

OFFICIAL SOUVENIR GUIDE

# Wyandotte

T O D A Y

2026 - Third Quarter



65th annual  
Wyandotte Street Art Fair  
JULY 8-11, 2026

[wyandotte.net](http://wyandotte.net)

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# Wyandotte

T O D A Y

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## Wyandotte Street Art Fair

**JULY 8-11, 2026**

[www.wyandotte.net](http://www.wyandotte.net)

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# WELCOME TO Wyandotte!



On behalf of our elected officials, it is my heartfelt pleasure to warmly welcome you to the beautiful city of Wyandotte for the 65th Annual Wyandotte Street Art Fair!

This year's event promises to be one of our best yet, featuring over 300 artist booths showcasing exceptional talent in arts, culture, and entertainment. You'll also find an exciting array of exhibitors and delicious food options sure to please every palate. While you're here, be sure to explore our vibrant downtown—take advantage of the sidewalk sales and dine at one of our many outstanding local restaurants.

We also invite you to enjoy the Wyandotte Social District, established in August 2020 by our mayor and city council. This unique "open container" district allows visitors to purchase beer, wine, or spirits from participating bars and restaurants and enjoy them as they stroll through the designated common areas. Just look for the specially marked cups and stay within the boundaries of the district, open daily from 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

We're so glad you've joined us and hope this visit is just the beginning of many more. Thank you for being part of this cherished Wyandotte tradition—we're thrilled to have you here!

Robert A. DeSana, Mayor  
City of Wyandotte  
mayor@wyandottemi.gov

## Wyandotte Street Art Fair

### GENERAL INFORMATION

**DATES:** The 2026 Wyandotte Street Art Fair is held from Wednesday, July 8 through Saturday, July 11 from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily. The fair is traditionally held the second full week of July each year. The fair is located along Biddle Avenue between Oak Street and Eureka in Downtown Wyandotte.

**PARKING:** There are several places to park for the fair along with shuttles that run during the hours of the fair. More information can be found on our website: [www.wyandottemi.gov](http://www.wyandottemi.gov) - on the Special Events Office page.

Please check our website for any updates and changes for the 2026 Wyandotte Street Art Fair.





## F.A.Q.s

A few things to remember when you attend the Wyandotte Street Art Fair!

- The event admission is free!
- The Art Fair was first organized in 1961 by the Acanthus Art Society, making this year our 65th Anniversary!
- You could become a participant in the fair next year! Anyone wishing to become a part of the event must contact the Special Events Office for the City of Wyandotte at [hthiede@wyandottemi.gov](mailto:hthiede@wyandottemi.gov).

## Featured Artist CONRAD LUSTIG

As an artist with a background in art history, my work often draws from many styles, but most often Late Renaissance and Dutch Old Masters in conjunction with modern digital art. Since only recently beginning to paint in earnest, and primarily self-taught, my style is in a constant state of evolution and growth but always tends toward the illustrative and symbolic.

Wyandotte Street Art Fair

### CITY OF WYANDOTTE ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mayor, Robert A. DeSana  
 Mayor Pro Tempore, Kelly M. Stec  
 Patrick J. Sutka  
 Chris Calvin  
 Todd Hanna  
 Robert K. Alderman  
 Adriana Cerulla  
 The Honorable Judge Elizabeth L. DiSanto  
 City Treasurer, Todd M. Browning  
 City Clerk: Mary Pilon  
 City Assessor: Theodore H. Galeski

### WYANDOTTE STREET ART FAIR COMMITTEE

Hisam El-Awad  
 Anne Majlinger  
 Andrew Morsello  
 Patt Slack  
 Heather A. Thiede-Champlin

### FAIR CONTACT INFO:

Heather A. Thiede-Champlin  
 Special Events Coordinator  
 Department of Recreation, Leisure and Culture  
[hthiede@wyandottemi.gov](mailto:hthiede@wyandottemi.gov)  
 734.324.4502  
 734.324.7283

### PHOTO CREDIT:

Jake Conz Photography  
 Terry Jacoby  
 Brian Egen  
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 Shirley McFarland  
 Gregory Shamus Photography



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# ARTIST LISTING *by Media!*

## CLOTHING

### **Booth**

6/8/A  
9/A  
15/17/ A  
57/58/59/60  
112/114  
121/122/123/124  
163/ C  
167/ C  
184/186/ C  
193/195/ C

### **Artist / Business Name**

Clyde Mazza  
Lita Rodriguez  
Abdel Yazidi, Toutaz LLC  
Joe Kisselburg, Kiss of Color  
Elisa Angjeli, Bosphorus LLC  
Rob Rex, My State Designs/Stick it Vinyls  
Jeanne Scannell, Scannell Fashions  
Nancy Ellenberger, Nancys Fancies Studio  
Alice Teerakulpisut, Mysiam Boutique  
Molly Deighton, Molly Louise Shop

## FIBER

### **Booth**

12/ A  
14/ A  
16/18/ A  
41/ A  
53/ A  
66/ B  
87/ B  
97/99/B  
100/ B  
108/ B  
116/118/ B  
133/ C  
168/ C  
231/ D

### **Artist / Business Name**

Debbie Craiger, What a Seat  
Rob Shannon, Crushable Hats  
Sandra Rodriguez, Lucy Goosey Costumes  
Patty Pun  
Gary Bender, Dixie Bags  
Haley Byrd-Locey, Fashion Rework  
Kelley Skillin, Katydid's Kritters  
Landria Johnson, The Sassy Olive  
Gene & Judy Cantrell, Gene and Judy's Rugs  
Michelle & Todd Haden, Berkshire Bags  
Lucy Moore, Lucy's Toys  
Mihaela Nanu  
Jai Leonhard, Jai Originals  
Robin Cardona, Purses by Robin

## DIGITAL

### **Booth**

93/ B  
274/275/D

### **Artist / Business Name**

John Martin, Pop's Art Mart  
Cheryle Baker Artist

## METAL

### **Booth**

26/28/ A  
46/ A  
103/105/107/B  
136/ C  
198/200/ C  
216/ D  
217/219/221/D  
239/241/D  
247/248/249/250/D

### **Artist / Business Name**

Judy Moeggenberg  
Joseph Karcher  
Pamela Drake, Garden Gate Metals  
Catherine Watkins, Silver Lingings 925  
Neil Plotkin  
Laura Hogan  
Dianna Sturman  
Federico Aloisi, FNP Accessories  
Jack Rak, Garden Metal Art

## SCULPTURE

### **Booth**

138/ C  
500

### **Artist / Business Name**

Triamjai Dawson  
Joseph Goddard, Hands Unlimited



Erika Smith

John Martin



Haley Byrd-Locey



Vlastimil Trejbal

## GLASS

### **Booth**

130/132/C  
  
276/D

### **Artist / Business Name**

Allie McAughy, Wyandotte Art & Glass Center  
Marten UllenBrush, Glass by Marten

## JEWELRY

### **Booth**

14/A, 143/C, 237/D  
22/24/ A  
33/35/ A  
34/ A  
44/ A  
86/ B  
90/ B  
104/ B  
106/ B  
109/111/ B  
114/ B  
134/ C  
141/C  
144/146/148/C  
156/ C  
160/160/C  
164/ C  
169/171/173/C  
189/191/ C  
197/199/ C  
202/ C  
210/D  
222/ D  
225/D  
268/269/ D  
273/272

### **Artist / Business Name**

Carlos Iglesias, Earlusion  
Eric Kahmann, Harp Stone  
Valerie Clark, Clay by Clark  
Blanca Camuendo, Makky Expressions  
Wanpen Ruang  
Gordana Jordanoska  
Gabriela Baumgartner, Stone-Good Jewelry  
Kelly Civitarese, Bop Be Made  
Linqing Wang, Linny's Artsy Fingers  
Christine Borowski, Hypknotica  
Roxann Kesterson, Carved Coins  
Marian Gonzalez, Petecas & Artesanias Mych  
Allie & Nathan Young, Wire Works Jewelry  
Scott Annas, Annas Paint Co.  
Erika Smith, Sacred Moon Metalworks  
Veronica Villaclara, Colada Company  
Vlastimil Trejbal, Trezana  
Gerri Pizzini, Gerri Pizzini's Jewelry  
Timothy Branson, Timothy's Trinkets  
Clara Syphrit, Hazel Beachwear  
Luis Perez, Zerep Designs  
Renee Jordan, Sun Dappled Designs  
Maha Majed, Divine Crystal Jewelers  
Aimee Garbin, Love Aimee  
Aaron Ragan, Mountain Artisans  
Brent Ragan

All Artist Listings were up-to-date at the time this edition of Wyandotte Today went to press.



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-Mark G.

### Spinal Decompression Therapy Overview

Back pain affects millions, and many treatments offer only temporary relief. Patients with bulging, degenerating, or herniated discs may benefit from spinal decompression therapy, a non-surgical treatment designed to relieve pressure on the spine and promote healing. Unlike traditional traction or invasive surgery, this therapy uses computerized decompression tables to create controlled stretching that encourages discs to reposition and heal.

### How It Works

Spinal decompression therapy relieves pain by gently stretching the spine to create negative pressure within discs. This allows displaced disc material to retract, reduces nerve compression, and increases the flow of nutrients that accelerate healing. Therapy aims to ease pain in the back, neck, arms, and legs while treating underlying causes. It is a safe and affordable alternative to surgeries such as laminectomy or microdiscectomy, which carry higher risks.

### Spinal Decompression Tables

The primary tool for this therapy is the decompression table. Two main types exist: cable-and-pulley models and split-body tables where upper and lower sections move independently. The latter is more effective at preventing muscle guarding. Patients are secured with harnesses, and sensors detect resistance, adjusting tension until muscles relax. This ensures maximum decompression without triggering protective spasms.



## TAKING CHIROPRACTIC CARE TO THE NEXT LEVEL

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

# ARTIST LISTING *by Media!*

## MIXED MEDIA

<b>Booth</b>	<b>Artist / Business Name</b>
3/A	Pla Vang
5/7/ A	Paul Luczynski
10/ A	Ryan Lapeer, Water Stone Treasures
19/ A	Essa Mashni, Black Pine Studios
21/ A	Eugen Zah, Czveritas
31/32/ A	Cynthia Kinkead, Beyond the Garden Date
43/ A	Pornthep Ruang, Rainbow Spinnerz
44/ A	Kimberly Thon
45/47/ A	Tasnim Kazi, The Hair Wraps
56/ A	Jill Howard, Flower Child Herbs
68/ B	Larisa & Igor Zimin, Flower Gift by Nature
79/81/B	Sophie Mariette, Freak n' Chic
82/84/ B	Arlaina Marie, Fine Art by Arlaina Marie
88/B	Rachel Green, Stitch Witch
89/91/ B	Alanna Weekley, Resurrected Journals
92/ B	Maggie Grier, Maggie Grier Artist
102/ B	Greg Justus, Art of Justus
137/ C	Sarah Spalsbury, Dust Jacket Studios
139/C	Natalie Knight, Art by Nat
140/142/C	Nikki Saraiva, Detour Butterfly
147/ C	Catherine Laughery, CL Creates
152/154/ C	Lacey Johnson, Iron Scorpio Elements
155/157/ C	Monica LaPlante, Naturalcy Picks
159/C	Bobbie Selva, Mi Creative Home
185/187/ C	Christy & Lynn Sjoblom, Sjoblom Crafts
194/196/ C	Inty Muenala
208/ D	Linda Tong, Lacquerware by Linda
224/ D	Cheryl Reynolds, Cheryl's Art Scene
228/ D	Juan Barreneche, The Factory 231
232/ D	Jessica Dersa, Blue Heron Acrylics
235/ D	Diane Geister, Nature's Quest
251/ C	Amit Katan, Wearraw

## PAINTING

<b>Booth</b>	<b>Artist / Business Name</b>
76/B	Conrad Lustig
78/90/ B	Nancy Byrum
132/ C	Alexa Daluz, Alexa Daluz Paints
150/C	Dominic Palazzolo, Dominic the Insomniac
162/ C	Demi Heitzman, Dyno Demi
206/ D	Karen Kraepel
220/ D	Hannah Behm, Fallen Shots Art Studio
234/ D	Jeff Sweeney
236/ D	Eric Dorris, Eric Dorris Designs
254/ D	Karen Bartlett, Karen Bartlett Fine Art
257/ D	Yuemin Xin
267/D	Chris Belisario, PZAZZ Body Art
501	Tisha Hunter, CareyAnn's Clown Caravan

## CARTOONS

<b>Booth</b>	<b>Artist / Business Name</b>
11/ A	Noor Memon, Henna Art by Noor
52/54/ A	Shagida Nishwan

Inty Muenala



Linda Tong

## PHOTOGRAPHY

<b>Booth</b>	<b>Artist / Business Name</b>
201/C	Chris Ammons, Ammo Shoots Photography
203/D	Susan Turner, Susan Turner Photography
233/ D	Stephanie Smith, Nature's Blueprints

## POTTERY

<b>Booth</b>	<b>Artist / Business Name</b>
74/ B	Philipp Bonushkin, Philipps Craft
161/ C	Rebecca & Roy Evanovich, Art by The Red Head
180/182/ C	Erin A. Hoekzema, Centripetal Designs
211/213/215/D	Nancy Lind

## PRINTS/DRAWINGS

<b>Booth</b>	<b>Artist / Business Name</b>
25/ A	Mick McArt, Mick Art Productions
36/38/ A	Jay Wennersten, Wennersten Art
71/73/B	Chris Touvell, Linxforge 3D LLC
72/ B	Tony Miello
75/ B	Kenneth Dionisi, Kenisu Of Dragons
77/ B	Laine Harris, Helianthus Hollow
95/ B	Ashley Waddell Lucaj, Ashley Waddell Crafts
165/C	Lauren lauth, PeachPopCrafts
188/ C	Christopher Deighan, Art From Chris
218/ D	Anthony Strublic, Strublic Maritime Drawings

## LEATHER

<b>Booth</b>	<b>Artist / Business Name</b>
61/62/B	Bob Hale, Hale Leather

## WOOD/FURNITURE/TOYS

<b>Booth</b>	<b>Artist / Business Name</b>
13/ A	Karen Kennedy
37/39/ A	Jason Osborne, Ozhart Customs
40/42/ A	Ted Bushey, Llama Mama LLC
48/50/ A	Brian Swinford, Swinford Designs
49/54/ A	Cory Frank, Better Half Engraving
65/B	Payton Madden, InPro Enterprises
67/ B	Thad Johnson, Red Lava Toys
83/85/ B	Donald Peterson, Wood Dreams
94/96/98/B	Zsold Szabo, Fauna Toys
113/ B	Tom Evans, ReCreative Elements
115/117/ B	Alessandra Paulino, Woodchic by AG
135/C	Bob Wollmann, Euchre Plus More
151/153/C	Kenton Andreasson, Norse Craft Woodworking
174/176/ C	Ashley Till, Southern Roots Designs
175/177/179/C	Tom Seljan, Vintage Classics by Tom
256/258/260/D	Vivian Matthews, Uniquely Crafted Signs



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



SCAN HERE TO  
**ENROLL  
TODAY!**



# Clocktower

## CRAFT SHOW



### Artist

Ainsley Trombley  
Angelina Bargas  
Ann Zuk  
April Reiman  
Brenda Krieger  
Carol Jahncke  
Chloe Fisher  
Chris Savage  
Chris Tort & Gene Grainger  
Cynnamon Washinton  
Debbie Williams  
Dustin Hribal  
Ezekiel Bargas  
Hannah Leyte  
J. Emerick  
  
Jaada Urbiel  
Jamees Washington  
James & Barbara Kirby  
  
James Shellhammer  
Jamie-Judy Rose  
Jeff Burgess  
  
Jeff Draft & Nadine Grabowsky  
Jennifer Harnzell  
Jessica Jansen  
Joe Kirk  
Katelyn Marks  
Kim & Keith Finger  
Laura Doan  
Lisa Tracy  
Lori Kirby  
  
Lyndsay Chiaravanont  
Lysette Mutkus  
Marie Robinson & April Robinson  
Mark Welch  
Matias Bargas  
Micheal Zakany  
Monica Ruiz  
Nina Thomson  
Pam Redman & Natalie Livingston  
Pamela Tesarz  
Richard Sacco  
Rodney Laney  
Rose Keyes  
Sarah Crabtree  
Sarah Thomsen  
Sateba Cunningham  
Susan Truemner  
Tarek Abouljoud  
Victoria Lenear

### Business Name

Liney Cosmetics LLC  
LOL Designs by Angie  
Cursing Crocheter  
Kawaii Handmade Studio  
Brenda's Boutique  
C&E Designs  
Linked by Central Beauty, LLC  
True Honey Teas  
The Rice Guyz  
Delightful Ribbons  
Debbie's Beads  
Forever Green Family Farm  
EB Deals LLC  
Paul's Gourmet Jerky  
I Love You Stones, Crystal Shoppe  
Hailey's Hair Bows  
Craft Creations 51  
Eccentric Decoupage Creations by Kirby Stuff LLC  
Agota Greek Gourmet  
Stitching Critters  
Abigail & Samantha's Gourmet Dog Treats  
Gissler's Gifts  
Mark of Lily  
Boho Luxe Detroit  
The Licorice Guy  
Artwork by Katelyn  
Mountain Momma Organics  
Laura's Raw Honey  
Clara's Collars  
Busia and Dzia Dzia's Sweets and Treats  
Doggy Deli  
Curlinators  
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# Fair Food



**B & S Concessions** - Butterfly Chips, Soda and Water

**Busta Dawgs** - All beef hot dogs, bacon wrapped, cheese stuffed hot dog, Polish sausage, walking tacos, soda and water

**Chocolate Moonshine** - Various fudge flavors

**The Chubby Batch** - Chocolate Chip Cookies, peanut butter stuffed chocolate chip cookies, oatmeal, butterscotch cookies and more!

**CIA** - Cheesesteak Institute of America - Cheesesteaks - Chicken or Beef, waffle fries, soda and water

**Cinnamon Nuts and More** - Cinnamon roasted almonds, pecans, cashews, salted nuts, pop and water

**Cornhub Food Truck** - Corn cup, corn on the cob, pop and water

**Different Twist Pretzel Bakery** - pretzels, salted, cinnamon sugar, garlic parmesan, toasted almond crunch, pepperoni, pretzel pepperoni roll, soda and water

**Grateful Crow Food Truck** - Sushi bowls, sushi burritos, seaweed salad, drinks

**Happy Iceman, INC** - Hawaiian shaved ice, water

**Island Noodles** - Vegan and Teriyaki Chicken noodles, Island Smoothies

**JEMS Concessions** - 30+ flavors of shaved ice, frozen cider, frozen lemonade, candy and caramel apples and water

**Keaik's Food Truck** - Chicken/Meat Shawarma sandwich, Chicken/Meat Rice Bowl Shawarma, Hummus, Fattoush, Burger, chicken sandwich, walking taco, soda and water

**Little Bite Big Taste** - Grilled chicken, lamb over rice, gyro's, falafel sandwich, steak, butter chicken, burgers and chicken tenders

**The Nacho Grill** - Nacho dishes, soda and water

**Nemeth Concessions** - Elephant ears, funnel cakes, fried Oreos, frozen lemonade, corn dogs, soda and water

**Nemeth Diner** - Italian sausage, Polish sausage, burgers, hot dogs, corn dogs, soda and water

**Pablo's Tacos** - Tacos, quesadillas, burritos, birria tacos and nachos

**Razzy's Shaved Ice** - Hawaiian shaved ice, deep fried candy bars and Oreos, corn dogs and water

# Lemonade

The Fair Lemonade booths are a revenue-sharing program for non-profit groups to collect funds to assist with their organization's mission. Look for the lemonade booths throughout the fair to show your support and get a fresh squeezed lemonade!

Wyandotte Street Art Fair

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-  LEMONADE
-  PUBLIC RESTROOM
-  THE CHILDREN'S CREATIVE CORNER
- A** ARTISTS 1-64
- B** ARTISTS 65-128
- C** ARTISTS 129-202
- D** ARTISTS 203-280
-  INFORMATION
-  PARKING & SHUTTLE
-  CLOCKTOWER CRAFTERS
-  HENRY FORD HEALTH SYSTEM FIRST AID TENT



*Meet Art*



Meet ART the Wyandotte Street Art Fairs mascot and a piece of Wyandotte history. ART made his debut back in 1964, when the fair was just three years old!

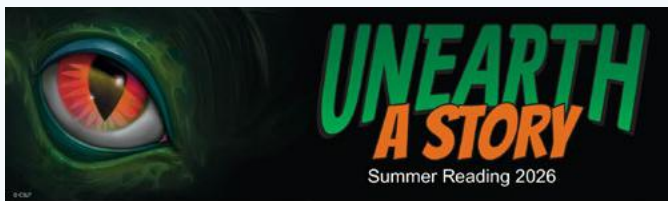


# WYANDOTTE STREET ART FAIR



**JULY 8-11, 2026**

# Here's What's Happening at Bacon This Summer!



## Summer Reading 2026 – All Ages

[baconlibrary.org/summerreading](http://baconlibrary.org/summerreading)

Registration began Monday, June 8 and logging began June 15.

All ages can participate...books, ebooks and audiobooks count!

This summer there will be three programs to choose from:

- 0-5: Read to Me
- Grades K-8
- High School and Up

Log your minutes of reading throughout the summer! Every 100 minutes earns a Bacon Bucks to be used at our Summer

Reading Store August 6-12. Six (6) Bacon Bucks Max.

Look out for bonus missions and raffles!



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## Story Times

- **Babytime/Toddler** - Tuesday, June 30, July 7, 14, 21, 28 at 10:00 a.m.

Join Ms. Hailey for stories, music, and dance! This program is geared to babies and toddlers.

- **Family Storytime** - Wednesday, July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 at 11:00 a.m.

Join Ms. Hailey for stories, music, dance and more! This program is geared to families with children of multiple ages.

## The Art of Unwinding: Art for everyone!

July 14, 21, 28, August 4, 11, 18

Join us on the front porch of the library for art and relaxation! The program is designed to cater to a diverse age range and artistic abilities, making it a great way for families of all ages to create together. Art projects will be provided so that everyone finds joy in creation, regardless of their level of expertise.

## Summer Family Programs

- **Dino Academy: A Dinosaur Discovery Show** - Tuesday, July 14 at 1:00 p.m.

Step into the prehistoric world with Dino Academy! Led by the quirky and curious Dr. Sarah Tops, this action-

packed adventure uncovers fascinating dino facts that will wow even the biggest dino fans. Featuring life-like, colorful dinosaur puppets that stomp, roar and charm their way into every heart, this show blends science, storytelling and imagination in the style of your favorite nature programs.

- **Foam Party** - Wednesday, July 22 at 1:00 p.m.

The Mad Foamers is back with two foam cannons! Join the party on the front lawn and bring a towel! No registration needed and FREE!

## All Ages Programs

- **Drink To Your Health** - Thursday, July 16 at 2:00 p.m.

Participants will learn how sugary drinks impact their health, then prepare fresh, healthy alternative recipes they can replicate at home. This is a Cooking Matters hands-on cooking class led by Gleaners Community Food Bank of Southeastern Michigan.

- **Bacon Swaps: Toy and Games swap** - Saturday, July 18 at 10:00 a.m.

Join us for our first Bacon Swaps. Swap out your old children's toys and games for something new to you! Items will be accepted from July 13 and can also be brought the day of. You do not need to bring materials in order to pick something up.

- **Rainbow Feathers Bird Club and Rescue** - Saturday, July 25 at 1:00 p.m.

Rainbow Feathers Bird Club will bring birds, ranging from the tiny parrotlet to majestic macaws. During the session, they will discuss the age of the birds, their lifespan and their origins. You will be able to pet the birds and get a memorable photo. This program is geared for people age 6-106. *This program is not suitable for very young children.*

- **Community Sing with Matt Watroba** - Monday, July 27 at 5:00 p.m.

Matt Watroba will lead you and your family in an evening of song. Sing along, suggest a song to share or just listen. No experience needed, just a love of music and community.





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# Jewelers in Wyandotte

## Creativity and skill has long been a part of the area's history

By Mary-Johna Wein

**P**ERHAPS one of the coolest things about the Wyandotte Street Art Fair is the incredible variety of original artwork on display. Visitors stroll through rows of paintings, pottery, photography, handcrafted décor, and jewelry, all created by talented artists from across the region and nation. Jewelry booths, in particular, always attract attention with sparkling gemstones, handcrafted silver, unique watches, and one-of-a-kind wearable art.

But long before the art fair transformed downtown Wyandotte into an open-air gallery, the only place to purchase fine jewelry in the city was through Wyandotte's jewelry shops. These businesses helped shape the city's commercial identity and served generations of residents long before festival vendors lined Biddle Avenue each summer.

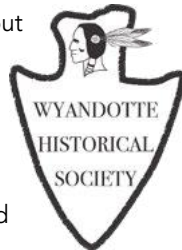
According to the 1872 business directory, the only jewelry shop in Wyandotte at the time was A.F. Crongeyer, located at 74 Biddle Avenue. For many years, Crongeyer remained the city's lone jeweler, serving local residents with watches,

jewelry repairs and fine accessories during a period when Wyandotte itself was still rapidly growing. It would not be until 1898 that another jeweler entered the scene when the J.S. McGlaughlin Jewelry Store opened its doors.



By 1907, the jewelry business in Wyandotte had become much more competitive. Milkins Jewelry Shop at 20 Biddle Avenue and W.H. Skeman at 51 Biddle Avenue joined the growing downtown business district. These stores reflected the prosperity and expansion of Wyandotte during the early 20th century, when Biddle Avenue served as the bustling center of commerce for the community.

One of the most notable jewelers in the city's history was Archibald Milkins, who opened his shop in 1905. In 1919, Milkins relocated his business to 3160 Biddle Avenue. By the 1920s, the business was listed not only as a jewelry store but also as an optician shop. At the time, this combination was surprisingly common. Jewelers often possessed the fine



precision skills and specialized tools necessary to repair and fit eyeglasses, making them natural providers of optical services as well. The detailed craftsmanship required to repair watches and set gemstones translated well into adjusting lenses and frames.

Milkins was not alone in offering both jewelry and optical services. Clay Reynolds also operated as both a jeweler and optician. Reynolds became especially well known for the beautiful clocks sold in the store as well as the impressive woodwork craftsmanship associated with many of the pieces.



Clay Reynolds

store fondly remembered by longtime residents was Samelson's Jewelry. David Samelson opened his store in the 1930s. He dedicated more than 55 years of his life to working as a jeweler in Wyandotte and became a familiar figure in the downtown business community. Following his death on Valentine's Day in 1975, the store remained open into the 1990s.

Today, while many of Wyandotte's historic jewelry stores have faded into memory, their legacy still shines through the city's appreciation for craftsmanship and artistry. Every summer, the Wyandotte Street Art Fair continues that tradition by bringing jewelers, artists and creators back to Biddle Avenue, the very same street where generations of jewelers once built their businesses.

The fair not only celebrates modern creativity but also serves as a reminder of the talented artisans and merchants who helped shape Wyandotte's history long before the first art tent was ever raised.



Milkins Jewelry

Stores like Milkins and Reynolds represented a time when local businesses combined artistry, technical skill and personal service under one roof. Another jewelry



Samelson's Jewelry



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## Craft Beer and Fuzz Pedals

### Wyandotte's Mike Moore keeps the music alive

By Ryan M. Place

**M**IKE Moore's life has always revolved around music, his deep Michigan roots and finding good people to share both with. Whether he's playing bass in a grunge band, sampling delicious craft beers with friends, jet skiing on the Detroit River, or raising his young son in Wyandotte, Moore approaches life with the same philosophy: enjoy the moment and stay connected to the people around you.

"I knew pretty early that music was going to be a huge part of my life," he said. "Once I picked up a guitar in seventh grade, that was basically it."

Born in the 1980s, Moore grew up in Dearborn.

"My dad was a Dearborn firefighter and my grandparents worked at Ford and GM," he said. "Both my parents were born and raised in Dearborn."

Moore attended Divine Child High School before graduating from Dearborn High School. Along the way, he fell in love with music. Major influences include Nirvana, Soundgarden, Pearl Jam, Silverchair and Local H.

"My best friend started a band and needed a bass player," Moore said. "That turned into us starting a band called Fuzzbox Twin in high school. We played shows all over Michigan."

Moore is a multi-instrumentalist. In addition to guitar and bass, he also plays drums, organ and saxophone.

"My older sister started taking Hammond B-3 organ lessons, so I got into that too," he said. "After that, I played sax through junior high and high school, while simultaneously learning guitar and playing bass in a band. Then I took drum lessons for a few years."

Today, Moore owns 22 guitars, including several models tied to his appreciation of Nirvana guitarist Kurt Cobain.

"I have all three of Kurt's signature guitars," he said. "But the most



meaningful one is probably a 1998 Fender Tornado that belonged to my friend Steve."

After years apart, Moore reunited with former bandmates following Steve's death in California.

"We had a 'celebration of life' here in Michigan and started jamming every week again," he said. "We're currently on a short hiatus, but hope to re-record our high school album once we find a vocalist."

Professionally, Moore works in IT as a network administrator. Outside of work, he's known among friends as a craft beer connoisseur.

According to the Untappd app, he has sampled 2,285 different beers.

"I'm definitely a beer nut," he laughed. "My all-time favorite is No Rules, a 16-percent Vietnamese coconut porter, from Perrin Brewing outside of Grand Rapids. Bourbon barrel beers are also top favorites."

Moore and his wife Emily moved to Wyandotte in 2018 after finding a historic home on Van Alstyne Boulevard.

"We met on Match.com," he said. "She really wanted an old historic house, and one happened to come up for sale in Wyandotte."

The couple, along with their 5-year-old son Henry, quickly fell in love with the city's sense of community.

"We know all our neighbors," Moore said. "You run into people everywhere here. It feels connected."

Moore and his wife are lifetime mug club members at Wyandotte Beer Company and frequent Northern Wind Brewing, The Oak Cafe and Joe's Hamburgers.

"We've made lifelong friends here," he said. "That's what I love most about Wyandotte."



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# ESTATE PLANNING FOR DIGITAL ASSETS

By: Gerald M. Morello, Jr., Esq. and Ryan J. Plantrich, Esq.

**W**e all know having an estate plan is important, but does your estate plan adequately account for your digital assets? Michigan law allows you to determine how your digital assets can be accessed after your passing, but only if you express such intent in your estate planning or other documents.

## *What are Digital Assets, and Why is Specific Planning Important?*

"Digital Assets" include electronic items that may have a specific monetary value (such as Online rewards, frequent flyer miles, BitCoin, etc.), have significant sentimental value (such as pictures or letters), or may help your family/beneficiaries identify other previously-unknown assets upon your passing. However, both Michigan and Federal law prevent unauthorized access to digital assets. Under certain circumstances, the repercussions of unauthorized access can be severe.

## *Estate Planning Options for Digital Assets.*

Michigan recently passed the Michigan Fiduciary Access to Digital Assets Act which provides a method by which you can express your intent regarding access (or restrictions) to your digital assets. The following documents, take president in determining your intent: (1) an "Online Tool" agreement; (2) direction within your will, trust, or power of attorney document; then (3) the applicable term-of-service agreement. Without proper planning, your beneficiaries may not be able to access or identify such valuable assets.



*Gerald M. Morello, Jr.*



*Ryan J. Plantrich*

I advise speaking with an experienced estate planning attorney to develop an estate plan and make sure your plan adequately addresses these important, but often overlooked, assets.

If you would like more information regarding planning options, please contact Morello Law Group, P.C. at (734) 281-6464 or visit [www.morellolawgroup.com](http://www.morellolawgroup.com).





# A DEDICATED PARTNER

## Advantage One Credit Union Strengthens Community Through Outreach and Support By Kelsi Klein

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

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

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

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

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

to my eyes to see how happy they are."

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

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



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

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

skills that will last a lifetime.

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

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

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



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**A:** First, it is important to understand that it is almost impossible to have a brain injury without impacting one's vision. Most people don't realize that our eyes are part of our brain. As a result, brain injuries can result in a variety of vision problems, including dry eyes, difficulty moving one's eyes – such as for reading – and difficulty judging distances and spaces. In addition, people can lose up to half of their visual field, similar to what you are experiencing.

In order to help you to stop constantly getting bruised on the left side, you need to enter into a unique area of treatment. There are three different approaches we can explore to determine which will help you to function better.

As a low vision specialist, I provide solutions for patients who have experienced side vision loss to help them navigate their world, feel more oriented and stop accidentally hurting themselves.

The good news is that you do not have to accept your current situation! The first step is an evaluation, where we can determine the approach that will work best for you.

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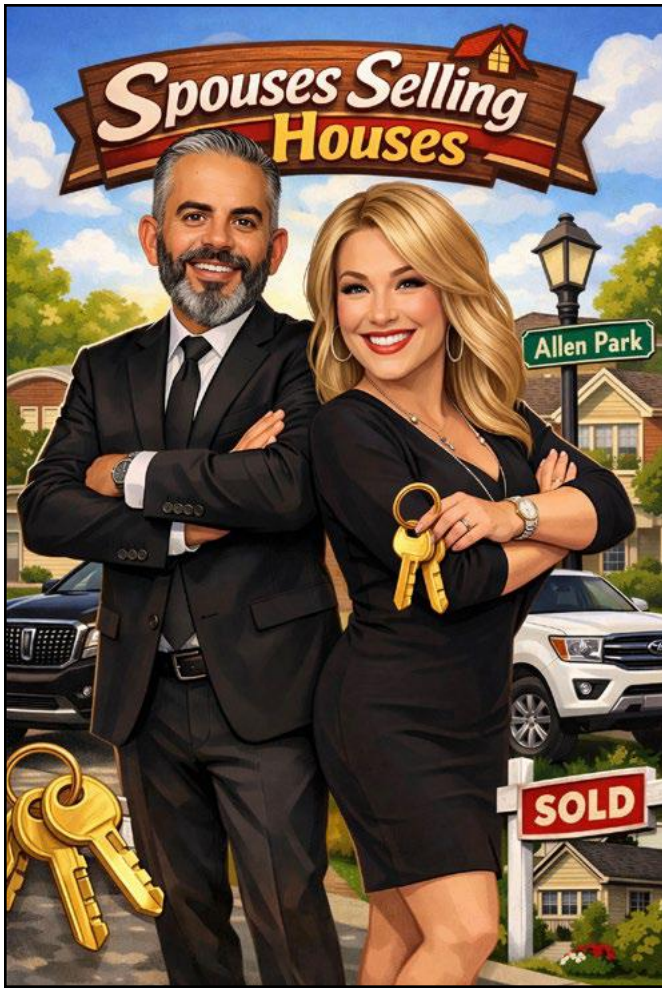
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# A Strong Foundation

## Green's Family Cleaning Services puts family and community first By Kelsi Klein

**G**REEN'S Family Cleaning Services is more than a cleaning company. The family-owned and operated business is built on trust, community involvement and genuine care and concern for the people it serves.

For owners Makayla and Robert Green, "family" isn't just a word or part of the business name, but the foundation of how they operate daily.

With more than 15 years of experience serving Livonia, Taylor, Woodhaven and surrounding areas, Green's Family Cleaning Services has built a reputation for reliable service, attention to detail and strong relationships with their clientele.

"We have always been driven by family and community in the things that we do," said Makayla Green.

The company offers professional residential and commercial cleaning and specializes in carpet cleaning, upholstery cleaning and air duct cleaning, using top-of-the-line equipment and techniques that work.

### Efficient carpet cleaning

Green's Family Cleaning Services specializes in deep yet gentle carpet cleaning that goes far beyond the surface and makes carpets look just as vibrant and inviting as the day they were installed.

Their residential and commercial carpet cleaning services target dirt, allergens and pollutants that can become embedded deep within carpet fibers. This comprehensive approach restores carpets – whether they need spot treatment or a deep cleaning – from the inside out.

### Top-quality upholstery care

In addition to carpets, Green's Family Cleaning Services offers professional upholstery cleaning to help customers elevate the look and feel of their furniture.

Their skilled team has the expertise to handle a variety of furniture types, specializing in sofas and couches, loveseats, recliners, armchairs, dining chairs, mattresses and more.

The goal of this service is to restore both the appearance and comfort of furniture while also extending its lifespan.

### Air duct cleaning

A truly clean space goes beyond what is seen at the surface level. Green's Family Cleaning Services offer air duct cleaning

solutions to help improve indoor air quality in homes and businesses.

Air ducts often go unnoticed during routine cleaning and over time, dust, allergens and other pollutants can accumulate, leading to potential health risks and reduced HVAC efficiency.

The professional and thorough air duct cleaning



services provide a fresher, healthier environment for both homes and commercial spaces.



### Rooted in community and small business support

The Greens know what it takes to operate a family-run business in a world of big-name commercial companies and are dedicated to strengthening the community and giving back.

"I personally have always tried to support small businesses whenever I can," said Green, who has started a series on the Green's Family Cleaning Services Facebook page giving shout outs to other local businesses.

Green is also actively involved in sponsoring and coaching little league teams with Taylor North, volunteering with the Senior Alliance to deliver meals on holidays, packing and donating backpacks to children in need, supporting organizations that feed the homeless and much more.

The company also partners with Cleaning for a Reason to provide free house cleaning services for cancer patients.

To learn more or to schedule a service, visit [www.greensfamilycleaningservices.com](http://www.greensfamilycleaningservices.com) or call (734) 341-6175.



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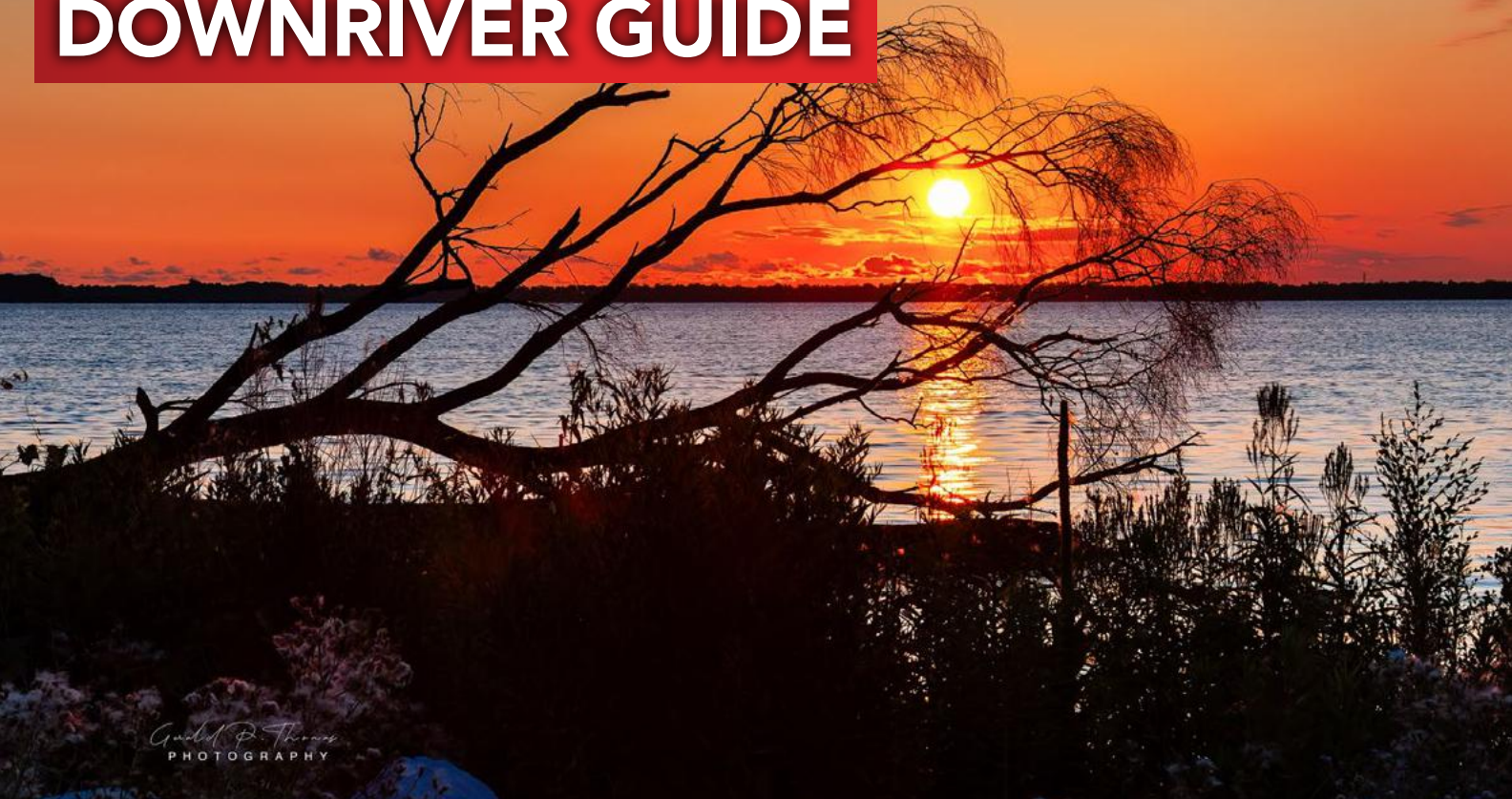
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# BRICKS & MINIFIGS

A LEGO® lovers' paradise By Kelsi Klein

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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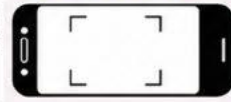
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# Looking For a Community?

## 2nd Street Performing Arts Center welcomes everyone

**T**HE 2nd Street Performing Arts Center is a Downriver performing arts community gathering space with a mission to provide the communities it serves with a space to experience the performing arts, including dance, music and visual arts. The goal is to produce the highest quality arts entertainment, to have a positive impact on the community and to be an organization where everyone is welcome, equal and can create in an open and accepting environment.

Run completely by volunteers, 2nd Street builds its own sets, runs its own tech, choreographs dances, and much more – all while having day jobs.



“We do this for the love of the arts,” said Gerald Hymer, who serves as president of the Downriver Actors Guild.

While the 2nd Street Performing

Arts Center in Wyandotte may be a recently renovated new home for them, the Downriver Actors Guild has been in the Downriver area for 15 years.

Starting off as a youth theater program called Out of the Box, it eventually grew to become the Downriver Actors Guild. The growth continued until it needed to find a new space, and now the former Saint Elizabeth Church at the corner of 2nd Street and Goodell is a bustling community, offering not just theater performance opportunities to all ages but a dance studio and a voice studio, as well.

Overseen by a board of directors, the 2nd Street Performing Arts Center (d.b.a. Downriver Actors Guild) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization serving both the community of Wyandotte and the state of Michigan. The 2nd Street Performing Arts Center provides quality

programming and performances that strive to be educational and enrich the arts within our diverse community.

The center, which is home to the Downriver Actors Guild, Downriver Dance Academy and 2nd St. Sound, is a hub for the arts in Wyandotte.

2nd Street commits ourselves to:


- Providing greater access to the arts in both the city of Wyandotte and in the southeastern Michigan communities
- Providing a creative space and inclusive environment for established and emerging local performers and artists
- Ensuring educational and cultural opportunities for all ages
- Remaining inclusive in our overall approach to representation across race/ethnicity, gender, body type, binary/non-binary identification, and physical ability

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# DOWNRIVER COMMUNITY CLINIC

*Local care for local people* By Terry Jacoby

**M**ANY hardworking adults in the Downriver area go without medical care because they are uninsured, underinsured or financially unable to afford routine visits, screenings, medications, and follow-up care.

Since 2005, the Downriver Community Clinic has helped close that gap for this growing population by providing compassionate, high-quality free care to people who are working, studying, caregiving, and contributing to our community — but still falling through the cracks because they lack access to medical care.

The Downriver Community Clinic, whose motto is “our heart is in everything we do,” is dedicated to keeping uninsured workers healthy and on the job. The need continues to grow, especially with the recent changes in Medicaid coverage, and so do the costs of providing care.

“As someone who is self-employed, I struggled to find affordable healthcare,” said Olivia, a current patient. “I’m grateful Downriver Community Clinic was able to meet my needs. And everyone was so kind.”

Another recent patient came to the clinic after years without a primary care visit – which is very common. During the appointment, the care team identified dangerously high blood sugar and helped the patient begin treatment, avoid unnecessary emergency care and return to work with a plan for better health.

The Downriver Community Clinic is local care for local people and powered by local volunteers — board-certified physicians, nurses, medical assistants, scribes, medical students, and board members who give their time and expertise so patients can receive high-quality care with dignity.



## DCC FOURTH ANNUAL SUMMER CONCERT

The Downriver Community Clinic will host its fourth annual Summer Concert from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 30 in the Market Center Park in Southgate. The event is a family-friendly benefit to support free patient care for uninsured workers and students. The clinic also hosts a Valentine-themed gala called Giving Hearts in February. See the ad on the opposite page for all the details on the Summer Concert and help support the Downriver Community Clinic.

The Board of Directors, led by clinic founder Dr. Chris Bush, includes four physicians, a patient member and a volunteer member, and members of the community, including from law, business and finance sectors. The Board of Directors includes Dr. Chris Bush, Dr. Donna Angell, Dr. Tom McKeown, and Dr. Rebecca Steele, the clinic’s director of quality assurance. Also serving is Patricia Cook-Anderson, Jerry Bobbitt, Hon. Elizabeth DiSanto, Bryan Morgan, Mary Pilon, Jacob Tuttle, and Nancy Zack.

The clinic is an IRS designated 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.

## How you can help

Donations help cover diagnostic testing, mammograms, diabetic testing supplies, colorectal cancer screenings, clinic supplies, technology, and the behind-the-scenes coordination needed to keep care accessible. A single donation may help provide a patient with a mammogram, a glucometer, lab testing, cancer screening, or transportation support for follow-up care.

Donations also allow the clinic to expand preventive screenings, support women’s and men’s health services, strengthen patient follow-up, and continue offering care to those who would otherwise go without.

To support Downriver Community Clinic, consider becoming a sponsor, making a donation, volunteering, or attending a clinic fundraiser. Every gift helps provide care, dignity and hope to a neighbor in need.

For more information, visit [downrivercommunityclinic.org](http://downrivercommunityclinic.org)





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Tickets & Information at  
[www.downrivercommunityclinic.org](http://www.downrivercommunityclinic.org)



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# The Choice is Easy

## GOTOX redefines aesthetics through regenerative, personalized care By Kelsi Klein

**W**HEN it comes to aesthetic treatments, choosing the right clinic can be challenging. With its team of highly qualified healthcare professionals, GOTOX Aesthetics and Wellness in Wyandotte makes the choice easy.

What sets GOTOX apart from other med spas is its focus on regenerative aesthetics, which are designed to stimulate the body's inherent healing abilities and promote rejuvenation, focusing on improving skin quality, texture and overall vitality.

Rather than providing one-size-fits-all treatments or only doing what's trending, GOTOX creates an individualized treatment plan for each client designed to tackle their concerns from the root – not just cover them up.

"Wellness spas aren't just about getting Botox or filler," said owner and certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA) Chelsea Bernas. "Knowing how to do filler is one thing, but helping to maintain the balance of treatment keeps you looking younger for longer."

GOTOX offers a variety of services and treatments including facials and peels, IV infusions, anti-aging therapy, medical weight loss options, microneedling, Botox and filler treatments, laser treatments and more.

The wellness clinic also offers a Self-Care Club membership program where members deposit \$100 a month into their GOTOX wallet, which can be used toward services and treatments. Additional perks include 25 percent off skincare, 10 percent off all aesthetic services and four free facials a year.

Whether clients are looking for cosmetic aesthetic treatments to boost their confidence or even non-aesthetic services, like Botox injections to treat teeth grinding, all of GOTOX's services are provided by highly trained, licensed nurses with extensive knowledge of anatomy.

GOTOX believes that the best injectors understand (and practice) that restraint is key when it comes to injecting, and successful aesthetic medicine is not always about doing more, it's about knowing when less is more.

There is no standardized national certification required to become an injector, and in many cases a licensed registered nurse can take a one-day course and legally begin injecting. GOTOX emphasizes education, experience and safety, which is why each of their providers have a strong clinical background, ongoing advanced training, medical oversight and a conservative and natural philosophy focused on facial balancing and preserving natural expression.

Education plays a major role in the GOTOX experience, not just for providers but also for clients, who are

encouraged to ask questions and understand their treatment options to make informed decisions about the care they receive.



With client comfort at the forefront, GOTOX has created an environment designed to feel warm, inviting and low maintenance, providing clients with personalized care every step of the way.

By blending aesthetics, wellness and education, GOTOX is removing the stigma surrounding self-care and modern beauty with their approach that aesthetic medicine doesn't have to just be a quick cosmetic fix. Instead, it can be personalized and rooted in overall skin health and wellbeing.

GOTOX is located at 1713 Ford Avenue and is open Monday-Friday. For more information or to book a consultation, visit [gotoxaesthetics.com](http://gotoxaesthetics.com) or call (313) 312-9301.

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# RIFORMA PILATES

## Experienced instructors and various class offerings make it a fitness destination in downtown Wyandotte

By Terry Jacoby

**R**ACHEL Rutkowski doesn't just own a Pilates studio, she also is a true and tested believer in how Pilates can reshape your body, confidence, demeanor and even your life.

"Six years ago, I fell in love with Pilates," she said. "I loved how it made me feel, and I noticed results in my body faster than with any other workout I had tried before."

One of the few frustrating parts of her early Pilates experience was the lack of classes near her home.

"At the time, there were very few studios or gyms offering Pilates in the Downriver area, so I often drove 30 minutes or more to take classes at other studios," she said. "That experience inspired me to become certified, with the dream of one day opening a studio in Wyandotte."

That dream became a reality in November 2024, when Rutkowski opened Riforma Pilates in downtown Wyandotte offering locals a variety of Pilates opportunities without the long drive.

"My intention was always to open a studio in Wyandotte, so when the space became available, I knew I couldn't pass it up," she said. "It truly felt like it was meant to be."

Rutkowski, 33, is a native of Grosse Ile and graduated from Wayne State University. After getting certified in Pilates, she worked at two different studios to gain experience, grow as an instructor and become the best teacher she could be before opening her own space.

"During that time, I also hosted pop-up Pilates events at local businesses in Wyandotte and built many meaningful relationships with clients and local businesses, many of whom are now regular clients at Riforma today," she said.

Rutkowski then put together an "amazing" team to represent the Riforma name, mission and goals.

"We truly have the best team, and I feel so lucky to have found such amazing instructors," she said. "All of our instructors at Riforma are certified and come from a variety of different backgrounds, which brings a unique energy and perspective to every class."

Riforma Pilates offers a variety of class formats and pricing options to accommodate different experience levels, schedules

and individual needs.

They are committed to keeping Pilates as affordable and accessible as possible while still providing a premium experience through high-quality equipment, dedicated certified instructors and thoughtful, intentional programming.

"At Riforma, we are proud to be a small, boutique Pilates studio that emphasizes building strength, stability and a supportive community-focused environment,"

Rutkowski said. "Our smaller class sizes allow us to create a more personalized experience where every client feels seen, welcomed and supported from the moment they walk through the door."

Rutkowski also is very proud to be a part of the vibrant and growing Wyandotte business community.

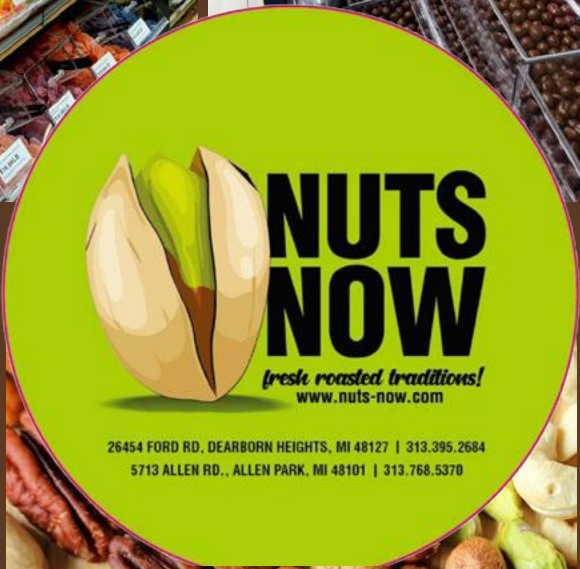
"I've always loved downtown Wyandotte and the incredible community of local businesses that make it so special," she said. "Wyandotte also holds a special place in my heart because it's home to my family's business, Mijara Building Company. We've been business owners in Wyandotte for more than 50 years, and I truly felt there was no better place to open another small business rooted in community and connection."

The feedback and response from both the customers and community have all been extremely positive.

"We feel incredibly lucky that business has been so strong since opening," Rutkowski said. "At Riforma, we strive to create a space that is inclusive, encouraging, and accessible for all ages and fitness backgrounds."

Riforma Pilates is located at 109 Maple St., in Wyandotte. View the schedule and book classes at [riformapilateswyandotte.com](http://riformapilateswyandotte.com) or by downloading the Riforma Pilates app in the App Store. Follow Riforma Pilates on Instagram @riforma\_pilates to stay up to date on everything happening at the studio! Email [riformapilates@hotmail.com](mailto:riformapilates@hotmail.com) or call (734) 390-4440.





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# Jabro Carpet One

*Downriver's destination for all things flooring* By Kelsi Klein

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

To simplify decision-making, Jabro even



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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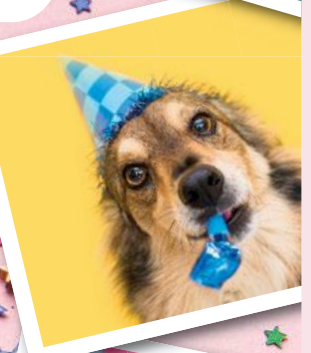
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# ROOSEVELT HIGH SCHOOL 2026 TOP GRADUATES

*No. 1*

**Eleanor  
GRANT**



**VALEDICTORIAN**

**GPA:** 4.16333

**College Plans:** University of Michigan  
Mechanical Engineering

*No. 6*

**Lydia  
BLONSKI**



**GPA:** 4.1259

**College Plans:** University of Michigan  
Microbiology

*No. 2*

**Ashley  
FLORES**



**SALUTATORIAN**

**GPA:** 4.1494

**College Plans:** University of Michigan  
Pre-Med Track

*No. 7*

**Alessio  
VITALE**



**GPA:** 4.1227

**College Plans:** University of Michigan  
Microbiology

*No. 3*

**Ainslea  
HARPER**



**GPA:** 4.1479

**College Plans:** University of Michigan  
Secondary Education/  
Statistics

*No. 8*

**Eli  
SHIMKO**



**GPA:** 4.1122

**College Plans:** Davenport University  
Nursing

*No. 4*

**Evan  
KORTAS**



**GPA:** 4.1429

**College Plans:** Grand Valley State  
University  
Biomedical Engineering

*No. 9*

**Emma  
JORDAN**



**GPA:** 4.0751

**College Plans:** Capital University  
Business Management

*No. 5*

**Damien  
BYRNE**



**GPA:** 4.1294

**College Plans:** University of Michigan  
Sociology

*No. 10*

**Joanna  
MICIURA**



**GPA:** 4.0547

**College Plans:** Wayne State University  
Undecided



## ROOSEVELT RECAP: Shared adventures, accomplishments made this year special

By Riley Hodges and Marcus Pizzo

**T**HIS year, Roosevelt students and staff shared many adventures in both academics and extracurricular activities. Alongside the senior class, 10 teachers will be retiring: Warren Baker, David Blake, Lela Blake, Mark Diroff, Ann Robb, Kelly Steyaert, Susi Stiles, Jeffery Weller, Tina Weller, and Michaelyn Zalewski.

Two new assistant principals joined the Roosevelt staff this year: Stacie Bukosky and Brenton Petrick. Both settled in quite well and brought a fierce, new spark for the RHS Bears. Petrick will transition next year to help direct special education for WPS.

In the arts, the Roosevelt Theater Company's lineup consisted of "Dinner With the MacGuffins", "A Midsummer Night's Dream" and "Shrek the Musical", which was performed to a full house for all three shows.

The school's Winterguard team won a back-to-back second place at states and the fan favorite award. Poetry Out Loud's winning performance was delivered by senior Lydia Blonski, and RHS art students created handmade jewelry that could be purchased throughout the year.

Additionally, the media department saw the Wy-News newspaper receive the highest award in the state of Michigan — the Spartan Award through the Michigan Interscholastic Press Association (MIPA) — for only the second time in school history. Many individual awards

were won by the paper's staff, including by sophomores Riley Hodges and Jolie Greener. RHS underclassmen have not won at MIPA in over a decade.

In film, senior Daisy Moline won two Best of Show awards at the Michigan Student Film Festival.

Wyandotte's DECA chapter was once again named as a top program in the state, based on the project by seniors Brooke Wicker and Emmalee Eskin to highlight this year of community giving events, including Block Out Cancer, You Matter hockey, and Dunk on Darkness basketball. The Block Out Cancer event alone raised \$25,000.

The botany department's landscaping team placed first in the state at the MSU skills contest, and multiple students earned certifications that will help them get jobs. On that same note, RHS installed a grant-funded Apprenticeship Wall, which displays many trade school opportunities for those interested.

The winter was highlighted by the annual Winterfest Lip Sync performances, where the classes danced to this year's theme—genres. For the third year in a row, the class of 2026 was crowned victors for their pop performance, where many students portrayed famous pop icons.

This year's homecoming queen and king were Daisy Moline and Luke Abshire. Yael Melo and Alayna



Balderrana were chosen to be this year's Band Cutie and Sweetheart; Moline was Miss Spirit, and Alessio Vitale was Mr. Roosevelt. Prom King and Queen were Esteban Delgado and Lydia Blonski.

Prom 2026 was held at the Roostertail in Detroit on Friday, May 8, followed by Senior Recognition Day on May 15 to honor and recognize the graduating class, where department awards were given to Eleanor Grant (social studies), Lydia Blonski (English), Marc Karaba (science), and Maddix Richardson (math). Class President Daisy Moline won the Principal's Leadership Award, and Esteban Delgado won the Spirit of the Community Award.

Graduation was held on May 27 at the Yack Arena, where 237 graduates received their diplomas.



## JO BRIGHTON SKILLS CENTER Program educates students in real-life settings

**T**HE 2025-2026 school year at Jo Brighton Skills Center has been a time marked by growth, grit and many wins worth celebrating. Our middle and high school students have shown dedication while working to meet their academic IEP goals and objectives. These academic achievements serve as a solid foundation for their future tasks.

Beyond the traditional classroom, work at the Jo Brighton main building has prioritized the practical application of vocational skills in real-life settings. By practicing these essential skills in environments that mimic real-world scenarios, our students have gained the confidence and competence necessary for independence. Whether it was through culinary arts, custodial training or office skills, the growth in their professional behavior and technical abilities has been wonderful to witness throughout our school community.

Our community classrooms have also had many wins this year. By stepping out into the local Wyandotte area and beyond, students have had the opportunity to apply their learning in authentic business environments. These experiences are important for future employment, providing students with an understanding of workplace expectations and community interaction. The partnerships we have cultivated with local businesses continue to offer valuable vocational training where our students prove daily that they are ready to contribute.

The highlight of our celebrations this year is the graduation of 15 outstanding students. These individuals have completed our program with flying colors, embodying the spirit and resilience of Jo Brighton. Their transition from students to graduates is a testament to their readiness for the next chapter of their lives. While we are so sad to say goodbye, we are incredibly proud of their accomplishments and look forward to seeing the positive impact they will make in their communities.



# Wyandotte Public Schools Early Childhood Center

As we wrap up another wonderful school year, we want to thank you for sharing your children with us. This year has been filled with so many special memories, from our art show, Winter Wonderland, and Book Bingo, to the exciting visit from Leo the tortoise. It has truly been a fun and meaningful year of learning, growth, and laughter.

To all our students moving on to kindergarten or Young 5's, we wish you continued success and happiness in your next adventure. We are so proud of all you have accomplished!

Thank you for being part of the WPS Early Childhood Center family. We hope everyone has a safe, relaxing and wonderful summer!

**We are currently enrolling for the 2026-2027 school year!**

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## Garfield Elementary Gaining Ground in Many Areas

**G**ARFIELD Elementary School has much to celebrate as we reflect on the 2025–2026 school year. Our students and staff have worked hard to build a stronger, more connected school community and the results speak for themselves.

Attendance climbed to 93 percent, up from 86.8 percent just three years ago. Perhaps most meaningful is what students themselves are saying: the percentage of students who feel they belong at Garfield has grown from 45 percent to nearly 73 percent, reflecting the genuine care and commitment our staff brings to school every day.

Families are feeling that warmth too: 92 percent of parents report feeling welcomed at Garfield, up from 85 percent last year, and 96 percent feel

comfortable talking with our staff.

Inside our classrooms, math proficiency has risen to 28.1 percent and ELA to 34.3 percent, with fifth-grade math showing its strongest performance in years.

Staff and leadership have also built a foundation of trust that is showing real results, with communication scores rising from 11 percent to over 72 percent.

These gains did not happen by accident, they are the result of dedicated teachers, supportive families and a school community that believes every child deserves to feel safe, known and challenged.

Garfield is moving in the right direction, and we are proud to share that momentum with the Wyandotte community.



# Exciting Things Are Happening at Jefferson Elementary!

**A**T Jefferson Elementary School, we have embraced our new anti-bullying program, Expect Respect! This program has been embedded in so much of what we do, including our monthly PBIS assemblies, led by our Dean of Students, Mr. Spencer. This year, Jefferson Jaguars emphasized respect, kindness and community building.



We have also been able to bring in therapy dogs each month for our students to spend time with, as an opportunity to decompress and practice being kind and gentle with our furry friends.



Through programs like our Jefferson Action Group (JAG) and the JAGPaws Volunteer program, we have celebrated students and staff in so many ways. From our Halloween Treat Trek and Fall Fun Run to Spirit Days throughout the school year, our students had a blast spending time together in unique ways.

Community programs like Block Out Cancer and the RHS Homecoming Parade also allowed us to share our Jaguar Pride outside of our walls.

Jefferson's music and art programs also excelled this year under the direction of Mrs. Bagnall and Ms. Strawsine. We hosted second- and fourth-grade concerts, which put a spotlight on our students as they demonstrated their skills in singing, percussion and choreography. Our fourth graders even had the opportunity to learn how to play recorders, and blew us all away with their talent!



In art, each class learned about famous artists and created their own projects, including clay projects fired in our kiln. The annual art show at the Downriver Council for the Arts celebrated the creative side of our talented students.

These are just the highlights of an incredible year at Jefferson Elementary! There are fantastic things happening every single day as we continue to watch our students grow and thrive in a supportive, welcoming and learning environment!



## Lincoln Center's New Partnership with Latitudes Restaurant Yielding Success

**T**HE 2025-2026 school year brought many meaningful celebrations to The Lincoln Center, including an exciting new partnership with Latitudes Restaurant. Through this collaboration, our oldest transition-age students gained valuable hands-on job experience in a real restaurant setting. Students worked alongside staff to learn important workplace skills such as dishwashing, kitchen preparation, food safety, organization, and time management.

Students spoke proudly about the opportunities they experienced at Latitudes. Ethan shared, "I love going to Latitudes! I've learned a lot about how restaurants work, like cleaning, setup and food prep. It's great!"

JP added, "Latitudes is a cool worksite! I like learning how to set up the kitchen and doing food prep."

Jason reflected on learning "how to prep potatoes" while also building skills in managing "work tasks and time."

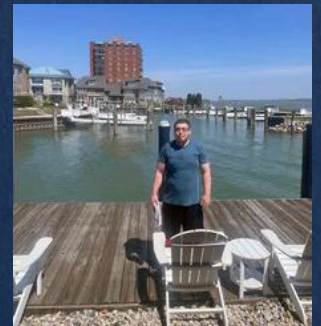
Marky noted that the work is challenging but rewarding, sharing, "It's hard work, but I like the job!"

Desirae emphasized the confidence she gained, saying she learned "more about being a good employee there."

Latitudes General Manager Marne Walker praised the students' impact on the workplace.

"The Lincoln Center students who show up are dedicated, focused and highly productive in roles that match their skillsets," Walker said. "Their presence promotes a diverse, inclusive and compassionate environment, boosting overall morale. Latitudes has successfully formed a team bond with our students."

This partnership represents an important step in preparing students for future employment while strengthening community connections.



# Madison Center

## Helping students build true independence

**T**HE 2025–2026 school year has been a remarkable journey of growth, discovery and triumph for our students. As a school dedicated exclusively to special education, our mission centers on providing highly individualized instruction that meets the unique needs of every learner.

By focusing on student independence and hands-on learning, we ensure that education extends far beyond the traditional classroom walls, preparing our students to become as independent as possible and highly involved members of their community.



Real-world application is vital to building true independence. This year, our Community-Based Instruction (CBI) trips allowed students to practice essential life skills in public spaces.

History came alive during immersive visits to Greenfield Village and the Henry Ford Museum, where students navigated new

environments and engaged with interactive exhibits. Closer to home, regular shopping trips in downtown Wyandotte provided invaluable, practical practice with money management, communication and community navigation.

These outings do more than teach life skills – they build the confidence our students need to navigate the world around them.

Back on campus, our Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) team kept school spirit high and morale strong. The team organized vibrant, monthly school-wide activities that celebrated positive behavior and fostered deep social connections. From themed seasonal celebrations to collaborative group games, these events gave students a fun, structured space to practice social skills and celebrate their hard work.

As this school year draws to a close, we are incredibly proud of the resilience, joy and milestones achieved by our students. Thank you to our dedicated staff, supportive families and the local community for partnering with us to make this year an unforgettable success.



# Monroe Elementary

## Important program teaches invaluable skills, builds inclusive culture

**A**T Monroe Elementary, the Student and Staff Member of the Month program is more than just a recognition initiative—it is a celebration of character, leadership and the positive culture that makes our school community strong.

Each month, students and staff focus on a different life skill, such as responsibility, respect, perseverance, kindness, or teamwork. Through classroom lessons, daily interactions and schoolwide activities, these important qualities are taught, modeled and reinforced throughout the building.

What makes this program especially meaningful is that the winners are selected by their peers. Students have the opportunity to recognize classmates who consistently demonstrate the monthly life skill through their actions and attitude. Staff members are also nominated by fellow colleagues who observe the dedication, compassion and

leadership shown each day.

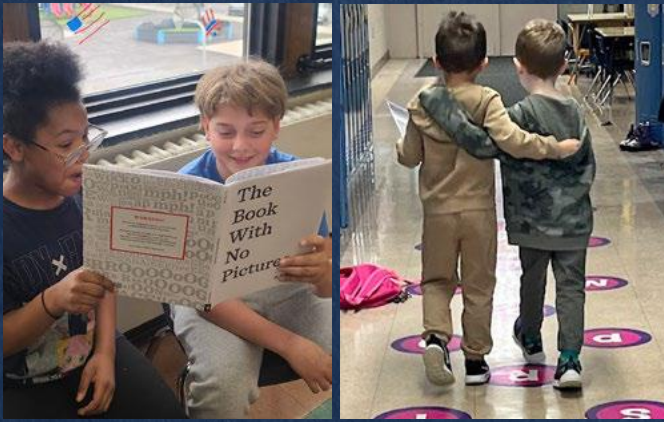
Being chosen by peers makes the recognition even more special because it reflects the genuine impact individuals have on those around them.



The program encourages students and adults alike to lead by example and create a supportive, respectful school environment. It also helps students understand the importance of recognizing positive behaviors in others and celebrating accomplishments beyond academics.

By honoring individuals who demonstrate strong character and positive life skills, Monroe

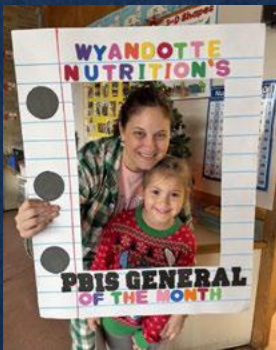
Elementary continues to build a culture where everyone feels valued, encouraged and inspired to be their best. The Student and Staff Member of the Month program is a proud tradition that highlights the heart of our school community.



## Washington Elementary A Year Full of Learning and Fun

**A**s the school year comes to a close, Washington Elementary reflects on a wonderful year driven by community spirit and student-led progress.

A key initiative was the development of the 17-member Student Leadership Team, which helped guide the PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) program.



Their leadership ensured core values were lived daily through monthly assemblies, schoolwide clubs, special recess activities, and lunch rewards. Additionally, a community partnership with Wyandotte Nutrition recognized a "Student and Staff Member of the Month" for demonstrating these PBIS principles.

Academic milestones were also highlighted. During spring conferences, the school hosted a Celebration of Learning Event, where students showcased their hard work, progress and goals to their families. The informative evening allowed families to explore the building, learn about the curriculum and take home educational resources.

Literacy was celebrated during March Is Reading Month with a picture book bracket challenge, which concluded with a schoolwide read-aloud of the winning book. Thanks to a generous donation from Pipefitters 636, students received new books to extend their reading enjoyment beyond this event.

The excitement continues into the summer with several scheduled outdoor improvements. A new pavilion will be installed on the woodchip playground to provide a shade in that area. Sensory items will also be added to support diverse play needs. Lastly, a green turf area will be installed on the blacktop for games such as soccer to take place.

From the classroom to the playground, it has been a year full of learning and fun. We are proud of everything we achieved this year, and look forward to seeing these new additions come to life when students return next school year.

## Wilson Middle School A Community of Growth

**W**HILE academic excellence is our primary focus at Wilson Middle School, we believe that true growth happens both inside and outside the classroom. To support this, we offer 16 diverse, staff-facilitated clubs designed to help students explore their passions, build character and find their community. From sharpening critical thinking in Math Counts and Chess Club to finding a creative voice in Arts Club or Jazz Club, there is a place for every student to thrive.

Beyond these foundational programs, we offer specialized activities that encourage global awareness and local impact:

- **Service Squad:** This organization is dedicated to community service and kindness.

Members participate in unique activities such as "rake-and-run" events, making blankets for the Linus Project and supporting rescued animals.



- **World Language Club:** This club allows students of all grades to explore a different world language. Students learn common greetings, where languages are spoken and "funny sayings" from around the globe.



- **Warrior Closet:** This is more than a school store — it is a space that supports and empowers students. Students can use PBIS points to shop for gently used clothing, school supplies, trinkets, holiday gifts, and

more. The store also provides hands-on learning opportunities for students who help run it, teaching responsibility, organization, teamwork, and customer service skills while rewarding positive behavior.

At Wilson, we are dedicated to providing the diverse opportunities students need to explore their interests outside of academia and become truly well-rounded individuals.

# ROOSEVELT HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS: Many Programs Experienced Success

By Jolie Greener and Monica Patterson

**T**HE 2025-2026 school year has featured unforgettable athletes and sports performances at Roosevelt High School, highlighted by a girls basketball district title, two undefeated bowling seasons, an inaugural flag football season that ended in a league title, and multiple individual state qualifying athletes and a figure skating state title.

During the fall, the boys cross country team finished second in the Downriver league, and the girls finished third. Regional qualifiers and state finalists included junior Noah Amori, freshman Emma Puscas and senior Eleanor Grant. Grant was a state finalist in all four years of her cross country career. The other fall sport state qualifier was diver Joanna Miciura, who also was the league champion.

The highlight of the winter season was girls basketball, bowling and figure skating. Girls and boys bowling both finished with a 17-0 record, and combined for four state qualifiers – as sophomores Malachi Attard and Keegan McClain, junior Madison Dufault and senior Ellie Isenegger all competed in the state finals.

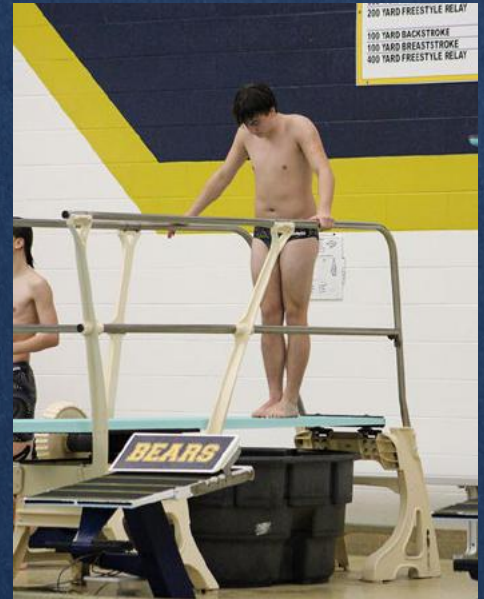
On the court, girls basketball went 10-6 in the DRL tying for third, but finished the year with a district championship lead by senior all-league athletes Emma Jordan and Annie Zieger. And the figure skating team C became the state champions, featuring Sophia Francetich, Adriana Dionisis, Alexis Zuziak, and Rebecca Kubiak.

Also in winter, boys hockey finished 17-11-1, tied for first at the Metro West Conference, and was a regional finalist lead by three all-league juniors – Eli Harrel, Ethan Ivity and Evan Kelly.

The competitive cheer team earned a trip to regionals, finishing second in the MHSAA district, and Robotics made a playoff round at Chelsea, with a record of 3-1.

In the pool, sophomore Brendan Miciura broke the school record in the 100 backstroke, with a time of 55.08 seconds. Miciura and senior diver Eli Shimko earned





All-State honors, and were two out of four who qualified for state finals. The other state finals boys swim qualifiers were junior Keegan Simmons and sophomore Andy Bowers.

The spring season was highlighted by the softball team who earned a Downriver League record of 13-2, 21-9 overall with MHSAA districts that began May 30.

Boys and girls rowing varsity four seats both finished first at the Hebda Cup, while on the track, two male athletes qualified for states: junior Noah Amori in the 3200 M and junior Malik Daniels in the long jump. Daniels also earned the school's record in long jump with a distance of 21 feet, 11-and-a-half inches on his way to becoming the regional champion.



Girls tennis finished the regular season with an undefeated record, and placed first and second at every tournament, and second at regionals. Number-one doubles seniors Rylie Hawkins and Annie Zieger finished as regional champs. The team qualified for state finals.

A new addition to the spring was the inaugural girls flag football team, who won their league and participated in the state finals at Ford Field.

To finish off the year, an unprecedented three seniors were awarded Athlete of the Year honors: Emma Jordan (varsity volleyball, basketball, softball,) Annie Zieger (varsity volleyball, basketball, tennis) and Sean Hickey (varsity tennis and basketball.)

We are proud of all that our athletes accomplished this year, and we look forward to continuing that excellent in the 2026-27 school season!





## Whether it's bowling or softball, Ellie Isenegger strives to succeed

By Terry Jacoby

**T** really isn't surprising that Ellen (Ellie) Isenegger is a standout bowler and softball pitcher. When you think about it, it's a pretty similar motion, whether you're delivering the ball to a pile of pins or a batter holding a stick.

The Wyandotte senior basically grew up with a bowling ball in her hand.

"I have always bowled," she said. "It was just a fun thing we always did."

Isenegger bowled at St. Pius from fifth to seventh grade.

"After that I wasn't sure if I wanted to bowl in high school, but I went out for tryouts and from that day forward my winter was filled with bowling," she said. "I liked that bowling was something for me to do in the offseason, and it was something that came naturally to me."

She said everything changed when she started to bowl two-handed.

"It really helped keep me in control and be so much smoother," she said. "I also joined a league that was on Saturdays that really helped prepare me for the start of the season."

Isenegger went undefeated in league play in both her junior and senior seasons. Her goal for her senior year was to have fun, perform at her best and make it to the state finals.



Check. Check. Check.

"At states, I started very strong with my first game but slowly went downhill after that," she said. "I placed 37th out of 50 girls, so not the best but it was a really fun experience competing against some of the top bowlers in the state."

Softball is a whole different ballgame for Isenegger.

"There is no other place I would rather be than on that mound," she said. "I was introduced to travel softball around the sixth grade, and have played every year since. It has really helped develop me as a player and person."

With Isenegger in the circle for most of the season, the Bears went 21-11 during her junior year with only two seniors on the roster. She was named Second Team All-News Herald and team MVP last season, and is closing in on 500 career strikeouts. She also has topped 100 hits in her career.

"Heading into the 2026 season one of my main goals was to be a team leader and leave everything on the field for my team," she said. "I wanted to put my all into this team because I truly think we have a chance at going far. We have so many amazing athletes."



Isenegger, who said juggling two sports can be challenging, has some advice for younger student-athletes.

"I would say to explore everything and try new things," she said. "You are only in high school once and there is a world of opportunities to explore, and those four years go by really fast. So get involved. You may feel overwhelmed, but soon those chances will be gone and you will miss it, so do it while you can."

Ellie, 18, is the daughter of Shane and Stefanie Isenegger and pitches to a 3.8 GPA in the classroom. She plans to attend Henry Ford College in the fall, where she will play softball.

"I picked Henry Ford because the all-around atmosphere was nice," she said. "Another major role that played into it was how much I loved the softball coaches. They were always so welcoming and have always supported me."



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# Helping Your Teen Navigate Friendships

By Tracy Willis

So much of middle school and high school drama revolves around friendships. When your child reaches their teen years, friends can morph from besties into enemies, seemingly overnight. The desire to fit in with a social group comes with tons of pressure. Add social media into the mix, and friendships can feel like tiptoeing through a minefield.

Navigating the ups and downs of adolescent friendships is a rite of passage. How can you help your child manage the drama?

**Begin by helping your teen think about the qualities they value in their current friends.** What traits do they exemplify? Point these characteristics out when you see them in other people. Encourage them to seek friends who have the qualities they value.

**Next, teach your teen to recognize the trouble signs in friendships.** Discuss dysfunctional friendship patterns like one-sidedness, jealousy, competitiveness, or exclusion. Help your teen build emotional awareness: how does the friendship make you feel? Do you feel unsure or unsupported when you're around a certain friend? A big part of navigating friendships for teens is learning that they deserve to be treated well within the relationship.

**Boundaries.** It's a popular word that seems to be everywhere lately. It's the foundation of healthy friendships and relationships. Reassure your child that it's okay to assert themselves, to say "no" to friends, and to communicate honestly about their own limits and to respect the limits of others.

And finally, talk openly with your teen about rejection and exclusion. They're a normal aspect of life that everyone deals with. Let them know that rejection doesn't define their worth. It may feel like it does, but that's a normal feeling, too. There's nothing wrong with asking for support when those big feelings well up.

Even if you talk with your child about their friendships until you're blue in the face, chances are they will still ride the friendship rollercoaster. Pay attention to your teen's behaviors:

- Are they withdrawing from social situations?
- Do they seem sadder or irritable after social commitments or time on social media?
- Are they complaining frequently about certain friends?
- Are they engaging in negative self-talk?

Tuning into your teen on a regular basis will help you know when they need more support, as well as the level of support they might need.

Most of us have cringy teen memories about our own over-involved parents. Giving the right amount and type of support feels like riding a bucking bronco at the rodeo. Here are some things to avoid while you're riding that bull:

1. Don't minimize their feelings or qualify them as being "right" or "wrong."
2. Avoid criticizing their friends. Remember, a week from now, they might be besties again. Criticism makes communication shut down when your teen becomes defensive.
3. Don't pry. This is a hard one. You want to know the ins and outs of the situation, but your teen is learning to be independent. Respect their boundaries (it's how they learn to have boundaries themselves).
4. You're not a friendship mechanic. Don't try to fix it unless there are extreme circumstances. Leaping in with your relationship wrench undermines your child's confidence.

It's hard to watch your child struggle. Remind your teen that facing challenges is about growth. They might not have it all figured out yet, but they're moving in the right direction.

*Tracy has been teaching for over 30 years in and out of Michigan. She currently teaches middle school and spends her free time writing for publications and small businesses. When she's not putting pencil to paper or dreaming up ways to inspire her English students, she can be found in the woods on the trails.*





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# Police Department Welcomes Newest Officers

By Police Chief Archie Hamilton

**T**HE Wyandotte Police Department has recently added to its ranks with the addition of four new officers. They are Alexander Benkarski, Jared Poslaiko, Ethan Heinrich and Nicholas Biundo.



The hiring process began in September 2025, in which the recruits had to successfully pass an intensive background investigation; an oral board interview; an agility test which consists of a mile run, push-ups and times planks; a psychological



From left to right: (Left to Right) Chief Archie Hamilton, Officer Jared Poslaiko, Officer Ethan Heinrich, Officer Alexander Benkarski, Officer Nicholas Biundo, Deputy Chief Ken Groat, Sergeant Cade Barwig.

exam, a physical exam, and drug screen.

After completing all the above, the recruits entered the police academy in early January 2026, and graduated from Wayne County Police Academy on May 7. They took the oath of office on May 18, and started our field training program, which consists of an additional 14 weeks of training. They are scheduled to be fully trained by mid-September.



We welcome these new officers to the department!

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# Good Neighbors

## Z Plumberz offers experience, resources to better serve customers

By Terry Jacoby



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

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

“That’s where I first learned the importance of high-quality craftsmanship,” said Wallen, who also spent a year at Central Michigan University studying construction management. “After returning home from CMU that summer I

decided to continue my plumbing career with Quint Plumbing. There I acquired a wide variety of plumbing skills, from underground sewer and water lines to commercial and industrial scale systems.”

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

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

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

“It was a great fit,” Wallen said. “It’s exactly what we were looking for.”

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

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



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

“Since joining Z Plumberz nine months ago we’ve been able to add employees, equipment and

services to better serve our existing customers and simultaneously build the capacity to take on new customers,” Wallen said. “As we continue to grow, our goal is to provide the highest level of service and offer professional solutions for the plumbing needs of the Downriver community.”

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

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

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

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

TO YOUR HEALTH!

# PESTO:

## *The Ultimate Summer Sauce*

By Lisa Howard



**S**UMMER days mean perfect produce, hot temps and the desire to not spend a ton of time at the stove.

Enter pesto! It's a quick, uncooked sauce that can be everything from a condiment to the main star, and it's endlessly versatile. Got any kind of nut or seed, plus any kind of fresh herb? You can make pesto.

While the classic Ligurian version consists of fresh basil blended into a paste alongside garlic, extra-virgin olive oil and pine nuts, cilantro or parsley works just as well. So do sliced almonds, walnuts, pecans, pumpkin seeds, sunflower seeds...the list goes on. And you can toast your nuts or seeds first to give them a deeper flavor!

If you want to tame the garlickiness of your pesto, use the green parts of green onions or even chives instead of garlic. (Chives have the added bonus of being excellent additions to herb gardens—pop them in right next to the basil!) If you have unrefined nut oils on hand, those make interesting swaps for extra-virgin olive oil.

Pesto is the perfect foil for fresh tomatoes, of course—it's right at home on top of insalata caprese, which is fresh mozzarella + sliced tomatoes + fresh basil + balsamic vinegar + extra-virgin olive oil.

Bonus points for double-herbing if you make your pesto with an herb that isn't basil!

Tossing pesto with pasta only takes as long as cooking the pasta, seeing as you can whizz the pesto into existence in a mini blender in the time it takes to boil your noodles of choice. Then sprinkle with Parmigiano Reggiano for an authentic Italian flair, or go with any hard, aged, savory cheese that you can grate easily. (Manchego is particularly nice.)

You can easily tweak pesto into being dressing by simply adding more oil. Your grilled veggies just got a whole lot more flavorful! Splashing in a bit of lemon juice will add the acidity you're looking for in a dressing, and will have the bonus action of delaying how fast the basil will blacken.

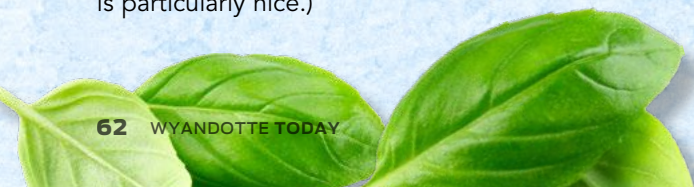
Using an herb other than basil will also solve that conundrum. If you stir your pesto into a dollop of whole-milk Greek yogurt, you'll have an instant dip that'll be equally good with veggies or with grilled chicken or shrimp. It's also a better-than-mayo condiment to slather onto sandwiches.

While pesto made with non-basil herbs has a bit of a shelf life, basil-forward pesto blackens quickly. If you do want to store it for the next day, your best option is to scoop your freshly made basil into a tiny jar and then top it off with a layer of extra-virgin olive oil. If you can fully "cap" it and prevent any air from getting to the pulverized leaves, then your pesto will still be green the next day.

(Handily, olive oil gets stiffer when refrigerated, so it makes a decent edible lid.)

To use your pesto the next day, make sure the actual lid is screwed on tightly and submerge the jar in hot water. It will only take a few minutes to prompt the oil to become a liquid again, at which point you can just give your pesto a quick stir and then immediately use it. It's too good not to!

*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).*





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# LAKESIDE EVENTS IN BELLEVILLE

## June-Oct

MONDAYS 5:00 PM

### Egan's Car Show + Farmer's Market

Main St. is packed with classic cars and fun events. Stroll the Farmer's Market full of fresh produce and unique local goodies.



## June 18-Aug 20

Thursdays 7:00pm

### Music Lakeside

Horizon Park comes alive with live bands, food vendors and spectacular sunsets. Bring a chair but you probably will be dancing!



## July 4th

AT DARK

### Fireworks Over Belleville Lake

Celebrate America's 250th Birthday with a mind blowing fireworks show designed to a musical soundtrack! Best viewing by boat or at the DNR East launch park-- 765 E. Huron River Dr.



## Aug 15th

All day and evening

### Margaritas in the 'Ville

Don your best tropical attire as Belleville turns into Margaritaville for one day only! Featuring island fun for all ages, a sand beach, exciting contests and a tropical band!



## All Year Long Outdoor Sculpture Art Walk

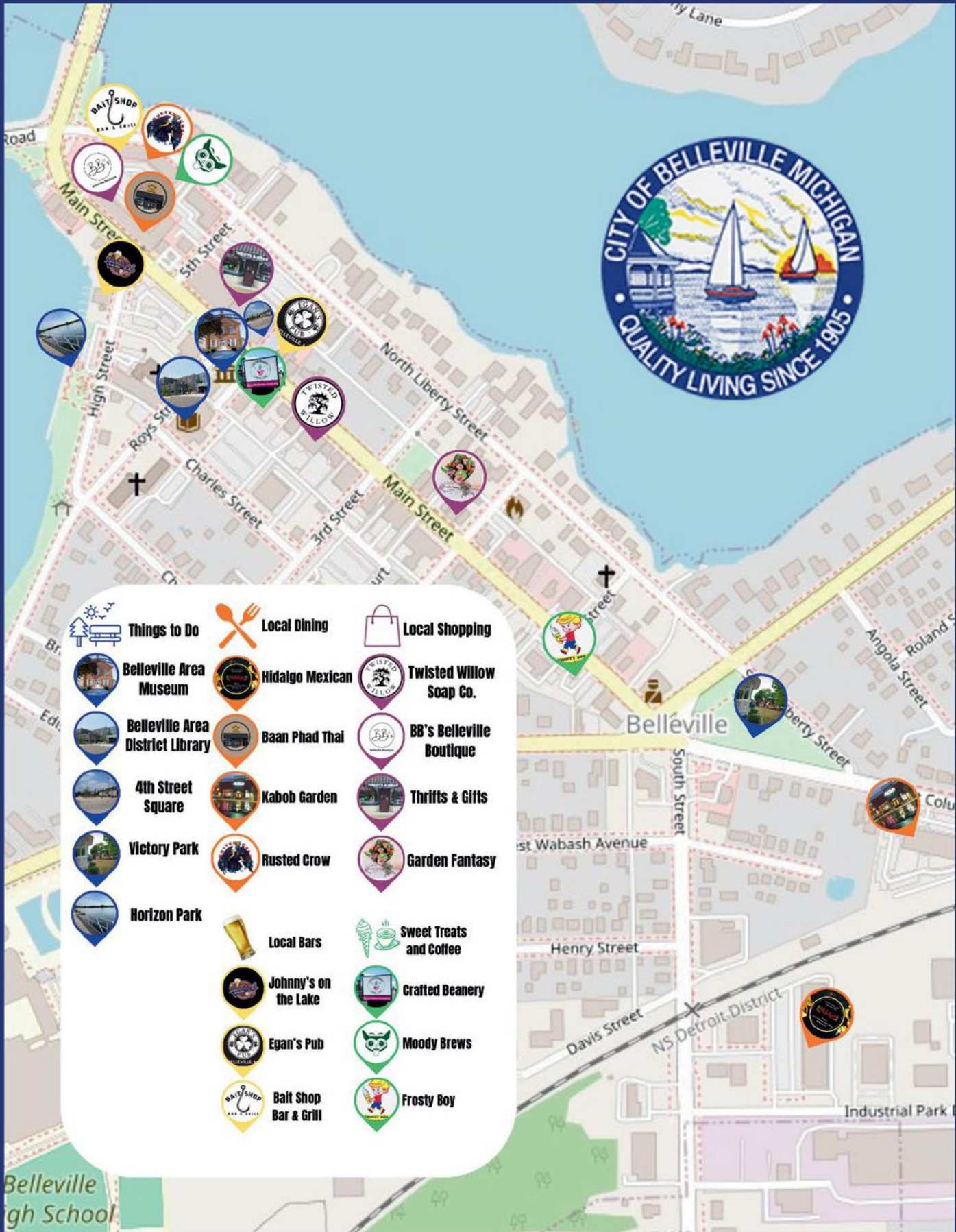
Belleville offers incredible works of art spread around town. The pieces change every year and each one is a unique display of wonderful artistic talent.



**There's ALWAYS something fun happening in Belleville!** Come visit our little Downtown On the Lake to experience lake life at its best.

Follow Belleville MI, DDA on Facebook so you never miss a moment of the exciting happenings in beautiful Belleville. We are excited to meet you lakeside!





	<b>Things to Do</b>		<b>Local Dining</b>		<b>Local Shopping</b>
	<b>Belleville Area Museum</b>		<b>Hidalgo Mexican</b>		<b>Twisted Willow Soap Co.</b>
	<b>Belleville Area District Library</b>		<b>Baan Phad Thai</b>		<b>BB's Belleville Boutique</b>
	<b>4th Street Square</b>		<b>Kabob Garden</b>		<b>Thrifts &amp; Gifts</b>
	<b>Victory Park</b>		<b>Rusted Crow</b>		<b>Garden Fantasy</b>
	<b>Horizon Park</b>		<b>Local Bars</b>		<b>Sweet Treats and Coffee</b>
			<b>Johnny's on the Lake</b>		<b>Crafted Beanery</b>
			<b>Egan's Pub</b>		<b>Moody Brews</b>
			<b>Bait Shop Bar &amp; Grill</b>		<b>Frosty Boy</b>

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**Missionary Baptist Church**

[gmbcwandotte.org](http://gmbcwandotte.org)

### Service Times

Sunday School 10:00 am

Sunday Morning Worship 11:00am

Sunday Evening Worship 6:30 pm

Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 pm

**Dan Hillard, Pastor**

In person or online

**1812 Oak St, Wyandotte**

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Java with Jesus - last Sunday of every month 10:30am  
How to Listen to God Group - first and third Thursday of every month 6:30pm  
Holy Communion First Sunday of Each Month



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### UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS...

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2 Day Event - December 5 and 6  
Vendors Wanted - 734-284-9135  
No food vendors

### MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday at 10am - English and Polish

#### DAILY MASS AT 12 NOON

Monday & Wednesday at St. Patrick's - 135 Superior Blvd. - Wyandotte  
Tuesday at Our Lady of the Scapular with Devotions  
Thursday & Friday at St. Joseph's - 334 Elm St - Wyandotte



# A Ministry of Service

## Trinity Lutheran Church celebrates 165 years in Wyandotte By Kelsi Klein

**S**IX years before Wyandotte was incorporated as a city, Trinity Lutheran Church was founded in the Village of Wyandotte in 1861 by its original 29 members.

The church began as a small German Lutheran congregation serving immigrants who were building their new lives in America.

In its early years, worship services were held exclusively in German, and over time, English services were gradually introduced. By the 1960s, following the construction of a new church building, services transitioned fully to English. The final German service was held on April 2, 1961.

From its humble beginnings, Trinity grew into one of the area's most prominent congregations, with more than 1,000 members at its peak. Trinity helped establish other local Lutheran churches, including Christ the King in Southgate, which has since flourished in the Downriver community with its own school and hundreds of active members.

Education has always been a defining legacy of Trinity Lutheran Church. Just a year or two after the church was founded, a day school was established and maintained a major presence in Wyandotte for roughly 140 years.

"After the baby boom and World War II, there weren't as many kids and a lot of school consolidation was going on around the Downriver area," said Lauren Schafer, a longtime member who is currently drafting the full history of Trinity Lutheran Church.

Declining enrollment, economic challenges and rising tuition costs made sustaining the school difficult, and Trinity made the hard decision to close the school in 2002.

Schafer explained that the school's closure had some far-reaching consequences for the church itself.

"Younger families weren't coming in, the congregation was aging and times were changing," she said. "Society became very mobile in the '90s and 2000s, and fewer people were staying in the community they were raised in."

As congregants continued to move away from Wyandotte, the demographic shifted and membership began to decline.

Despite periods of growth, decline and social change over the 165 years of its existence, Trinity Lutheran Church has remained closely connected to Wyandotte and its history.

Congregation members were vital workers in local Wyandotte factories, including the All Metal Products Company, a major toy manufacturer in the city, and local industrial giants like Great Lakes Steel.

*As part of the 125th anniversary celebration, Trinity installed stained glass in the large chancel window on the east wall of the church.*

Bottom photos courtesy of Trinity's History files. Top photo by Christie Wilczynski.



*The new church (top), built in 1961 upon Trinity's 100th anniversary. Designed by architect and Trinity member Jack Yop, the church is still in use to present day. The first building (bottom left), erected in 1862, served as both church and school. Trinity's new brick church building in 1888 (bottom right), next to the school, prior to paved streets and street lights. This building served the congregation until it was razed in 1961 to make way for the new church building.*

Trinity members also played significant roles during wartime. During World War I, church member Lieutenant Edward Headman was killed in action and Wyandotte's American Legion Post 217 was named in his honor.

More than 150 men and women from Trinity's congregation served in the United States Military during World War II, including Pastor Edward Hessler who served as a chaplain in the Pacific Theater for the Red Arrow Division. Six Trinity members lost their lives in the conflict.

Over the years, Trinity Lutheran Church has continued to adapt to the changing world and local community. Despite the challenges many churches have encountered following the COVID-19 pandemic, the congregation remains faithful and active through weekly worship, Bible study, ministry programs and community outreach, including their annual Trinity Baby Shower, which benefits the Lincoln Park Crisis Pregnancy Center.

On August 9, Trinity will celebrate and reflect on its 165 years of ministry service to Wyandotte and the Downriver community.

Trinity Lutheran Church is located at 465 Oak Street. Visitors are invited to join Sunday service at 11:15 a.m. For more information, visit [www.trinitywyandotte.org](http://www.trinitywyandotte.org).

Photo by Lauren Schafer.



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# Wyandotte and AROUND

June - October

## ONGOING

- As a part of Henry Ford Wyandotte's free Wellness Wednesdays, Art in the Park will be held on Wednesdays from 3-5 p.m. at Bishop Park, 2840 Van Alstyne Street, through August 27 with the exception of July 2 and 9. For more information, visit [www.henryford.com/calendar/wellness/wyandotte/wellness-wednesday](http://www.henryford.com/calendar/wellness/wyandotte/wellness-wednesday).
- Outdoor Summer Yoga will be held on Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at Theatre Park at the corner of 1st and Elm streets as a part of Henry Ford Wyandotte's free Wellness Wednesdays. The free classes will run through August 27 with the exception of July 2 and 9. For more information, visit [www.henryford.com/calendar/wellness/wyandotte/wellness-wednesday](http://www.henryford.com/calendar/wellness/wyandotte/wellness-wednesday).



- Enjoy live music, local vendors, lawn games and children's activities at Wyandotte's Sunday Socials every Sunday through September 13 from 2-6 p.m. at Theatre Square (1st and Elm streets). For more information and a lineup of entertainment, visit [www.wyandottemi.gov](http://www.wyandottemi.gov).
- Wyandotte Movie Nights will return every third Friday through October 16 at Theatre Square (1st and Elm streets) from 6-9 p.m. Bring blankets and lawn chairs and enjoy a night of family fun under the stars. Learn more at [www.wyandottemi.gov](http://www.wyandottemi.gov).

## JULY

### July 4

#### Independence Day Parade

10 a.m.-12 p.m.  
Downtown Wyandotte  
Celebrate Independence Day and America's 250th birthday at the annual patriotic parade. The free event will offer fun for all ages. For more information, visit [www.wyandottemi.gov](http://www.wyandottemi.gov).

### July 8-11

#### 65th Annual Wyandotte Street Art Fair

10 a.m.-9 p.m.  
Downtown Wyandotte  
Visit one of Michigan's largest art fairs and enjoy art, a variety of vendors and fun for the whole family. Learn more at the Wyandotte Street Art Fair Facebook page or [www.wyandottemi.gov](http://www.wyandottemi.gov).

### July 18

#### Patriots Pie & Ice Cream Social

1-4 p.m.  
Wyandotte Museums  
2610 Biddle Avenue  
Come out and enjoy a variety of pie flavors, complemented by Stroh's ice cream. Play early American games, and make a fun craft to take home. Note: This is a cash only event.

## AUGUST

### August 15

#### 22nd Annual Wyandotte Wine Crawl

6-11 p.m.  
Downtown Wyandotte  
Save the date for the annual wine event and sample a variety of wines and seltzers, including wines from Michigan-based wineries. Learn more at [www.360eventproductions.com](http://www.360eventproductions.com).

## SEPTEMBER

### September 11-13

#### Fall Citywide Garage Sale

8 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Participate in the community tradition that supports the Wyandotte Museums programs and preservation efforts by registering your garage sale. Maps will be available for purchase during the sale behind the Ford-MacNichol Home at 2610 Biddle Avenue. Visit [www.wyandottemi.gov](http://www.wyandottemi.gov) for more information.

## September 18

### Wyandotte Beer Fest

6-10 p.m.  
Downtown Wyandotte  
Save the date for Downriver's biggest beer festival. This year's festival will be pickle-themed, offering everything from pickle beer and cocktails to pickle food menus, vendors and more. Visit [www.360eventproductions.com](http://www.360eventproductions.com) for more information.

## September 25-26

### Fire and Flannel Festival

Friday: 3-11 p.m.  
Saturday: 12-11 p.m.  
Downtown Wyandotte  
Experience entertainment for everyone including lumberjack shows, axe throwing, fire performers, live chainsaw carvings and more. Learn more at [www.360eventproductions.com](http://www.360eventproductions.com).



## OCTOBER

### October 3

#### Tacos, Hops & Tequila

3-8 p.m.  
Downtown Wyandotte  
Enjoy some of Metro Detroit's best street tacos, from local food trucks and restaurants, along with Michigan craft beers, ciders, seltzers and various tequila. There will be live music and a vote for best tacos. Learn more at [www.360eventproductions.com](http://www.360eventproductions.com).

**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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