

SUPPORT OUR LOCAL BUSINESSES!

Southgate

T O D A Y

Inside

**Southgate
Sommelier**

**50th Annual
Heritage Days**

**United
By Sports**

2026 - Second Quarter



Creative
Montessori
Academy

**EXPERIENCE
THE DIFFERENCE**



Tuition-Free K-8, GSRP Preschool & Tuition-Based Preschool

SETTING THE SCENE

Play and movement is human nature. So why keep our students in desks all day long?

Discover a time-tested style of learning for your child! At Creative Montessori Academy, you will find self-motivated children learning at their own pace moving from table work to rug work, from handwriting to math manipulatives.

It is our mission to provide an environment for students to develop a love of learning and become intrinsically motivated. It is our objective to guide students in their critical thinking and bring awareness to their five senses throughout the environment.

Creative Montessori Academy is one of the most sought-after charter schools in the Metro Detroit area.

WHY YOU'LL LOVE IT HERE

Here, we celebrate a child's natural desire to learn and encourage them to move at their own pace. We offer multi-age classrooms led by state and Montessori-certified teachers who guide students through blocks of creative work time.

Our individualized approach to student learning opens the doors for students to follow their inner guidance, **direct their own learning and embrace a holistic learning environment.**

BRINGING MONTESSORI TO THE FOREFRONT

The Montessori Method believes that students learn best when they have creative freedom. This means we encourage our students to choose the workspace that best aids in learning, whether it be on the floor, at a table, or on a beanbag.

Teachers and administration are thoroughly trained in the Montessori Method and are committed to the Montessori education for every child. The curriculum is demanding, yet allows each student the chance to learn through self-directed pace and individual style. Self-motivation and the ability to work independently are key.



PROUDLY MANAGED BY CHOICE SCHOOLS ASSOCIATES AND AUTHORIZED BY CENTRAL MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY





STUDENT EXPERIENCE

CMA IS A PLACE YOU CAN TRUST

We believe all students can learn when they're surrounded by passionate, growth-minded educators who genuinely care and celebrate the uniqueness of each student. We have created a space where students can talk about themselves and their lives, share opinions and gain confidence in themselves.

STUDENT SUPPORT

We support our students by providing a safe learning environment and by offering them the guidance and resources necessary to succeed.

Our students learn through a holistic approach. We focus on nurturing student's creativity through music, art appreciation, physical education, and technology advancement.

We offer a safe, non-competitive, respectful, inclusive school environment that supports diversity, intrinsic motivation, and discipline within each child.

We combine Montessori practices with a wide range of extracurricular opportunities including sports programs, a student-lead newspaper, a tutoring program to maximize every child's academic and personal growth.



MONTESSORI EDUCATION

As educators within the philosophy of Montessori, it is our mission to create an environment that desires the students to become motivated in all areas of study by recognizing their stages of development.

"I have 2 children in this school and a third about to start preschool in the fall. It is definitely a family environment and my children love it!"

- CMA Parent

VIBRANT COMMUNITY

CMA believes that a strong parent and school partnership is a vital component in all school activities, as well as in creating a safe learning environment for all.



SCAN HERE TO ENROLL TODAY!

"CHALLENGED TO GROW AND DEVELOP INTO RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS, CAPABLE OF WORKING TO ACHIEVE THEIR DREAMS."

- **DARREN TERRY, PRINCIPAL**



PREPARE STUDENTS FOR LIFELONG LEARNING



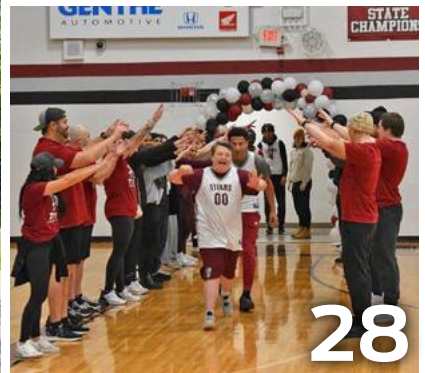
SMALL CLASS SIZES



TUITION-FREE EDUCATION

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From the
MAYOR

Southgate Is Defined by Courage And Selflessness

ON March 18, the City of Southgate held a special “Teamwork, Service and Valor” ceremony to recognize the extraordinary individuals who played a role in the rescue at the American House senior apartment complex this past October.

In what can only be described as miraculous, all 87 residents were safely evacuated from the fire – despite many facing mobility and health challenges. This remarkable outcome would not have been possible without the swift, professional response of our police and fire departments.



We are also deeply grateful to be part of the Downriver Mutual Aid community. Firefighters and first responders from eight neighboring communities – Allen Park, Brownstown Township, Lincoln Park, Taylor, Trenton, Riverview, Woodhaven, and Wyandotte – responded quickly to assist. Officers from the Michigan State Police also provided valuable support. Together, they demonstrated the power of coordination and their shared commitment to protecting lives.

During the ceremony, several individuals were recognized with awards for leadership, meritorious service and valor for the extraordinary actions they took on that critical night.

We also had the honor of recognizing two young Allen Park residents, Alyssa Rios and Steven Doyle. While simply driving by as the fire began, these college students rushed into the building to alert residents, waking seniors and helping guide them to safety. Their courage and selflessness were truly inspiring, and they were presented with a special Exemplary Citizen Award.

This event serves as a powerful reminder of the compassion, courage and unity that defines the Downriver community. We are a rich mosaic of families, backgrounds and ideas – but when one of us is in need, we come together to support one another.

On behalf of the City of Southgate, thank you to all who assisted during that devastating fire. May God continue to bless our first responders and those who support them.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph G. Kuspa". The signature is stylized and fluid.

Joseph G. Kuspa, Mayor



Important Contact Information

Police Department Non-Emergency
734-324-4438

Police Department Administration
734-258-3060

Fire Department
734-258-3080

Mayor's Office
734-258-3022

City Administrator's Office
734-258-3022

Finance Department
734-258-3020

City Clerk's Office
734-258-3015

Building Department
734-258-3030

Department of Public Services
734-258-3075

Water Billing
734-258-3018

Assessor's Office
734-258-3005

Treasurer's Office
734-258-3012

Veteran's Memorial Library
734-258-3002

South Winds Golf Course
734-258-3004

Parks & Recreation
(Civic Center)
734-258-3035

Senior Center
734-258-3066

28th District Court
734-258-3068

Downtown Development Authority
734-258-7770

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Visit our website
www.southgatemi.org

FROM YOUR LIBRARY...

THE library will have events for visitors of all ages this summer. Here's what we have planned so far – more details will be available as summer approaches, so make sure to check out our website (<https://southgate.lib.mi.us>) to keep up to date.

Summer Reading Program June 15 – August 15

Unearth a Story this summer at the Southgate Veterans Memorial Library! Whether readers are digging into a good book, uncovering hidden histories or exploring the past, what you unearth is sure to be a treasure. What can we help you discover this summer?

Youth Events – Thursdays at 11 a.m.

- **Miss Rainbow's Bubble Lab – June 25:** Put on your scientist hat and explore what makes bubbles so magical with Miss Rainbow!
- **Paleo Joe – July 9:** Learn from Paleo Joe, a real paleontologist, as we explore his adventures and discoveries.
- **Jurassic Adventure at Market Center Park – July 23:** It's a dino adventure so big, it won't fit in the library!
- **Crazy Craig – August 6:** Can you juggle bowling balls or stack chairs on your chin? We'll watch and laugh as Crazy Craig performs all sorts of amazing tricks right before your very eyes.
- **Donny the Dino's Prehistorical Funny Family Show – Saturday, August 15 at 11 a.m.:** Get ready for a roar-some experience filled with magic, puppets, music, and fun!

Teen Events

- **Bugs, Bugs, Bugs! – Wednesday, June 24:** Big, small, come see them all! Highlighting some of the smallest creepy crawling creatures, this unique experience is both entertaining and educational. Look, touch or hold this fascinating bug collection.
- **Kinetic Sculptures – Wednesday, July 22:** Put your artwork in motion while designing and building a kinetic sculpture. Build simple mechanical cranks, cams and linkages out of cardboard and use them to make your sculpture move.
- **Summer's Funeral – Wednesday, August 12:** Mourning the loss of endless free time? Feeling sad about having to go back to school? Come cry about it at our End of Summer funeral. We'll be sure to put the FUN in funeral!

Adult Events (ages 18+ unless noted otherwise)

- **Book Bedazzling – Mondays, June 22 – August 10 at 7 p.m. (Ages 14+):** Come get your sparkle on and create a piece of glorious artwork for your bookshelf! Please bring your own book – we'll supply everything else.

- **Hudson's: Detroit's World-Famous Department Store – Thursday, July 2 at 6 p.m.:** Take a step back in time with Bruce Allen

Kopytek as he leads us on a journey of exploration through what was once Hudson's department store.

- **Cooking with Ming: Crab Rangoon – Thursday, July 16 at 6 p.m.:** Join Chef

Ming for a hands-on, fully interactive class on how to cook the classic appetizer, crab rangoon.

- **Detroit's Belle Isle Park: Our Island Jewel – Thursday, July 30 at 6 p.m.:** Join Brendan Roney as he explores Belle Isle's layered

past, and the various events that shaped its future.

- **Jurassic Park Trivia – Thursday, August 13 at 6 p.m. (All ages):** Welcome...to Jurassic Park Trivia! Come test your knowledge of this amazing world and its incredible dinosaurs. All ages welcome, but those 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult.



New Library Murals

The Southgate library is now the proud home of two new murals! Painted by the talented Rhiannan Sibbald (<https://www.rhiannansibbald.com/>), they depict a friendly, enchanted forest, a magical place to enjoy a favorite book or try something new. Both murals are in our children's play area, which now also features new furniture and opportunities for play. Make sure to check it all out the next time you visit!

We hope to see you soon! For more information on the library, visit <https://www.southgate.lib.mi.us/>



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A Tribute to Southgate's Historic Businesses

By Tom Lewis, Museum Curator

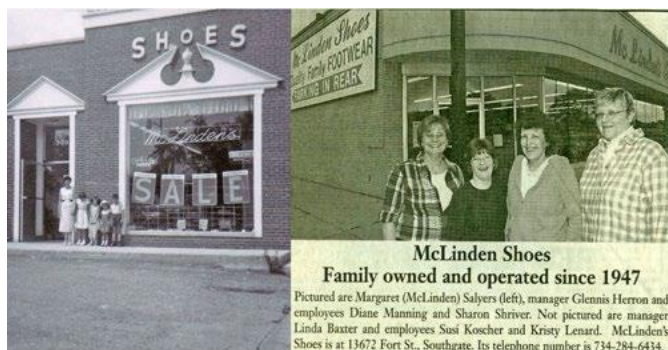
OVER the past several years, Southgate has quietly said goodbye to many of its long-standing businesses – cornerstones of the community that, in many cases, spanned two or even three generations of family ownership. Their closures mark not just economic change, but the end of deeply rooted local traditions.

Ray Hunter Florist & Nursery was Southgate's all-time leader in longevity – 100 years! – from 1919 to 2019.

Three generations of "Ray" Hunters ran the business over the years, with Ray Hunter Sr. starting in 1919, and his son and grandson carrying on the tradition. We have their large "Christmas Shop" sign at the Museum.



Dr. C.W. O'Dell opened his chiropractic practice in Wyandotte in 1936. He moved to Southgate in 1949, on the second floor of a new building that had Cunningham's Drug Store on the first floor. He remained there until 2012, practicing into his early 90s. The building was torn down in 2019. One of the original signs is in our "buildings" room.



McLinden's Shoes also originated in Wyandotte. Brothers Archie and John McLinden opened their first store in 1947. They moved to Southgate in 1956 and into a larger location in 1965. John ran the store through 1994 – his daughter Margaret (McLinden) Salyers ran it from 1994 through her retirement in 2019. One of our most popular displays is the original cash register from their first store.

After 73 years and several managers, the popular A&W



Drive-In Restaurant was sold in 2025 to new owners, who changed the name.

Next door to A&W was the Grendel-Wittbold Insurance Agency, which also closed for good in 2025 after 70 years. One of its founders was Robert L. Wittbold, a Southgate City Council member from 1961 to 1965.

B&D Vacuum downscaled and closed its Southgate store in early 2026. Their Trenton location remains open. B&D had its beginning in Wyandotte in 1955 by then-owners Betty and Dick LeFevre (B&D). In 1962, they moved across Fort Street to Southgate. When their son Bill got involved with the business, they said B&D was now for Bill and Dad. Bill took over when his parents retired to Florida in 1983. After expanding the business to Trenton, Betty and Dick's grandson, Matthew, ran the Southgate location until it closed.



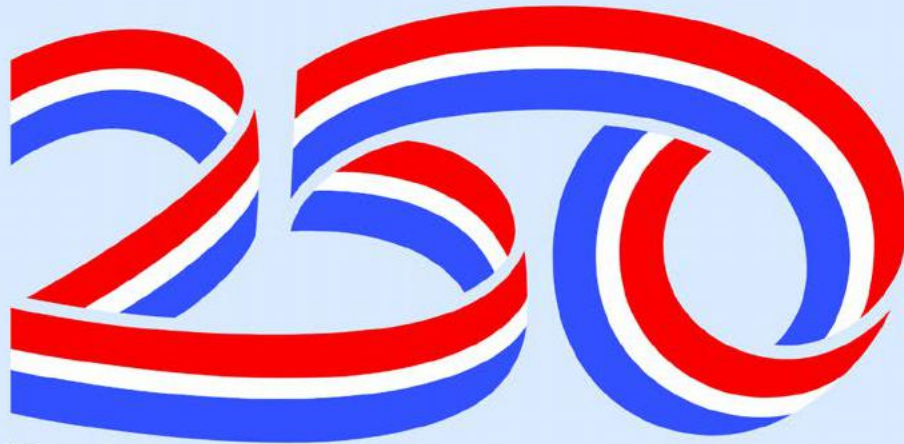
Three other long-term businesses have also closed recently. They were the Cloverleaf Bar (1959-2025), Orthopedics Associates (1969-2024) and a collision shop with several names since 1955, Fort-Lincoln Collision (1974-2024).



While Southgate continues to grow and welcome new businesses, these establishments leave behind a lasting legacy. Their stories, artifacts, and contributions to community life are preserved at the Southgate Historical Museum – ensuring that even as the city evolves, its rich history is never forgotten.

SOUTHGATE CELEBRATES

AMERICA



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FOOD TRUCKS & MORE
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COMING SOON**



*Dr. Riccardo
Selva
(Director)*

A Life in Wine

Southgate's Madeline Triffon is acclaimed master sommelier

By Ryan M. Place

In the global wine world, Southgate's Madeline Triffon is an internationally recognized expert.

She is a master sommelier – a wine professional specializing in service.

"Having had no mentors other than work, the wine was my teacher," she said. "My career has been an opportunity for endless growth and lifelong learning."

Born in New London, Connecticut, Triffon's early life was shaped by Greco-Roman culture.

"We moved to Athens, Greece when I was 3," she said. "Later, I attended boarding school in Rome for a year."

She returned to the U.S. at age 18.

"The freedom in America just stunned me," she said. "I enrolled at the University of Michigan, studying theater while working in restaurants to pay tuition. I fell in love with the hospitality and service industry."

In 1977, Triffon began working at La Fontaine, a French restaurant inside Detroit's new Renaissance Center.

"The food and beverage director asked me if I wanted to be a sommelier," she recalled. "I said, 'sure, what's that?' without really knowing what it was. Here I am in my early 20s suddenly ordering wine for a 1,400-room hotel."

From there, her career accelerated. She spent several years at the legendary London Chop House, managing a prestigious wine list of 500 selections. Then she built another great wine program at Detroit's Rattlesnake Club.

In 1987, she became one of the first women in the United States, and the second globally, to pass the rigorous three-part master sommelier exam, including its notoriously difficult blind tasting.

"I had 10 years of tasting wine with focus as a buyer, but I taught myself how to blind taste in three months" she said. "This involves identifying wines deductively, with no knowledge of grape variety or region of origin. The exam requires hard work and commitment."

Since 2011, Triffon has been the director of wine events at Plum Market, an up-market grocery retailer with stores in Oakland County, Ann Arbor and Florida.

"Wine is often seen as elitist,"



she said. "But it doesn't have to be. I'm very glad that people find my approach comforting and reassuring."

She emphasizes a few key principles.

"Climate and geography shape a wine's character, structure comes from acidity, tannin and alcohol, and ultimately the aromatics are vital," she said. "Everyone can experience a visceral sensory recognition of quality. For example, you can be deeply touched by music without knowing the intimate mechanics of it. Same with wine."

Despite her global reputation, Triffon remains deeply connected to her local community. She moved to Southgate in 1977 and never left.

"Southgate is grassroots America," she said. "I appreciate my neighborhood as much as I did when I first moved here. It's still the same great area almost 50 years later. I love walking around our small peaceful parks. Shopping is easy in our town, too."

She can sometimes be found working quietly in local libraries or visiting the Detroit Institute of Arts. At home, she keeps things simple.

"I work in silence, with lots of sunlight and black tea," she said. "I don't drink wine at home. Only water and tea!"

Her passion for wine remains as strong as ever.

"The first wine that touched me was Puligny-Montrachet, an exceptional white burgundy, made from Chardonnay. I still love that kind of wine but today it's a lot pricier!" she said.

Madeline remains an indefatigable supporter of Michigan wines.

"The best Michigan wines bear critical examination internationally," she said. "Especially our dry Rieslings. Pros the world over will put their nose in the glass and often think 'Michigan? Really? Wow!'"



Southgate HERITAGE DAYS

50 YEARS

Market Center Park - 13631 Eureka Rd
Friday, June 5th & Saturday June 6th



Carnival June 4th-7th

Carnival LOCATED in JustStorage Parking Lot - 13333 Eureka

Thursday 4:00pm-11:00pm ~ Friday 4:00pm-11:00pm ~ Saturday 12:00pm-11:00pm ~ Sunday 1:00pm-8:00pm

Presenting Sponsor

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Friday, June 5th

All School All Class Reunion 6-9pm

Schafer Southgate High Aquinas Anderson



• Sign-In to see which SCHOOL WINS!

Fifty Amp Fuse

7-10pm



Food Trucks (Both Days)



Saturday, June 6th

Parade - Starts at 11am

Burns from Northline to Eureka

Taste of the Town 12-2pm



Pricing: \$20-Adult - \$10-Children (5-10)

Little Davey & Diplomats 12-2pm



Car Show - 12-4pm

Presented by:



Wisteria

5-7pm



WISTERIA

Sunset Blvd

7-10pm



Join us for Live Music, Food, Drinks, and More!

'Accepted and Cared For'

Success Virtual Learning Center offers flexible options for Downriver students

By Kelsi Klein

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

Open to all students

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

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

Success Virtual Learning Center reviews expelled or long-term suspension students for acceptance and all students with an IEP or 504 plan. Their vision is to "be a place where every student, regardless of their past, feels 100 percent accepted and cared for."

How it works

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

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

The accredited, tuition-free public school provides students with a flexible way to complete high school courses, and is an 18-credit Michigan Merit Curriculum only program without elective requirements.

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

Online learning extras

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

Different levels of support are available to students as needed, including social work, counseling, social and emotional programming, intervention services, special

education services, career advisors and much more.

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



SUCCESS
VIRTUAL LEARNING
Centers of Michigan



Credit recovery

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

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

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

Families interested in enrolling can visit the Downriver center at 24680 Eureka Road in Taylor from 8 a.m. – 3 p.m., call (734) 992-6914 or visit www.successmichigan.org for more information.

CODERED

By CRISIS24

REGISTER TODAY

Text Southgatemi to 24639

CodeRED is the City's emergency notification system used to quickly share important public safety information with residents.

It allows City officials and first responders to send targeted alerts by phone call, text message, email, mobile app notifications, and other emergency channels. CodeRED is used during situations such as severe weather, missing persons alerts, road closures, and other time-sensitive incidents, helping ensure critical information reaches the right people as quickly as possible.

The City of Southgate encourages all residents to register for CodeRed Crisis 24 online or by downloading the app from the Apple App Store or Google Play.

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The 2026 Weed Cutting Season Begins May 15

Per ordinance 692.02 (b), "If between May 1, 2026 and October 15, 2026, the city finds that any owner, the owner's agent, resident or occupant has failed to cut, destroy or remove the material and vegetation, the city shall cause such material and vegetation to be cut, destroyed or removed with 15 days and shall bill the owner therefore at rates established by the Council."

Also, per City of Southgate ordinance 694.01, "Every person who owns or inhabits any land within the city shall cut, destroy or remove from such land all grasses and weeds, including noxious and poisonous varieties, growing therein, whether residential, commercial or industrial property, from April 15 through October 15 of each year, to prevent such weeds from going to seed or blossom, as the case may be, as well as overgrowing the lot, and to prevent dead grass and brush from becoming a fire hazard or health hazard. The Ordinance Department or its agent shall determine which lots need to be cut and the decision of that office shall be final and conclusive."



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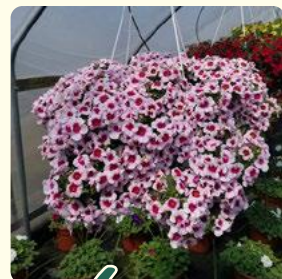
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Summertime Festivities

IN SOUTHGATE

A Golden Celebration

This summer, the City of Southgate invites residents, families and visitors to celebrate a truly special milestone: the 50th anniversary of Heritage Days. The event began in 1976 as part of the nation's Bicentennial, when communities across the country were encouraged to host local festivals.

While many of those celebrations were one-time occasions, Southgate's Heritage Days endured – growing into a cherished annual tradition. This golden anniversary honors five decades of community spirit, shared traditions and lasting memories.

This year's festivities will take place from Thursday, June 4 through Sunday, June 7, with the carnival running throughout the festival and community activities scheduled for Friday, June 5 and Saturday, June 6 at Market Center Park.

● Friday, June 5: Reunion, Food And Music

The community celebration kicks off Friday at 6:00 p.m., with an evening devoted to reconnecting and reminiscing. The "All School All Class Reunion," held from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m., will feature displays from Schafer, Southgate and Aquinas high schools, along with the current Southgate Anderson High School. Alumni are invited to come together, share memories and reconnect with classmates and friends from years past.

As the evening continues, the energy shifts to the center stage at Market Center Park, where attendees can enjoy a live performance by 50 Amp Fuse. It's the perfect start to a weekend filled with music, dancing, food and fun.

● Saturday, June 6: Parade, Food And Entertainment

Saturday brings a full day of signature Heritage Days events, beginning with the beloved Heritage Days Parade at 11:00 a.m. This year's lineup features a special America 250 float, Wayne County's Mounted Unit, the Blues Brothers, and a wide array of local organizations and community groups.

Immediately following the parade, guests can enjoy the always popular "Taste of the Town" from noon to 2:00 p.m. This fan-favorite event showcases delicious offerings from more than 20 restaurants in and around Southgate, giving everyone a chance to experience the flavors that make the community unique.

After some time to relax and recharge, the celebration resumes in the evening with live entertainment from 5:00 to 10:00 p.m. Enjoy high-energy performances by Wisteria and Sunset Boulevard as the 50th anniversary celebration continues with music, dancing and a festive community atmosphere.

Honoring America's 250th

On Friday, July 3, Southgate will celebrate America's 250th anniversary of independence with a special evening at Southwinds Golf Course.

The free family-friendly celebration will feature an outstanding live concert by the Schoolcraft College Jazz Band, under the direction of Dr. Riccardo Selva. Known for their exceptional musicianship, the band will perform a dynamic program highlighting the rich tradition of American jazz – one of the nation's most influential and enduring art forms. Their performance will serve as both a powerful tribute to America's history and a celebration of its musical legacy.

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The Future Looks Bright

Southgate wrestling earns second straight league title, looking to pin down regionals next year

By Terry Jacoby

MOST successful coaches and athletes will tell you that winning happens long before you walk onto the field – or the mat, in this case.

The Southgate wrestling program has pinned down an impressive run over the last few years and coach Ian Norscia is one who believes preparation and dedication equates to success.

“Our team’s success has been built through hard work, not just in season but throughout the offseason,” he said. “Our team consists of many wrestlers with limited experience and we have to take advantage of every opportunity to get better. Our team is also one that loves each other, and everyone is supportive and they are all friends.”

The Titans went 27-4, including 8-0 in the Downriver League and won the program’s second straight league title. During the regular season, Southgate took first in the Airport Jack Cooper Memorial Duals, first in the 24-team Orange and Blue Classic at Lincoln Park and third in the 34-team Wayne County Tournament. They also were district champions for a third straight year, including this past season in Division 1.

They lost in team regionals 46-33 to state powerhouse Temperance Bedford, ranked fourth in the state and who reached the quarterfinals.

Southgate had five individual Downriver League Champions: Devin Sears (113 pounds), Sam Wilhelm (120), Nathan King (157), Liam Mcmillen (175), and Johnny Pardo (285).

The Titans had eight wrestlers qualify for D-1 Regionals: sophomore Devin Sears (113); senior Habibullah Majedi (126); Junior Devin Jordan (138); sophomore Nathan King (157); junior Cyrus Conner (165); freshman Liam Mcmillen (175); junior Conner Dell’Eva (district champion at 190); and senior Johnny Pardo (285).

Sophomore Joy Schuck was a regional qualifier at 120 pounds on the girls side.

Southgate had four wrestlers qualify for the D-1 State Finals: King, Mcmillen, Dell’Eva and Pardo.

Norscia is in his third season as head coach of the program and the team has improved each season in numbers and in strength.

“My first season we had around 25 kids on the team, and we had a modest 18-10 record and won our first district title in eight years,” he said. “Last season we had over 35 kids on the team and improved dramatically, with a 36-6 record and winning the league championship for the first time in nine seasons. We also won our second straight district title and fell just one match short of a regional championship.”

The Titans were forced to move up to Division 1 this

year, which brought greater competition.

“While the record was similar to last season, this season we were by far a better team and unfortunately ran into tougher competition,” Norscia said.

This past season also was special because it was the deepest team they have had in years.



“We struggled with injuries all year; however, we were able to overcome them because we had backups and younger guys who were ready to step up and contribute when they were called,” Norscia said. “We had over 40 wrestlers who show up every day to get better and no matter if they are varsity or JV they want the team to succeed, and they are all wanting to get an opportunity to contribute on the mat or off the mat cheering their teammates on.”

The Titans will lose only three of 14 starters, so the future looks bright.

“Looking forward, our goal is a regional championship next season for the first time since 2011, and looking to have better individual success in the state tournament,” Norscia said.



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Intermediate (\$180)

May 11-June 13, 5:45 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.

June 15-July 25, 8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

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June 15-July 25

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Masters

May 11-June 13, 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. (\$75)

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday

June 15-August 29, 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. (\$160)

Monday - Thursday

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Mini Gators (\$90)

(Limit 5 per coach)

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(Must pass the Gators Core Skills Test to participate in the Mini Gators or to be placed by coaches at placement tests.)

Gators Core Skills Test and Swim Placement Test

Tuesday, April 21 & 28, 6:00 p.m.



COMMUNITY SWIM

April 11-May 9

May 11-June 13

Saturdays, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

June 15-August 29

Monday & Wednesday, 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

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For questions about Gators, email Coach Joyce Hollow at hollowj@sgate.k12.mi.us or Elizabeth McNees at mcneese@sgate.k12.mi.us



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Pick-Up

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Camp questions? Contact Beth Hinzmann at hinzmannb@sgate.k12.mi.us or call 734 - 339-6681



A Man with Choices

Three-sport athlete contemplating college sports, professional career By Terry Jacoby

JOHNNY Pardo's accomplishments on the mat are quite impressive – 141 career wins, two-time state qualifier, 2026 regional champion, Downriver League champion and Wayne County champion – just to name a few.

Off the mat, the Southgate senior was equally as impressive and perhaps even more impactful for a program that has been elite for several years.

"Johnny is a wonderful young man who is one of the most hard-working

and dedicated kids in our program," said Southgate wrestling coach Ian Norscia. "He is very kind to everyone on the team and is super supportive of everyone. He always did an amazing job leading by example. He was not always the most talkative, but if Johnny ever said anything everyone took it seriously and they knew to follow whatever he said."

Pardo, a senior and two-year captain, pushed everyone to be better and took the role seriously, helping lead the Titans to back-to-back Downriver League titles and a third straight district title.

"Some of the reasons we have been so successful include the coaching and the determination of the wrestlers we have," Pardo said. "After we lost in regionals as a team, we still had kids that didn't make it to regionals or states,

but still showed up and wrestled to get better."

Johnny, 18, is the son of Starr Billingsly and Kenny Pardo, and pins down a 3.8 GPA in the classroom. He started wrestling when he was 6 years old.

"What I liked about it was that, to succeed in this sport, it would have to come from me, not anyone else," he said.

And he was very good for the Titans. He was league champion at 285 pounds and was one of eight Southgate wrestlers to qualify for regionals during his senior year. He finished the year at 52-11 and earned a trip to the state finals after winning regionals.

"I became a regional champ after beating the guy I lost to at districts 2-1 in triple OT," he said. "My keys to success on that day were to be strong and not let him get a blast double, which I defended every time. When I won it all, I was ecstatic to finally get a bracket and be on top of the podium."

Pardo went 1-2 at states, losing in the blood round 5-2.

He went 30-22 his junior year and qualified for regionals, where he placed fourth to reach the state finals. He went 1-2, losing in the bloodround in triple OT 5-3.

Pardo also played football for the Titans and was a two-time All-League lineman. He also was All-League in baseball last year as a junior and will play again this year.

His future is a little in flux at the moment, but he certainly will have choices.

"I am still deciding which sport I want to do in college right now, but for my career, I plan to become either a pilot or a police officer," he said.



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YOUR water utility operates a program to enhance the safety and quality of your drinking water through monitoring and correcting hazardous cross-connections.

What Is a Cross-Connection?

A cross-connection is an actual or potential connection between the safe drinking water supply and a source of contamination or pollution. State plumbing codes require approved methods, called backflow prevention, be in place to prevent contaminated water from mixing with drinking (AKA potable) water at every point of potable water connection and use.

How Does Contamination Occur?

Water normally flows in one direction. However, when water flows backward, backflow or contamination can occur. There are two causes of backflow: backsiphonage and backpressure.

Backsiphonage may occur due to a loss of pressure in the water system. This creates a siphon which can draw contaminants back into your water or the system.

Backpressure may be created when a source pressure is greater than the supply pressure. This can cause contaminated water to be pushed into your plumbing system through an unprotected cross-connection.

What Is a Cross-Connection Control Program?

Cross-connection control programs serve as a proactive, preventive approach to securing water systems. It is the method through which your utility ensures safe, potable water throughout your community. Cross-

connection control is a comprehensive process that involves identifying cross-connections and preventing the backflow of pollutants and contaminants into the water supply.

- **On-Site Surveys:** Visual on-site surveys of piping systems throughout your community ensure there are no unprotected cross-connections that could lead to water contamination. Your local cross-connection control program may require external and/or internal surveys of your home.
- **Corrective Actions:** Cross-connection control programs include enforcement for non-compliant cross-connections. If a survey identifies problems in your system, correct them in a timely manner to avoid penalties or the temporary loss of water service.

How Can You Protect Your Home's Drinking Water?

Do's

- Do verify and install a simple hose bibb vacuum breaker on laundry tubs and sink faucets around your home.
- Do make sure water treatment devices like water softener drain lines have the proper air gap—a minimum of one inch above any drain.
- Do ensure your lawn irrigation system has proper backflow protection. Test backflow prevention assemblies at appropriate intervals and as required by your utility.



Did You Know?

Your water can become contaminated if connections to and within your plumbing system are not properly protected. The purpose of your local cross-connection control program is to ensure everyone in the community has safe, clean drinking water.



Bathtub & Shower Fixtures:

Maintain an air gap of at least one inch above the top of the flood level rim of the bathtub when the shower head is hanging freely.



Toilet Tanks:

Look for the ASSE #1002 standard symbol on the fill valve device and packaging to ensure it is compliant and suited for this use.



Boilers: Ensure boilers with chemical additives have an ASSE #1013 reduced pressure principle backflow prevention assembly.



Home Exterior: Verify all outside faucets are protected with an ASSE-approved hose bibb vacuum breaker.



Don'ts

- Don't submerge hoses in buckets, pools, tubs, sinks, or ponds.
- Don't use spray attachments without a backflow prevention device.
- Don't connect waste pipes from water softeners or other treatment systems directly to the sewer or submerged drainpipe.

Support Public Health & Safety

Remember, we're all in this together – and together we can work to keep your drinking water safe from the hazards of backflow.

Your participation in your local water service provider's cross-connection control program is vital! Protect the drinking water in your own home, while keeping your community's supply safe, too.

For more information, additional resources, and any questions, contact your water utility or visit watercustomer.com



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'Extremely Rewarding'

Police/Unified Sports basketball game unites community, builds relationships By Terry Jacoby

As a result of one of the Southgate Police Department's many Christmas programs held this past year, the police, schools and community were presented with a very special gift that wasn't opened until February.

"We were passing out gifts at Davidson Middle School to multiple classes when we had the good fortune to meet McKenna Tanguay," said Southgate Detective Sergeant Michael Murphy. "McKenna runs the Unified Basketball team for Southgate and she asked us if we would like to play a game against her talented student athletes. We were excited and grateful to be included."

Police officer Monica Stein, whose daughter participates with the Woodhaven program, had wanted Southgate PD to do something like this for a couple of years. Stein and Tanguay worked together to set up the game between the Unified team and first responders on February 7 at Anderson High School.

"The police department and my students in my classroom have a very close relationship," Tanguay said. "It's very important to me to have the community involved and see the impact these students have on other people every day."

The Unified Team has nine players on the roster and range from sixth grade to 12th grade.

"It was great," Murphy said. "There was a great turnout – very notably a large student section rooting on the Unified Team."

Tanguay called the experience "amazing."

"To see members of the community come out to cheer them on and support them was a feeling unlike any of them or their families have ever experienced," she said. "One of my favorite parts was watching high school students form a cheer tunnel for our players to run out of when their name was announced over the loudspeaker."



Tanguay is in her third year as a special education teacher in Southgate. She knows how important athletics can be to a high school student, having played softball at Trenton High School and later at the University of Detroit Mercy.

"I noticed there was not a lot of opportunity for students with special needs to be involved in athletics here in Southgate, so with the help of our special education director, Erica Shovein, we were able to start Unified Sports this year," she said. "A lot of the Downriver communities already had Unified Sports established in their programs, so they were excited to welcome Southgate for basketball this year."

Southgate is hoping to bring other Unified Sports to the school, including bowling in the fall and track in the spring. Their basketball season began in December and concluded after the first responder game in February.

Tanguay was one of the coaches, along with Michelle Draper, a special education teacher at Davidson.

"Our Anderson High School girls basketball JV team was a huge help with our season as well," she said. "With Unified Sports there are three Unified players and two peers on the court. The peers assist the players with dribbling, rebounding and encouragement while also building friendships with the players."

Tanguay said the experience working with these student-athletes has been extremely rewarding.

"I get the opportunity to teach these athletes in the classroom every day, so it was very special to see them out of their element and learn how to play a sport against other athletes at their level," she said. "They get to see staff members, peers or other friends they have made, and those friendships make them feel included – even when they are just walking down the hallway at school."

And in case you were wondering, the Unified team "whooped our butts by about 20," Murphy said.





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DECODING EGGS

What are you really getting?

By Lisa Howard

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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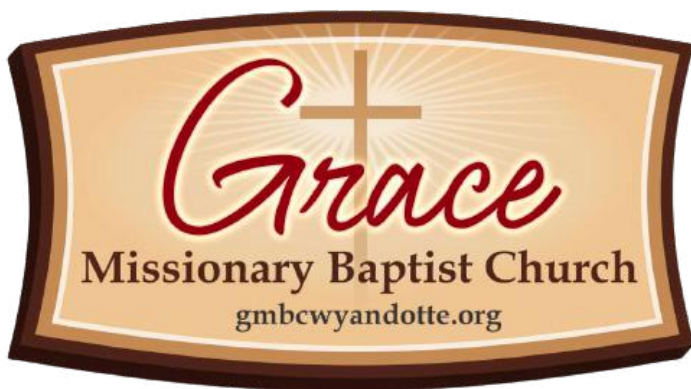
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Pollinators need natural spaces with flowering plants, grasses and shrubs for food and shelter. Agriculture, development and other human activities are causing habitat loss, pushing pollinators out of their homes.

When non-native plant species take over, native plants that pollinators rely on can die out. Even if non-native plants are attractive, they don't always offer the right nutrition or habitat for pollinators.

Even if they don't kill pollinators directly, pesticides can impact the plants that they rely on, leaving behind chemicals that can affect their health.

How can residents help?

The easiest way to help pollinators is to spread the word. If people don't know how important they are, they won't know how important it is to protect them.

Planting native plants is one of the biggest ways to support pollinators. Early blooming plants like wild columbine

and woodland phlox provide food in early spring, while black-eyed Susans and purple coneflower last through fall.

Milkweed is another crucial native plant as it's the only plant on which monarch butterflies lay their eggs.

Reducing or eliminating pesticides is another key step in helping pollinators. Hand-pulling weeds rather than spraying them with weed killer and tolerating minor plant damage can go a long way.

Homeowners can also rethink spring cleaning. Leaving old leaves, hollow plant stems and bark undisturbed until the weather stays consistently warm keeps pollinators' shelters intact and habitats preserved when they need it most.

Communities around Michigan are encouraging pollinator-friendly practices with education and conservation. Many city parks are allowing space for un-mowed grass and wildflowers to support pollinators, and homeowners can do the same in their own back yards.



What's the Buzz?

How to support Michigan's pollinators this spring By Kelsi Klein

As we finally break free from winter and begin to welcome the sights and sounds of spring, there is a whole group of native pollinators awakening and emerging, ready to play a crucial, yet often unnoticed role in Michigan's ecosystem.

What are pollinators and why are they important?

According to the National Park Service, pollinators are anything that helps move pollen from one part of a flower to another. This process is vital to the fertilization of plants, helping make seeds, fruits and even new plants.

Michigan is home to a wide variety of native pollinators including bees, butterflies, moths, flies, beetles and even hummingbirds and bats.

While some plants are pollinated by themselves, water or wind, approximately 75-95 percent of all flowering plants on Earth rely on animal pollinators.

The United States Department of Agriculture has reported that about 35 percent of the world's food crops, including Michigan staples like apples, blueberries, cherries, cucumbers, squash and countless others, are pollinated by animals.

In addition to food crops, pollinators are essential for reproducing plants that provide food and shelter for Michigan's wildlife as well as purifying the air and stabilizing soil.

How are they in danger?

With more than 450 species of bees alone, Michigan's diverse pollinators work around the clock to keep the ecosystem running smoothly, but they are also facing real challenges.



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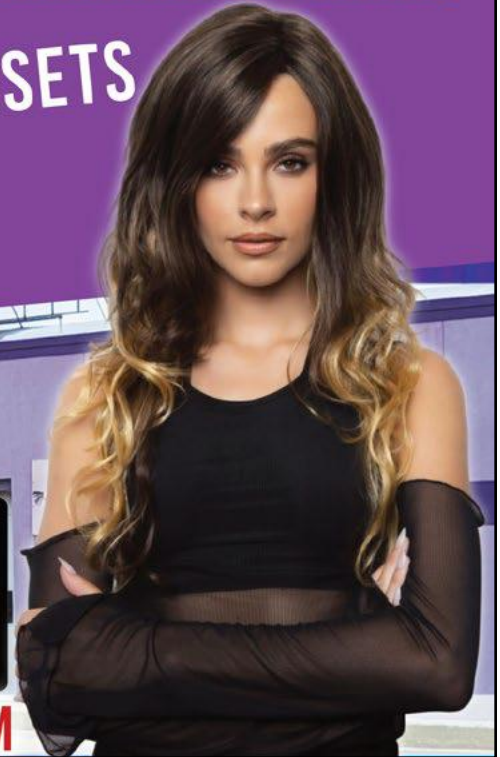
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AROUND Southgate

May - June

ONGOING

● Enjoy summer in Southgate with the summer concert series every Tuesday from June 16 through August 11 at Market Center Park, 13631 Eureka Road. Local vendors will be available with unique handmade goods and treats from 4:30-8 p.m., and live music from 6-8 p.m. Enjoy a food truck, bar and yard games for all ages. Visit the Downtown Southgate Facebook page for more information.

MAY

May 21

Southgate Memorial Day Service

6 p.m.
Southgate Veterans Memorial Library - Outside
14680 Dix Toledo Road
Save the date and honor those who served at this Memorial Day service. For more information, visit www.southgate.lib.mi.us.

JUNE

June 4-7

Heritage Days Festival and Carnival

Carnival Hours

Thursday: 4-11 p.m.
Friday: 4-11 p.m.
Saturday: Noon-11 p.m.
Sunday: 1-8 p.m.

Heritage Days Events

(See flyer on page 11)
Friday: 6-10 p.m.
Saturday: (Parade at 11 a.m.)
11 a.m.-2 p.m. & 5-10 p.m.
Market Center Park
13631 Eureka Road

Enjoy a variety of family friendly fun from car shows, live music, delicious food, activities and a carnival. Visit Southgate's 50th Annual Heritage Days Festival Facebook page for more information.

June 12-14

City-Wide Garage Sale

Save the date for the city-wide garage sale and find something new-to-you. Visit www.southgatemi.org for more information.

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