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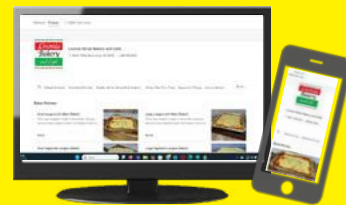
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Prevention Meets Partnership

Dr. Randy Bickle brings personalized primary care to Livonia

As healthcare becomes increasingly rushed and transactional, many patients are searching for something that once defined medicine: a true physician-patient partnership. For longtime Livonia physician Dr. Randy Bickle, that desire is exactly what inspired the next chapter of his career.

After nearly 40 years caring for families across southeastern Michigan, mentoring hundreds of future physicians and building lasting trust within the community, Bickle has opened a new MDVIP-affiliated family medicine practice at 37675 Pembroke Avenue in Livonia. Now accepting patients, the practice is built around Dr. Bickle's simple but powerful philosophy: bringing personalized care back to preventive medicine.

For many Livonia residents, Bickle is already a familiar face. A board-certified family physician, educator and advocate for patient-centered care, he has spent decades serving patients while helping shape the next generation of doctors. Throughout his career, he has mentored hundreds of medical students and residents through Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine. Among them was his own brother, Dr. John Bickle, who today practices as an MDVIP-affiliated physician in Arizona.

Teaching and mentoring others has been an extension of Bickle's belief that medicine is fundamentally about human connection and attentive care, not processes and paperwork.

That same belief led him to the MDVIP model, a nationwide network of more than 1,400 affiliated physicians focused on personalized primary care.

At Dr. Bickle's MDVIP-affiliated practice, patients benefit from a more personalized approach to healthcare. By caring for a smaller number of

patients, he can devote more time to prevention, wellness and personalized care. Rather than rushing through appointments, he can build meaningful relationships, better understand each patient's health priorities and lifestyle, and develop tailored strategies with the goal of helping them stay healthy and active for years to come.

A cornerstone of the practice is the MDVIP Annual Wellness Program, a comprehensive health assessment designed to help identify potential health risks before they become more serious concerns.

Each year, patients receive an in-depth wellness exam, including comprehensive diagnostic screenings tailored to their age, medical history and individual health needs. The program evaluates key aspects of health, including cardiovascular and metabolic health, sleep quality, nutrition, fitness, bone health, and emotional well-being.

Using these insights, Bickle works closely with patients to develop a personalized wellness plan focused on prevention, early detection and long-term health. The result is a proactive approach to healthcare that may help patients make informed lifestyle choices and take a more active role in managing their well-being.

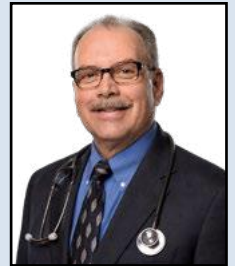
Members can generally secure same-day or next-day appointments when needed, as well as after-hours communication. When health concerns arise while traveling, Dr. Bickle can assist with care coordination and help connect

members with local medical resources.

Dr. Bickle earned his medical degree from the New York College of Osteopathic Medicine and completed his internship and residency at Garden City Hospital in Michigan. A lifelong learner, he also holds a master's degree in biology and a Juris Doctor from Saint Louis University.

The opening of Dr. Bickle's new practice represents both a fresh start and a return to timeless values. As he embarks on this new chapter, he is excited to welcome both longtime patients and new patients seeking a more personalized approach to healthcare.

For Livonia residents seeking a physician who combines decades of experience with a deeply personal approach to care, Dr. Bickle is welcoming new patients. To learn more or schedule a meet-and-greet, visit mdvip.com/RandyBickle.



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From the MAYOR

Livonia Celebrates America's 250th – And Looks to Its Own Future

As our nation continues its yearlong celebration of America's 250th birthday, I'm reminded how fortunate we are to call Livonia home. The Fourth of July may be behind us, but the spirit of patriotism, community and pride that defines our country continues to shine right here in our city.

Thank you to everyone who joined us for Livonia's America 250 Celebration on July 8 and our America's 250th Birthday Party on July 11. These special events brought neighbors together to celebrate our nation's rich history while creating new memories with family and

friends. Seeing our community come together in such a meaningful way is one of the many reasons I'm proud to serve as your mayor.

Livonia offers so much to celebrate every day of the year. Families can stay active and connected at the Jack E. Kirksey Recreation Center, where residents of all ages enjoy fitness, sports, aquatics, and

community programming. History comes alive at Greenmead Historical Park, where we preserve our past while sharing it with future generations. And our Livonia Senior Wellness Center continues to provide opportunities for recreation, lifelong learning and friendship for thousands of older adults.

As we celebrate 250 years of American history, we're also writing the next chapter of Livonia's story. Together, we're investing in our parks, public spaces, neighborhoods, and community gathering places so future generations will enjoy the same strong sense of belonging that makes our city so special.

Thank you for being part of what makes Livonia an exceptional place to live, work and thrive. The best way to honor our nation's legacy is to continue building a community we're proud to call home.

Maureen Miller Brosnan
Mayor



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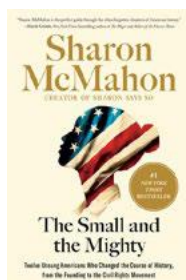


HarmonyTown Chorus.

Livonia Public Library Celebrating America's 250th with Events, Programming

In a nod to America's 250th anniversary, the Livonia Public Library has chosen "The Small and the Mighty: Twelve Unsung Americans Who Changed the Course of History, from the Founding to the Civil Rights Movement" by best-selling author Sharon McMahon as the 2026 selection for our annual One City, One Book event.

I hear you: "I don't want to read a HISTORY book." This isn't just any history book – it's about ordinary Americans like you and me whose small acts of courage changed our country.



Sharon McMahon isn't a typical teacher of history, either. Known as "America's Government Teacher," McMahon helps readers make sense of history, government and current events by breaking down complex facts and concepts.

In "The Small and the Mighty", you'll meet a woman astride a white horse riding down Pennsylvania Avenue, a young boy detained at a Japanese incarceration camp, a formerly enslaved woman on a mission to reunite with her daughter, a poet on a train, and a teacher who learns to work with her enemies. More than one thing is bombed, and multiple people surprisingly become rich. Some rich with money, and some wealthy with things that matter more.

McMahon's message: powerful change is built by ordinary people doing the next needed thing.

One City, One Book programming celebrates the courage, hope and resourcefulness of Americans by providing

opportunities to learn about their challenges, achievements and traditions. Try your hand at early American weaving and tin-smithing; experience 1930s and 1940s events through the eyes of Franklin Delano and Eleanor Roosevelt; prepare baked goods of our 20th century forefathers and mothers; explore the social and political commentary of 1960s pop art; meet upholsterer and flag maker Betsy Ross; discover Detroit's station in the Underground Railroad; learn the origins of Rosie the Riveter; enjoy American roots music in the forms of acoustic folk and barbershop harmony.

Through a partnership between the library and the Livonia City Clerk, One City, One Book also celebrates the right of ordinary people to effect change with the power of their votes. On September 15, National Voter Registration Day, the City Clerk's office will be at the library to help residents register to vote and answer questions about voting in Livonia. The library will also have fun voting-themed activities for all ages. Check out the library's online calendar for times and activities.

Powerful change is built by ordinary people doing the next needed thing in their communities. One City, One Book is an opportunity for you to engage with your family and neighbors through reading, learning and conversation. One City, One Book events are scheduled in September and October, and all program information can be found on our website at livoniapubliclibrary.org.

Print copies of the book will be available for checkout at both branches of the library beginning Monday, August 31. E-book and audiobook versions are also available via the Libby app with your library card. We look forward to seeing you in the library this fall!



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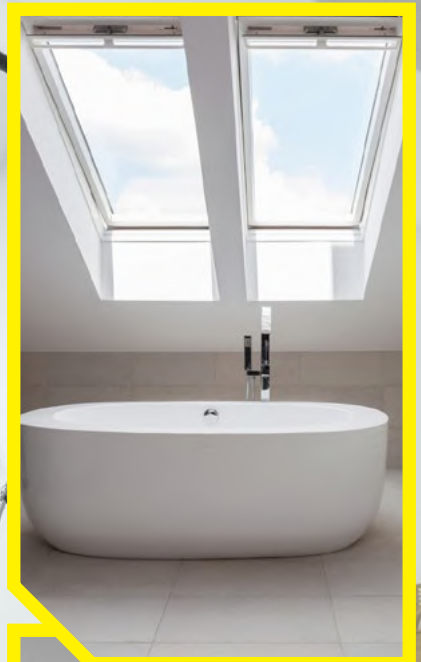
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Every Flavor Resolves Into the Next

First Light Roasters brings its love story with coffee to Livonia

By Terry Jacoby

TWO families plus one ritual equal First Light Roasters.

While the math is simple, the road to producing amazing coffee is a love story between Sam Noor and Amal Almaflahi, and the joy and satisfaction that comes with creating a product others fall in love with.

Sam grew up in 1980s Mogadishu, where his grandmother roasted wild coffee from the Cal Madow mountains of Sanaag. Amal's grandfather left Yemen when he was young and spent his life farming coffee in the highlands of Ethiopia.

When Sam and Amal met, they recognized something familiar in each other: the smell of green beans turning in a pan, the patience of a slow roast, the quiet way a cup gathers people. Their love story and First Light Roasters are the same story.

And the latest chapter began this spring in Livonia, with the opening of First Light Roasters. The roastery – the first of its kind in the city – is open and shipping every day, while the new cafe will open with a grand opening on August 22.

Sam and Amal take what they do very seriously and offer only the highest quality. First Light is SCA-certified and roasted to order, and buys its green coffee directly through licensed partners at origin. Every batch is roasted small, to order, and shipped within 48 hours so the coffee tastes exactly as the roaster intended.

"Clarity is not a metaphor for us," Sam said. "It is a technical goal: a clean cup where every flavor resolves into the next."

That pursuit of clarity happens inside an 8,000-square-foot roastery at 37055 Industrial Road in Livonia, where First Light roasts up to 1,500 pounds a day and has grown into Michigan's largest Black-owned coffee roastery.

The unique and amazing lineup of coffees runs from approachable everyday blends under the First Light label, like the Signature Espresso with its notes of milk chocolate,



Head roaster David Toth II at the First Light warehouse.



toasted almond, and cherry, to the premium Detroit Halite collection, named for the salt mined beneath Detroit for more than a century. The flagship Kenya AA leads with jasmine, milk chocolate and a bright honeydew finish. Alongside it sits a Rwanda Bourbon and an Ethiopia Grade 1, each a benchmark of its origin.

First Light Roasters is warm, local, proud, and welcoming that "puts community first." The Livonia First Promise isn't a slogan but a commitment to being a good neighbor.

"We could have roasted anywhere in Metro Detroit," Amal said. "We chose Livonia, and we want the city to feel what it means to have a roaster of its own."

And that is the idea behind the Livonia First Promise: if you live in Livonia, you never pay full price. Anyone who lives in, works in or ships to Livonia gets a standing 10 percent off every order, online with the code LIVONIA10 or by showing a Livonia ID at the roastery. It is not a limited-time coupon. It is a commitment.

Kenya is the Queen of Coffee. Ethiopia is the Asl, the origin. And Livonia is now the destination – all created through a love story and a passion to produce a cup of coffee that is unique, special, amazing and where every flavor resolves into the next.

For more information, visit firstlightrasters.com.



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FROM THE CLERK'S OFFICE

What does a City Clerk do?

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- Vital Records
- Notary Services
- Publishing Notices
- Posting Notices
- Clerk to City Council
- Maintains council-approved city contracts
- Administer Oaths of Office
- Business licensing
- Pet licensing
- Dog park passes
- Intake for rezoning petitions
- Intake for sidewalk waivers
- Garage sale permits
- Voter education
- Voter registration
- Administer all elections
- Recruit, train and retain more than 500 election workers
- Sorts city incoming U.S. mail
- Collect and post outgoing U.S. Mail for city departments
- Approves receipts and expenditures for city

Community Outreach

The Clerk's Office continues to provide Clerk On Demand (or "COD") at community events. By engaging with residents, we have been able to provide honest and crucial information to voters, answer questions, provide absentee ballot applications, and even register new voters. Some events attended this season were: Save Our Youth 5K Walk/Run, Pride Day event at Schoolcraft, "Chat With Your Clerk" meeting at the new Senior Wellness Center, Pancake Breakfast at Spree, Wilson Barn activities, and the Livonia Rotary PM Club in June. We are

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Email: cityclerk@livonia.gov

Web Page: Livonia.gov/194

Web Page: VoteLivonia.org

committed to providing reliable information to voters relative to elections and voting to develop partnerships that greatly reflect our sense of community.

Partnership with University of Michigan: Summer Intern

This partnership was designed to provide students with paid (by U-M) experience in public service and election administration. Livonia was proud to participate in this pilot program and provided onsite supervision to assign and support fellow responsibilities. The partnership with U-M combined practical election operations, voter services, preparation of poll worker training materials, public administration exposure and professional development opportunities for a U-M student enrolled in the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy who had an expressed interest in election administration.

General Election

Having a voting plan can make Election Day smooth and stress free. Decide ahead of time whether you want to vote by mail, vote early or vote in person on Election Day. This will help you avoid long lines, unpredictable weather or last-minute challenges – ensuring your ballot is counted.

Early Voting Info

Second Saturday before each election,
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24/7 EMERGENCY SERVICES

Opportunity and Connection

TRUE Community Credit Union helps people find a way forward By Terry Jacoby

TRUE Community Credit Union's investment in Livonia is about more than opening another branch. It is a way for TRUE to show up in a growing community and bring its mission to life in a place where members live, work and make everyday financial decisions.

For TRUE, Livonia represents opportunity and connection. The new branch gives members another place to ask questions, talk through decisions and find support as they work toward financial goals today and in the future.

"Our mission is to cultivate legacy-defining moments for the people and places we serve for generations to come," said Chrissy Siders, president and CEO of TRUE Community Credit Union. "As a credit union, we have the unique opportunity to touch every single person – from birth to death and every moment in between. That means we have both the privilege and responsibility to walk alongside our members through the countless moments that shape their lives and to invest in places where our members, families and communities can thrive."

The Livonia location gives TRUE another way to meet members where they are and build relationships within the community. It also creates a local resource for individuals, families and small businesses looking for guidance, not just transactions.

Siders said TRUE's focus has grown beyond traditional financial well-being and into financial thriving.

"How you are doing financially is just as much a social determinant of health as where you live or your physical, mental or spiritual health," she said. "It's all about the people we serve and the people that we can serve. And at the end of the day, we want those people to be well, and we want them to be thriving."

That approach starts with understanding what members are carrying financially and helping them find a path forward.

"We want to help take the weight of financial stress off our members," Siders said. "We do that not only through products and services we offer, but by

building relationships and leaning into the difficult conversations about your financial well-being and how we can help."

One recent example is TRUE's new high-yield savings account, which was launched to help members earn more on their savings while keeping their money accessible.

"This gives members the flexibility they want without locking up their money like a traditional certificate of deposit," Siders said. "One of the best parts is seeing how this helps our members make more progress toward their financial goals. By earning more on their savings, they're able to build stronger financial futures while keeping their money accessible for life's opportunities and unexpected moments."

The Livonia branch and the new high-yield savings account point to the same larger goal: giving members more access, more options and more confidence as they plan for what comes next, and allowing TRUE to bring its mission-driven work to the residents of Livonia.

TRUE Community Credit Union is a top-rated credit union with 15 branch locations serving members in Jackson, Ingham, Wayne, and Washtenaw counties. With more than \$945 million in assets and approximately 80,000 members, TRUE Community Credit Union prioritizes people over profit, process and product, and aims to create legacy-defining moments for the people and places it serves for generations to come. TRUE Community Credit Union includes more than 200 employees dedicated to helping members achieve their most important life milestones, big or small. For more information, visit TRUECCU.com.



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'Whatever It Takes'

Owners of Toarmina's Pizza in Livonia want every customer to enjoy their food

By Terry Jacoby

DURING a recent hot summer afternoon, Carlo Panzeri carries the food he just made out to a customer's vehicle. The customer, an elderly man with a walker, needed a little help getting his hot pizza out to his hot car and the owner was more than happy to assist.

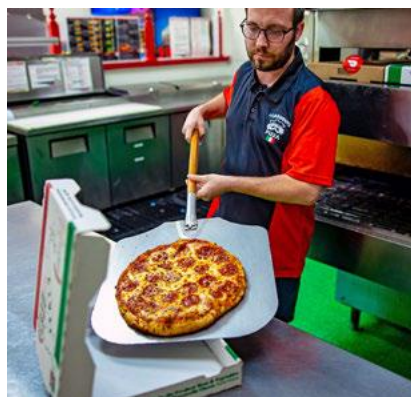
"Whatever it takes," said Panzeri, walking back into Toarmina's Pizza.

Panzeri is a "hands-on" owner of the Toarmina's location at 27630 Seven Mile Road in Livonia. He took over the location in May, and has his hands not only in the dough but in the day-to-day operations of the restaurant. His wife, Stephanie, also works for the business, also doing "whatever it takes" to help make this business venture a success.

There are 23 Toarmina's locations in Michigan, and the Livonia restaurant has had several owners over the 30 years in the community. One of the first things Panzeri did was return to the original Toarmina sauce and focus on providing a constant, fresh-tasting pizza.

"We don't buy anything frozen, everything we do is fresh," he said. "We have a simple recipe that includes fresh vegetables and our own mozzarella. We don't add any chemicals or anything like that. It's all fresh. We want to deliver a high-quality, fresh and consistent pizza every time."

Before taking ownership of the Livonia location, Panzeri worked for DO & CO International Catering, a premier gourmet catering and hospitality group that operates globally and is famous for providing high-end food and service for elite events such as Formula 1 and major airlines, including Delta and Emirates, and luxury lounges.



"I am from Italy and come from a family of four generations of bakers and moved to Chicago, where I was a pastry chef for DO & CO," he said. "I worked in Chicago first and then Detroit, doing the same job for the same company. I was a pastry chef before taking ownership of Toarmina's. It was just time for me to take that big step and open my own business and see what I can do for myself, my family and this community."

Panzeri said he's glad he made the move to the United States.

"I'm very happy here and trying to make a future in the U.S.," he said. "It's been hard with some challenges along the way. But I met my wife in Chicago and we have started a family. What I like about America is you have many opportunities to grow and make a good life for your family. They give you the tools to grow, you just have to be careful how you use those tools."

Toarmina's menu includes fresh bread and calzones, chicken wings (boneless or in-bone), lasagna, fresh salads and a wide variety of oven-baked subs. The pizza menu features specialty pizzas (veggie, deluxe, Mediterranean, Hawaiian and the coney dog pizza (limited time offer). Their gourmet pizzas include bbq chicken, grilled chicken, buffalo chicken, BLT, and steak and cheese.

Toarmina's also offers different party packages, including a pizza party for eight (\$50.99) that includes a 24-inch pizza with one topping, two cheese breads and a half party garden salad. They also cater events, and you can order online at toarminaspizza.com.

"I am here from morning to night and take great pride in what I do," Panzeri said. "It doesn't matter if you order 100 pizzas or one. We make every one fresh and the way you like it. We want every customer to enjoy our food. We are very happy to be a part of this wonderful community and are here to serve you."

Whatever it takes.

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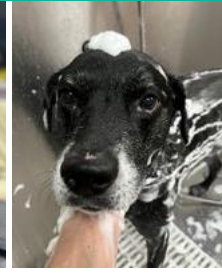
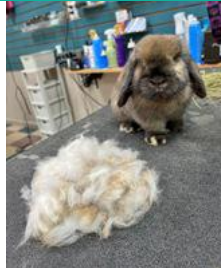
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Finlan Insurance Agency

More than a century of relationships in Plymouth

By Pamela MacIntyre

FOR 110 years, Finlan Insurance Agency has been helping individuals, families and businesses protect what matters most. As Plymouth's oldest continuously operating business, the agency has built its reputation on personal service, trusted relationships and a commitment to the community it calls home.

Founded in 1916 by Charles L. Finlan, the agency has spent more than a century helping clients navigate life's uncertainties while building relationships that often span generations. Today, Finlan Insurance Agency remains independently owned, allowing its advisors to focus on finding solutions that fit each client's unique needs.

Leading the agency today is President and Owner Kasey Kohn, who joined the family business in 2017 after building her own professional career. She represents the next generation of leadership at Finlan Insurance, taking the reins from her father, who spent decades serving clients and helping guide the agency's growth.

While the insurance industry has changed dramatically over the years, the agency's commitment to relationships, integrity and personal service has remained unchanged.

"We're not just selling insurance," Kohn said. "We're educating people, guiding them through important decisions, and helping them understand their options."

That educational approach has become increasingly important as insurance products and regulations continue to evolve. Whether working with a family purchasing a first home, a business owner evaluating commercial coverage or individuals planning for the future, the team takes time to help clients understand their options and make informed decisions.

Many clients have trusted Finlan Insurance Agency for decades, relying on the agency for home, auto, commercial, life, health and specialty insurance coverage. Those long-standing relationships are a source of pride for Kohn and her team, who believe trust is earned through consistency, communication and follow-through.

One of the most common misconceptions Kohn

encounters is the belief that better coverage always comes with a significantly higher price tag. She said the right guidance can often help clients find both stronger protection and better value.

As an independent agency representing multiple insurance carriers, Finlan Insurance can compare options and recommend coverage based on a client's specific needs.

The agency's commitment extends beyond insurance. Finlan Insurance has long been active in the Plymouth community through organizations including Rotary, Kiwanis, the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce

and numerous local charitable initiatives. The agency's team believes supporting the community is simply part of being a good neighbor and local business.

"Being locally owned matters," Kohn said. "We live here, our families are here and we're invested in the future of this community."

That community-minded culture extends throughout the office. Kohn credits the agency's dedicated staff for helping create an environment focused on service, collaboration and genuine care for clients. Their experience and commitment have helped the agency maintain the trust of generations of families and businesses throughout the area.

Looking ahead, growth remains

a priority but not at the expense of the values that have defined the agency for more than a century. Kohn believes sustainable success comes from maintaining strong relationships, honoring commitments and continuing to provide the personalized service clients have come to expect.

"When we tell a client we're going to do something, we do it," she said. "That's how trust is built."

More than a century after opening its doors, Finlan Insurance Agency continues to demonstrate that while the insurance industry may evolve, the importance of integrity, personal relationships and community involvement remains timeless.



Photo by Portraits with Michelle





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FRIENDS FOR LIFE

Livonia parkrun offers community, camaraderie while enjoying area's nature By Terry Jacoby

LIVONIA'S Jennifer Greve is kicking off her weekend the same way she has for the past 14 years, walking around Bicentennial Park in Livonia talking to longtime friends, meeting new people – and always with a smile and a spring in her step.

It's the early hours on a beautiful June Saturday morning as more of her friends begin to gather for the weekly parkrun event that runs (or walks) year-round and is part of a worldwide organization that started in Bushy Park, southwest London, on October 2, 2004.

It's "the community" that brings Greve and many others back to the starting line every Saturday morning.

"I don't love running, but the people here are amazing and I have multiple different circles of friends who I met here through parkrun," she said. "These have become really deep, good and reliable friendships. We've really got something special here."

Ann McHenry couldn't agree more.

"I moved back to this area after being away for about 20 years and I wanted to find a place to make new friends and meet people, and parkrun has truly been amazing," she said as she was preparing for her morning run. "These are some of the best people I've ever met. It's absolutely life changing."

There are currently 99 active, free 5k parkrun

events across the United States, including in Livonia, Novi and Canton. As of mid-2026, there are more than 2,800 parkrun locations worldwide, across 23 countries, including 1,200 in the UK, with as many as 500,000 participants every Saturday.

Parkrun recently celebrated its 1 millionth event and 14th year in Livonia.

Two of the most "amazing" aspects of parkrun is that it's totally free to participate and is run by volunteers.

One of those volunteers, Tim Gallagher, is currently an event ambassador for parkrun USA and helps set up communities with their own parkrun events, when he isn't organizing volunteers and greeting new people and familiar faces on Saturday mornings in Livonia.

"I got involved in Livonia parkrun in September 2014, and I ended up meeting a lot of nice people who turned out to be lifelong friends," he said. "It is a great community. Everyone is friendly and welcoming. Plus the opportunity for fresh air and exercise with like-minded people really boosts your spirits and is great for mental health."

The first Livonia parkrun was on June 2, 2012, and featured 28 people and seven volunteers.

"For the first few years, 20 to 40 people was the norm," Gallagher said. "This year we average around 80 to 100 each Saturday, with a 2026 high of 141 for our 14th anniversary on June 6."



The Livonia parkrun course starts and ends at the southwest corner of Bicentennial Park between the golf course clubhouse (Coach's Corner) and the baseball diamonds. All parkruns are 5K courses (3.1 miles).

"Our course is very pretty, and we get a lot of compliments from our out-of-town visitors," Gallagher said. "My life basically is parkrun, and I do love Livonia parkrun and am very proud of how we have sustained and grown our little event to become a world-wide tourist destination among the parkrun community."

"I am still surprised at the lack of awareness among the Livonia community, and the general wider running community, and we would love to attract more people from the surrounding areas who can benefit from the sense of community belonging and benefit from the exercise and fresh air every Saturday morning."

The event features everyone from runners trying to improve their times to moms pushing baby strollers and others just walking their dog. While each participant is at a different fitness level, everyone is part of the same welcoming, uplifting and positive community – and that's what parkrun is really all about.

"You make some of the best friends of your life," McHenry said. "There's people who have met here and have gotten married or met their partner here. We come together and help each other out and care about each other. It's the best group of people you could ever hope to find."

Livonia parkrun runs all year round, meeting at Bicentennial Park, 36000 W. Seven Mile Road. From June through September, the group meets at 8 a.m.; from October through May, the group meets at 9 a.m. There's no cost to join, but you do need to register before the first time you show up.

For more information, or to register, visit www.parkrun.us/livonia.



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LPS is Gearing Up for Another Great School Year!

By Stacy Jenkins, Administrator of District Communications,
Livonia Public Schools

LIVONIA Public Schools is excited to welcome its 13,000-plus students, families and staff back to school on Monday, August 24!

The summer has been a busy time for all of the "behind the scenes" preparation for another awesome school year! Bond construction is wrapping up at Webster Elementary, Niji-Iro Elementary and at Garfield Community School. These projects mark the final phase of the district-wide renovations that have taken place with funds from the 2021 bond issue – once again, a huge Thank You to the community for supporting the funds to make these improvements possible!



Get Ready to Bounce Back to School!

The ever-popular Bounce Back to School event for LPS families will be held 5-8 p.m. on Thursday, August 20 at Riley Upper Elementary, 15555 Henry Ruff, Livonia. Admission is \$6 cash or \$7 credit, per child (ages 3 and up) and includes a field filled with

bouncy structures; a petting zoo; face painting; balloons; and a DJ dance party! Concessions will be available for purchase. All proceeds benefit the LPS Education Foundation.

Bus shuttles will run from Roosevelt Elementary to Riley throughout the event. Roosevelt is located at 30200 Lyndon, Livonia. The shuttle is FREE and we encourage families to take advantage of this convenience!

Stay In the Know!

- All LPS information for the coming school year can be found on the district's website at www.livoniapublicschools.org.
- Follow LPS on Facebook, X, and Instagram
- Watch for the August issue of the Dialog newsletter to arrive in mailboxes soon!



LIVONIA
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2026-2027 District Calendar

August 24

District - First Day of School
Elementary: Half Day (In Session AM Only)
Secondary Grades 7 & 9: Full Day
Secondary Grades 8, 10-12: Half Day (In Session PM Only)

September 4 - 7

District - Labor Day Weekend, No School

September 28

Elementary (K-6) PD Day, No School

October 23

Secondary (7-12) Half Day (In Session AM Only)

November 3

District - Election Day, No School

November 25 - 27

District - Thanksgiving Break, No School

December 4

Elementary (K-6) Records Day, Half Day (In Session AM Only)

December 11

Elementary (K-6) PD Day, No School

December 21 - January 1

District - Holiday Break, No School

January 13 - 14

Secondary (7-12) Half Days (In Session AM Only)

January 15

Secondary (7-12) Records Day, No School

January 18

District - MLK Day, No School

February 1

Secondary (7-12) PD Day, No School

February 15 - 16

District - President's Day/ Mid-Winter Break, No School

March 5

Elementary (K-6) Records Day, Half Day (In Session AM Only)

March 8

Elementary (K-6) PD Day, No School

March 26 - April 2

District - Spring Break, No School

April 9

Secondary (7-12) Records Day, Half Day (In Session AM Only)

April 22

Secondary (7-12) PD Day, No School

May 19

District - PD Day, No School

May 31

District - Memorial Day, No School

June 3 - 4

District - Last Days of School, Half Days (In Session AM Only)

- Half-Day dismissal times vary by school and level
- Please see individual school websites for specific times
- Refer to school websites for the most current information
- Niji-Iro, preschool, and post-secondary programs will communicate calendar dates to families

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- Elementary (K-6) Only
- Secondary (7-12) Only
- District-Wide
- First Day: Elementary (K-6) half-day, Secondary (7-12) check school site

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A TRUE LEADER

Stevenson three-sport athlete wants to leave high school as the 'best version of myself'

By Terry Jacoby

ARNOLD Muscat sees a lot of outstanding student athletes every time he walks down the hall at Livonia Stevenson. But sometimes the school's athletic director comes across a few who are really special – and Kerrington Fields-McCurdy is one of those people.

"Kerrington is a great example to all students at Stevenson High School," Muscat said. "Her positive attitude is contagious. She continuously brings people together and also looks out for them. She is a true leader."

A three-sport athlete, Fields-McCurdy is a "true leader" in the school, on the mat and on the field.

"My goal is to leave high school as the best version of myself," she said. "So going back to the state finals in wrestling and placing this coming year as a senior would be great. Other goals would include getting closer to God, being a good leader, keeping all A's and B's in school and keeping my good GPA (3.8). I want to get all the good things out of high school I can. And last but not least is to have fun."

Part of her fun is playing three sports because she enjoys staying active, but there is one she favors over the others.

"My favorite and best sport is wrestling," she said. "I love wrestling so much. It's my life. All I think about and talk about is wrestling."



Stevenson does not have a girls team but helping create one is another item on Fields-McCurdy's to-do list.

"I've always wanted to help build one, and I have a lot of help because my dad (John) is the coach of the wrestling team," she said. "I do practice with the boys, though, and that helps me become stronger and more confident in my moves."

Wrestling at 125 pounds, Fields-McCurdy reached the state meet for the second year in a row as a junior. While she did not place, she learned what she needs to work on to help better prepare her for her senior year.

"A few weeks before districts, I found out that I



had torn the meniscus in my knee," she said. "Getting the paper that officially said I was hurt changed everything. So I got surgery, and a week later I was back on the mat by the grace of God. I was so happy."

The daughter of John and Etana Fields-McCurdy, Kerrington, 17, thanks her coach and family for all her success in wrestling.

"I really couldn't do the sport without my best friend, my dad," she said. "I wouldn't be the person and athlete I am without him pushing me in everything. I owe so much to my mom and dad and family, along with my close friends who have helped me along the way."

That way started in seventh grade when she first started wrestling.

"My dad is a wrestler and was the wrestling coach for my middle school at the time, and I had been around wrestling my whole life so what was I so scared of," she said. "I started loving it when I learned that it could take me places I've never been before."

Fields-McCurdy, who runs track and cross country for the Spartans, also is a talented singer and hopes her voice can take her to the big stage someday.

"My freshman year I sang the National Anthem at Ford Field for the wrestling state meet and I've done plays and musicals since middle school," she said. "I love music and singing and dancing. My other wrestling coach (Coach Ward) always laughs about how I dance for my warmup before a match."



A destination where all ages can connect, learn and grow

By Kelsi Klein

AT Schoolcraft College, the experience extends far beyond earning a degree. The campus is a community hub offering lifelong learning opportunities, local dining, arts and culture and so much more for students and the public alike.

Located at 18600 Haggerty Road in Livonia, Schoolcraft College has become a destination where community members of all ages can connect, learn and grow.



Nino Salvaggio International Marketplace

On March 11, 2026, after much anticipation, the new, 48,000-square-foot marketplace opened its doors on the north side of Schoolcraft's campus.

Open from 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and 8 a.m.-7 p.m. on Sunday, this major addition to the community offers a wide array of fresh produce, meats, seafood, bakery items, flowers, groceries and so much more.

Not only is Nino's a new staple for the community, it also offers invaluable experience for students, bridging classroom learning with real-world application. Space within Nino's will also serve as a flexible classroom instructors can utilize for a variety of academic programs, from criminal justice and English to art, business and more.

On-campus eateries

Schoolcraft is home to The Craft Grille, which features an upscale pub-style menu and award-winning craft beer created by the college's Brewing and Distillation Technology program. A hidden gem with both a bar and a dining room, it is the perfect place to meet with friends or catch a sporting event while trying one of their flagship beers or seasonal offerings.

The American Harvest restaurant is the school's signature eatery open to the public as well as an active learning lab classroom. Guests can make reservations online and enjoy an upscale dining experience from certified master and executive chefs, proudly served by Schoolcraft's culinary arts students.



Personal and professional development classes

Schoolcraft College's learning opportunities extend to personal enrichment and professional development through its non-credit Personal and Professional Learning (PPL) programs available to the public.

There's something for everyone at Schoolcraft, with fall PPL classes including health and fitness curricula, hobby and leisure classes like needlepoint and calligraphy, culinary and beverage courses, lifelong learning programs that feature history and film and much more.

The campus even offers Kids on Campus and Teens on Campus summer camp programs for preschool through high school students, which offer everything from art and science to Harry Potter and sports camps for younger kids. Teens on Campus offers a wide variety of arts and culture, career exploration, communication, sciences, academic skills programs and more.

Workforce development

The Schoolcraft College Workforce Development Team partners with employers to build talent and meet evolving skill needs, whether it's in healthcare, business, skilled trades, etc. From trainings and academics to talent acquisition and job placement partnerships, Schoolcraft has resources to help individuals succeed in the workforce.

Arts and culture

Schoolcraft College offers a wide range of arts and culture opportunities to the public, from annual fairs and festivals, along with its outdoor metal sculpture initiative with different walking routes to live music, and theater performances.

"Schoolcraft College is proud to serve as a vibrant community hub for education, enrichment and community connection," said Dr. Glenn Cerny, president of Schoolcraft. "Whether you are looking to start a career, transfer to a four-year institution or join in personal enrichment courses, Schoolcraft College has options for you."

Learn more at www.schoolcraft.edu.



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.



LIVONIA TODAY'S Guide To

Health & Wellness



Cruz Clinic providing a New Hope for Treatment Resistant Depression

There is no need to suffer from treatment-resistant depression or depression with suicidality any longer

CRUZ Clinic has recently expanded our treatment modalities for depression and is now offering Esketamine treatment, also known as Spravato, under the direction of Samuel Wedes, MD.

Spravato is a relatively new antidepressant with a novel mechanism of action that conveniently comes as a self-administered nasal spray. It is FDA-approved for treatment-resistant depression and depression with suicidality – however, it does not take the place of inpatient psychiatric hospitalization.

The effects of Spravato tend to be rapid, sometimes within the first day of treatment. For others, it may take longer to see a response – up to four weeks or more. It has been shown to be safe and effective.

Treatment-resistant depression is quite common. Despite adequate trials of antidepressants and sometimes augmenting additional medications, people with treatment-resistant depression continue to struggle with symptoms including:

- Depressed mood
- Lack of interest or pleasure in activities that normally bring them joy
- Sleep and appetite disturbance
- Fatigue or lack of energy
- Difficulty concentrating or thinking clearly
- A feeling of being abnormally slowed down or sped up
- A sense of worthlessness or irrational guilt
- Thoughts of death or suicide

Spravato must be administered in a healthcare facility such as Cruz Clinic. Patients receiving Spravato have their vitals (including blood pressure and pulse ox) checked before, during, and at the end of each treatment. All patients are monitored in our comfortable Spravato suite, by our medically trained treatment staff for at least two hours following the initial administration of the nasal spray.

Side effects from Spravato typically resolve within the two-hour monitoring window after receiving the nasal spray. Side effects may include:

- Sedation and dissociation, including feeling as if one is outside of themselves (depersonalization) or that one's surroundings are not real (derealization).
- Perceptual changes can occur.

- People may see shapes and colors that are not there.
- Increased blood pressure may occur.
- In rare cases, Spravato can cause respiratory depression, or decreased drive to breathe during the two-hour treatment period.
- Spravato also has the potential for misuse and abuse.
- Like all antidepressants, Spravato may increase the risk of suicidal thoughts and behaviors in young people.
- It is important to note that people receiving Spravato cannot drive or operate heavy machinery until the following day. They are required to have a friend or family member stay with them during treatment.

Spravato is generally administered twice weekly for the first four weeks of treatment. This is considered the induction phase of treatment. After induction, patients will enter the maintenance phase, which generally requires once-weekly treatment for the first month, and then treatment weekly or every other week thereafter.

While some patients are able to stop Spravato treatment and maintain stability of their depression with oral agents and psychotherapy, others will require indefinite treatment with Spravato to maintain relief of their depressive symptoms.

If you or a loved one is suffering from treatment-resistant depression or depression with suicidality and are interested in Spravato treatment, please give Cruz Clinic a call at (734) 462-3210. You will be directed to our intake department, who will help you set up an appointment with one of our psychiatrists to review your history, the risks and benefits of esketamine treatment, and what to expect during treatment.

Once you meet with your prescriber, treatment can begin. There is no need to suffer from treatment-resistant depression or depression with suicidality any longer.



CRUZ CLINIC

Cruz Clinic | Psychiatric and Psychological Care
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(734) 462-3210 | www.cruzclinic.com



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Mindset: Changing the Channel

MINDSET. It's such a tricky concept. There are many schools of thought about what it is and how to build a solid one, especially when it comes to exercise.

So, what really does a healthy mindset look like? Does it mean being motivated and inspired? Determined and focused? Yes? No?

Actually, the answer is all the above, because it's just not that simple. What if you don't have any of those identifying factors?

If you are stuck, here are some ways to build a healthy mindset and put it into practice as it pertains to exercise:

- Don't wait to feel motivated
- Create a plan and schedule it like a doctor appointment
- Lay out everything you need the night before
- Tell yourself you can stop exercising after five minutes if needed (but you probably will keep going)
- View being tired as a sign of your body improving
- Write down your completed effort/time immediately after finishing
- Focus on the number of days you show up
- Look at your log weekly to visualize proof to your brain you can do this
- Celebrate your consistency
- Treat a missed workout as normal and not a failure
- Stop saying "I need to work out" and say "I am thankful I can move daily"

I challenge you to take a look at your thinking. Your attitude. Your history of effort. Your definition of failure. The reasons you quit. Reassess it all. Take a step back and remember your why. Revise your plan, try not to over think it and press play. ☀️

Jane Muszynski is the owner of Spitfire Training, LLC in Livonia.



When Mom Says She's 'Fine'

As a Senior Living and Care Consultant, I spend a great deal of time listening. One phrase I hear repeatedly is, "Mom says she's fine."



Those four words often leave families wondering what to do next. Should they respect her wishes? Should they be concerned? Or is it time to start a conversation?

Here's how to start the conversation before a crisis starts it for you.

When Mom says she's fine, start with curiosity, not conclusions. Try asking:

- How are you feeling about managing everything at home?
- What parts of your day are becoming more difficult?
- If you needed a little help, what would you want help with first?
- What would help you feel safer while staying independent?

Before assuming your loved one needs more help, or avoiding the conversation altogether, start by listening. Open-ended questions can help you understand better how they are feeling and what matters most to them.

When Mom says she's fine, sometimes she is. Sometimes she's simply trying to protect her independence. Sometimes she's protecting her family from worrying. And sometimes she truly doesn't realize how much has changed.

I've learned that most older adults aren't refusing help, they're trying to hold on to the life they've built.

If you're unsure where to begin, you don't have to figure it out alone. Sometimes a simple conversation with someone who understands the options can make all the difference.

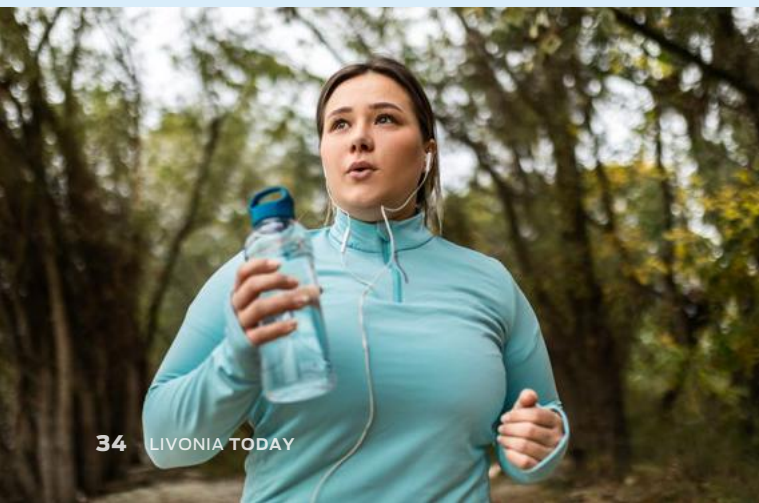


Charlotte Balluff CSA CDP is a Certified Placement and Referral Specialist, former nurse, and owner of a caregiving service for 14 years prior to A Place for You LLC Senior Living and Care Consulting.

Charlie's Pearls by Charlotte

Lessons from 30 Years of Guiding Families
(734) 447-7590

The goal isn't to take away someone's independence. The goal is to protect it for as long as possible.



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Losing a Parent

A Challenging and Difficult Type of Grief

By Diana Brda, MA, LLP

GRIEF is one of the most challenging and difficult experiences that each of us go through in life. No matter the loss – a family member, friend, pet, coworker, neighbor – there is no “right” way to grieve as we each experience grief on our own terms.



One loss that often hits differently than others is the loss of a parent, because of the unique role they play in our lives. Our parents were our first connections and attachment in the world, from our very first day.

Although grief is very personal and there is no correct way to process these emotions, the loss of a parent may produce some patterns that individuals notice. It may feel like a loss of unconditional support. As a result, this may produce feelings of vulnerability, even as a fully independent adult at this time of your life.

Our parents are usually associated with our original story – where you came from, who you are, how you were raised, and how you see yourself and the world around you. You may feel as if a part of you changes when a parent passes on, considering that they are part of your roots, feeling as if you lost an anchor in your life.

It can be difficult for individuals to grieve the loss of a parent because of how others treat you or their expectations for how you are “supposed” to grieve. There is no particular way to grieve as it’s best to follow what feels most comfortable for you in each moment.



With over 15 years of private practice experience, Diana Brda has worked with clients from all walks of life. Her specialties include treating a variety of conditions such as depression, anxiety, PTSD, OCD, ADHD, relationship challenges, trauma, and mood disorders. Diana’s approach to therapy is integrative and eclectic, recognizing that every individual’s journey is unique. For more information, call (734) 744-7252 or visit blackbirdcounselingcenter.com

Contact us for more info on our adolescent grief group that starts in September.

Sajiv Gugneja, MD, PhD
Colleen Janness, PA-C

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Plymouth Dental Associates

Generations of Care, Built on Trust

By Pamela MacIntyre

FOR generations, Plymouth Dental Associates has been a familiar part of the Plymouth community, caring for families throughout Plymouth, Livonia and neighboring areas. Over the years, the practice has earned a reputation for building lasting relationships and providing care that keeps patients coming back decade after decade.

Today, the practice is led by co-owners Dr. Steven J. Olds and Dr. Edward A. Van Esley, alongside associate dentists Dr. Margaret M. Stanhouse and Dr. Megan A. Width. Together, they continue a tradition of personalized care while embracing advancements that enhance the patient experience.

That commitment is reflected in the loyalty of the practice's patients. Many families have trusted Plymouth Dental Associates for multiple generations, with grandparents, parents and children all receiving care from the same office. Some former residents even continue returning to the practice long after moving away.

For Dr. Olds and Dr. Van Esley, dentistry is about more than procedures. Both enjoy helping patients achieve their oral health goals while building relationships that often last for years. Whether restoring a damaged tooth, improving a smile or helping a patient feel more confident, they find fulfillment in making a positive impact on people's lives.

Those relationships are one of the reasons many patients remain with the practice for decades. The team takes pride in creating an environment where patients feel known and valued.

The practice recently completed a renovation of its office, creating a more modern, open and inviting environment for patients while preserving the welcoming atmosphere they have come to expect. The updates were designed to enhance comfort while supporting the needs of a growing practice that continues to serve families across the region.

At the same time, Plymouth Dental Associates continues to invest in technology that improves both efficiency and patient care. Digital scanning has replaced many traditional impressions, providing a more comfortable experience for



periodontist who work closely with the dental team, allowing treatment plans to be coordinated under one roof. This collaborative approach helps streamline care while offering added convenience for patients.

Plymouth Dental Associates provides evening and weekend appointment options designed to accommodate busy schedules. The practice participates with multiple insurance plans, accepts CareCredit and offers an in-office membership plan for patients without traditional dental coverage.

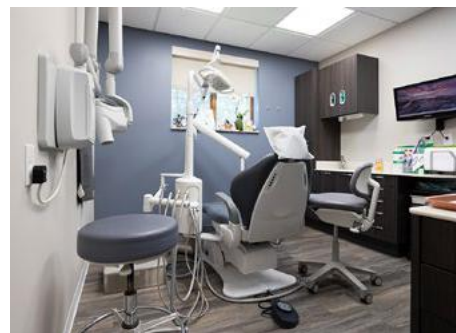
While technology continues to evolve, the dentists maintain a conservative approach to treatment recommendations. Their focus remains on providing honest guidance and helping patients make informed decisions about their care.

Beyond the office, Plymouth Dental Associates remains actively involved in the community through school partnerships, sponsorships, charitable giving and support for local organizations and events. The team believes that being a part of the community means giving back to the people and organizations that help make Plymouth a vibrant place to live.

As the practice looks ahead, its mission remains rooted in the values that have guided it for generations: quality care, trusted relationships and a commitment to serving the community.

For many local families, Plymouth Dental Associates is more than a dental office. It is a place where familiar faces, trusted care and long-standing relationships continue to bring generations together.

Plymouth Dental Associates is located at 42801 Schoolcraft. Visit www.plymouthdental.com or call (734) 420-2326 for more information.



patients. An in-house milling unit allows many crowns to be designed and completed in a single visit, reducing the need for multiple appointments.

Comprehensive care is another hallmark of the practice. Patients have access to an oral surgeon and



When Aging Gets Complicated... Who is Coordinating Everything?

Families often don't realize they're facing Coordination Risk until they're already overwhelmed.

- Are the "Can you help me?" phone calls becoming more frequent?
- Is it getting harder to keep medications, appointments, and doctors organized?
- If something happens tomorrow, would everyone know who is coordinating care?

If even one of these sounds familiar, your family may already be experiencing Coordination Risk—even if everything appears to be under control.

DISCOVER THE FIVE HIDDEN FACTORS THAT OFTEN DETERMINE WHETHER SOMEONE CAN SAFELY REMAIN AT HOME.



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Everyone Deserves to be Heard

Therapy could start you on your journey toward healing

HELLO there! My name is Massiel Proctor (pronounced ma-see-l). I am a social worker and clinical therapist serving the Livonia community. For the past six years, I've had the privilege of supporting individuals from all walks of life on their journey toward healing and self-discovery.

If you are an individual having difficulty processing grief and loss, struggling with daily functioning, emotional regulation, interpersonal conflict, and trouble managing societal expectations, then therapy would be a good start.

My therapeutic approach is client-focused, transparent and empowering, grounded in the belief that everyone deserves a safe and peaceful space to be heard without judgment. I strive to create that environment for each person I work with—one that encourages growth, self-compassion and resilience.

Therapy is not meant to be a quick fix to avoiding pain, finding happiness or forgetting personal struggles. Therapy serves as a mirror to help you improve self-reflection and enjoy emotional experiences. My main focus is to provide a nonjudgmental space where clients can think out loud and figure it out.

As part of Livonia's "Families First" community, I am passionate about promoting mental wellness and helping individuals strengthen the emotional foundations that keep families and communities thriving.

For more information, you can reach me by email at: proctormassiel@gmail.com or by phone at (313) 251-1753.



<https://www.psychologytoday.com/profile/1461321>



At Your Clarenceville Schools...



Congratulations CLASS OF 2026!

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Noah Alvin
Leyla-Yasmin Ammary
Andrea Ayala
Santiesteban
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Samantha Bailey
Julien Bohanen
Keira Boyer
Jackson Buell
Krystal Burns
Lilyana Cavazos
Kournie Chick
Chase Claiborne
Naudiya Collins
Landon Cooper
Nasir Crutchfield
Aleja Cunningham

A'nyiah Daniels
Alina Darby
Abbygail Davey
Ilaya Davis
Kellan Dennard
Delilah Dewar
Kayden Dickey-Vinton
Yumahawa Diop
Octtayvea Domanski
Zachary Dudas
Thomas Dufour
Norvell Dunwoody
Rayshard Epperson, Jr
SanTino Epperson, Jr
Xander Farnsworth
Terrell Fletcher
Angel Foster
Jada Foster
Madisyn Franklin
Jakobe Frierson

Darnell Galloway
Ashar Garrett
Zareyah Gibbons
Brianna Gibson
Coltin Girardin
Micayla Gordon
Jeffery Greenwald, Jr
Charles Haapala
Zacur Harrell
Christine Harrington
Alan Hernandez-Ponce
Dorian Howze
Alijah Hudgens
Walter Huggins III
Kenneth Ingram
Denzell Jackson, Jr
Jessica Jeffries-Leflore
Aiden Kasholo
Jayden Kennedy
Raymond King, Jr
Deryk Klein II
Jada Koyton
Madison Leapheart
Gabriel Lelli
E'miah Lester
Devin Logan
Henry Londo
Glen Luce
Paxton Lumley
Iris Marietti
Elvis Marreros Salazar
Elijah Mason IV

Jasmine McKinney
Trent Melville
Benjamin Morton
Mwalimu Munkomba
Rayion Myatt
Ryan Nettles
Dominic Nguyen
Joseph Nguyen
Teuta Nikaj
Olivia Ntagazwa
Trenton Obamwonyi
Jacob Oliverio
Chioma Onwudiachi
Ashlynn Owens
Alexis Parmenter
Evan Perez
Kaine Perry
Trenton Platt
Raegan Priebe
Spencer Reid
Joshua Rogers
Ameer Ross
Zephaniah Santiago-Ortiz
Gage Saunders
Lilly Schoening
D'Angelo Shanks
Jacob Shaw
Calvin Smith
Laila Smith
Londyn Smith
Jaiden Snell



Corey Stalnaker
Gabryella Stewart
Lucy Swindell
Drake Tansey
Valeria Tapia-Jimenez
Brayden Telck
Kayla Telin
James Thomasma
Sa'Mia Wade
Madison Wallace
Sehar Waseem
Kayla Weston
Michael Wheeler III
Alexa White
Samuel Wiacek
Kayden Williams
Skyler Williams
Jax Williamson
Thomas Yakes
Kylie Young



Other Graduation Shout-outs

ACE: The ACE program is a three-year early college program for students in participating Oakland County high schools.

- Students begin their three-year program in 11th grade.
- During 11th and 12th grades, students share time between high school and Lawrence Technological University (LTU) or Oakland Community College (OCC) classes.
- Students enjoy an added 13th year as a full-time student at LTU or OCC, completing their high school diploma and earning an associate degree.
- Students learn college success skills and receive personalized support from our early college success coordinator.

Clarenceville had 10 graduates – the second-highest number of graduates in Oakland County!

- | | | |
|--------------------|------------------|----------------|
| • Stephen Crankson | • Julie Ntagazwa | • Nakia Reed |
| • Olivia Cruz | • Zoey Patten | • Erica Schara |
| • Gisele Gilbert | • Hunter Pearson | |
| • Conner Maguire | • Amyra Perkins | |



Fifth Grade



Kindergarten



Clarenceville continued on page 34



At Your Clarenceville Schools...

continued from page 33

Other End of the Year Fun



Eighth graders had an amazing trip to Washington D.C. It was amazing learning about U.S. history on the cusp of celebrating America's 250th!

All AP students took a trip to the zoo to celebrate a job well done this year with their AP courses and their learning! It paid off as Clarenceville had the largest number of students who received 5s on their AP exams. Here are two of our AP students that received a 5.



The Botsford Safety Squad, Service Squad and Student Council went on a field trip to Kensington Metropark. Mrs. Melody wrote a grant to cover all costs. The students learned about how we can impact the environment in a positive way to help protect the wetlands.

Spring Signing Day



- Deryk Klein II - wrestling - Albion
- Raegan Priebe - bowling - Schoolcraft
- Jacob Oliverio - football - Olivet



A great opportunity was had by Clarenceville's National Honor Society (NHS) through The Greening of Detroit nonprofit. NHS planted about eight native Michigan tree species in Detroit at Alfonso Wells Park. This organization focuses on enhancing the quality of life for locals and educates youth on the natural environment. Clarenceville had 11 juniors and seniors attend!!



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Crowd Pleasing Dishes to Pass at this Summer's Cookouts

By Kelsi Klein

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

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

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

Appetizers

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



Zippy Corn Dip: This simple dip recipe will be gone before you know it. Mix 1 can of drained corn with peppers, 1 cup of sour cream, 1 cup of mayonnaise, 8 ounces of shredded Mexican-style cheese, a 4-ounce can of diced green chiles, a fresh diced jalapeño and 2 diced green onions

together in a bowl. Chill in the fridge for a few hours or overnight and serve with your favorite tortilla chips.

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



Veggie Pizza: In a bowl, combine 4 ounces of cream cheese, a 1/2 cup of sour cream and 1 tablespoon each of

fresh chives and dill, chopped. Chill for 15 minutes in the fridge. Bake an 8-ounce can of refrigerated crescent dough sheets according to package directions and let cool. Spread chilled cream cheese mixture on cooled dough and top with fresh chopped vegetables like broccoli, peppers, carrots, etc. Slice into individual pieces for serving.



Desserts

Cornbread Muffins:

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



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



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





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Investing in Our Community Today and Tomorrow

THIS spring, the Livonia-Westland Chamber of Commerce had the opportunity to celebrate two of our favorite things – giving back to our community and investing in its future.



Chamber Awards Scholarships to Local Students

The Livonia-Westland Chamber proudly awarded 18 scholarships to graduating high school seniors who have demonstrated academic achievement, leadership, community involvement, and a commitment to their future goals. Each recipient received a scholarship to help support their post-secondary education, whether pursuing a degree at a college or university or training in the skilled trades.

The Livonia-Westland Chamber's annual scholarship program is made possible through the generosity of Chamber members and proceeds from Chamber programs and events. By supporting these students, the Livonia-Westland business community continues to invest in the future of our local workforce and the next generation of leaders.

Congratulations to all our scholarship recipients! We wish each student continued success as they begin this exciting new chapter.



First Community Impact Day Brings Businesses Together to Give Back

On May 13, the Livonia-Westland Chamber hosted its first Community Impact Day, bringing together local



businesses and volunteers to make a difference throughout our community.

Livonia-Westland Chamber members spent the day serving at Seedlings Braille Books for Children and beautifying parks in both Livonia and Westland. It was a day filled with teamwork, service and a shared commitment to making our communities even better places to live and work.

Community Impact Day would not have been possible without the generous support of our sponsors: Masco Corporation, Trinity Health, Ford Motor Company, Schoolcraft College, NYX LLC, Bill Brown Ford, The DeAngelo Team-Remerica United Realty, OHM Advisors, AlphaUSA, Madonna University, and Community Choice Credit Union.

Whether we're helping local students take the next step in their education or volunteering alongside our members, the Livonia-Westland Chamber is proud to support the people and organizations that make our communities stronger.



Water Wonderland

Exploring Southeast Michigan's lakes, rivers and beaches By Kelsi Klein

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

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

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

Kensington Metropark

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

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

William C. Sterling State Park

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

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



Island Lake Recreation Area

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

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



Van Buren Park Beach

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

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



Pontiac Lake Recreation Area

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

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

Belle Isle Beach

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

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



Huron River Water Trail

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



AROUND Livonia

August – October



AUGUST

August 22

First Light Roasters Grand Opening Celebration

9 a.m.-2 p.m.

37055 Industrial Road

Celebrate the opening of Livonia's new café and roastery with fresh coffee, tastings of their Detroit Halite line and a chance to meet the team. All are welcome. Learn more at www.firstlightrroasters.com.



SEPTEMBER

September 8

Livonia Symphony Orchestra 62nd Season Kickoff

7 p.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

34567 Seven Mile Road

Enjoy a night of music as the symphony orchestra kicks off its 62nd season. Learn more at www.livoniacivicchorus.org.

September 13

Fall Flea Market

10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Greenmead Historical Park

20501 Newburgh Road

Bring your wagon or cart and shop from 160 vendors offering a wide variety of items for sale. \$3 entry for ages 12+. All transactions are cash based; no pets allowed. For more details visit Livonia.gov/1996.

September 15

National Voter Registration Day

10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Bennett Civic Center Library

32777 Five Mile Road

The library and the Livonia City Clerk have partnered in an all-day celebration of National Voter Registration Day! Need to register to vote or have questions about voting in Livonia? Staff from the Clerk's office will be onsite to provide assistance and information. Looking for fun? We'll have activities for all ages, all day! Check the library's online calendar for a list of times and activities.

September 20

Thunderbird Car Show

10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Wilson Barn

29350 W. Chicago Road

Enjoy a day of cars and fun for the whole family. Call (734) 427-4311 for more information.

OCTOBER

October 2-4

Friends of the Library Used Book Sale

Friday and Saturday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.,

Sunday: 1-5 p.m.

Bennett Civic Center Library

32777 Five Mile Road

Pick up a new-to-you book or two while the library's book sale is open to the public. For more information, visit www.livoniapubliclibrary.org.

October 3-25

Pumpkin Fest at the Wilson Barn

11 a.m.-6 p.m.

29350 W. Chicago Road

Pick up some reasonably priced pumpkins and enjoy vendors, food trucks, tours, cider and doughnuts, hayrides, a petting zoo, pony rides, bounce house and more each Saturday and Sunday. For more information, visit www.wilsonbarn.org in October.

October 10-25

Haunted Barn

12-6 p.m.

29350 W. Chicago Road

All ages are welcome at the barn every Saturday and Sunday. Take a thrilling journey through the historical horse stalls that are full of friendly and scary monsters depending on age group. \$1/person. For more information, visit www.wilsonbarn.org.

October 11

Barbershop Harmony with HarmonyTown Chorus

2-3 p.m.

Bennett Civic Center Library

32777 Five Mile Road

Experience the joy of barbershop harmony with the HarmonyTown Chorus! Barbershop harmony is a style of unaccompanied vocal music with roots in African American traditions of the late 1800s. For more information, visit www.livoniapubliclibrary.org.

October 11

Spooky Swim

4:30-6:30 p.m.

Kirksey Recreation Center

15100 Hubbard Street

Enjoy a spooktacular event in the pool with crafts, games and a floating pumpkin patch. Pre-registration is required. \$10/pool members, \$13/residents and \$2/adults. Learn more at www.livoniaparks.org.

October 31

Healthy Livonia's Halloween Turkey Trot

8:30 a.m.

Bicentennial Park

36000 W. Seven Mile Road

Walk or run for a good cause. Proceeds will be donated to the Livonia Goodfellow's organization. Costumes are encouraged and participants who register before October 5 are guaranteed a t-shirt. \$20/person. Register at www.livoniaparks.org.

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

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Silvia Counts
Founder, Wellness Rising

For more than twenty years, my career was built alongside physicians and hospitals in the pharmaceutical and biotech industry.

That same passion for science eventually led me to a new frontier when I began asking a different question.

Instead of asking...

How do we treat disease?

I began asking...

How do we support health before disease develops?

That question changed the direction of my career.

Today, I help individuals and healthcare practitioners discover science-backed technologies that support the body's natural ability to repair, regenerate, and thrive - bridging the worlds of modern medicine and proactive wellness.

For personal wellness inquiries or professional practice integration,
email wellnesscounts42@gmail.com OR visit www.WellnessRising.life

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