Place

BORN in September 1956, Charlene Hart grew up in the rural mill town of Putnam, Connecticut, nestled along the Quinebaug River.

"I lived in Putnam until I was 21," she said. "Then my family moved to Livonia, Michigan."

Hart, a Woodhaven resident since 2017, is married, has two sons and a daughter, and shares her home with two small dogs, a Bichon-Shih tzu and a Maltese-Shih tzu.

"Woodhaven is a wonderful community," she said. "We've made great friends here. There's a good library, great parks and we love events like the Uncle Sam Jam."

In 2022, Hart launched The Guided Thread, a private home-based quilting business specializing in longarm quilting.

"I do quilting on a longarm machine," she said. "I have a computer-guided, robotic system attached to the machine and I stitch digitized designs onto quilt tops provided by clients."

She serves more than 40 regular clients, all acquired via word of mouth.

"They bring me the quilt top and backing," she said. "The backing has to be at least five inches larger than the quilt top. Most clients can purchase batting – the middle layer between the top and backing – directly from me, choosing from wool, cotton or poly-cotton blends. Typical turnaround time is six to eight weeks."

Each project begins with careful preparation.

"Ironing and steaming out creases," she said, "then loading the backing, batting and quilt top. Then designing or selecting a pattern on the computer before stitching."

Though largely self-taught, Hart honed her skills through beginner classes at Accomplish Quilting in St. Joseph, MI, and YouTube tutorials from master quilters Corey Pearson and Angela Walters. She's also active in the Quilt Makers of Michigan Guild, based in Trenton, which meets monthly.

"Our president, Jackie Lemanski, grew the guild from 30 to over 130 members," Hart said.

Before quilting became her focus, Hart earned an associate degree in nursing from Schoolcraft College and worked for decades as an LPN in skilled care and wound care, including time at Detroit Medical Center (DMC).

"Some of it was particularly intense," she recalled, referencing severe diabetic ulcers, surgical wounds and gangrene. "Quilting offers a creative counterbalance."

She originally learned to sew by watching her mother, an accomplished seamstress, and started with couture clothing and alterations. Today, her studio is her sanctuary.

"It's meditative," she said. "Each piece tells a unique story."

When not quilting, Hart and her husband, Pat, enjoy trips to Palm Coast, Florida, and rustic cabin stays in Iron Mountain, Michigan. Every August, you can find her shopping the massive Grand Rapids Quilt Show.

Closer to home, the couple frequents Champions Bar for mushroom Swiss burgers and sweet potato fries, Woodside Meadows in Romulus for Friday fish and chips, Taco Tuesdays at Amigo's, and peaceful walks at Trenton's Elizabeth Park.

For Hart, Woodhaven isn't just where she lives. It's where creativity, family and community are stitched lovingly together. Email Hart at TheGuidedThread@gmail.com.





Woodhaven Kiwanians Sponsor Annual Kids Against Hunger Packing

By Paul Elsey

SINCE 2005, Woodhaven Kiwanians and Friends have met on one cold, wintry Saturday to Pack Kids Against Hunger Packets. This year it was Saturday, January 31 at the Woodhaven Upper Elementary School.

The packets included rice, soy, vegetables and 21 essential vitamins and minerals. The meals can be prepared anywhere there is water and a heat source, and are designed to meet the religious and cultural needs of people around the world.

Our Kiwanis Friends who pack the food make the whole process work. This year our Kiwanis friends included over 350 school students – third, fourth, fifth, and sixth graders from the Woodhaven-Brownstown School District; fifth graders from the Anderson School Student Council and members of the Brownstown Middle School Charity Club and National Junior Honor Society.

Leadership was provided by high school students, represented by the Woodhaven High School Robotics Squad, National Honor Society and hockey team. The

JROTC from Southgate Anderson handled the Quarter Master responsibilities.

It was a great day to see so many students from different schools working together to help reduce food insecurity locally and around the world. The day also showed elementary school students that you don't outgrow helping others as they worked with high schools involved in a wide range of high school activities.

Additionally, 21 Woodhaven Kiwanians helped keep everything moving smoothly.

Locally, food packets are distributed to Our Lady of the Woods, Faith Lutheran Church, Community Lutheran Church, St. Philips Lutheran Church, the Downriver Food Pantry and Downriver Salvation Army. Packets are also shipped around the world wherever the U.S. Military flies humanitarian aid. As part of the day, students watched a video of meals being delivered to Ukraine.



Pillowcase Project Changes the World - One Child and Country at a Time

By Jim Robbins

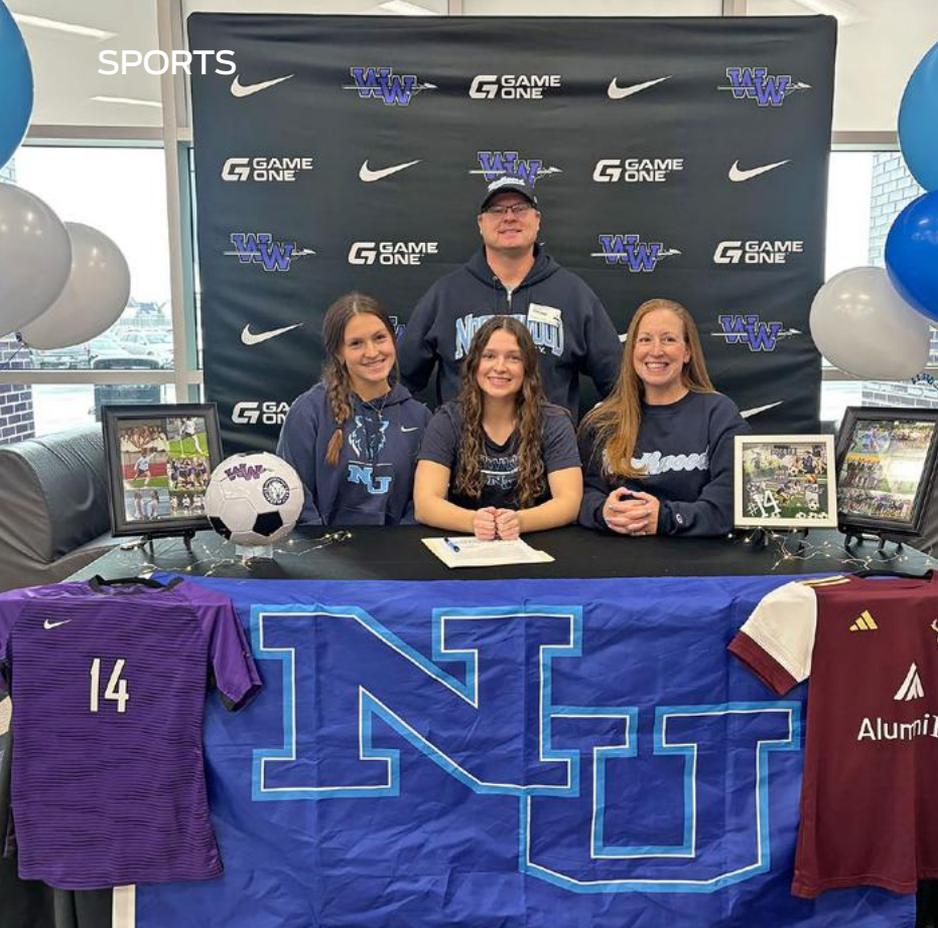
AN article in a crafting magazine in 2020 announced the goal of making one million pillowcases for charity. Woodhaven Kiwanis past president Rosemary Robbins and a few Kiwanians took up the cause, and started making pillowcases and sending them to local charities and the McLaren Petosky Hospital pediatrics unit.

Over the years, the project expanded to monthly sewing bees making pillowcases for hospital NICUs, pregnancy centers, an orphanage in Mexico, and making pillows for military vets at a local housing facility.

They have made baby items such as stuffed animals and book pillows for hospitalized children, and pillowcases for residents in assisted living facilities.

At a recent club meeting, Rosemary chaired a recognition soup and salad dinner in honor of the sewers. She thanked them for helping to make over 2,800 pillowcases and hundreds of other articles. She presented each sewer with a small gift containing sewing-related tools, and thanked them for their contribution to a project dedicated to changing the world – one child and one country at a time.





Taking It To Another Level

Woodhaven senior recounts high school experiences, looks to future

By Terry Jacoby

SOME students know how to get the most out of school, but Harper Barnhart takes it to a whole different level in the same way she is taking her soccer skills to a whole different level next year. The Woodhaven senior selected Northwood University in Midland based partly on all of those varied high school experiences she has enjoyed over her four years.

"I chose Northwood because the school offers a very good education, and I am very passionate about business and marketing," she said. "In high school, I have been a part of my school's DECA program (a business and marketing club), where I have seen success during competitions and been very active in helping with the marketing and other business-related events. This has grown my passion, and I know that Northwood will suit this passion."

Having family on campus also was a factor in her decision.

"My sister, Piper (Woodhaven, Class of 2022), currently goes to Northwood and just finished her senior soccer season, so I have had insight into how much she enjoyed the school and the program as well," she said.

With still her senior year to play, the attacking midfielder/forward has netted 39 goals along with 22 assists, including a career-high 17 goals last spring, for the Warriors. Her 39 goals are the most by a Woodhaven player over the past three years, and she is a three-time All-District Honors recipient, two-time All-Downriver League selection, and was

named three times to the All-News Herald second team.

"My three previous years have been very fun and rewarding for me as a player," she said. "I have seen a lot of success for myself in the attacking end. The team has had highs and lows over the years but my favorite soccer memory with my team was winning districts as a freshman. We start practice in March and I am looking forward to my senior season."

Barnhart, who started playing soccer when she was just 3 years old, plays club soccer for Detroit City FC (DCFC) West in Canton.

"I enjoy playing club because it puts me in a more competitive environment with players who push me each day to be better," she said. "I love my club teammates and my coaches, and I have grown a lot as a player there. We have played in a few elite showcases since I have been in high school, which have given me the chance to travel to places like Florida, Chicago and Virginia."

Barnhart isn't sitting around waiting for soccer to start. She is busy being the basketball team's starting point guard, where she has played a key role in helping the Warriors accumulate a 38-3 record in the Downriver League since the 2023-24 school year, including a 9-0 start this year (as of February 1, 2026).

"I have always loved playing basketball," she said. "It gives me a different look and environment from soccer and has allowed me to grow a lot as an athlete."

Harper, 17, is the daughter of Matt and Amy Barnhart, and scores a 3.99 GPA in the classroom. Her extensive list of school activities outside of sports includes MHSAA Student Advisory Council, National Honor Society, Student Council, DECA, Unified Sports, Students Against Destructive Decisions/SADD, Warrior Trade/School Store and Women of Woodhaven.





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