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# From the MAYOR

## Exciting Things are Happening in Plymouth's Culinary Scene

**P**LYMOUTH, Michigan offers a lively and growing restaurant scene, centered around its historic downtown district and extending outward to newer dining destinations.

In downtown Plymouth, several notable additions are shaking up the food landscape. La Pecora Nera, an Italian deli is taking over the old Edible Arrangements space (873 W. Ann Arbor Trail) – bringing popular Italian flavors to the heart of the city. Soon after, Fourgrounds Coffee – an ambitious new café collaboration between WDIV Local 4 News and

Great Lakes Coffee Roasting Company – is slated to open at 995 W. Ann Arbor Trail.

Just beyond the core downtown, Plymouth's broader dining scene

continues to expand. The

metro-area burger brand Famous Hamburger is launching a Plymouth location (630 S. Main St.), offering classic, handcrafted burgers and more. Other newer eateries include Blue Kuna Smokehouse at 600 W. Ann Arbor Trail, where slow-smoked brisket, pulled pork and housemade sides evoke Southern barbecue traditions. Ryuu Sushi brings refined Japanese cuisine and sushi rolls to Plymouth's Markham Crossing building (340 N. Main St.).

Additional recent openings and concepts outside downtown include The Nourished Self, focused on health-centric meals (496 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Suite 107); Drift, a soon-to-open contemporary restaurant at 1020 W. Ann Arbor Road; Plymouth Roast, a neighborhood coffee shop with elevated food offerings at 110 Ann Arbor Road; and Old Village General, a neighborhood sandwich shop and general store located at 689 N. Mill St., adds to the local shopping mix.

I am looking forward to seeing you at one of our fabulous restaurants, stores, businesses, Penn Theater, or in Kellogg Park! See you in DTP!

Linda A. Filipczak  
Mayor



Photo by Laura Colvin, Hometown Life



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## Your Library Sees You, Seniors

**R**ECENTLY at the Plymouth District Library (PDL), a group of patrons met to connect at the library's first Story Share Café program. Participants had varied backgrounds, but had in common that they are older adults with tales to share – this time regarding the Detroit of their childhood.

Deb Madonna, one of those in attendance, is a library “regular”. She has known for a long time what more and more local seniors are discovering: the library is a great place to explore, learn and connect with others.

“I am in the library a couple times a week,” Madonna said, “for book club, writing group, the poetry group... and the staff is developing very unique events. I am 74 and I am not working, but I have a rich cultural life right here in town. For me, there is a peace and happiness at the library, with the staff and other patrons, many I have known for years.”

Madonna noted that she has been coming to the library since she was a girl, and has brought her own kids and her grandkids as well. At every age group, library patrons have unique needs, including seniors.

Story Share Café is just one of a growing number of programs and services PDL tailors to this group. Some offerings are directly elder-related, such as Medicare sessions, Low Vision meetups or the upcoming Alzheimer's Association program on healthy brain and body. But many more are just general programs or services offered during convenient daytime hours, such as the Tuesday morning craft meetups and the Check Out an Expert program.

“Check Out An Expert can be a great resource for older adults,” said Zach Hose, human resource (and volunteer) coordinator. “They can sign up to spend 30 minutes with an



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expert to help them with their personal tech devices, get answers to gardening challenges or learn about a wide variety of topics from bread making to artificial intelligence. This kind of one-on-one help can allow for a gentler pace of learning and a more personal touch.”

To schedule a session or volunteer to be an expert, visit the library's website or call for assistance.

In addition to programs and services, the library's collections are adapting to better serve seniors. There's an expanding Large Print collection, now featuring a “new” section to highlight the latest titles. Plus, later this month PDL will introduce a Memory Care collection – books written and formatted in ways proven to aid engagement by those with dementia or memory loss. Readers can explore familiar topics one-on-one with a carer or read together in a group using a Memory Care Kit with multiple copies of the same title.

If you are an active senior, you might like to join in an early morning neighborhood walk with some of the library's littlest patrons and their families this spring. If you are homebound, you might take advantage of PDL's Home Delivery program. Or maybe you are like Deb Madonna and just want to come to the library to “wander and discover.” Whatever way suits you, know that Plymouth District Library sees you, seniors, and welcomes your input on how the library can grow to serve you even better.



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# Did you Know?

## Jacob Matthew Jewelers is your one-stop shop for jewelry, repairs and more

### Lab-grown diamonds are becoming more popular each year

Lab-grown diamonds have increased in popularity in recent years for several reasons. They are physically identical to mined diamonds, but cost a fraction of the price.

Whether customers are saving money for a house or a wedding, lab-grown diamonds have given people the opportunity to still be able to purchase a beautiful piece of jewelry within their budget.



### Flowers aren't the only gift option for homecoming or prom

Homecoming and prom are memorable events for many teens, but did you know there are other affordable options in addition to flowers or corsages?

"Most people don't think about alternative gifts, but you can purchase a nice bracelet for around the same price as flowers," according to Haggerty.

"People often overlook jewelry as an affordable gifting option," she said, but Jacob Matthew Jewelers has something for every occasion.

### Jewelry is one of the most memorable gifts

Chances are, if you ask someone about a piece of jewelry they're wearing, they will remember exactly when, where and from whom they received it.

When it comes to gift giving, jewelry is one of the most sentimental and meaningful gifts.

"It's a nice sentiment for a child starting a new chapter in their life," Haggerty said. "They have a piece



of home to wear as a reminder of from where they came."

Whether it's a promise ring they wear until they become engaged, a classic pair of diamond or pearl studs to a watch for daily wear, jewelry is the perfect gift for all of life's milestones.



### Your unwearable jewelry or family heirlooms can be repaired and restored like new

Many people inherit jewelry they simply don't wear because it has been well loved—maybe the gemstone is worn or clasp is broken. Did you know that Jacob Matthew Jewelers offers state-of-the-art repair and restoration services? If it's a style you don't like, they can also redesign the piece into something more your taste.

Through jewelry restoration and regular maintenance, your meaningful jewelry will remain beautiful and wearable for future generations.

Their jewelry repair services encompass everything from repairing chains, tightening gemstones and rebuilding worn jewelry to professional cleaning and polishing.

The full-time, in-house jewelers take time to care for each piece and provide the highest quality service that will last for years to come.

### It's better to shop with an independent jeweler

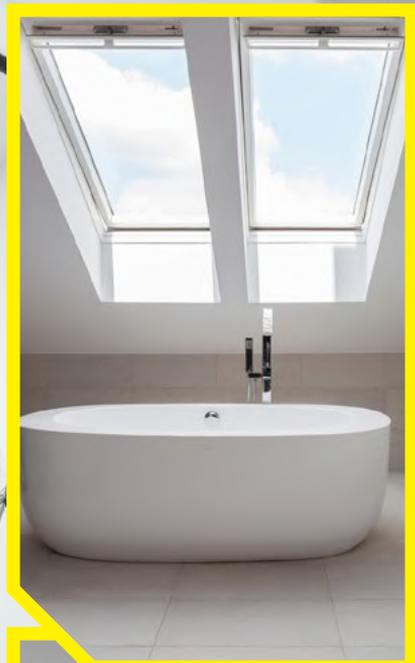
While it's convenient to order jewelry online or from a chain store, you completely bypass the personalized approach and wealth of knowledge local jewelers have gained.

"We want to make you happy," Haggerty said. "We see you around town, live in your community and can talk to you and help you select the best piece of jewelry for you and your lifestyle. We'd love the opportunity to give you a free consultation for any of your jewelry needs."



Jacob Matthew Jewelers is located at 6673 N. Canton Center Road in Canton.  
For more information, visit [www.jacobmatthewjewelers.com](http://www.jacobmatthewjewelers.com) or call 734-207-1906.

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# ‘We Treat Everyone LIKE FAMILY’

Longtime trusted Canton car center opens second location in Plymouth By Terry Jacoby

**R**IC Cudini needed a moment.

When the topic turned to keeping the business he founded more than a decade ago in the family, the owner of Ric & Rocky's Family Car Center became emotional.

“That’s what this is all about, right, family,” Cudini said. “It chokes me up talking about it. Having Rocky and Dominic a part of this means everything to me.”



Rocky Johnson is married to Ric’s daughter, Angie, and Dominic is their son, and it’s all hands on deck when it comes to running the family business. All three, along with other family members, were on hand at Ric & Rocky’s newest location in Plymouth in early March.

The new location, located at 543 Amelia Street in Old Village Plymouth, is 6,000 pristine square feet and is a full-service car and truck repair facility specializing in general repair, brakes, shocks and struts, suspension, check engine diagnostics, alignments, and tire services.

Buying another building and expanding isn’t usually on someone who is semi-retired’s to-do list. But Cudini, 71, was all in on the second location.

“Honesty, this was all Rocky’s idea,” Cudini said of his son-in-law. “He did all the planning and preparation. It was his vision and I backed him 100 percent. And we didn’t go to Plymouth for no



reason. This location was well thought out and chosen because of the area and the community."

That area and community is home for the family.

"We lived in Plymouth, and our kids all graduated from Salem High School," Cudini said. "It's a special place."

For over 15 years, Ric & Rocky's Family Car Care and Accessories has been a trusted, locally owned and operated auto repair shop in Canton – another special place.

Rocky, a second-generation shop owner, and Angie were high school sweethearts at Salem and have been married for over 26 years. Rocky is deeply involved in the Canton community and the couple are proud parents of Marco (22), Dominic (20) and Isabella (15).

Dominic works alongside his father at the shop, carrying on the family tradition and planning to become the third generation in the business.

Ric & Rocky's Family Car Center's mission is to provide reliable, high-quality auto repair services with a friendly, family-focused approach. They are committed to keeping the Plymouth community safe on the road by combining expert care, State of Michigan Certified Technicians, and a welcoming, honest environment where every customer feels valued.

"We looked at this building for two-and-a-half years," Rocky said. "It was a great structure with great potential. We are thrilled with how it turned out."

And now that they are here, it's time to deliver that high-quality, first-rate performance their customers in Canton have come to count on.

"Trust is everything in this business and that's earned," Rocky said. "If you do good work and stand by it and show them what work was done and explain why, then you will build that trust and people will come back."

Rocky and Angie's dedication to family, community and quality

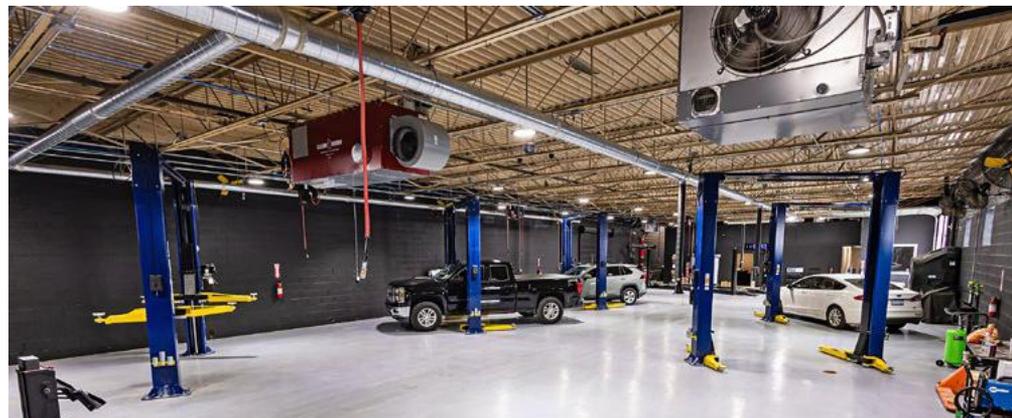
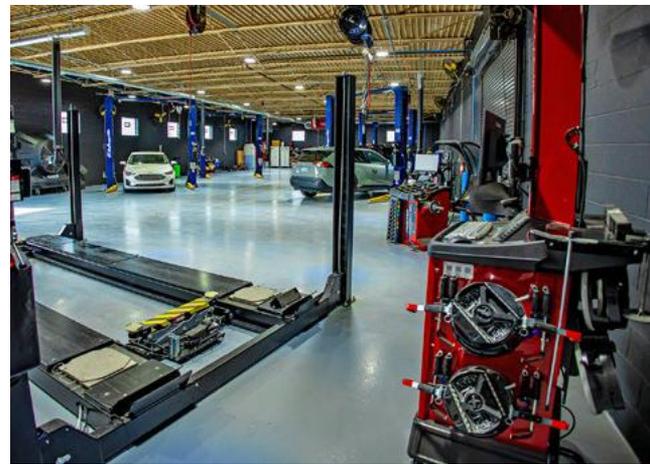
*Top (from left to right): Ric, Rocky and Dominic.*

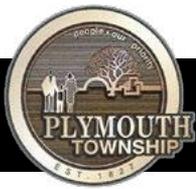
auto care is the heart of Ric & Rocky's.

"We live in the Plymouth-Canton community and we are heavily involved in the schools and believe in giving back," Rocky said. "My name is on the building and we are a family-owned business and that still

means something. Dominic was two days old when I started working for Ric, and now he runs the Canton store. This Plymouth store is an extension of our family and it's why we treat everyone like family."

For more information, visit [ricandrockys.com](http://ricandrockys.com).





## A MESSAGE FROM PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP

### Supervisor Chuck Curmi

## Keep Plymouth Township Vibrant, Safe and Welcoming

**T**HESE are exciting times for Plymouth Township. Preparations for the 2026 election are well underway, and by now, residents should have received communication regarding our new voter precincts. For more details, I encourage you to visit our website and stay informed. Our new website address is: [www.plymouthtownshipmi.gov](http://www.plymouthtownshipmi.gov).



Fiscal responsibility and maintaining stable tax rates remain our top priorities. Every dollar spent is carefully directed toward essential areas such as public safety and infrastructure. A prime example is our sidewalk replacement program, which will continue in district five this summer – an investment that enhances both safety and quality of life.

Developers are beginning construction on four technology-focused buildings dedicated to research and manufacturing that are expected to create high-quality job opportunities. We're also putting the finishing touches on our comprehensive Community Master Plan. This plan will serve as a roadmap for responsible growth and land use to ensure Plymouth Township remains a vibrant and sustainable community for years to come.

Summer promises to be an exciting season, highlighted by the return of LIV Golf to The Cardinal at Saint John's Resort from August 27–30. Mark your calendars for this world-class event!

As always, I invite you to get involved and stay informed. Subscribe to our digital newsletter at [plymouthtownshipmi.gov](http://plymouthtownshipmi.gov) → Quick links → e-News Sign Up. Attend a meeting, join a board or commission or stop by my office to share your ideas. Together, we can continue building a strong, thriving Plymouth Township.

Charles J. Curmi, Supervisor  
[ccurmi@plymouthtwp.org](mailto:ccurmi@plymouthtwp.org)



## The Michigan Philharmonic ending Historic 80th Season with a Bang!

By Joan Walton, Executive Director

**T**HERE is still a lot of music to enjoy as the Michigan Phil closes out its regular season. From cellist Deborah Pae on opening night, to the triumph of iconic singer-songwriter Ann Hampton Callaway, this has been a season to remember.



But it's not over yet!

Be sure not to miss the season finale, as we go out with a bang welcoming Xiao Dong Wei and the Great Lakes Taiko Center for Sounds of the Pacific Rim, April 24, 7:30 p.m., at Mainstage Theatre at The Hawk in Farmington Hills. Music and ancient instruments of the Pacific Rim come together in one concert, celebrating the cultural heritage of the Pacific Basin. Featuring Erhu master, Xiao Dong Wei, performing The Crouching Tiger Concerto. The Great Lakes Taiko Center will also take center stage celebrating ancient percussion instruments.

As the 80th season comes to a close, there is still music to be made as we launch our popular Summer Concert series in June, July and August in Plymouth, Kensington Metropark and Grosse Pointe.

---

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# D1 Training

## CUSTOM PROGRAMMING THAT MEETS YOUR NEEDS

By Terry Jacoby

**I**T happens every year. The first Monday of the new year you can't find an open parking space at the local gym or fitness center because everyone has decided this is the year to get in shape. But by February 1 there are plenty of places to park because the enthusiasm for a healthy new you has gone off the road.

Maybe this year is the time for a different approach. And there is no reason to wait until January 2.

D1 Training, a leading fitness enrichment concept utilizing the five core tenets of athletic-based training, opened its new Novi location on October 20 and is already making an impact for athletes of all ages.

This isn't a place where you get a membership, stroll in a few times a week and walk on a treadmill. D1 combines coaching, family, community and commitment into one philosophy that helps you reach your goals – whether it's to make the varsity team, play your sport at the highest level or just to get you stronger, healthier and happier in your life.

Modeled after Division 1 strength and conditioning principles, D1 Novi is one of the first locations in Michigan and joins a growing lineup of around 150 training centers in the country. Husband-and-wife duo Osi and Ann Aniakudo join a roster of impressive existing franchisees, including professional athletes like Kylie Fitts and Jordan Gay, with additional D1 partners including NBA star Chris Paul and Heisman Trophy winner Tim Tebow.

"As former athletes ourselves, we understand the many benefits sports offer both on and off the field," Ann said. "It's not just about becoming a better athlete – it's about the life lessons you learn along the way. Those lessons shape you for the future and build the confidence to succeed in whatever lies ahead. We can't wait to help members of our community start their fitness journey and discover what they're truly capable of."



D1 Training offers four age-based programs including Rookie (ages 7-11), Developmental (ages 12-14), Prep (ages 15-18) and D1 Adult. Each fitness program is based on the five athletic-based tenets: dynamic warm-up, performance, strength program, core and conditioning, and cool down. Outside of group workouts, D1 Training offers group, semi-private and one-on-one training with world-class coaches.



The first step begins with discovering exactly where you want this journey to take you, defining your fitness and health goals and putting a plan together that will last a lifetime and not just a couple months at the beginning of the year.

"Our plans are very personalized and it's really important to understand what the goals are so we can help you achieve them," Ann said. "We offer personal training, class packages and memberships so we have an option that's not only going to help you meet your goals but should meet your budget as well."

The goal is simple: to continue to train athletes who are dedicated to their sport or fitness goals, regardless of age or athletic background.

"We are the place for the athlete, and an athlete is anyone with a fitness goal," Osi said. "So whether you're an adult who just wants to get back into shape or you're a teenager who wants to play at the next level we offer custom programming to meet your needs."

For more information, visit [www.d1training.com](http://www.d1training.com), call (248) 773-4407 or visit the location at 43518 W. Oaks Dr., Novi – in West Oaks between Kohl's and Marshalls.





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# Gather, Connect, Share Stories

The Red Ryder Lounge offers a place to chill out, hang with friends and listen to some tunes By Terry Jacoby

**J**UST take those old records off the shelf, I'll sit and listen to 'em by myself," sang Bob Seger in the opening line of "Old Time Rock & Roll."

Detroit's classic rocker got the first part right, but Jeff O'Brien has created an amazing place where you don't have to listen to music by yourself. O'Brien, along with wife, Alexis O'Brien, and mother-in-law, Sandy Mily, opened The Red Ryder Lounge in September 2024, as a destination for those keen to not only remember and celebrate the old times but enjoy the present time.

Like the sound of a needle dropping on the opening track of a record, The Red Ryder Lounge is the perfect place for those who never lost their youthful desire for genuine connection.

"I grew up in Grand Rapids, and my dad was a musician and music was such a big part of my youth, and our basement was filled with musical instruments and records and we always hung out there listening to music," O'Brien said. "We wanted to create that basement, hanging-out vibe where you meet with your friends and just chill out with great food and drinks with a record spinning in the background."

With a vinyl collection of some 4,000 LPs and counting, Red Ryder features music of all kinds, all genres and all eras where the past can be celebrated and also experienced anew. They have DJs on the weekends spinning requests and themed nights throughout the month – including disco, funk, indie, classic rock and more. Check out the music calendar at [redryderlounge.com/index.php/about](http://redryderlounge.com/index.php/about).

That unique vibe and atmosphere isn't limited to inside the Red Ryder Lounge.

"We felt like Old Village Plymouth was the perfect place for what we wanted to create," O'Brien said. "Old Village is seeing more development, there are more reasons to come here and do some exploring. There are restaurants, a unique kitchen store, bike shop, boutique stores and other retail shops. It's an exciting time here in Old Village."

Even the name Red Ryder Lounge is a deep cut throwback to Old Village.

"We pay homage to the Daisy Air Rifle Company, which was known for the Red Ryder BB Gun of 'A Christmas Story' fame," O'Brien said.



"The factory was here in Plymouth, a few blocks down from us."

The drinks are the chorus of The Red Ryder Lounge, which rocks craft cocktails, Harvey Wallbangers, sea breezes, old fashioned, Manhattans, sazeracs and the popular new fashioned, made with tequila and palomas. Classic beers – Stroh's, PBR, Old Milwaukee – go perfect with Thin Lizzy or Molly Hatchet on the turntable.

The full menu features many of the tavern-style greatest hits, from salads to baskets (try the grilled cheese) to burgers (the Red Ryder Burger features bacon, roasted red peppers, pepper jack and onions) to snacks (yes, they offer a Red Ryder pigs in a blanket).

Sandy Mily and her family are the former owners of Fox Hills Golf and Banquet Center in Salem Township. But retirement wasn't on their scorecard, so instead of heading to Florida, they teed up a place that took them back in time where people can still enjoy the simpler things in life.

"You never know what you're going to hear," O'Brien said. "It's all about the music, the atmosphere, and connecting with the people around you. We wanted to create a space that is like the old neighborhood spot, where people would gather and share stories and memories and connect. And the space is just part of it – it is the people that make the Red Ryder world 'spin right round'. Most of our staff have been with us since we opened our doors and we are so grateful for their hard work and dedication to serving the Plymouth community."

Red Ryder Lounge, located at 584 Starkweather Street, in Plymouth, is open from 4-10 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday and from 4-11 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. For more information, visit [redryderlounge.com](http://redryderlounge.com)





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# 'WE TAKE PRIDE IN TAKING CARE OF OUR GUESTS'

## An enhanced experience not found anywhere else

By Terry Jacoby

**W**HILE most restaurants and bars struggled during the COVID shutdown in 2020, Jad and Joe Sayah saw it as an opportunity to fulfill a longtime dream of opening a unique and intimate craft lounge in Plymouth. So, they went to work.

The Sayah brothers had operated a banquet center in the space on Ann Arbor Road for several years. During the shutdown, they decided to do a full renovation remodel to create a place and atmosphere that focused on curating an enhanced experience, featuring a full menu derived from elevated, handcrafted cocktails and a full dining menu.

They opened The Bartisan in March 2024, with the spotlight on a modern menu and a wide selection of beer, wine and specialty drinks – all presented in a warm and cozy setting.

"We take pride in providing exceptional service and care to every guest who joins us," Jad said. "We focus on our craft cocktails and our excellent full-dinner menu. Many of the items on our menu we created from scratch, and it's not something you can find down the street or across town."

From delicate bites to bold creations including shareables (try the Philly steak quesadillas), flatbreads, burgers, sandwiches, salads and entrees, The Bartisan menu is meticulously designed to ignite your palate and set the stage for an unforgettable experience.

And whether you savor the rich complexities of a fine wine or delight in the robust character of a carefully selected beer, their dedication to the art of mixology ensures a truly indulgent journey for any palate.

For example, their impressive bourbon collection features Elmer T. Lee, the W.L. Weller lineup, George T. Stagg, selections from Pappy Van Winkle, and many other premium labels.

The Bartisan – the name comes from the word "artisan" but with a "b" for bar – seats approximately 120 people, including an outdoor patio that opened last year.

"Our restaurant attracts a diverse group of guests, from families and couples to anyone looking to enjoy a great meal, live entertainment or watch sports in a lively atmosphere," Joe said. "We feature a wide variety of free live entertainment, including dueling piano shows, jazz bands, comedy nights, and live music from different genres."

Joe began his restaurant career washing dishes at a Novi restaurant while in high school. He went to Eastern Michigan University and was interested in becoming a dentist, but nothing made him smile more than working in a restaurant so he turned his attention to owning his own business.

"I always had a passion for restaurants," he said.

The brothers, who both graduated from Novi High School, were always locked in the Plymouth area for this unique setting.

"We know the area and we live in Plymouth and we are part of the community," Joe said. "The business community and residents of Plymouth have been wonderful to work with. We strongly believe in giving back to the community, as Plymouth is our home."

The Bartisan is the ideal spot for banquets and private events. And in the coming months, it plans on offering Sunday brunch and expanding its hours to meet the demands of the customers.

"We can accommodate private parties and gatherings of many sizes," Joe said. "We take pride in taking care of our guests and have the flexibility to arrange the space to create the perfect setting."

The Bartisan is located at 1065 Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth. For more information, call (734) 359-3694 or visit [thebartisan.com](http://thebartisan.com). Reservations are recommended, but walk-ins are always welcome. To see the schedule for upcoming live entertainment, visit [thebartisan.com/events](http://thebartisan.com/events).



the  
**BARTISAN**

HANDCRAFTED  
COCKTAILS • FARE



handle the design side.”

Christianson, who is involved in the entire process from start to finish, works with the home or business owners one-on-one to ensure that he sees their project through to the end. The process of creating that dream space is a team effort.

“I will meet with the client and review the site and discuss their wants and needs,” Christianson said. “At that time I will also share my thoughts regarding their property. “We go over what other clients have done with similar sites in the past, discuss material options as well as the costs associated with those selections. After the initial review, we then put together a comprehensive, drawn-to-scale design plan that shows all the options we discussed. Finally, we create a budget to manage the financial side of the installation.”

Christianson said when a landscape is designed by a professional the plan becomes a direct reflection of the client’s style, taking into consideration the site, architectural style of the home and the impacts on the surrounding environment.

“If you are a homeowner looking to renovate your property you can feel confident that

a landscape plan crafted by Michigan Landscape Design Services will incorporate all of your ideas in a creative and unique way,” he said.

Michigan Landscape Design Services is located at 238 S. Main Street, in Plymouth. Call (734) 564-7149 or visit [www.michiganlandscapedesignservices.com](http://www.michiganlandscapedesignservices.com) for more information. You can also follow them on Facebook and Instagram.



## Passion and Skill

### Landscape designer creates unique gardens, entertaining spaces

By Terry Jacoby

**J**EREMY Christianson’s “roots” in landscaping began as a summer job while attending college. After several years of working outdoors, he ended up changing his major to make a career in the green industry. This decision proved to be a good choice after discovering a passion and skill for creating unique gardens and entertaining spaces for people.

Christianson is the owner of Michigan Landscape Design Services, a landscape design and consultation company serving southeast Michigan since 2004.

The company’s focus is to create landscape solutions that support the lifestyle and function needs of each client. The design is then brought to life using a team of well-trained craftsmen who share the same passion and quality standards. From the initial consultation to the final walk through, their clients can feel confident that the final product will exceed their expectations.

Located in Plymouth, Michigan Landscape Design Services was created to provide professional design services for homeowners and contractors alike. Services include master plans (both hardscape and planting), drainage correction plans, low-voltage lighting plans, and theme garden design.

The benefits of proper landscape planning includes accurate take offs for estimating, detailed planting layouts, and the ability to phase projects while keeping one vision in mind.

Christianson’s green industry journey began back in 1993.

“I worked in the landscape industry while in college and ended up going to Michigan State, where I graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Horticulture and Landscape Design,” said Christianson, who also is a certified professional landscape designer from the Association of Professional Landscape Designers and a Michigan Certified Nurseryman. “I started Michigan Landscape Design Services shortly thereafter so I could work with not only homeowners but with business owners and other landscape contractors who needed assistance in creating a professional landscape design. After several years, demand for installation services grew rapidly. It was at this time that we teamed up with several talented companies who still continue the installation work while I



# How We Began

## Plymouth Historical Museum recounts its start

By Elizabeth Kerstens and Ellen Elliott

**B**EFORE there was a Plymouth Historical Society, city leaders were talking about the need for a museum as early as 1943.

William Powell, a local resident, may have been the trigger for a museum in Plymouth. Powell visited the office of City Manager Clarence Elliott to offer some artifacts that he felt should be preserved. Elliott was happy to accept the items but had nowhere to properly store or display them.

“You know, I think we should have a museum here in Plymouth. There are many things in the city which should be preserved for all time in a museum of some kind. I’m not just sure whether it should be a city museum or whether the idea shouldn’t be taken up by some of the patriotic organizations who might take over one of the old early American houses here in the city as the permanent location of a Plymouth museum,” said Elliott in the *Plymouth Mail* of October 1, 1943.

Five years later, the Plymouth Historical Society was formed. Members received and stored donations from Plymouth’s past in their attics and basements. As the years went on, the society saw the need to bring the collections together under one roof, where they could be properly preserved.

In 1961 the City of Plymouth leased the Orson Polley house to the Plymouth Historical Society to be used as a museum. The first Plymouth Historical Museum opened to the public in May 1962. Meantime, the society was fundraising for a permanent museum building.

Two large grants allowed for the purchase of land adjacent to the Polley house and for the construction of a purpose-built museum. One grant for \$33,870 was from the Edward C. Hough-Mary Hough Kimble



Foundation; the second grant of \$100,000 was from Plymouth resident Margaret Dunning.

A groundbreaking ceremony was held on May 10, 1972, using a three-handled shovel wielded by Society President George Burr, Dunning, and Clarence Moore, a museum volunteer. A year later, the museum building was dedicated but the inside was not complete.

The new Plymouth Historical Museum – dubbed the Dunning Memorial Building in honor of Margaret Dunning’s parents – opened to the public on Saturday, February 14, 1976.

The first sight that visitors would have encountered when they entered the new museum was a re-creation of Main Street Plymouth circa 1900. Facades of familiar businesses allowed a peek into the past, showcasing the massive collections donated for generations, thus paving the way for the preservation of our local history. Clarence Elliott would be proud.

The Plymouth Historical Museum is spotlighting Michigan history during 2026, with two special exhibits celebrating the 250th anniversary of the United States of America. The first highlights the years 1776 to 1900 and runs through June 7; the second will focus on the years 1900 to 2026 and runs July

1-November 1. The Museum is located at 155 S. Main Street in Plymouth and is open Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday 1-4 p.m.

Admission is \$7 for adults and \$3 for children 6-17.

**PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL MUSEUM**  
ANNOUNCES THE OPENING OF ITS DOORS TO THE PUBLIC  
★ FEBRUARY 14, 1976 ★  
Rethink and Special Attractions emphasizing the Settlement and Development of this region and the many Issues of Life and Society in the 19th century will be awaiting the personal of the visitor.

**WATER FOR THIS:**

- I MAIN STREET**  
A group of about 150 facades reflecting the main, professions and industries that helped Plymouth to develop and grow from its inception as a community in the mid 18th century.
- II PERIOD ROOMS**  
Three areas set up in the manner of late Victorian America to illustrate the style of life, the familial attitudes, the furniture and many other accessories to be seen in the home.
- III ARCHIVES AND LIBRARY**  
Books, manuscripts, photo letters and a microfiche library for the serious researcher — open on Thursday and Saturday during regular museum hours. Features include a special Civil War collection and a complete run of the Plymouth Mail.
- IV BLACKSMITH SHOP and AGRICULTURAL EXHIBITS**  
A fully equipped smithy — allows the home and an area devoted to the tools and implements of the Michigan farmer.
- V THE ATTER CAR and other vehicles**  
The Plymouth built Atter car will be on exhibit along with several other vintage cars loaned for special exhibit.
- VI CHANGING EXHIBITS**  
An area available for special exhibits and special collection display.
- VII GIFT SHOP**  
Valuable and sturdy items related to the museum, to collections and exhibits, that will allow the visitor to take part of his museum experience home.

**THE MUSEUM WILL BE OPEN:**  
Thursdays 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Saturdays 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sundays 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

**REMEMBER:**  
Admission is \$7.00 for Adults \$3.00 for Children 6-17 yrs. of age \$1.00 for Children 3-5 yrs. of age  
We are a privately funded institution dependent upon admission fees, gift shop sales, membership fees and donations for our operation. We request your donations of artifacts, your monetary support and your volunteerism of time and talent.  
\*Without the past, there is no future.

78-12-911 7165

**Interesting Facts of the Building**

**Construction:**  
Total area of 17,400 sq. ft.  
60,000 Clipped Board Sides  
16,000 Siding Boards  
Sub-roofing between two levels 7,800 sq. ft. of Plywood  
Each slab supports 1.7 tons  
Marble roof of hollow top-rack metal strips to resemble wood

**Electric Power:**  
Installed to that of 20 houses or 2,000 amps.  
17 1/2 miles of wiring  
3 sets of emergency backup lights in case of power failure

**Heat and Air:**  
A hot-air heating and cooling unit of 10 H.P. each.  
Heating capacity of 1,400,000 B.T.U.'s or 40 tons.  
Cooling capacity of 300,000 B.T.U.'s or 40 tons.

**Acknowledgements to Dedication Program**

Anderson Music Co.  
Plymouth Theatre  
Plymouth Community School District  
Plymouth Public Department  
Olson and Evelyn Eger  
WSP 68 3 PM News — Plymouth High School

155 S. Main Street  
Plymouth, Michigan

Sunday  
May 23, 1976  
3:30 P.M.



# DTP Downtown Plymouth

## Major Event Season 2026 Guidebook

# SHINOLA

Beauty, Preserved in Stone.



Letter from  
DDA Director Sam Plymale



## RESIDENTS & VISITORS

Downtown Plymouth's primary event season is right around the corner and the busy spring and summer months are essential for our locally owned businesses. The DDA is happy to once again partner with *Plymouth Today* to highlight our great businesses and events.

Remember, for every \$100 spent at a local business, \$68 stays within our community. Shop Local, Shop DTP! You can find everything DTP, including our digital newsletter, *DTP Monthly*, at our website: [downtownplymouth.org](http://downtownplymouth.org)

## BUSINESSES

Strong downtowns are fortified by a community that continuously works toward a common goal, and the Plymouth DDA values its partnership with DTP businesses. Thank you to all of the hardworking business owners and employees who help to make DTP one of the best places in the state of Michigan to live, work and play!

If you have a business inside the Plymouth DDA District and would like to advertise in a future DTP Guidebook, please contact the Plymouth DDA at 734-455-1453.

Sam P.



City of Plymouth | Plymouth Downtown Development Authority  
831 Penniman Plymouth MI 48170 | 734-455-1453  
[downtownplymouth.org](http://downtownplymouth.org)





# Make the Scene

## PLYMOUTH IS THE PLACE TO GO FOR PREMIUM OUTDOOR SEATING

By Kelsi Klein

**F**OR Michiganders, few things signal spring more than weather that's finally nice enough to be able to enjoy a meal outside.

Fortunately, Downtown Plymouth is home to dozens of eateries that offer both private and public patio seating, allowing guests to savor good weather, good food and downtown happenings.

"Outdoor dining in DTP is part of the fabric of the Plymouth community," said DDA Director Sam Plymale. "Once the weather warms, our patios attract people from across Metro Detroit who love to grab a drink or a bite to eat and enjoy the sights and sounds of Downtown Plymouth."

Patio season for the following restaurants with public patios runs from April 1-October 31:

### **Arbor Brewing Co.**

777 W. Ann Arbor Trail  
(734) 233-6201

Enjoy local craft beer, rotating specials and a full food menu on the patio.

### **Bakehouse 46**

318 S. Main Street  
(734) 582-0500

Sit outside and enjoy everything from freshly baked cupcakes and specialty desserts to café classics and bagels to refreshing juices and coffee.

### **Bigalora**

777 W. Ann Arbor Trail  
(734) 233-6200

From wood fired pizzas and pasta to small plates, Italian entrees and desserts, enjoy a meal on Bigalora's patio with a view of Kellogg Park.

### **Compari's**

350 S. Main Street  
(734) 416-0100

Compari's on the Park serves old-world southern Italian cuisine and is the perfect outdoor spot for everything from date night to family dinner.

### **Fiamma Grill and Bar**

380 S. Main Street  
(734) 416-9340

Enjoy seasonally inspired American fare, beer, wine and cocktails in the heart of Downtown Plymouth.

### **Ironwood Grill**

840 W. Ann Arbor Trail  
(734) 667-5614

Satisfy your barbecue cravings or enjoy upscale sports bar food, sandwiches, burgers, entrees and more on Ironwood Grill's patio this season.

### **Park Place Gastro Pub**

336 S. Main Street  
(734) 454-6500

Experience outdoor dining with a variety of classic food favorites with vibrant and flavorful twists along with a craft beer or handcrafted cocktail.



### **Penn Grill and Bar**

820 Penniman Avenue  
(734) 453-3570

Get together with friends and family and enjoy classic bar fare, daily specials and a full bar on the downtown patio.

### **The Sardine Room**

340 S. Main Street  
(734) 416-0261

Sit outdoors with a view of Kellogg Park and enjoy a selection of fine foods, raw bar, cold beer, cocktails, wines and more.

For even more public patio dining, visit Barrio Cocina y Tequileria, Pizza e Vino, The Highline Room, Simply Fresh Mediterranean Grill, Sean O'Callaghan's and The Ledger.

Plymouth eateries that offer private patio dining include Burger Spot, Downtown Pourhouse Tavern, E.G. Nick's, Nico & Vali, Omelette & Waffle Café, Plymouth Brunch House, Plymouth Coffee Bean Co., Thai House, Thai Ocha, The Post Local Bistro and Westborn Market.

# DTP *Forward*

Reimagining Downtown Plymouth's Streetscape

***Help us reimagine our downtown street environment***

**Pedestrian Safety - Walkability - Public Spaces - Parking - Trees & Landscaping... *and more***



The Plymouth community is moving **DTPForward**

The Plymouth DDA has been working on the next downtown streetscape design and we want **YOU** to be a part of the process.

Help us reimagine our dynamic downtown to keep it vital and vibrant for generations to come. Visit the project webpage for updates, presentation archives, survey results, and more.

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Public Open House #3**

**Wednesday 05/20/2026 5:30 - 8:30PM**

**@ Plymouth Cultural Center**

**[downtownplymouth.org/DTPForward](https://downtownplymouth.org/DTPForward)**



# Downtown Plymouth 2026 Event Season

**Month  
of  
April**

Month of April  
Kellogg Park  
***Spring Fever in the Park***

**Saturday  
April 18**

Saturday, April 18th 9AM-3PM  
The Gathering/Penniman/Kellogg Park  
***Downtown Plymouth Spring Artisan Market***

**Saturday  
April 25**

Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> 10AM-2PM  
Kellogg Park  
***PCC-S Mental Health & Wellness Fair***

**Saturday  
Mornings**

Saturdays 8AM - 12:30PM  
May 9<sup>th</sup> thru Oct 24th  
(No market July 11<sup>th</sup> / Sept 12<sup>th</sup>)  
The Gathering  
***Plymouth Community Farmers Market***

**Monday  
May 25**

Monday, May 25th 9AM along Main Street  
(Wing St to Veterans Memorial Park)  
***Memorial Day Parade***

**Thursday  
Nights**

Thursdays 7PM May 28<sup>th</sup> thru July 30<sup>th</sup>  
(No concert July 9th)  
Kellogg Park  
***Plymouth Community Band Concerts***

**Friday  
Nights**

Fridays 7PM May 29<sup>th</sup> thru Sept 4<sup>th</sup>  
(No concert July 10th)  
Kellogg Park  
***Bank of Ann Arbor Music in the Air Concerts***

**Tuesday  
June 2**

Tuesday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> 6PM  
Kellogg Park  
***Michigan Phil Youth Orchestra Pops Concert***

**Sunday  
June 7**

Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup> 2:30 - 6:30PM  
Kellogg Park  
***OLGC Praise Fest***

**Wednesdays  
Noon**

Wednesdays 12PM  
June 17<sup>th</sup> thru August 19<sup>th</sup>  
Kellogg Park  
***Wilcox Wednesday Music in the Park***

**Saturday  
June 27**

Saturday, June 27<sup>th</sup> 7-9PM  
Kellogg Park  
***Michigan Phil Salute To America Concert***

**Saturday  
July 4**

Saturday, July 4<sup>th</sup> 9-11AM  
Main Street  
***Good Morning USA Parade***

**July 10  
July 11  
July 12**

Friday, July 10<sup>th</sup> thru Sunday, July 12<sup>th</sup>  
Downtown Plymouth  
***Art In the Park***

**July 24  
July 25**

Friday, July 24<sup>th</sup> & Saturday July 25<sup>th</sup>  
Downtown Plymouth  
***Inside Out Sidewalk Sales***

**Sept 11  
Sept 12  
Sept 13**

Friday, Sept 11<sup>th</sup> thru Sunday, Sept 13<sup>th</sup>  
Downtown Plymouth  
***Plymouth Fall Festival***

**Thursday  
Sept 17**

Thursday, Sept 17<sup>th</sup> 4 - 8PM  
Downtown Plymouth  
***Ladies' Night Out***

**Saturday  
Sept 26**

Saturday, Sept 26<sup>th</sup> 12 - 8PM  
Kellogg Park & Downtown Plymouth  
***Michigan Downtown Day***

**Month  
of  
October**

Month of October  
Kellogg Park  
***Scarecrows in the Park***

**Sunday  
Oct 18**

Sunday, Oct 18<sup>th</sup> 11:30AM - 2:30PM  
Downtown Plymouth  
***15th Annual Pumpkin Palooza***

Event details subject to change  
Visit [downtownplymouth.org](http://downtownplymouth.org) for updates



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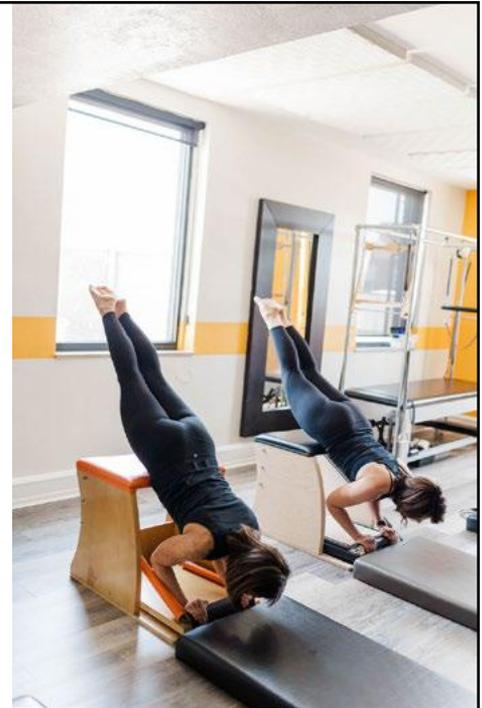
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- Reduce stress through mindful breathing
- Improve coordination, balance, and mobility
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to take a breath.  
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- ? Concerned about your parents' long-term care?
- ? Need to start a Family Conversation?



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# Downtown Plymouth Walking Map

## Food/Drink

- C** Alpine Chocolate Haus
- A** Arbor Brewing Co.
- C** Bakehouse 46
- E** Barrio Cocina y Tequileria
- A** Bigalora
- E** Boule Artisan Bakery
- E** Burger Spot
- D** Compari's On the Park
- C** Dairy King
- A** Downtown Pourhouse Tavern
- E** E.G. Nick's
- D** Fiamma Grill & Bar
- A** Fourgrounds
- B** Helen's Bakery
- E** Ironwood Grill
- C** Jimmy John's
- E** Kemnitz Fine Candies
- D** Kilwins
- A** La Pecora Nera
- E** Maya's Deli (faces Harvey St)
- D** NICO & VALI Italian Eatery
- F** Omelette & Waffle Café
- C** Pakwaan Fine Indian Cuisine
- C** Park Place Gastro Pub
- D** Penn Grill & Bar
- A** Pizza e Vino/Cellar 849
- C** Pizza Spot
- B** Plymouth Coffee Bean Co.
- A** Plymouth Brunch House
- C** Sean O'Callaghan's Public House
- C** Simply Fresh Mediterranean Grill
- B** Starbucks
- A** Thai House
- B** Thai Ocha
- C** The Ebenezer (alley)
- C** The Highline Room/Highline Spirits
- C** The Ledger
- E** That Cookie Store+
- C** The Post Local Bistro
- D** The Sardine Room
- E** The Takeout Box
- C** Westborn Market

## Retail

- I** B. Ella Bridal
- E** Baby Kreations
- D** Bella Mia
- D** Bella Mia Dressed Up
- C** Birch Wood
- C** Bohemian Home
- A** DART Patriot Supply
- C** Elephant Ear Books
- B** Frame Works
- E** Fully Promoted
- D** Genuine Toy Co.
- E** Gigi's Mode
- C** Harris Conservatory of Music
- A** Haven & Co.
- E** Home Sweet Home
- A** Ivory & Iron
- E** Kreations & Gifts
- B** La Casa Plymouth
- C** Little Black Heart
- E** Maggie and Me
- E** Milano Fine Apparel
- D** Muriel's Doll House & Toy Cottage
- D** Old World Olive Co.
- D** Opndohr Vintage/Antique
- E** Radiant Fine Jewelry
- C** Sideways
- B** Sincerely, Enza
- C** Smoke City
- E** State of Comics
- D** Sun & Snow
- E** Three Dog Bakery
- A** Vida Voyager
- B** Vitrine at the Baker House
- C** Wild Rose Boutique

## Home Improvement

- A** Esquire Interiors
- E** Home Interior Warehouse
- C** Michigan Landscape Design Services
- B** Paramount Roofing
- A** Sharer Design Group

## Beauty/Spa/Hair

- D** Agio Spa DiReposo
- E** B E Unique
- F** Beauty Haven
- B** BeautiSpot
- B** Bombshell Hair
- B** Denny's Barber Shop (alley)
- E** Detroit Barbers
- H** Forest Barber Shop
- C** Kyle Farr Aesthetics
- E** LC Nails & Spa
- B** Main Hair Design
- H** Merle Norman Cosmetic Studio
- A** Primp Beauty Bar
- H** Salon Elegance
- G** Scores Haircuts for Men
- E** TACARI Salon
- B** The Calla Room
- C** The Makeup Loft Studio & Boutique
- C** The Room Hair & Design
- C** Universal Energy Wellness Spa
- A** Vanity Salon
- C** VaVa Voom Boudoir
- F** Westchester Barber Shop

## Historical Interest

- 1** Baker House
- 2** Conner Building
- 3** Curtiss House
- 4** Former U.S. Post Office
- 5** Penniman Buildings
- 6** Plymouth Historical Museum
- 7** Plymouth Rock
- 8** Plymouth United Savings Bank
- 9** Rose of Aberlone
- 10** Wilcox House

## Points of Interest

- 1** Kellogg Park
- 2** Wilcox Fountain
- 3** The Gathering Pavilion
- 4** Penn Theatre

## Health/Fitness

- H** 11:11 Reiki Connection
- D** Core Sport Pilates Fitness Studio (alley)
- D** Haus of Pilates
- E** Plymouth Yoga Room
- E** Pure Barre
- H** Rosemarie's Healing Massage
- H** soothe.massage
- F** Synergy Dance Academy
- C** Xclusive Fitness

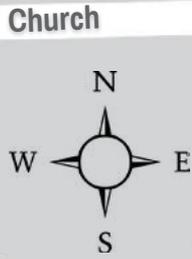
## Other Services

- C** 10 & 2 Driving Academy
- D** Amy Ross Studio Photography
- E** Creatopia Pottery
- C** eBuy Media
- C** Forest Place Optical
- C** Gold Thread Tailoring & Alteration (alley)
- B** Meeting House Grand Ballroom
- A** Nikki Closser Photography
- B** On Time Watch Experts
- C** Plymouth Shoe Repair (alley)
- D** Reset Brain and Body
- E** The Polished Paw, Inc.
- F** Trinity Health IHA Medical Group
- C** Trust & Obey Pawsitive Dog Training

## Other

- A** Free Little Art Gallery DTP
- A** Plymouth-Canton Community Schools
- A** Plymouth City Hall
- E** Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce
- E** Plymouth Community United Way
- A** Plymouth District Library
- B** Plymouth Downtown Development Authority (alley)

- 5** Wilcox Amphitheatre
- 6** Plymouth Arts & Recreation Complex (PARC)
- 7** Veterans Memorial Park
- 8** DIA + Plymouth Sculpture



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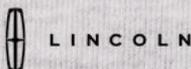
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# Dining Out in Plymouth

## THE BEST SPOTS FOR EVERY OCCASION

By Kelsi Klein

**W**HEN it comes to dining out, Plymouth is home to some of the best restaurants fit for every occasion. From brunch to date night to celebrating life's milestones with family and friends, the perfect restaurant can elevate the entire experience.

### Date night

#### Pizza e Vino

849 Penniman Avenue  
(734) 254-0275  
[www.pizzaevinoplymouth.com](http://www.pizzaevinoplymouth.com)

Pizza e Vino offers an intimate setting with authentic flavors of Italy. Known for its certified Neapolitan pizza, the menu also offers small plates and salads, perfect for a cozy date night.

### Family dinner

#### E.G. Nick's

500 Forest Avenue  
(734) 414-6400  
[www.egnicksdtp.com](http://www.egnicksdtp.com)

Since 2000, E.G. Nick's has been a family-owned and operated cornerstone of the community with a promise to treat every guest like family. Its menu offers a wide selection ranging from burgers and sandwiches to seafood and upscale entrees.

### Brunch

#### Plymouth's Brunch House

880 Fralick Street  
(734) 359-3926  
[www.plymouthbrunchhouse.com](http://www.plymouthbrunchhouse.com)

Visit Plymouth's Brunch House for a tasty start to your day and enjoy classic breakfast fare from the griddle, savory entrees and specialties like benedicts, skilletts, omelettes, sandwiches and salads.

### Lunch break

#### Maya's Deli

550 Forest Avenue, Suite 2  
(734) 453-8870  
[www.mayasdelioplymouth.com](http://www.mayasdelioplymouth.com)

Family owned and operated since 1985, Maya's Deli offers a wide variety of the highest quality breads, meats and cheeses to craft the perfect homemade sandwiches, wraps, pitas and more along with homemade soups and salad – perfect for lunch.

### Special occasion

#### The Ledger

306 S. Main Street  
(734) 984-0020  
[www.theledgerplymouth.com](http://www.theledgerplymouth.com)

Celebrate a night out with modern upscale dining at The Ledger in a 1920s building that once housed the Plymouth United Savings Bank. Enjoy modern fare and craft cocktails with a focus on quality, locally sourced ingredients for a night to remember.

### Game day spot

#### Downtown Pourhouse Tavern

860 Fralick Street  
(734) 207-9656  
[www.dtpourhouse.com](http://www.dtpourhouse.com)

Watch the game or meet up with friends for classic pub fare, happy hour specials and two outdoor patios with widescreen TVs at Downtown Pourhouse Tavern. This casual tavern features local beers and craft cocktails sure to please.

### Night out with friends

#### Barrio Cocina y Tequileria

555 Forest Avenue  
(734) 738-6754  
[www.barrioplymouth.com](http://www.barrioplymouth.com)

Barrio Cocina y Tequileria brings lively energy and bold flavors to the Plymouth dining

scene that make it a perfect place to celebrate a night out with friends. Enjoy unique Mexican street food and finely crafted cocktails in a vibrant atmosphere.

### Cozy café

#### Plymouth Coffee Bean Co.

884 Penniman Avenue  
(734) 454-0178  
[www.plymouthcoffeebean.com](http://www.plymouthcoffeebean.com)

As the longest running independent coffee shop in Michigan, the Plymouth Coffee Bean Co. has perfected the art of locally roasted coffee as well as homemade crepes, sandwiches and sweet treats. Join a friend for coffee on their cozy couch or enjoy live music, art and more.

### Craft cocktails

#### The Highline Room

330 S Main Street  
(734) 580-2349  
[www.highlinespirits.com](http://www.highlinespirits.com)

The Highline Room offers its own crafted bourbon, whiskey and rye and seasonal cocktail menus. Visit the tasting room for pre- or post-dinner drinks, or sign up for craft cocktail classes and learn how to create (and taste test) your own signature cocktails.

### Healthy cuisine

#### Simply Fresh

#### Mediterranean Grill

838 Penniman Avenue  
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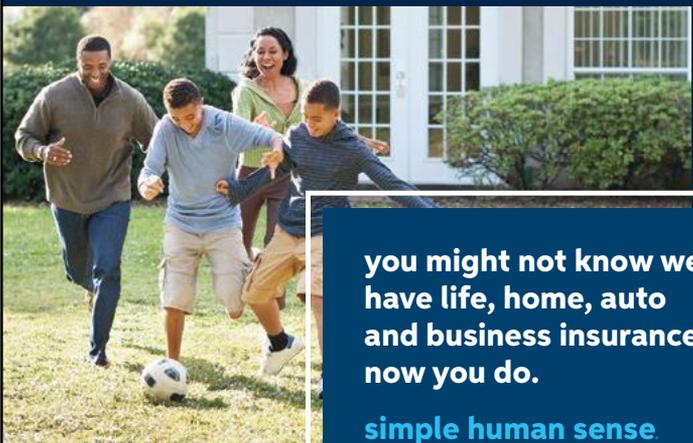
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# April is Autism Acceptance Month

## DWIHN breaks down barriers, makes services more accessible

By Kelsi Klein

**E**ACH April, communities around the country recognize Autism Acceptance Month.

Formerly known as Autism Awareness Month, the recent shift in language moves the focus from simple awareness toward genuine inclusion and respect.

"We want to build beyond awareness and really value individuals with autism and accept who they are as people," said Rachel Barnhart, Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network's (DWIHN) Autism Service Administrator.

DWIHN is dedicated to increasing both understanding and support to individuals and families affected by autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

Barnhart explained that ASD is a spectrum, and no two individuals experience it the same way. Some may display self-stimulatory behaviors, restricted and repetitive behaviors, hyper-focused interests or social behaviors that might not follow the "norm."

"Autism has such a wide range of symptomology," Barnhart said. "And we want to see and celebrate individuals for who they are while also having a balance of providing the support they want and need."

DWIHN believes that acceptance and support can and should coexist, which is why they offer a wide range of services for individuals with autism, making resources easy to access for all.

"There is no wrong door to begin the process of accessing services for an autism evaluation," Barnhart explained.

ASD treatment comes in many forms and DWIHN's network of providers covers Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), "an intensive, behaviorally based treatment that uses various techniques to bring about meaningful and positive changes in communication, social interaction and repetitive/restrictive behaviors."



It's not uncommon for families navigating systems to access services like ABA to find the process overwhelming, so DWIHN has simplified it, providing assistance every step of the way through their Access call center at 1-800-241-4949.

To make the process as simple as possible, all that is needed to get started with autism treatment is a valid diagnosis by a qualified health professional. If a family does not have a formal diagnosis, DWIHN can schedule an evaluation for them.

After diagnosis, Barnhart explained that families are connected to either a support coordinator or case manager depending on their service pathway. This is a critical step that leads to an Individual Plan of Service (IPOS) that must be developed before ABA therapy can begin.

As with any large system, challenges can arise, but DWIHN is with families every step of the way.

"Barriers aren't dead ends, they're detours," Barnhart said.

At any moment during the process, families can call DWIHN and be redirected to someone who will help them.

"We want parents to know that their child matters to us," Barnhart said.

During Autism Acceptance Month and throughout the year, DWIHN serves individuals with autism while also ensuring families have clear and accessible pathways to resources when they choose them.

For more information, visit [www.dwihn.org](http://www.dwihn.org) or call the DWIHN Access Call Center at 1-800-241-4949.





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# Centered in Community

## The Journey of Hubert Sawyers III

By Ryan M. Place

**D**ETROIT raised him. Then Plymouth became home. For Hubert Sawyers III, both places helped shape the man he is today.

Born in August 1980 and raised on Warwick and Grand River Avenue in Detroit's North Rosedale neighborhood, Sawyers grew up in a household defined by public service.

"Both of my parents worked for the Detroit Police Department's 7th Precinct, which covers the Eastern Market district," he said. "I grew up with a healthy respect for the importance of community."

A 1995 Detroit-Toyota-shi sister city exchange trip left a lasting mark.

"Traveling 6,500 miles from inner-city Detroit to Japan felt like landing on a different planet," he recalled. "We visited Toyota City, Nagoya, Osaka, Kobe. And they had the exclusive new Tekken arcade game there. Incredible trip."

He attended Detroit Public Schools and graduated from Cass Tech in 1998 before heading to Michigan State University, where he studied international relations with an emphasis on Japan.

After college, an internship with a benefits administration firm serving clients like Delphi nudged him toward marketing. He was also organizing hip hop shows in East Lansing and downtown Detroit.

"From 2003 to 2012, weekends were about unifying the community



through live events," he said. "I cut my teeth working with brands like Vitamin Water and Red Bull. I was also rapping as Gambit the MC in the local music scene. Even did some shows with a Plymouth-based group, the Starving Artists Crew."

In September 2009, when social media became a mainstream force, Sawyers launched his own digital marketing company.

"I was hired to manage social media for Mazda USA," he said. "Running social media for a national brand remotely from home was game-changing. It strengthened my sense of autonomy."

Community has remained central to his life. He serves on the advisory board of Detroit's Downtown Boxing Gym, founded by Khali Sweeney in 2007.

"Watching a community rally around a shared goal in real-time is powerful," he said. "It reminds you that none of us builds anything alone."

Growing up, Sawyers often visited Plymouth.

"The three cities we visited most were Dearborn, Plymouth and Southfield," he said. "I especially loved Plymouth because it reminds me of Rosedale. The trees, the walkability, the homes. I grew up walking to corner stores, just like we do here."

After meeting his future partner, who lived in Canton, the couple moved to Plymouth in 2018. They're now raising two sets of twins, ages 8 and 10, and two teens aged 16 and 18.

"Plymouth feels like a true community," he said. "I've lived all over Metro Detroit. The missing piece was always that neighborly love. We found it here."

A former vinyl record collector, now down to "a handful of 45s", Sawyers is also an avid reader and recently revisited Paulo Coelho's book "The Alchemist".

"Sometimes I feel like the crystal merchant from the book," he joked. "I went full crunchy granola. I'm very passionate about holistic wellness. One of my favorite things to do is lie in a float tank. Ultimately, I just feel we all have the power to become better integrated human beings."

Around town, the Sawyers love visiting Elephant Ear Books, Earth Lore, Espresso Elevado, Meridian Coffee Co., and Blue Kuna Smokehouse.

"Plymouth is more than just a destination for our family," he said. "It's where everything we're building, as parents and neighbors, comes together."



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**A:** Of course there is help! More than likely, you are going to need to wear a special type of glasses that have telescopes in them for your outdoor adventures. The telescope will help you scan the outdoors and more richly appreciate colors. By magnifying with the eyeglass-mounted telescopes you will regain some of the detail you would otherwise miss. You did not mention driving, but many of our patients use telescopes to legally drive.

I always appreciate your questions, please keep them coming! Turn that frustration into action! During your low vision evaluation we will spend an hour with you to determine how to best to enhance your vision for better living.

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## The Hidden Middle

*When your loved one isn't 'bad enough' – but isn't safe, either*

**O**NE of the most common things I hear from families is: "Something just doesn't feel right... but I'm not sure it's bad enough yet."

This is what I call the "hidden middle." Your loved one may still be living at home and managing most things on their own, but small changes are starting to show.

Maybe they're forgetting medications, missing appointments, not eating well, or becoming more isolated. On their own, these may not seem serious, but together they can signal that extra support is needed.

Many families wait to act because they don't want to overstep or cause worry. Others aren't sure what help even looks like at this stage. Unfortunately, waiting often leads to a crisis like a fall or hospitalization, when decisions become more urgent and limited.

The good news is that support doesn't have to mean a major change. Simple steps like a few hours of in-home care, help with medications or small safety adjustments can make a big difference. These early supports can help someone stay safe and independent much longer.

**Some subtle signs to look for that may signal it's time for extra support:**

- Forgetting medications or mixing them up
- Missed appointments or confusion about schedules
- Changes in hygiene or housekeeping
- Skipping meals or noticeable weight loss
- Recent falls or close calls at home
- Withdrawal from social activities or hobbies

If you're noticing changes, it may be time to start exploring options. Early guidance can ease stress and help your family make thoughtful, informed decisions, before they become urgent.

If you're not sure where to begin, call (734) 447-7590. I'm available as a resource to help you navigate next steps.



Charlotte Balluff CSA CDP is a Certified Placement and Referral Specialist, former nurse, and owner of a caregiving service for 14 years prior to A Place for You LLC Senior Living and Care Consulting.



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# 2026 Spring Market Guide

By Kelsi Klein

With spring in the air comes a variety of markets popping up across southeast Michigan. From local art and crafts to vintage items, baked goods and so much more, there is something for everyone at these community markets this spring.

**April 18**  
**Woodhaven Band Spring Craft and Vendor Show**  
10 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Brownstown Event Center  
23345 King Road,  
Brownstown, MI 48183



This annual community event will offer a wide variety of items and vendors with proceeds supporting Woodhaven Band programs. There is a \$2 entrance fee for ages 13+. For more information, email [whsbandcraftshow@gmail.com](mailto:whsbandcraftshow@gmail.com).



**April 18**  
**Bloom and Browse Market**  
11 a.m.-2 p.m.  
Willow Greenhouse  
7839 Curtis Road, Northville, 48168

Celebrate spring with more than 20 local small businesses, artisan crafters and makers showcasing handcrafted and homegrown goods, including bath and body products, small batch candles, local art, Michigan-made food items, handmade jewelry and accessories and more. For more information about this free event, visit the Willow Greenhouse Facebook page.

**April 18**  
**Spring Artisan Market**  
9 a.m.-3 p.m.  
The Gathering Near Kellogg Park  
Downtown Plymouth, MI 48170



This annual event showcases a wide variety of high-quality artisanal products ranging from handcrafted jewelry and pottery to homemade soaps and candles. There will be family-friendly entertainment and delicious treats. For more information, visit [www.downtownplymouth.org](http://www.downtownplymouth.org).

**April 25**  
**Spring Fling Vendor Market**  
11 a.m.-3 p.m.  
Kinergy Center  
2250 Oak Street,  
Wyandotte, MI 48192



Shop local from a variety of artisan and craft vendors at this annual event, where everyone is welcome. For more information, visit the Spring Fling Vendor Market Facebook page.

**May 2**  
**Art in Bloom: Spring Artisan Market**  
10 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Village Arts Factory  
50755 Cherry Hill Road,  
Canton, MI 48188

Experience over 20 local vendors selling art, crafts, food items and artisanal wares at this free event open to the public. There will be food trucks, coffee, concessions, live music, face painting and more. For more information, visit [www.cantonmi.gov](http://www.cantonmi.gov).



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# Collaboration is Key

Plymouth Township firefighters serve on Western Wayne County Special Teams By Kelsi Klein

**W**HEN emergencies happen, local fire departments are quick to respond to the scene, but some situations require specialized personnel and equipment that exceed a single department's capacity.

This is where the Western Wayne County Special Teams come in, with their Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) and Hazardous Materials (Hazmat) teams, which include members from the Plymouth Township Fire Department.

Plymouth Township firefighter/paramedic Richard Inman serves as a rescue technician and medical specialist on the Western Wayne County USAR team, which was founded in the early 2000s.

He joined the team in 2021 and explained that USAR was designed to handle some of the most challenging rescue situations.

"The Western Wayne USAR team has developed into what we would say is the premier USAR team at a county level," Inman said.

Most of the team's leadership comes from the Michigan USAR Training Foundation, which offers operations and technical level training for all technical rescue disciplines, including rope rescue, confined space, trench rescue, structural collapse rescue, machine rescue and heavy rigging.

The team focuses on incidents where victims may be trapped in dangerous or unstable environments and extensive training is required.

Inman explained that each of the four main disciplines require 40-60 hours of initial training and additional monthly training for up to eight hours a day where the team focuses on skill-oriented training simulations.

"During training, we try to come up with the worst-case scenarios because we get called when a local fire department looks at a scene



and goes, 'This is beyond us,'" Inman said.

They also cross-train with different counties and teams to continue learning through collaboration.

The Western Wayne USAR team is certified through the state's USAR team, Michigan Task Force 1. This validates the Western Wayne team to be able to respond anywhere in Michigan, from the recent trench collapse in Wyandotte to tornado rescue in Grayling.

While USAR focuses on rescue operations, the Hazmat team responds to incidents involving dangerous chemicals, toxic gases or other hazardous materials.

Plymouth Township Fire Department's Captain Chris Smith has been a member of the Western Wayne Hazmat team since 2015 and now serves as a team leader, hazmat specialist for Michigan Task Force 1 and is a hazmat instructor for Michigan State Police.

He said the team was originally formed in the 1980s, and was designed to try to prevent each individual department from having to own duplicate equipment.

"For each team to own their own monitors and hazmat suits would be an outrageous expense on each municipality, so the Western Wayne Hazmat Team was formed to share resources," Smith said.

He explained that each community puts a little bit of money in the pot to help fund both the hazmat and USAR special teams and their shared resources.

Today, there are four hazmat trucks located in Livonia, Northville Township, Plymouth and the Detroit Metro Airport.

When a call goes out for the hazmat team, team leaders determine which resources they feel would be an appropriate response.

"We can pretty much handle anything that's categorized as a hazardous material, from train derailments to chemical spills to industrial fires to poison gases," Smith said.

The Western Wayne County Special Teams strive to work collaboratively to ensure communities have access to specialized resources when they need them most.



# Township Police Welcomes Its Newest Chaplain

By Chief James Knittel Jr.

**T**HE Plymouth Township Police Department's chaplain program exists to support people during some of the hardest moments they may ever face.

The department provides training for the chaplains, preparing them to work closely with officers and the community, offering comfort, guidance and a steady presence when it matters most.

Often, the chaplain's role is simply to listen and to be there when words are hard to find.

The work of first responders regularly exposes officers to trauma and stress. The chaplain program gives officers a trusted, confidential outlet, someone they can confide in who is outside of the chain of command. It reinforces the idea that taking care of officers' mental and emotional well-being is essential to the mission and values of the Plymouth Township Police Department.

Chaplains are available for all township first responders, including EMS and fire personnel.

Chaplains are also called upon during some of the department's most difficult calls. Chaplains can be requested

to accompany first responders to help support those affected for death notifications, serious accidents or other high emotion incidents. In emergent or life-changing moments, their calm presence can make a profound difference for families trying to process devastating news.

Chaplains do not focus on religious differences or beliefs. The faith-based background these chaplains have allows their work to be rooted in compassion, respect and meeting people where they are during moments of vulnerability.

To stay connected, chaplains participate in ride-a-longs, department training and community events. This involvement helps them

better understand both the realities of police work and the needs of the community. Those relationships allow chaplains to step in smoothly and effectively when support is needed.

The Plymouth Township Police Department is proud to welcome its newest chaplain, Ben Barnes, to the program. A Plymouth Township resident, Ben brings a personal connection to the community he serves.

The department is grateful to have him join the team and looks forward to the positive role he will play in supporting both officers and residents through the chaplain program. Current Chaplain Rennie Kaufmann will serve as a mentor for Ben as he starts his journey of service at the Plymouth Township Police Department.



(Left to right) Lieutenant Ryan Krebs, Chaplain Ben Barnes, Chaplain Rene Kaufmann, Chief James Knittel, Jr.



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# Educational and Engaging

## P-CCS Mental Health and Wellness Fair provides resources for students, families

**P**LYMOUTH-CANTON Community Schools will host its 5th annual Mental Health and Wellness Fair on Saturday, April 25, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth. The free event invites families and community members of all ages to enjoy a day of fun, connection and learning about mental health and wellness.

Designed to be both educational and engaging, the fair offers an opportunity for families to explore resources, participate in interactive activities and connect with organizations dedicated to supporting mental health and well-being.

Over the past five years, the event has grown significantly and now welcomes more than 3,000 attendees and over 130 mental health and wellness organizations that provide resources, information and support for families throughout the region.

"The goal is to create a space where families can come together, have fun and learn about ways to support their mental health and wellness," said Kathy Grodus, mental health manager and district psychologist for Plymouth-Canton Community Schools. "When learning is interactive and welcoming, it helps remove stigma and makes it easier for families to start important conversations."

The event will feature a wide range of hands-on and interactive experiences, including:

- Mental health and wellness booths
- A wellness area with massage chairs
- A creation station, where children and families can make take-home projects
- Therapy dog visits
- Healing with horses
- A petting zoo
- A fit kids activity area
- The popular Walk Through Brain exhibit, which helps families better understand how the brain works
- Food and music

Local police and fire departments will also participate, helping strengthen connections between first responders and the community in a welcoming, family-friendly environment.

"Our hope is that families leave not only having had a great time



together, but also feeling empowered with knowledge and resources that can support their mental health and well-being," Grodus said.

"Sometimes families discover support they didn't even know existed."

The fair also highlights the strong partnerships between Plymouth-Canton Community Schools and local mental health and wellness organizations. Many of the agencies that participate in the fair continue working with the district throughout the school year by providing prevention programming, educational presentations, counseling resources, and direct support for students and families.

"Our community partners play an important role in helping support students and families," Grodus said. "The fair is a wonderful opportunity to showcase the incredible organizations that work alongside our schools to promote mental health and wellness throughout the year."

The event is hosted by Plymouth-Canton Community Schools and welcomes families from surrounding communities and school districts as well.

"Mental health does not stop at district boundary lines," Grodus added. "By bringing communities together, we can help ensure that more families are able to connect with the support and resources that may make a meaningful difference in their lives."

The fair is coordinated by Grodus, with the support of Superintendent Dr. Monica Merritt and the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Student and Family Engagement Department led by Assistant Superintendent Dr. Liz Vartanian-Gibbs.

The event is made possible through the generous support of community partners, including presenting sponsor Henry Ford Health, along with Verita Telecommunications, the Michael Anthony Falsetti Foundation, and Michigan Educational Credit Union.



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# A Consummate Team Player

Salem three-sport athlete hopes to keep winning By Terry Jacoby

**P**LAYING basketball simply makes Lainey Claramunt happy. And it's been that way since the opening tip of her career.

"I started playing basketball when I was in third grade, and I love how every time I play, I am always at my happiest and I can express myself through my game," she said.

Claramunt, 15, plays combo guard for the Salem Rocks varsity basketball team and is one of the keys to the team's success heading into the MHSAA postseason, which began with districts March 2-6.

Only a sophomore, Claramunt helps form a formidable backcourt that keeps Salem running on all cylinders. She's also one of the team's top rebounders.

"We had big goals this season," she said. "Obviously we wanted to be Park champs, which unfortunately we didn't achieve but we have a good shot at it next year. My personal goal this year was to be the leading rebounder and scorer, which so far I have achieved. We have grown tremendously as a team and are looking to make a great run in districts\*."

Claramunt said her sophomore year has been a bit of a "rollercoaster."

"I played well throughout the season but I struggled with confidence and consistent performance," she said. "My proudest stat so far was tying the Salem girls single game rebounds with 15."

Claramunt also plays basketball in the offseason, playing AAU at Hoopers Clinic in Farmington Hills. It's just another way she challenges herself to be better.

"The entire environment there is incredible," she said. "All the coaches strive to make you better and genuinely care about each player and how they are doing. I love playing there because I get to play with my dad, sister and best friends and I get to



continue to make new friends every year."

Her high school career began on the varsity team, not an easy place for a ninth grader.

"I was on varsity my freshman year and it was definitely a learning experience," she said. "I enjoyed getting to learn under the upperclassmen because they taught me a lot, and I think they set a good foundation for me and all the other younger girls for years to come."

Lainey is the daughter of Kristina and Stephen Claramunt, and is a three-sport athlete at Salem. She also plays volleyball and soccer while scoring a 3.6667 GPA in the classroom. She has big goals when it comes to the sport that makes her happy.

"I want to go as far as I can in basketball," she said. "I would love to play college basketball and even play professional basketball. I have talked to some colleges but I am still young so I am not expecting anything big for a bit."

Claramunt is known for her dedication to the sport and being the consummate team player.

"Something that motivates me is always trying to be the best I can and always knowing there is another level I can reach," she said. "I enjoy challenging myself to get there. I am a very competitive person so I always have to win."

And that truly makes her happy.

*\*Salem opened districts with a 65-21 win over Ypsilanti before defeating Plymouth 39-24 to reach the finals. The Rocks lost to host Belleville 60-44 in the Division 1 District 16 final, which happened after this story was written.*

## TO YOUR HEALTH!

# Roots of Deliciousness

### Add (inexpensive) depth to your meals with hearty greens

By Lisa Howard

**C**REAMED 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](http://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!





# What's the Buzz?

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

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

### What are pollinators and why are they important?

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

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

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

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

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

### How are they in danger?

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



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

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

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

### How can residents help?

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

Planting native plants is one of the biggest ways to support pollinators. Early blooming plants like wild columbine and woodland phlox provide food in early spring, while black-eyed Susans and purple coneflower last through fall. Milkweed is another crucial native plant as it's the only plant on which Monarch butterflies lay their eggs.



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

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

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

# Plymouth 4th of July Parade – America 250

We need your help to make this event special

By Wes Graff

**W**HILE it might seem strange to be talking about the 4th of July parade in an April publication, the Plymouth Parade Planning Committee has been hard at work since January.



The committee is made up of members of the Rotary, Kiwanis, and Lions Clubs, who work together to put on the parade for our community. The clubs also serve as the three lead investors to fund the event. Additionally, many companies in the community step up as sponsors.

This year, the parade will join celebrations across the country to commemorate this milestone for our nation. Plymouth is that classic small town in America with a well-preserved historic downtown and Main Street that is ideal for a grand 4th of July parade. The Planning Committee is already working on building our best parade yet to celebrate America 250, fitting for our all-American city!

We are seeking additional sponsorships this year to help us reach our goal of increasing the parade budget by 75 percent for America 250. To make it our best parade for this special anniversary of the United States, we will need to add more revenue to afford the upgrades we have planned. We are off to an excellent start.

The parade, which kicks off at 9:00 a.m. down Main Street, will include bands, floats, giant inflatable balloons, veterans groups, entertainment, classic cars, military vehicles, and more. The parade is part of the fabric of Plymouth, and with America 250, we expect an even larger crowd. We already have some returning groups to the parade that are stepping up their presentation to get into the America 250 spirit!

**Here is my big ask of our community:**

**If you are in town, come out to the 4th of July parade to celebrate America 250.**

- Wear red, white and blue, and bring small flags to wave or signs to hold.
- Give enthusiastic rounds of applause for the many veterans walking in the parade.
- Invite your friends and family to join you to make it a spectacular celebration up and down Main



Street, from just south of the railroad tracks down to Hartsough Street.

- Take pictures of yourselves at the parade and post them on your social media to show others what an amazing all-American city we have in Plymouth.
- Afterward, you can make your way to the farmers market behind Kellogg Park and head to restaurants that are open for lunch.

This year, I accepted the role of chairing the planning committee, as part of the Kiwanis Club and as president of the Chamber of Commerce. From the service clubs, I am joined by representees from the city, the schools, veterans, and many club members dedicated to creating an outstanding parade for Plymouth.

For the hour and a half the parade rolls through town, we are going to paint a picture of America at its best. That picture is made complete with you, joining thousands of others to take the time to celebrate this country at this year's 4th of July parade – America 250.

*Wes Graff is president of the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce. He welcomes your comments at wes@plymouthmich.org. Follow the Chamber on Instagram and Facebook, or visit their website at www.plymouthmich.org.*



# HOMework

## It Doesn't Have To Be So Hard

By Tracy Willis

**"B**UT 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.

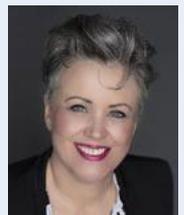
Think of yourself as a guide-on-the-side. Homework usually isn't graded, but it's important for mastering skills and preparing for future learning.

- **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.*





# AROUND Plymouth

## March – July

### ONGOING

- The Plymouth Community Farmers Market will be open each Saturday from May 9-October 24 from 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at The Gathering in Downtown Plymouth. No market July 11 (Art in the Park weekend). For more information, visit [www.plymouthmich.org](http://www.plymouthmich.org).
- Plymouth Community Band Concerts begin May 28 and will run every Thursday through July 30 (no concert on July 9) at Kellogg Park at 7 p.m. Visit [plymouthcommunityband.org](http://plymouthcommunityband.org) for more information.



- The 2026 Bank of Ann Arbor Music in the Air Friday Night Concerts will be held on Fridays at 7 p.m. in Kellogg Park, from May 29-September 4 (no concert July 10), and are free to the public. Bring a blanket or lawn chair and enjoy a night of music and fun. For a full lineup of concerts, visit [downtownplymouth.org/MITA](http://downtownplymouth.org/MITA)

- Wilcox Wednesday Music in the Park children's concerts will be held at Kellogg Park, from June 17-August 19 at 12 p.m. For more information, visit [www.plymoutharts.com](http://www.plymoutharts.com)



- **March 27 - May 5**  
**Spring Fever in the Park**  
Kellogg Park  
Downtown Plymouth  
Visit Kellogg Park to see and take photos with dozens of spring-themed displays created by local organizations. For more information visit [www.plymouthmich.org](http://www.plymouthmich.org)

### APRIL

#### April 18

#### Downtown Plymouth Spring Artisan Market

9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Downtown Plymouth

*Celebrate the beginning of spring with 60+ vendors offering artisan goods, live music and entertainment, treats and fun for the whole family at the annual market. For more information visit [downtownplymouth.org/springartisan](http://downtownplymouth.org/springartisan)*

#### April 25

#### 2026 Mental Health and Wellness Fair

10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Kellogg Park

Downtown Plymouth

*Presented by Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, this fair will feature resources, support and information surrounding mental healthcare and wellness. For more information, visit [pccsk12.com \(https://www.pccsk12.com/departments/student-and-family-engagement/p-ccs-mental-health-wellness-fair\)](https://www.pccsk12.com/departments/student-and-family-engagement/p-ccs-mental-health-wellness-fair)*

### MAY

#### May 25

#### Memorial Day Parade

9-11 a.m.

*Honor those who served at the annual Memorial Day parade starting at Wing Street, along Main Street, and ending at Veterans Memorial Park with a ceremony.*

### JUNE

#### June 2

#### Michigan Philharmonic Youth Orchestra Pops Concert

6 p.m.

Kellogg Park

*Bring a blanket or lawn chair and enjoy this performance by local young musicians enrolled in the Michigan Philharmonic music education program. For more information visit [mpyo.org](http://mpyo.org)*

### June 7

#### Praise Fest

2:30-6:30 p.m.

Kellogg Park

### June 27

#### Michigan Philharmonic 'An American Salute' Concert

7 p.m.

Kellogg Park

*An American Salute includes patriotic favorites including Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture, an Armed Forces Salute, Aron Copland's Hoedown and John Phillip Sousa's Stars and Stripes Forever. For more information visit [michiganphil.org](http://michiganphil.org)*

### JULY

#### July 4

#### Good Morning USA Parade

9-11 a.m.

Main Street

*Celebrate Independence Day with the annual patriotic parade. Join the community along Main Street in Downtown Plymouth.*

#### July 10-12

#### Art in the Park

Friday: 11 a.m.-8 p.m., Saturday: 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Sunday: 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Downtown Plymouth

*Visit Michigan's second largest art fair in its 46th year and experience artwork from more than 400 artists. There will be kids' activities and fun for all ages. For more information visit [artinthepark.com](http://artinthepark.com)*

#### July 24 & 25

#### Inside Out Sidewalk Sales

*Downtown Plymouth shops turn inside out! Explore shops, enjoy sidewalk sales. For more information visit [plymouthmich.org](http://plymouthmich.org)*

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



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