

Lyon

T O D A Y

Quarterly Magazine serving South Lyon and Lyon Township

Inside

**Pumpkinfest and
South Lyon LIVE!**

New Look DDA

Vial of Life

2026 - Third Quarter





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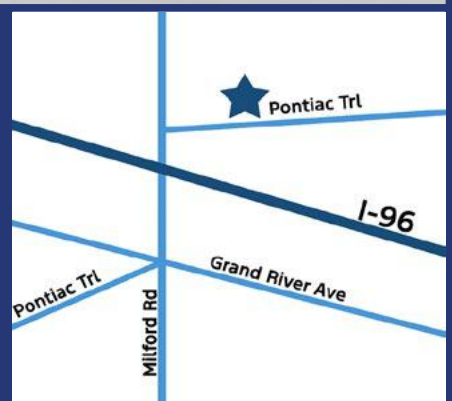
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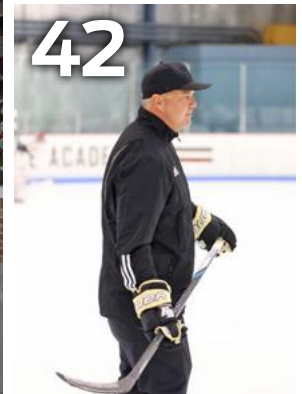
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To advertise in the next issue call Mark Fisher at (313) 218-7117 or email mfisher@communitypublishing.com

From the MAYOR

Autumn in South Lyon

SUMMER is coming to an end and the kids are heading back to school. Soon the leaves will be turning red and gold, meaning it's time for South Lyon's autumn traditions.

Shortly after Labor Day, South Lyon's Depot Day will take place in the Historic Village. This long-time tradition will feature a day of entertainment and fun for the entire family. There will be music, games, food and more as South Lyon commemorates our nation's 250th Anniversary! Make plans to bring the entire family and join in the fun on Saturday, September 12.

Pumpkinfest returns on September 25-27. This year the event will take place at Bartlett Elementary School due to the Pontiac Trail project. As always, it will feature a wide variety of vendors, games, bounce houses, contests and entertainment. The Pumpkinfest parade will not take place because of the road project. Instead, there will be a parade showcase where participants will display their floats for judging and awards.

South Lyon Live! takes the stage in the evening during the Pumpkinfest weekend, featuring a number of bands providing music for folks to enjoy, along with a wide variety of beverages. Make plans to attend and experience some great entertainment right here in South Lyon!

We are now more than halfway through the Pontiac Trail Restoration Project. As those who have driven through the area can attest, it has been a major undertaking and a significant amount of work has taken place. It has been challenging, but the South Lyon community residents have met the challenge. They have adjusted to the detours and the inconvenience, and are beginning to envision how the improved area will look when the project is completed.

I encourage everyone to continue to be patient as they deal with the ongoing construction. It will be worth it!

Steve Kennedy
Mayor, City of South Lyon



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Back-to-School

WITH SSLDL, AND THE ADULT AREA GETS AN UPDATE!

Educational Support for Students and Parents

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dyslexia-friendly books that use special fonts and layouts, and Quick Reads for older readers who

might struggle with lengthy texts.

High school students will appreciate our graphing calculator, SAT and ACT practice books and tests, study rooms, and exam cram weeks.

All ages will benefit from our Academic Databases (accessible through our site) that are packed with facts, interactive lessons and helpers of all kinds.

NEWS

Reciprocity with Lyon Township

We are thrilled to announce that Lyon Township cardholders of all ages may now use their cards to check out at SSLDL!

Adult Renovation

From August 10 to mid-October, the adult area will be getting a facelift. This will bring a fresh, new look with wonderful workspaces, more

comfortable seating and an overall better browsing experience.

We are staying open during construction but certain areas will be closed off as needed. As always, we'll do our best to ensure that you continue to have a wonderful library experience every time you visit. Check our website or call for up-to-date information on specific areas affected.



FUN STUFF

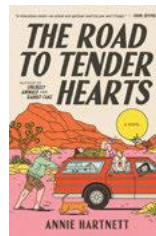
● Howl-O-Ween

Thursday, October 8, 6-7 p.m.
One of our most popular parties of the year! Get ready for an evening of family fun packed with games, crafts, dancing, and trick-or-treating on our spookified StoryWalk®. Fun for all ages! Registration is required. This event has been generously sponsored by Key Capture Energy.



● Join in This Year's Community Reads

Don't miss out on this year's community read! Members of the Salem-South Lyon District library, as well as six other area libraries, will be reading national bestseller, "The Road to Tender Hearts", by Annie Hartnett. This darkly comic, warm-hearted novel follows an old man on a cross-country mission to reunite with his high school crush – bringing together his adult daughter, two orphaned kids and a cat who can predict death.



Check out our website: www.ssdll.info for fun, related events!

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Check www.ssdll.info/events or scan the QR code to the right for details on all upcoming programs.



SEPTEMBER

- Storytime Meet & Greet with Tiny Treasures Therapy Horses
- Small Business Administration 101
- Medicare 101
- Tales of True Crime with Rod Sadler



OCTOBER

- Howl-O-Ween – generously sponsored by Key Capture Energy!
- Electronic Recycling
- Palm Reading with Kristy Robinett
- Haunted Michigan with Rev. Gerald S. Hunter



NOVEMBER

- The Crazy Craig Juggling Variety Show
- Resume Writing Workshop
- Road Trip! Genealogy Travel with Jessica Trotter
- Michigan War Dog Memorial
- Gift-Wrapping Drop-Ins

CLOSURES

The library will be closed on the following dates:

- September 5-10
- November 26 & 27
- December 24-26
- December 31 & January 1, 2027

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Here at Your Lyon Township Public Library...

September is Library Card Sign-Up Month

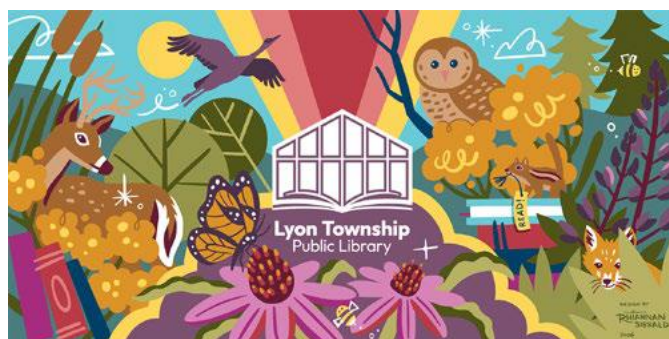
September is Library Card Sign-Up Month, and we have brand new cards! This library card artwork was designed by Michigan artist Rhiannan Sibbald, and was used for our community mural painting event back in August! The artwork features native Michigan plants and animals, with the library new logo at the center. Make sure to come by this month for this exclusive card, which we will have a

limited number of!

Getting a library card is not only free, it's easy! We invite you to drop in to our new building at 26076 S. Milford Road to sign up for a card. If you are unable to come in person, you can fill out the online form from our website.

Where to register

online: Go to our website www.ltpl.org. Click "Books and More", then "Get a Card". From there you will fill out an application online.



November Election Information – Lyon Township Public Library Operating Millage

The Lyon Township Public Library will be on the ballot for the November 3, 2026, election for a replacement operating millage.

The current operating millage was approved in 2017 for 0.89 for a 10-year period, and it is set to expire in 2027. Due to the Headlee Amendment, the operating mileage has been reduced to 0.8618. In 2022, Lyon Township voters approved a millage for a construction bond for the new library, which opened in June of 2026. That millage is separate from the operating millage.

The Lyon Township Public Library Board of Trustees is requesting a

replacement operating millage of 1.1 mills for 10 years to support the costs of operating the new facility, which is three times the size of the previous library and serves a rapidly growing community. Having transitioned from renting the building from the township to owning and maintaining our own building, the library is now responsible for all operating and maintenance expenses.

In the month of June alone we circulated over 21,000 materials and had over 700 library card sign-ups! It was a busy, fun-filled opening month, and we continued to be busy all summer.

Since opening, we have added over 800 items to our collections, including 11 Discovery Kits for kids, and six new Launchpads for



Lyon Township
Public Library



adults. We have been able to offer new services such as a drive-up book drop and pick-up window, study and meeting room booking and another self-checkout station.

This operating increase will allow the library to continue to offer the events, services and collections that the community has come to expect, all while housed in our beautiful new facility.

Pick-Up Window

We are excited to start offering a new drive-up window service at the library! Use our drive-up window to pick up your holds or other items from the LTPL collection. To use this service, call the library at (248) 437-8800 at least one hour ahead of your desired pick-up time. We will need your name and/or library card number when you call.

When you arrive, please ring the doorbell on the window to alert a staff member. Please note that

items cannot be requested at the window itself – please be sure to request all items when you call!



Red Cross Blood Drive

LTPL is once again partnering with the American Red Cross to host blood drives throughout the fall. Donors of all blood types are needed!

- **Tuesday, September 8, 11 a.m. – 4:45 p.m.**
- **Tuesday, October 27, 10 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.**
- **Tuesday, November 24, 10 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

You may schedule an appointment online at [https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-](https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=LTPL)

results?zipSponsor=LTPL, or call the Red Cross at 1-800-733-2767.

UPCOMING EVENTS

A look at some of the events coming up this fall:

SEPTEMBER

- **Puzzle Swap**, Saturday, September 12, 10:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
- **Puzzle Race**, Saturday, September 12, 1:00-4:00 p.m.
- **Gardening for Pollinators**, Monday, September 14, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
- **Beginning Genealogy**, Tuesday, September 15, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- **Resume Building Workshop**, Thursday, September 17, 6:30-8:00 p.m.
- **Digging Up History**, Wednesday, September 23, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
- **Oakland County Modern: Architectural Tour**, Thursday, September 24, 7:00-8:00 p.m.
- **1969: Killers, Freaks & Radicals Screening and Q&A**, Wednesday, September 30, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

OCTOBER

- **Berlin: History and Highlights of a Great City**, Thursday, October 1, 6:00-7:30 p.m.
- **College and Career Planning Workshop**, Tuesday, October 6, 6:30-8:00 p.m. on Zoom
- **Cooking Fall Produce: Pumpkins and Squash**, Wednesday, October 7, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
- **Coin Appraisal Night**, Tuesday, October 13, 5:00-8:30 p.m.
- **Narcis Training**, Wednesday, October 14, 6:30-7:00 p.m.
- **Introduction to Tarot**, Saturday, October 17, 2:00-3:00 p.m.
- **Polish Research in Michigan**, Tuesday, October 20, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

NOVEMBER

- **Mindfulness Workshop**, Wednesday, November 4, 6:00-7:00 p.m.
- **Vegan Holiday Cooking Class**, Thursday, November 5, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
- **Family Portraits**, Saturday, November 7, 2:00-4:00 p.m.
- **The Magic of Hummingbirds**, Monday, November 16, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- **Yoga at the Library**, Wednesday, November 18, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Keep an eye on our website at <https://www.ltpl.org/events/month> and our social media pages for more information on all our upcoming summer reading events.

CLOSURES

The library will be closed on the following dates:

- Saturday, September 5 – Monday, September 7 for Labor Day weekend
- Wednesday, November 11 for Veterans Day
- Thursday, November 26 and Friday, November 27 for Thanksgiving



Help Us Celebrate 45TH ANNUAL DEPOT DAY AND 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR COUNTRY!

Saturday, September 12
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

STARTED in 1980 and sponsored by the South Lyon Area Historical Society, Depot Day has been a continuous free family event, evolving over the last 45 years.

There will be plenty of activities for the whole family! Kids will have an opportunity to become citizens of "1776" and will meet Paul Revere, Ben Franklin, and others.

Along with various craft projects, the Bubble Man, Peddle Pullers, Toy Maker, Train club, Thomas the Train, and story time will all be back again, along with other events.

Adults will also enjoy the displays in the chapel, along with music on the gazebo, vendors and other activities. Food this year will be served by the VFW auxiliary group.

Please join us as we come together to celebrate these two milestones!



If you or anyone you know would like to help out or be a part of this event, please call (248) 437-9929 or (248) 437-9142.

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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4TH

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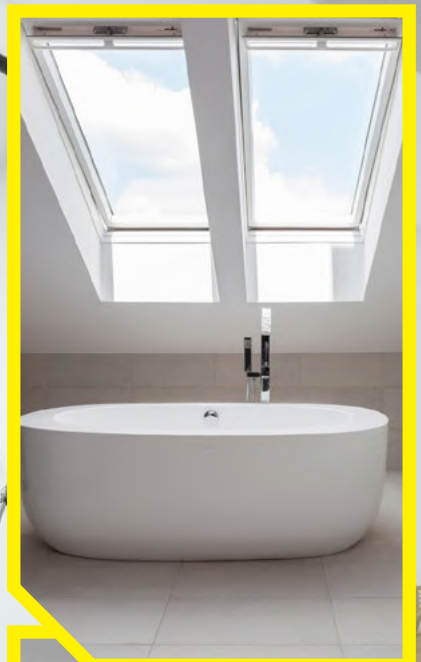
Donate \$5 to sign the car with a message of hope or remembrance for those affected by breast cancer. All signers are entered to win raffle prizes!



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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





Pumpkinfest of the South Lyon Area and South Lyon LIVE!

More than a festival – A community tradition that gives back

This Year Located at: Bartlett Elementary School, 350 School Street, South Lyon, MI 48178

FOR more than four decades, Pumpkinfest of the South Lyon Area has been one of Southeast Michigan's most anticipated fall traditions. What began as a small community festival designed to showcase local nonprofit organizations, artisans and young entrepreneurs has grown into a regional destination event that celebrates the very best of our hometown spirit.

At its heart, Pumpkinfest has always been about bringing people together and giving back to the community. It's where neighbors reconnect, families create lasting memories, local businesses grow, and charitable organizations receive the support they need to continue serving our community. Every booth visited, every purchase made and every event enjoyed helps strengthen the organizations that make South Lyon such a special place to live.

As our community has grown, so has Pumpkinfest. The festival has evolved to offer something for every generation – from family entertainment, artisan marketplaces and children's activities to food vendors, community exhibits and statewide recognized live entertainment.



In 2014, the festival expanded with the introduction of a dedicated concert venue, beer garden and evening entertainment. Following the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, Pumpkinfest returned in 2021 with renewed purpose, fresh ideas and an ambitious vision for the future. That vision gave birth to South Lyon LIVE!, an organization dedicated to presenting benefit concerts that enrich our community while supporting local charities.

Today, two independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations work side by side toward a common mission:

- Pumpkinfest of the South Lyon Area is dedicated to strengthening our community through nonprofit partnerships, small business development, volunteerism, and family-friendly experiences.
- South Lyon LIVE! focuses on presenting outstanding live entertainment while raising funds for charitable organizations that make a meaningful difference throughout Southeast Michigan.

Together, these organizations have earned the trust and support of respected corporate partners including Kowalski Sausage Company, Seghi Renovations, Hines Park Ford, Magna, Vibe Credit Union, Kroger, Busch's Fresh Food Market, and many more. Their investment has helped transform Pumpkinfest into a destination festival that now attracts visitors, vendors, artisans, musicians, and families from across the region.

That growth has allowed the festival's impact to reach well beyond South Lyon.



Pumpkinfest continued on page 14

None of this would be possible without the generosity of our sponsors. As recognized 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, Pumpkinfest of the South Lyon Area and South Lyon LIVE! rely on community-minded businesses that believe in giving





★ FRIDAY ★

5:00pm to 11:00pm

- Evening Concerts after 5:00PM have a cover charge that is donated to South Lyon Area Youth Assistance. 21 and older, IDs required. No backpacks or hang bags.
- Benefit Concerts begin Friday at 5:00PM.
- Don't wait in line! See our website for details and new package offers!
- Donations for the toiletry closet at South Lyon Area Youth Assistance will be accepted at the gate.

★ SATURDAY ★

10:00am to 7:00pm

- Pumpkinfest Float Showcase – (Pre-Entry Required) See website.
- Pumpkinfest 5K Run at Island Lake.
- Flippin' Out – Extreme Trampoline Show.
- Cornhole Classic Competition (At South Lyon LIVE!) 10:30AM.
- Detroit Circus Bubble Show (Family Stage) 2:30PM.
- Lagerhaus5 (Family Stage) 3:30PM.
- Bounce Houses, Games.
- Carousel Acres Petting Farm.
- Free Entry to South Lyon LIVE! from 10:00AM - 4:30PM.

★ SUNDAY ★

10:00am to 5:00pm

- Kowalski Hot Dog Eating Contest (South Lyon LIVE!) 10:30AM.
- BINGO! (South Lyon LIVE!) Noon.
- Flippin' Out – Extreme Trampoline Show.
- Pie Eating Contest.
- Pie Baking Contest.
- Chili Cook Off.
- Line Dancing.
- Johnny Little Band (Family Stage) 3:30PM.
- Free Entry to South Lyon LIVE! all day.



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Pumpkinfest continued from page 14

back while building meaningful connections with thousands of potential customers.

Festival sponsorship provides a highly visible, cost-effective marketing opportunity that reaches young families, active adults and visitors from across Southeast Michigan. More importantly, it demonstrates your company's commitment to strengthening the communities where your customers live and work.

Through live experiences, face-to-face engagement and extensive promotional campaigns, Pumpkinfest significantly amplifies the visibility of our sponsors while creating opportunities to build brand loyalty, generate new customers and maximize marketing investment.

Join the Movement

Pumpkinfest has never been just another festival. It's a celebration with a purpose. It brings a celebration of community, generosity, local business support, volunteerism, music, family, and hometown pride to kick off the fall season. Whether you attend as a visitor, volunteer, vendor, nonprofit organization, sponsor, or performer, you become part of a tradition and legacy that has been giving back to the community for more than 40 years.

We invite you to join us this September. Support the nonprofits. Shop local. Enjoy the music. Make memories with your family. Together, we can ensure that Pumpkinfest and South Lyon LIVE! continue to grow, inspire and serve our community for generations to come.



Other Points of interest:

- Float Show Case Contest (in place of the 2026 parade, due to construction)
- Flippin Out Extreme Olympic Trampoline Show
- Live music
- Detroit Circus Bubble show
- Pumpkin carvers
- Pie Eating Contests, Pie Baking Contests
- Chili Cook Off, Corn Hole tournaments, Bingo and so much more!

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Northville Lumber Company: Then. Now. Next.

By Pamela MacIntyre

FOR nearly two centuries, Northville Lumber has watched Southeast Michigan grow from a small settlement into thriving communities. Through changing technologies, generations of homeowners and an ever-evolving building industry, some things have remained constant: knowledgeable service, quality products and treating customers like neighbors.

For owner Stewart Oldford Jr., the company's story can be summed up in three words: **Then. Now. Next.**

Then

Northville Lumber's story began in 1827 as Northville Mills along the Middle Branch of the River Rouge, near what is now Mill Race Village. The Yerkes family took over the business in 1890, helping shape the company through generations of growth and change.

Oldford believes Northville Lumber was fortunate to establish itself in one of Southeast Michigan's strongest markets.

"We were lucky enough to be in one of the greatest areas," he said. "People want to live here."

Serving customers throughout Northville and the surrounding communities, the company has grown alongside neighborhoods where homeowners continue to build, remodel and invest in their homes. As the region has expanded, Northville Lumber has continued to evolve with it.

Now

Today, Northville Lumber is a specialty lumberyard serving professional builders, remodelers, homeowners and do-it-yourselfers with quality lumber, specialty building products and expert guidance.

As customer preferences have evolved, so has Northville Lumber's product selection.

"The biggest thing people ask for today is durable, low-maintenance products," Oldford said.



For more than 30 years, the company has specialized in innovative composite and wood-alternative products that offer long-lasting performance while reducing maintenance for homeowners.



While products continue to change, relationships remain one of Northville Lumber's greatest strengths. The company is known for experienced employees and remarkably low turnover, allowing customers to work with familiar faces year after year. Many customers have been doing business with Northville Lumber for decades, and over time, many have become friends.

That commitment to customer service is reflected in the company's guiding principle, **P.L.E.A.S.E. — Provide a Legendary Experience Always Surpassing Expectations.**

Next

Northville Lumber's next chapter began in 2025, with the move from its longtime two-acre Baseline Road location to a new 25-acre headquarters at the corner of Five Mile and Napier roads.

The expanded property provides a larger lumber yard, increased warehouse capacity, a spacious customer service desk and easier access for trucks and trailers. It also allows Northville Lumber to stock a wider selection of products while providing faster, more efficient service.

"The new location lets us better serve our customers," Oldford said.

Northville Lumber also continues investing in education through contractor showcases, vendor events and live product demonstrations, giving builders and homeowners opportunities to learn about new materials, innovative products and efficient installation techniques.

As Northville Lumber approaches its 200th anniversary, the company remains focused on serving the communities that have supported it for generations. With experienced employees, trusted products, lasting customer relationships and a new facility built for the future, Northville Lumber continues to grow alongside the people and communities it proudly serves.

Northville Lumber is located at 51300 Five Mile Road. For more information call (248) 349-0220 or visit northvillelumber.com.





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The Concept of Serving

Kathy Swan built a lifelong commitment to community through Girl Scouts By Kelsi Klein

FOR more than 50 years, Kathy Swan has been involved in Girl Scouts.

What began when she joined at just 7 years old has grown into a lifelong commitment she's shared with her children, grandchildren and the South Lyon area community.

"I was a Girl Scout and when I got married and had daughters, I became their leaders and took them all the way through scouting," Swan said.

With her guidance, both of her daughters received the Gold Award, the highest honor in Girl Scouting, comparable to the Eagle Scout rank in Boy Scouts.

Later, when she eventually had granddaughters old enough to join Girl Scouts, Swan's daughter became a Girl Scout leader and Swan helped out with the troop. She currently has three troops.

"One of the troops is with one granddaughter, the other is with another granddaughter and the third is just because I can't say no," laughed Swan.

On top of that, Swan also serves as the service unit manager for the South Lyon area, overseeing all Girl Scout troops within the South Lyon Community School District.

One thing she prides herself on with the Girl Scouts is remembering the traditions but also keeping up with the times.

"I always talk about where we came from, when



Juliette Gordon Low started Girl Scouts around 113 years ago, but also how we have to keep up with the new things girls want to learn about like STEM and sports," Swan said.

Girl Scouts has six grade levels split



across kindergarten through 12th grade: Daisies, Brownies, Juniors, Cadettes, Seniors and Ambassadors.

According to Swan, Brownies and Juniors, which include girls from second through fifth grade, are the most populated groups.

"Sadly, sixth grade is when we lose some girls because they're going off to middle school," Swan said, noting that changing interests, busy schedules and the pressures of adolescence contribute most to departures from scouting.

With Swan as a mentor to not only the Scouts, but also the leaders, it is her mission to make local Girl Scout troops a place where girls feel like they belong. The ability to adapt while preserving the traditions of Girl Scouting is central to her approach.

Whether the girls decide to stay with the Girl Scouts until they become Ambassadors or they are only a Scout for a year or two, Swan's goal is to ensure they take the concept of serving their community with them when they go.

As a testament to this mission, one of the troops that are leaving started a food closet outside of the South Lyon library.

"It's an outgoing act for them but an ongoing project for the community," Swan said.

The food closet is open to anybody who needs food at any given time, and both the community and other Girl Scouts are encouraged to donate food.

According to Swan, more than just camping, having fun and being creative, the message behind Girl Scouting is to do something for the betterment of the community.

New troops are forming all the time and adults are needed to help lead them. To get involved or for more information about membership, email Swan at kathswan12@gmail.com.

THE DEN



A Message From

Superintendent Steve Archibald

As we continue preparing for another exciting school year, I want to take a moment to share several important initiatives and updates that reflect our ongoing commitment to providing an exceptional educational experience for every student. Our work remains grounded in our Strategic Plan, and we are proud of the thoughtful progress being made across the district.

A key component of our Strategic Plan is the implementation of a Snapshot Of Our Learners, a shared vision that defines the skills, attributes and dispositions we want every SLCS student to acquire throughout their educational experience prior to graduation.

This initiative focuses on preparing students to be:

- Critical thinkers and problem solvers
- Effective communicators
- Collaborative contributors
- Responsible and adaptable individuals

By clearly defining these outcomes, we are aligning instruction, assessment and experiences across all grade levels to ensure our students are prepared not only for academic success, but for life beyond our classrooms.

We will also be continuing to deepen our implementation of the Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) framework. This approach ensures that every student receives the academic, behavioral and social-emotional support they need to succeed.

Through MTSS, we are:

- Using data to identify student needs early
- Providing targeted interventions and enrichment opportunities



- Monitoring progress and adjusting supports in real time

This systematic approach allows us to meet students where they are and ensure that all learners are supported, challenged and empowered to grow.

Thanks to the support of our community, we have been busy at work planning Phase 1 of our bond construction projects. These improvements are designed to enhance learning environments, increase capacity and provide modern, safe and engaging spaces for our students and staff.

Phase 1 projects include:

- Early Childhood Center expansion and overall site improvements
- Sayre Elementary School renovations
- Salem Elementary School addition and renovations
- South Lyon East High School pool improvements
- Griswold Operations Center facade improvements

Each project is in one of various stages of the planning process, with construction work scheduled to begin in spring 2027.

We are committed to keeping our community informed as these projects move forward. Updates will be provided quarterly at Board of Education meetings. In addition, we will also be maintaining a page on the SLCS website under the "2025 Bond" tab.

All these efforts are being guided by our Strategic Plan, which continues to serve as our roadmap for the future. We remain focused on four key priority areas:

- Climate and Culture – Fostering a safe, supportive and inclusive learning environment that

nurtures all learners to become leaders who are career and life-ready and community-focused.

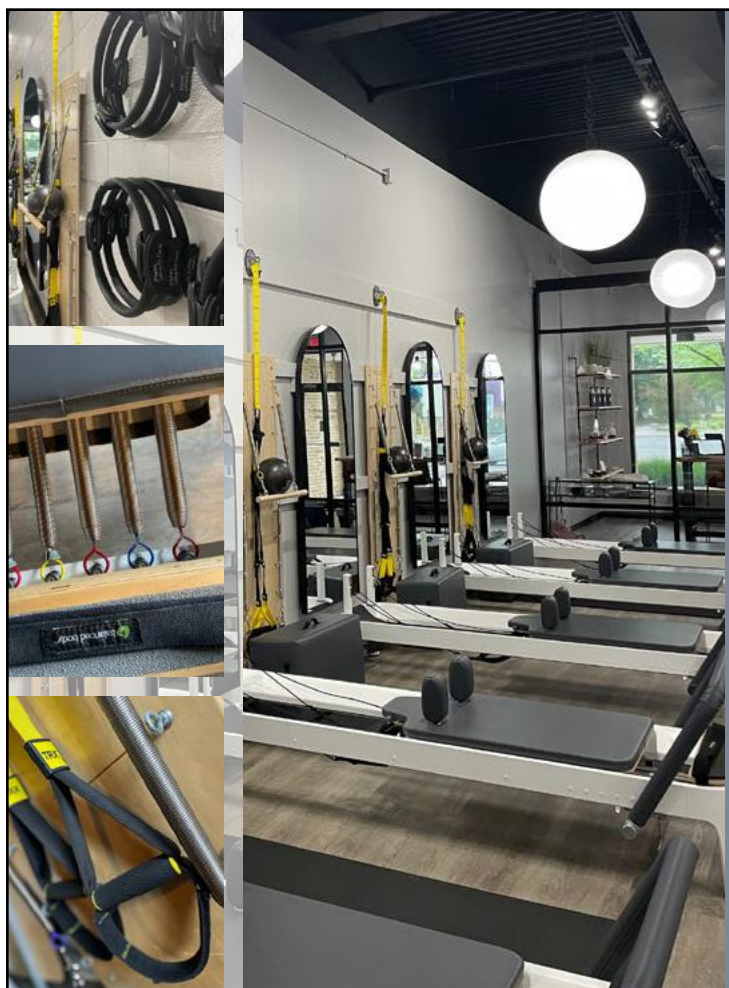
- Resources – Strategically allocating resources to nurture all aspects of a learner's development, aiming to create an environment where students are empowered to thrive both in and out of the classroom.
- Facilities – We will maintain and update the district's facilities and infrastructure to ensure students are able to learn and grow utilizing modern facilities, equipment and materials.
- Student Growth and Achievement – Implementing an integrated MTSS framework with fidelity across all schools, with

the district infrastructure necessary to support that framework.

Our staff members across the district are working collaboratively to ensure these priorities translate into meaningful outcomes for students each and every day.

The work happening across South Lyon Community Schools reflects a shared commitment to growth, innovation and excellence. From defining the future through our Snapshot of a Learner, strengthening student support through MTSS to investing in our facilities and faithfully executing our Strategic Plan, each step moves us closer to our vision.

Together, we are building a strong future for all students.



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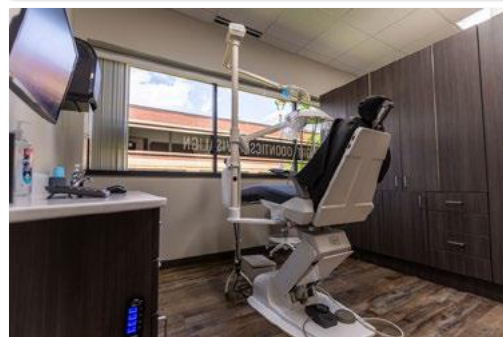
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REACHING BEYOND THE CLASSROOM:

South Lyon students gain real-world experience through work-based learning

At South Lyon Community Schools, we believe some of the most meaningful learning happens when students have the opportunity to apply their knowledge in authentic settings. That belief is the foundation of our SLCS Work-Based Learning Program (WBL), and this effort is doing exactly that – connecting classroom learning with real careers while helping students build the skills, confidence and experience they will carry with them long after graduation.

Now entering its second year under the leadership of Eric Chambers (SLCS educator) and the Curriculum, Instruction, Technology, and Assessment (CITA) department at the district level, the program is giving students something that simply cannot be replicated inside a classroom: authentic, hands-on experience working alongside professionals in careers they hope to pursue.

Through partnerships with local businesses and organizations, students spend approximately eight hours each week immersed in real workplaces where they develop technical knowledge, professional habits and a deeper understanding of what their future careers truly entail. Fridays are reserved for seminar experiences focused on career readiness, employability skills, industry certifications and reflection, allowing students to connect their workplace experiences with continued learning.

Perhaps the greatest strength of the program is that every placement is intentional. Rather than assigning students to generic internships, placements are built around each student's interests and career aspirations.

During the program's first year, students explored

professions in early childhood education, nursing and emergency medicine, finance, business, theater, physical therapy, veterinary medicine, marketing, and family medicine.

These opportunities were made possible through the generosity of outstanding community partners, including DMC Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, The Learning Experience, Griffith Veterinary Hospital, HealthQuest Physical Therapy, South Lyon Family Doctors, The Encore Theater, Orsa Credit Union, British Swim School, and many others.

The first year exceeded expectations as students not only developed valuable workplace knowledge and technical skills, but several participants transformed internship

opportunities into paid employment! Students earned positions as a nurse technician at DMC Huron Valley Hospital, an assistant teacher at The Learning Experience, a stage technician at The Encore Theater, a veterinary technician at Griffith Veterinary Hospital, and an exercise technician at HealthQuest Physical Therapy.

Those successes represent more than jobs – they are early career pathways built on trust, hard work and authentic

experience, as well as powerful examples of what can happen when education and industry work together to create meaningful opportunities for young people.

The success of the program has also generated excitement among the next group of participants. Students entering the 2026-27 school year have expressed interest in an even wider variety of career pathways, including automotive design and mechanics, environmental sciences, cosmetology, social work, athletic administration, dance and choreography, business and marketing, medical





careers, physical therapy, and early childhood and elementary education.

Students are selected through an application and interview process, with placements carefully matched to each student's career interests.

Programs like Work-Based Learning reflect an important shift in education. While strong academic preparation remains essential, today's students also benefit from opportunities to experience the workplace before graduation. By working alongside professionals, they develop communication skills, responsibility, problem-solving abilities, and a clearer understanding of the education and training needed to achieve their goals.

Just as importantly, these partnerships strengthen our entire community. Local businesses gain the opportunity to mentor the next generation of professionals while helping

students discover meaningful career pathways right here in the community we all proudly serve.

To our Work-Based Learning business partners, thank you! Your investment in our students is an investment in the future of our entire community, and we are grateful for the role you play in helping SLCS students thrive. To prospective future community partners, please see our contact information below and consider joining us in this amazing and mutually beneficial program!

Your willingness to invest time, expertise and mentorship will create yet more opportunities for students to extend well beyond the classroom and gain meaningful insight into what may be possible for their lives after graduation.

Many Thanks to Our WBL Business Partners!

To learn more about this program, please email Eric Schambers at schamberse@slcs.us.

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SOUTH LYON EAST HIGH SCHOOL

Alumni Spotlight

MEGAN RANKIN, MBA **Class of 2019, SLEHS**



What have you been up to since you graduated from SLCS?

I attended Madonna University, where I studied mathematics and Spanish. Three years later, I graduated with dual majors and the distinction of Summa Cum Laude. Following graduation, I became the listing manager at the top-producing real estate brokerage in

the state at just 20 years old. My experiences there solidified my passion for real estate.

Not long after, however, I felt God calling me in a different direction. An opportunity to become an academic advisor at my alma mater popped up on my LinkedIn feed. So, I pursued the position and was selected. Returning to Madonna gave me the opportunity to continue my education through an employee tuition waiver benefit. Enrolling in the Master of Business Administration (MBA) program was such a blessing. I focused my research on consumer behavior and won first place for grad school students in our annual research symposium.

Graduating with my MBA was especially meaningful because I was elected student speaker by my fellow graduates. Delivering the commencement address was one of the most exhilarating experiences of my life, and having my family there to support me made it all the more special.

While my academic and professional life continued to grow, so did my personal life. I met and fell in love with my now husband, Shane. Together, we built a wonderful life and eventually moved back home to South Lyon. Upon graduating, I was promoted to office manager for the College of Nursing and Health at Madonna.

Yet, I felt another nagging calling to return to real estate. When I shared this dream with my mentor – who I conveniently call Dad – he talked me through the steps. Both he and my mom were incredibly supportive throughout the process, and I truly would not be where I am today without them.

Today, I work alongside my dad, associate broker and realtor at Remerica Hometown One. The family business is truly complete with my mom and Shane in our corner! We help our clients (family and friends) buy, sell and invest. I have developed a passion for helping first-time homebuyers successfully navigate the market and achieve the dream of homeownership.

That focus grew from my own experiences seeing how intimidating the home-buying process can seem. Being in our third home at 25 and 26 made me realize, despite any trials or frustrations, it is possible. Homeownership is within reach, and I am so blessed to help make that dream a reality.

Outside of work, I sing in the choir at St. Joseph Catholic Parish. Shane and I have been blessed to travel to all four major Hawaiian Islands, as well as Italy, England and Scotland. More recently, I started publishing articles on my LinkedIn and highlighting local small businesses through my Facebook and Instagram pages. We also recently welcomed a golden retriever puppy named Honey into our family.

My parents still live in South Lyon, and Shane and I hope to raise our future children in the same community that gave me such a wonderful foundation. It has been incredibly rewarding to build a life in my hometown.

How did your experience in SLCS prepare you for life after school?

South Lyon Community Schools prepared me exceptionally well for life after graduation, particularly through the rigorous academic foundation it provided. I took several advanced placement courses in high school, but I did not fully appreciate just how well they had prepared me until I became an undergraduate student, then a graduate student and now an instructor.

Today, I serve as an adjunct instructor at Madonna – I teach our freshman seminar. From both the student and instructor perspectives, I have come to realize just how

much I learned during my years in SLCS. As both an undergraduate and graduate student, I felt well-equipped to write at the collegiate level (I took a course with Mr. Steger called Reading and Writing for the College Bound – prepared me so well!).

I noticed a difference between my own preparation and that of some classmates who came from other school districts. For instance, whereas they might struggle with APA formatting, I found it familiar. Additionally, I was able to test out of Calc 1 and multiple Spanish courses, which allowed me to graduate with a double major one year early.

Now, as a teacher, I see many of those same differences in my own students. The writing, reading comprehension and critical thinking skills I developed at SLCS gave me a foundation that has continued to benefit me throughout every stage of my education and career.

Beyond academics, I have incredibly fond memories of my time at Brummer Elementary and Millennium Middle School. I was fortunate to have patient, dedicated teachers who genuinely cared about their students, many of whom have since retired. Others are still serving the district today, and it is always a joy to run into them. There are far too many to thank individually, but each played an important role in shaping me.

SLCS also encouraged me to discover and develop my interests. I was challenged to grow as a mathematician, learn Spanish, pursue music, and continually push myself beyond what felt comfortable. Looking back, I realize those experiences gave me confidence to pursue opportunities I might not have otherwise considered.

I learned the value of healthy competition. Even in elementary school, I remember racing classmates to complete our times tables to see who could finish the fastest with the most accuracy. In middle school, I joined the volleyball team after having played CYO. Playing the flute introduced another form of competition through chair placements.

While competition is sometimes viewed negatively, I believe those experiences taught me to strive for excellence, practice and perform. They prepared me well for college, where success often depends on consistently performing at a high level. Calculus 3 is not for the weak, and AP Calc taught me to be resilient.

Furthermore, SLCS emphasized the importance of balancing academics with extracurricular activities, work and other responsibilities. At different points in high school, I navigated balancing coursework with band (Mr. Smith!), as well as nannying, making coffee at Corner Social (then Corner Café) and shelving books at the Salem-South Lyon District Library. Those experiences made the transition to college much smoother, where I managed a full course load while running a freelance

tutoring business and working several other jobs, including at Target and Olga's.

Ultimately, South Lyon Community Schools prepared me for much more than college – it

prepared me for the greater future. It provided me with a strong academic foundation while teaching me discipline, perseverance, time management, collaboration, and the ability to balance multiple responsibilities. Those lessons have served me well as a student, educator, business professional, and now realtor.

Looking back, as an adult, I now recognize what an incredible gift my education in South Lyon truly was. What a blessing to go to such a fantastic and renowned school district! It is one of the many reasons my husband and I chose to move back to the community. We hope to raise our future children here so they can benefit from the outstanding curriculum and dedicated teachers.

What advice would you give students who are graduating in 2027?

Take action – don't wait for life to happen to you! So often, we put off the things we know we need to do, to do the things we want to do. If you need to study, study. If you struggled on an exam, meet with your professor. If you need a job, submit the application. If you want to buy a house someday, start learning what it takes to get there.

Nothing changes until you take the first step. Do not let the fear of rejection or the possibility of failure keep you from pursuing the life you want. You will hear "no." You will make mistakes. But you never know what will happen unless you try.

This is a lesson I still have to remind myself of. As a person of faith, I truly believe God places opportunities in our lives, but it is our responsibility to go after them. When opportunity knocks, open the door. And if the door is closed but the window is cracked, climb through the window.

Looking back, so many of the greatest blessings in my life began with a single decision to act. My husband and I would not have our home, our graduate degrees or the careers we love if we had simply waited for everything to fall into place. We recognized opportunities when they came, trusted in the Lord and made a move – even amid uncertainty.

You do not need to have your entire life figured out when you graduate from high school. I certainly didn't. Life has a way of unfolding one decision at a time. What matters is that you continue taking the next step forward. If you have a chance, take it. Have faith. Recognize the opportunities in front of you. Trust that God will guide you, but have the courage to just try.

Take action!



SOUTH LYON HIGH SCHOOL

Alumni Spotlight

MORGAN RADNERS **Class of 2013, SLHS**



What have you been up to since you graduated from SLCS?

I went to Ferris State University to study music industry management and film, and to play lacrosse. After graduating from FSU in 2017, I studied music supervision at Berklee School of Music.

While composing music for wedding videos with a classmate, I fell in love with coaching lacrosse, which was my way to pay the bills then. After that I moved back to Metro Detroit and worked for Warrior Lacrosse, a hockey and lacrosse equipment company based in Warren.

I worked my way up from an entry level customer service job to international internal sales rep, assisting with women's lacrosse product design, before moving abroad to the UK for my master's in sports management. While there, I continued to play lacrosse and worked with the companies I had previously supported at Warrior. That connection was invaluable and changed my life – I still talk to them.

I've since moved back to Michigan and started my career in coaching, and I currently coach at Northwood University (NCAA DII) in Midland, Michigan, as well as the Armenian Women's National Team, which I helped start in 2024.

Lacrosse has taken me all over the country and all over

the world. The Armenian National Team is currently preparing for the European Championship in Salou, Spain this November! The top five teams from that tournament automatically qualify for the Olympic qualifiers and have a shot at LA 2028.

How did your experience at SLCS prepare you for life after school?

My time at SLCS gave me connections that have lasted my life so far. I still talk to a few of the girls I played high school lacrosse with, and I was even in one of my teammates' wedding this April. Most of my coaches are still in my inner circle, and I even still talk to one of my teachers from Bartlett that I had in second grade!

I've moved and worked all over the world but those connections have never wavered. When I moved home and was working at Warrior I had the opportunity to take my first head coaching position with South Lyon Pumas, the youth team in town. It was the team I played on as a kid, and it was a really special way for me to give back to the game that gave me everything.

I was also the head coach for SLU's girls lacrosse team, and one of those players, Mariessa Zarazua, SLHS Class of 2023, actually plays for me and is a senior at Northwood.

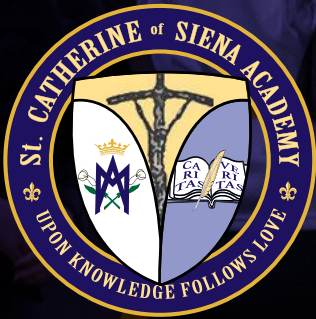
My connections and the people I've met at SLHS have given me more than they probably ever anticipated. I still drive down to go to SLU games, talk to a lot of the girls on the team, and my head coach Deanna Radcliffe is still the coach. It's the best chosen family I could have ever dreamt up.

What advice would you give students who are graduating in 2027?

Don't take life too seriously. Lacrosse is about the only thing I take seriously about myself and it has given me so much freedom to just exist. Put your phone down. Laugh with your friends. Spend quality time doing things that feed your soul. There is no "in another life" – we only get this one. Stay true to who you are and if you're changing for anybody, don't, unless it also serves you. Don't feel like you have to have everything figured out at 18, everyone else is living for the first time, too.

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VIAL OF LIFE: A SIMPLE IDEA THAT CAN SAVE LIVES

By Reginald Madeline, Lyon Township Fire Chief

IT is unknown exactly where or when the first Vial of Life program began, but its purpose has remained consistent: to provide first responders with critical medical information when a patient cannot speak for themselves.

The program gets its name from the prescription bottles originally used to store a patient's medical information form. These bottles were commonly placed inside the refrigerator and often secured to the top shelf of the refrigerator door, making them easy for emergency responders to locate.

When starting a Vial of Life kit, patients complete a medical information form detailing their health history. This information allows EMS personnel to make informed decisions and provide appropriate care during an emergency. The form typically includes important details such as blood type, medical conditions, current medications, physician contact information, allergies, insurance information, and emergency contacts.

Advance Directives Matter

Participants are also encouraged to include advance healthcare directives in their Vial of Life.

A Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) order is one of the most commonly used directives. Signed by a physician, a DNR indicates a patient's wish to decline cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). Without this document, emergency responders are required to initiate life-saving measures. In most jurisdictions, the original DNR – with a physician's signature – must be present to be honored.

Another important document is a Health Care Power of Attorney (HCPOA). This legal form designates someone to make medical decisions on a patient's behalf if they are unable to do so. While valuable, HCPOA documents can vary in format and may not always be immediately actionable for EMS personnel due to legal requirements and length.

How to Create Your Vial of Life

Residents can obtain a Vial of Life kit from the Lyon Township Fire Department or create their own using an empty prescription bottle.

Follow these simple steps:

1. Clean the container thoroughly
2. Clearly label it "Vial of Life" or "Emergency Medical Information"
3. Complete the medical information form
4. Place the form inside the container
5. Store the container in the freezer door
6. Update the information regularly

Forms are available on the Lyon Township website (www.lyontwp.org) under the Fire Department page, or in person at:

Lyon Township Fire Department – Station 1
58800 Grand River Avenue

Why Location Matters

Consistency is critical. Keeping the Vial of Life in the freezer door ensures that first responders know exactly where to look during an emergency. This standard location can save valuable time when every second counts.

A Small Step That Makes a Big Difference

The Vial of Life program is a simple, practical way to improve emergency response and patient care. By taking a few minutes to complete and maintain this information, residents can help ensure they receive the right care at the right time.

A small step today can make a life-saving difference tomorrow.



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Voice, Advocate, Champion

South Lyon Police's newest detective brings wealth of experience, commitment to community

By Terry Jacoby

AFTER 30 years of making a "lasting impact" on both the Novi Police Department and the local community, Mark Boody wasn't ready to retire at the age of 53.

Boody brings his three decades of experience, especially in dealing with child abuse cases and mental health awareness, to South Lyon, where he accepted the position of detective with the South Lyon Police Department.

"I'm very excited to begin this next chapter in my career," said Boody, whose first day with SLPD was May 20. "I've always been interested in the investigative side of law enforcement and it's an area I have a lot of experience in as well."

Despite only being on the job a few months in his new department, Boody has been impressed with "everything" about South Lyon.

"One thing I like about the South Lyon Police Department is how we help each other out," Boody said. "So there's times where I'll put the uniform on and cover the road. We do whatever needs to be done to help each other out and keep the community safe."

"It's a different dynamic, coming from a large department to a small department," he added. "I always liked South Lyon. I love the downtown area and the people have been extremely welcoming."

South Lyon Police Chief Bonnie Unruh is pleased to have Boody on the team and believes he brings an important skill set and experiences to the department.

"In a climate where police departments are having challenges hiring police officers, I feel very fortunate Mark chose South Lyon," Unruh said.

Boody, a native of St. Louis, Michigan, has long been a voice, advocate and champion for children in the community. He began with the Novi Police Department in September 1996 as a patrol officer, and in November 2003 was promoted to detective.

"I specialized in child-abuse cases and worked those for 10 years," he said. "It was rewarding and challenging at the same time, but the goal was to get kids out of harmful environments and keep them safe."

In November 2013, Boody was promoted to the rank of sergeant, where he served in the uniform division until he retired on April 30, 2026.

Boody's dedication to protecting children included teaching other police officers on child sexual abuse investigations. He also launched the first autism awareness

fair and helped create a database that allows individuals with autism to be entered into the 911 system.

Boody was the team lead for the Novi department's Peer Support Team and also served on the Governor's Task Force helping develop child abuse protocols, taught forensic interviewing for PAAM, and was recognized as an expert speaker at child sex abuse conferences in Michigan and Alabama.

Boody recognized the need for a specialized Crimes Against Children/Juvenile Detective position at the Novi Police Department and helped spearhead its creation.

"As a side job, I worked for the Autism Alliance in Michigan and then later the Cardinal Group, going around teaching police officers recognizing the characteristics and signs of somebody with autism and then how to communicate with those individuals," he said. "I still do that and I also teach the autism portion of CIT training for police officers."

Boody has been a frequent advocate and champion of mental health awareness and support, both in dealing with the community and inside the police department.

"When I started there was not a lot of training for cops and mental health and cognitive impairments," he said. "This is something that only in the last 10 years has come to the forefront for law enforcement, and it's certainly a step in the right direction. I have been heavily involved in it."

He worked for Common Ground, a prominent, trauma-informed nonprofit agency that provides confidential crisis intervention, mental health stabilization and shelter. He also has been involved with Frontline Strong, a crisis line developed in partnership with Common Ground, the State of Michigan and Wayne State, whose mission is to support the first responder community.



A Job Well Done

City's first full-time female officer retires after 30 years of service

By Kelsi Klein

AUDRA Baker never planned on becoming a police officer, but this July she retired after three decades of service with the South Lyon Police Department.

When Baker was attending college in Las Vegas on a full-ride scholarship as a Division I swimmer, she thought she'd become an elementary school teacher.

"I even went as far as student teaching then thought, 'You know what, I just don't know if this is for me,'" she recalled.

After taking a criminal justice class, Baker took interest in the subject and was inspired to pursue a different career path. She changed her major, earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and considered a career working with juveniles. Becoming a police officer still wasn't part of the plan.

Unlike many others who enter law enforcement, Baker had no family ties to the profession. On a whim, when she returned home to Michigan, she looked up the police academy, took out a loan to pay for it and enrolled.

That unexpected decision ultimately led her to the South Lyon Police Department, where she was hired in July 1996.

"I never thought I would've ended up in such a small town because I was interviewing at big departments and thought that would be more my vibe, but I really liked it here and got comfortable here," Baker said. "I loved my coworkers and the

longer I worked with them the more it became a family."

July 31, 2026, marked Baker's final day on the job, completing 30 years of service to the community that she spent most of her life in.

"Five years went by, then 10 years, and then you kind of get settled in," Baker said.

Over the years, Baker watched the department grow. For most of her career, she was the only full-time female officer. Although a few part-time female officers came and went, it was nearly 25 years before the department hired another full-time woman through its cadet program.

Despite this, Baker never felt limited or intimidated by being a woman in law enforcement. In fact, she said that the South Lyon Police Department, her coworkers and the citizens in the community treated her with respect, making her feel like she belonged.

For Baker, the most rewarding part of the job was seeing difficult investigations through from beginning to end and seeing justice served.

"A lot of people's perceptions of police work is just traffic but there is so much more," she said. "We deal with a lot of terrible situations, but it means a lot to me to see victims get closure and justice."

The work was not always easy, but for Baker, truly serving and protecting has made the challenges worthwhile.

As she enters retirement, she said the people she has met throughout her career will be what she misses most.

"It was a great last year for me," she said. "Our new chief was very supportive, fun and great to work with."

Although Baker is retiring, her 30 years of service at the South Lyon Police Department won't be forgotten.

"From the first day meeting Audra Baker, she has been a take charge, get-it-done kind of person," said South Lyon Police Chief Bonnie Unruh. "If she felt something wasn't right or we as a police department should do more, she wasn't afraid to speak up. The South Lyon community was very fortunate to have someone of her caliber working for the police department."

As she steps into her next chapter, Baker plans on taking a few well-deserved months off before eventually pursuing part-time work outside of law enforcement.





LYON TOWNSHIP

Building Community One Project at a Time

THE POWER OF SMALL IMPROVEMENTS

Lyon Township is embracing an incremental approach to community development, focusing on attainable improvements, strong partnerships, and initiatives that create visible progress. Rather than waiting for a single large redevelopment project, the community is building momentum through a series of smaller efforts that collectively strengthen community identity, support local businesses, and lay the groundwork for future growth.



These efforts include regular business retention visits to better understand the needs of local employers, beautification projects that enhance public spaces, and community events that bring residents and visitors together. Partnerships with local organizations, businesses, and institutions have expanded opportunities for programming, public art, and placemaking initiatives that encourage people to experience Lyon Township in new ways.

Looking ahead, Lyon Township is exploring a rebranding initiative that embraces New Hudson's historic identity while creating a stronger, more recognizable sense of place. Planned for 2027, the effort will include updated logos, messaging, and visual identity elements that honor the community's heritage while establishing a clearer identity for residents, businesses, and visitors.

BUILDING MOMENTUM

By focusing on business outreach, beautification, events, partnerships, and other incremental improvements, Lyon Township is demonstrating how meaningful change can occur over time through consistent, intentional action. The result is a model that shows how small investments and steady progress can create lasting impact and establish a framework for future growth.



CONTACT US



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BE PREPARED TO VOTE

General Election is November 3, 2026

MICHIGAN voters have several convenient ways to cast their ballot.

Vote in Person

You may vote:

- On Election Day: Tuesday, November 3, 2026, at your assigned polling location. Hours of voting are from 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.
- During Early Voting: Any day from Saturday, October 24, through Sunday, November 1, 2026.

Early Voting Hours

- Saturday–Wednesday, Friday–Sunday: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- Thursday: Noon – 8:00 p.m.

Lyon Township Early Voting Locations

- Lyon Township Hall
58000 Grand River Ave.
New Hudson, MI
- Waterford Oaks
Activity Center
2800 Watkins Lake Rd.
Waterford, MI

Please bring a valid photo ID when voting in person.

To verify your voter registration, find your Election Day polling location or request an absentee ballot, visit the Secretary of State website: <https://mVIC.sos.state.mi.us/> or contact the Lyon Township Clerk's Office at (248) 437-2240.

Vote by Absentee Ballot

If you are unable to vote in person, you may request an absentee ballot by:

- Applying online through the Secretary of State website: <https://mVIC.sos.state.mi.us/>
- Emailing the Lyon Township Clerk's Office at elections@lyontwp.org.
- Call (248) 437-2240.
- Visiting the Clerk's Office at:
58000 Grand River Ave., New Hudson, MI

Voter Registration

To register online or by mail, your registration must be submitted by **October 19, 2026**.

After **October 19, 2026**, you must register in person at the Lyon Township Clerk's Office. You will need:

- A valid photo ID, and
- Proof of residency



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**ADULT
PROGRAMS**

CHINA GLASS MOSAICS
SATURDAY, SEP 19
10AM - 1PM
R/NR FEE: \$45/\$60

SUCCULENT GARDENING
MONDAY, OCT 19
6:30 - 8:30PM
R/NR FEE: \$52/\$70

FRESH EVERGREEN PIECE
MONDAY, DEC 14
6:30 - 8:30PM
R/NR FEE: \$52/\$70

FUSED GLASS
9/14, 10/12, 11/9, 12/7
6 - 8PM
\$45/\$60 PER CLASS
GLASS GARDEN STAKES
MON., APR 27
3 - 5PM OR 6:15 - 8:15PM
R/NR FEE: \$40/\$53
6:45 - 7:45PM
R/NR FEE: \$70/\$92

ZUMBA WITH ESPERANZA
THU., 9/10 - 10/22 - \$51/\$68
THU, 10/29 - 12/10, \$42/\$56
6:30 - 7:30PM
R/NR FEE: \$42/\$56

DANCE FITNESS BOLLYBURN
SAT, 9/5 - 10/24 OR 11/3 - 12/22
3 - 4PM
R/NR FEE: \$170/\$230

**YOUTH
PROGRAMS**

SECRET AGENT LAB - KIDSCIENTIFIC
TUESDAY, SEP 8 - OCT 13
5:45 - 6:45PM
AGE: 5 - 12
R/NR FEE: \$214/\$258

THE BEST ART CLASS EVER
THURSDAY, SEP 10 - OCT 15
5:45 - 6:45PM
AGE: 5 - 12
R/NR FEE: \$214/\$285

COSMIC CREATORS LAB
TUESDAY, OCT 30 - NOV 24
5:45 - 6:45PM
AGES 5 - 12
R/NR FEE: \$214/\$285

MOVIE LOVERS ART CLASS
THURSDAY, OCT 22 - DEC 3
5:45 - 6:45PM
AGES: 5 - 12
R/NR FEE: \$214/\$285

KIDS DAY OFF
OCT 12, NOV 3, DEC 21
9AM - 12PM
AGES 5 - 12
\$25/\$33

CHESS WIZARDS
MONDAY, SEP 9 - OCT 26
6:30 - 7:30PM
GRADES K - 8
R/NR FEE: \$166/\$221

DRAMA KIDS
WEDNESDAY, SEP 23 - DEC 16
6:30 - 7:30PM
GRADES: K - 5
\$80/MONTH

STUDIO DANCE CLASSES
SEP 14 - NOV 6 & NOV 9 - JAN 22
BOUNCE & BOOGIE,
BABY BALLET & LYRICAL.
BALLET & LYRICAL,
HIP HOP - JAZZ JAM,
LYRICAL & JAZZ,
BALLET & CONTEMP.
TIMES & PRICE VARY
PER DAY/AGE

BEGINNER GYMNASTICS
TUE. OR WED., NOV. 18 - DEC 17
TIMES & PRICE VARY
PER DAY/AGE

FINANCIALLY WEALTHY FOR KIDS
SATURDAY, OCT 23
9AM - 3PM
AGES 11 - 14
R/NR FEE: \$135/\$180

BABYSITTER CLASS
THURSDAY, OCT 8
5:30 - 8:30PM
AGES 9+
R/NR FEE: \$60/\$80

NINJA AGILITY FUN AND GAMES
TUE OR THU,
9/8 - 10/27 OR 11/3 - 12/22
AGES 5 - 9
R/NR FEE: \$88/\$117

TECH CLUB
THURSDAY, 9/3, 9/10, 10/1, 10/8, 11/5,
11/12, 12/3, 12/10
6 - 7PM
AGES: 5 - 12
R/NR FEE: \$320/\$416

YOUTH LEAGUES

FALL YOUTH BASKETBALL LEAGUE

SEP 28 - NOV 21

GRADES: K-1, 2-3, 4-5

R/NR FEE: \$107/\$43

JERSEY FEE: \$12.25

REG. DEADLINE: SEP 18

IN-HOUSE VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE

OCT 5 - DEC 11

GRADES: 2-3, 4-5, 6-8

R/NR FEE: \$115/\$153

WINTER YOUTH BASKETBALL

REGISTRATION OPENS ON

OCTOBER 19

AQUATICS PROGRAMS

SWIM LESSONS

MONDAY/WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

SATURDAY MORNINGS

AQUA FITNESS

MON AND/OR WED.

7:35 - 8:05PM

LAP SWIM

MON/WED 6 - 8PM

SAT 10AM - 12:15PM

OPEN SWIM

SATURDAY 12:30 - 2:30PM

FRIDAY 9/25, 10/9, 10/23, 11/13, 12/11
6 - 8PM



SCAN HERE
FOR
ADDITIONAL
CLASSES &
CLINICS

YOUTH SPORTS

ARCHERY BASICS (7+)

THURSDAY

9/17 - 10/8, 10/15 - 11/5

5:30 - 6:30PM

R/NR FEE: \$55/\$73

ARCHERY BEYOND BASICS (7+)

THURSDAY

9/17 - 10/15, 10/22 - 11/19

6:30 - 7:30PM

R/NR FEE: \$68/\$91

FTS T-BALL (AGES 3 - 5)

WED., 9/16 - 10/14 - 5:30 - 6:30PM

WED. 11/4 - 12/9 - 6 - 7PM

R/NR FEE: \$120/\$160

FTS BASEBALL/SOFTBALL (AGE 6-8)

WED., 9/16 - 10/14 - 5:30 - 6:30PM

WED. 11/4 - 12/9 - 6 - 7PM

R/NR FEE: \$120/\$160

FUN TIME SPORTS BASKETBALL

MON, NOV 9 - DEC 7

AGES: 4 - 6: 6 - 7PM

AGES 6 - 7: 7 - 8PM

AGES 10 - 12: 8 - 9PM

R/NR FEE: \$120/\$160

FUN TIME SPORTS CROSS COUNTRY

MON, SEP 14 - OCT 12

AGES: 5 - 8: 5:30 - 6:30PM

AGES 9 - 12: 6:30 - 7:30PM

R/NR FEE: \$120/\$160

FTS GOLF

THU, SEP 17 - OCT 15

AGES: 6 - 8, 5:30 - 6:30PM

AGES: 9 - 11, 6:30 - 7:30PM

R/NR FEE: \$120/\$160

FTS INDOOR SOCCER

THU, NOV 5 - DEC 10

AGES: 3 - 5: 6 - 7PM

AGES 6 - 8: 7 - 8PM

AGES 10 - 12: 8 - 9PM

R/NR FEE: \$120/\$160

TODD BEYER TENNIS

MONDAY, SEP 14 - OCT 12

AGES: 4 - 5, 5 - 6PM, \$83/\$11

AGES: 7 - 10, 6 - 7PM, \$107/\$143

AGES: 11 - 14, 7 - 8PM, \$107/\$143

TODD BEYER TENNIS

MONDAY, NOV 23 - DEC 14

AGES: 4 - 5, 6 - 7PM, \$83/\$11

AGES: 7 - 10, 7 - 8PM, \$107/\$143

FUN TIME SPORTS VOLLEYBALL

TUESDAY, 9/15 - 10/13, 11/10 - 12/8

AGES: 5 - 7: 6:30 - 7:30PM

AGES 8 - 10: 7:30 - 8:30PM

AGES 11 - 13: 8:30 - 9:30PM

R/NR FEE: \$120/\$160

V-BALL SKILLS & SCRIMMAGES

THU, 9/25 - 10/30, NOV 6 - DEC 18

GRADES: 2 - 4, 6:15 - 7:15PM

GRADES: 5 - 7, 7:15 - 8:15PM

R/NR FEE: \$96/\$128

SPECIAL EVENTS

THE GREAT FAMILY CREATURE ADVENTURE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

11AM - 1PM

R/NR FEE: \$15/\$20 PER FAMILY

PUMPKIN ARCHERY SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1

10AM

R/NR FEE: \$5/\$7

DIWALI CELEBRATION THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5

6 - 8:30PM

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MORE THAN A LOGO

The Heart Behind the Downtown South Lyon Brand

By Kim Rivera, Executive Director, South Lyon DDA

EVERY great downtown has a story. Some are told through historic buildings, bustling sidewalks, favorite restaurants, and community traditions. Others are expressed through a brand – a visual identity that captures the spirit of a place in a way that people instantly recognize and embrace.

For Downtown South Lyon, that story begins with one simple word: Heart.

When Downtown South Lyon began developing its new brand identity, the goal wasn't to create just another logo. The goal was to discover what makes South Lyon unlike anywhere else and translate that feeling into a symbol that residents, businesses and visitors could proudly call their own.

The process started by listening.

Nearly 400 residents, business owners, volunteers, board members, and community stakeholders shared their thoughts about what South Lyon means to them. While every response was unique, common themes quickly emerged.

People described South Lyon as charming, historic, walkable, friendly, neighborly, peaceful, safe, clean, laid-back, and welcoming.

Local real estate professionals added another perspective. They spoke about South Lyon's ideal location – within easy reach of Detroit, Ann Arbor and Oakland County's major employment centers.

Families are drawn by outstanding schools, abundant parks, recreational opportunities, and the sense of security that comes from living in a close-knit community.

Again and again, one message became clear: People don't simply live in South Lyon. They belong here.

The Lion in South Lyon

Of course, one question naturally arose during the branding process: Who is the Lion in South Lyon?

Across cultures throughout history, the lion has represented strength, courage, honor, leadership, protection, and pride. The phrase "heart of a lion" has long symbolized bravery, resilience, determination, and unwavering confidence.

As the community reflected on those meanings, something remarkable happened.

The lion wasn't just a symbol. It became a reflection of the people who call South Lyon home.

The South Lyon lion isn't fierce for the sake of being fierce. Instead, it represents neighbors who care about one another. Business owners who invest in the future of downtown. Volunteers who preserve traditions while creating new ones. Families who choose South Lyon because it's a safe place to raise children, build friendships and create lasting memories.

Here, the lion is confident without arrogance. Strong without intimidation. Protective of the community it calls home.



The Heart of South Lyon

These conversations led to the heart of the brand – quite literally.

The new Downtown South Lyon logo combines the silhouette of a lion with the shape of a heart, creating an identity that reflects both courage and compassion. Look closely, and you'll notice another meaningful detail.

The left side of the lion represents the Lions, while the right side reflects the Cougars – bringing together both of South Lyon's high school mascots into a single symbol of community unity.

Even the flowing reverse mane creates a distinctive graphic element that can be recognized instantly, whether it's displayed on a banner downtown, a storefront window, a T-shirt, or a social media post.

Every element works together to reinforce the community's tagline: Downtown — The Heart of South Lyon.

More Than a Place

Great downtowns do more than provide places to shop or dine. They create places where people gather after work, celebrate milestones, support local businesses, enjoy festivals, meet friends, and welcome visitors.

Downtown South Lyon is that place. It's where conversations begin over coffee. Where families stroll the sidewalks. Where neighbors become lifelong friends. Where businesses invest not only in their storefronts but also in the future of the entire community.

It's a downtown that encourages people to explore beyond its borders while always giving them a reason to come home.

Looking Ahead

As Downtown South Lyon continues to grow, the new brand provides more than a fresh look – it offers a shared vision.

A vision built on community pride. On preserving small-town character while embracing new opportunities. On supporting local businesses. On celebrating the people who make South Lyon extraordinary.

And yes, it's hard not to smile at one final connection.

In a region where Detroit Lions pride runs deep, South Lyon already has "Lion" built into its name. While Ford Field may be 42 miles away, Downtown South Lyon has its own place where neighbors gather, cheer together and celebrate community. Perhaps Lions watch parties are simply part of the next chapter.

Because whether you're visiting for the first time or have called South Lyon home for generations, one thing becomes clear very quickly: This community doesn't just have a lion in its name. It has the heart of a lion.

And that's exactly what makes Downtown South Lyon the Heart of South Lyon.

Visit DowntownSouthLyon.com for a calendar of events.

South Lyon Fine Arts Society Gears Up for New Season

SOUTH Lyon Fine Arts Society (SLFAS) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the promotion, education, appreciation, and practice of visual arts in South Lyon and the surrounding communities. The society welcomes adults 18 and older who are interested in creating art, learning new techniques or simply enjoying a supportive artistic community.

SLFAS meets on the second Tuesday of every month from 5:30–7:45 p.m., September through May, in the main meeting

room at the Salem South Lyon District Library. Meetings often include an art class, hands-on project or group discussion. Anyone interested in attending or becoming a member is encouraged to email southlyonfineartsociety@gmail.com, call (248) 667-8540, or visit the society on Facebook. Membership is \$35 per year, and all meetings are open to the public – visitors are welcome to observe before joining. The society also welcomes volunteers, and you do not need to be an artist to help.

This season's classes include Zentangle, acrylic painting, framing, artistic holiday cards, and more. SLFAS recently wrapped up its Midsummer Montage Art Show, featuring over 50 pieces of member artwork. A free reception – sponsored by State Soft Water and Busch's – offered refreshments and included the presentation of a People's Choice Award and an Honorable Mention.

In August, SLFAS gears up for its annual fundraiser at the South Lyon Area Pumpkinfest, held in September. The society's popular kids' game, "Edgar the Nose Picking Monster," returns each year, and every player wins a prize. Leading up to Pumpkinfest, keep an eye out around town for free painted monster rocks created by members to promote the booth. Anyone who finds a monster rock can bring it to the booth for a photo with Edgar.

There are many opportunities to volunteer, make art and get involved with the South Lyon Fine Arts Society. To learn more or view the upcoming meeting schedule, visit southlyonfineartsociety.wordpress.com.





DRIVEN BY DEVELOPMENT

Matt Romaniski has spent 25 years helping young hockey players chase their dreams

By Ryan M. Place

FOR Matt Romaniski, hockey has never simply been a game. It's the foundation of a life built on mentorship, discipline and helping young athletes become the best versions of themselves.

A South Lyon resident since 2014, Romaniski is one of the nation's most respected youth hockey coaches. He serves as director of player personnel and head coach for the HB Hockey Club (formerly HoneyBaked Hockey Club), one of North America's premier AAA youth hockey organizations.

"Hockey owes me nothing," Romaniski said. "I owe the game everything because it's done so much to change my life."

Born in St. Paul, Minnesota in 1977, Romaniski grew up in a hockey family. His father, a Canadian who grew up in Oshawa, outside Toronto, first put him on skates when he was just 3 years old.

"My fondest memories are skating with my dad outside in Minnesota and shooting pucks together at the house," he said. "I played a lot of sports growing up, but hockey was always my favorite."

His playing career took him through junior hockey, college and the professional minor leagues before coaching opened an unexpected new chapter.

After meeting his future wife, the couple moved to Michigan in 2001, where she was from originally, as she pursued graduate school. Romaniski enrolled at Eastern Michigan University to finish his degree, where a chance conversation led to his first coaching opportunity with a youth hockey organization.

"My first coaching job was working with the mini mite program in St. Clair Shores," he said. "From there I went on to coach different travel and AAA teams in Metro Detroit before joining HoneyBaked, and I've been doing this for 25 years now."

That journey has produced remarkable results. More than 20 players

Romaniski has coached and trained have gone on to play in the NHL, a few have competed in the Olympics, and hundreds have advanced to college hockey.

HB Hockey Club also has a storied history of former players who have gone on to play in the NHL. One success story is fellow South Lyon native Trey Augustine, whom Romaniski coached for four years before Augustine became a standout Michigan State University goaltender and recently signed with the Detroit Red Wings.

Romaniski's latest team may be his most accomplished yet. His 2010 birth-year squad captured the Ontario Hockey League (OHL) Cup, becoming the first American-based team ever to win the prestigious international tournament.

"Our players were completely dialed in," he said. "They stayed focused on getting better every single week, competed for one another and truly became a unified team."

Despite the championships and banners, Romaniski says developing character remains his greatest responsibility.

"I tell our players it's not a sprint, it's a marathon," he said. "Attitude, mindset, consistency and good habits matter just as much as raw talent. We want them to become the best hockey players they can be both on and off the ice."

Away from the rink, Romaniski enjoys boating, pickleball and hanging with friends. When not coaching or on the water here in Michigan, Romaniski enjoys heading to Florida and the Caribbean, where he enjoys fishing and boating with friends.

Closer to home, he says South Lyon has been a great place to raise a family.

"It has a real down-home feeling," he said. "The community has grown at a great pace, we have wonderful neighbors and people genuinely care about one another here."

Among his favorite local spots are South Lyon Hotel and the bike trail to Island Lake Recreation Area.

Looking ahead, Romaniski hopes to continue mentoring young players while helping them reach their full potential, not only as hockey players but as people.

"I love skating. I love coaching. I love coming to the rink," he said. "Helping young people grow, earn opportunities and reach their potential is what keeps me excited every day."



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TODAY

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TO YOUR HEALTH!

DECODING EGGS

What are you really getting?

By Lisa Howard

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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AROUND Lyon

September – October

ONGOING

- New Hudson United Methodist Church is continuing with its Third Thursday night free community meals. Upcoming dates are September 17 and October 15, from 5:30-7:00 p.m.

SEPTEMBER

September 12

45th Annual Depot Day/250th America Celebration

10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Witches Hat Depot Museum
300 Dorothy Street
Come out and help us celebrate the 45th Depot Day, and the 250th anniversary of our country! There will be plenty of activities for the whole family, including the Bubble Man, Peddle Pullers, Toy Maker, Train club, Thomas the Train, story time and more! Adults will also enjoy the displays in the chapel, along with music on the gazebo, vendors and other activities. Food this year will be served by the VFW auxiliary group.

September 25

Movies in the Park

6:30-8:30 p.m.
McHattie Park
S. Lafayette Street
Enjoy pre-movie entertainment including games, crafts, treats and more followed by a showing of Grease. The movie starts at dusk. This event is free. Learn more at www.slrec.net.

September 26-27

Pumpkinfest

Saturday: 10 a.m.-7 p.m.;
Sunday: 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Bartlett Elementary School and ECC
Parking Lots
350 School Street
The festival will be temporarily held at a new location this year due to construction, but there will still be Pumpkinfest favorites including booths and vendors, a petting farm, pie baking contest, concerts, food and drink and much more. For more information, visit www.southlyonpumpkinfest.com.

OCTOBER

October 1-31

Scarecrows on the Grand

Downtown New Hudson
Visit the park during the month of October and see the scarecrow displays created by local businesses and organizations and vote for your favorite. For more information, visit www.funonthegrand.com.

October 9

Ghosts on the Grand

6-9 p.m.
Inspiration Park
56730 Grand River Avenue
Hear ghost stories, local legends and real history on this fun, spooky walk! Tickets will be available for \$15. For more information, visit www.funonthegrand.com.



October 17

Goodies on the Grand

4:30-6 p.m.
Inspiration Park
56730 Grand River Avenue
Children are invited to attend the free Trunk or Treat event! Dress up in costumes and collect candy and treats to celebrate Halloween. Visit www.funonthegrand.com for more information.

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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-Sue & Michael Del Negro

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