

SUPPORT OUR LOCAL BUSINESSES!

West Bloomfield T O D A Y



Inside

**New Sheiko
Elementary**

Fall Fetch Festival

**Young Election
Workers**

2026 - Third Quarter

WBSD West Bloomfield Schools!
THE LAKER INSIDE!

Oakland Early College

COMBINED HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE

Diploma & Degree
Tuition Free

Up to 60 transferable
college credits

Oakland County Residents
entering 9th – 11th grade



WBSD

www.OaklandEarlyCollege.org



OAKLAND
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE®



YOUR ADVENTURE BEGINS HERE!
2026 Michigan Renaissance Festival
Open Weekends August 22 - October 4
+ Sept 7 & Oct 2 | 248.634.5552 • MichRenFest.com



CRUZ CLINIC

Serving the community since 1972

Personalized and comprehensive psychiatric and psychological care in a supportive, welcoming environment.

SERVICES

Children, Adolescents, Adults and Seniors

THERAPY

Individual, Family, Couples & Group Therapy.
Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, EMDR, Trauma Therapy, Behavioral Therapy, Play Therapy.

PSYCHOLOGICAL TESTING

Comprehensive assessments and treatment plans designed to meet your needs. ADHD, ADOS, along with a complete panel of cognitive testing.

MEDICATION EVALUATION AND MANAGEMENT

Expert prescribing and medication management to help you feel your best. Including SPRAVATO® treatment.

Cruz Clinic has the capacity to perform diagnostic evaluations and screenings for specific learning disorders, cognitive impairments, ADHD, and Autism Spectrum Disorder that result in research-based recommendations and strategies for school-based professionals to take into consideration.

A NEW HOPE FOR TREATMENT-RESISTANT DEPRESSION

At our SPRAVATO® Clinic, we offer a safe, effective treatment option for those who haven't found relief with other antidepressants.

SPRAVATO®

(esketamine) is an FDA approved nasal spray.

Fast-Acting Relief

Many people experience improvement within hours to days.

Safe & Monitored

Treatment is provided in our comfortable clinic with monitoring for at least two hours.

Ongoing Support

After the initial phase, treatments continue at personalized intervals to help maintain progress.

Most Insurances Accepted | Flexible Scheduling | Telehealth Available

CRUZ CLINIC - 17177 N. Laurel Park Dr., Suite #131, Livonia, MI 48152

734.462.3210 | www.cruzclinic.com

6

Library

Q&A with author John U. Bacon

10

Clerk's Corner

11

Treasurer's Talk

Budget 101: Where does the money go?

12

WB Parks

First-ever Fall Fetch Festival features four-legged, family fun

13

The LAKER

21

Area Fall Events

22

West Bloomfield Elections
Provide Civic Engagement Opportunities to Young Adults

24

Police

Why I became a West Bloomfield Township police officer

25

Fire

Household dangers you may not be aware of

26

Spotlight:

Author Pria Dee creates children's books that celebrate kindness, culture and courage

28

Chamber:

Fall brings the best of networking



29

To Your Health!

Nuts and Seeds: Tiny but potent flavors for fall

38

Around West Bloomfield

TODAY
MAGAZINES
COMMUNITY
PUBLISHING & MARKETING

Community Publishing & Marketing
26955 Northline Road | Taylor, MI 48180
(734) 247-8000

Publisher Paul Martin
President Mark Fisher
Editor Angela Calabrese
Director of Business Development Gina Guarisco

Creative Director Kelly Nykanen
Graphic Designer Shannon Esper
Editorial Assistant Kelsi Klein
Sales Coordinator Ashley Hamilton
Marketing Coordinator AyLaina Thornton

Contributing Writers Debbie Binder, Abby Burgess, Lisa Howard, Nick Israel, Kelsi Klein, Suzanne Levine, Pam MacIntyre, Ryan M. Place, Teri Weingarden

Contributing Photographers Pam MacIntyre

Cover Photo Courtesy of West Bloomfield Schools

WEST BLOOMFIELD TODAY is a product of Community Publishing & Marketing for the residents and businesses of West Bloomfield. Community Publishing & Marketing cannot guarantee the accuracy of the information presented within these pages or be held accountable for omissions or errors. Please report any changes to info@communitypublishing.com for inclusion in subsequent editions.



Scan for
digital publication

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

From the SUPERVISOR

Customer Service isn't a Department— It's Our Commitment

ONE of the questions I hear most often from residents isn't about a particular project or policy. It's much simpler than that: "Will someone get back to me?"

Every interaction with township government begins with communication. That's why West Bloomfield Township has introduced a new 48-Hour Customer Service Guarantee.

The commitment is straightforward. Every inquiry received by the township will be acknowledged within two business days. More importantly, each inquiry will be assigned to a staff member who takes ownership of the issue and provides a substantive next step. If resolving the matter requires additional time, residents won't be left wondering what happened. They will receive a progress update at least every five business days until the issue is resolved.

This isn't simply about responding faster. It's about building trust.

To ensure this commitment becomes part of our daily operations rather than just another policy, departments across the township – including Building, Code Enforcement and Water Utilities – are implementing systems to track incoming inquiries and monitor response times. Every request is logged, assigned and monitored so that accountability exists throughout the process.

Our employees care deeply about serving this community. They work hard every day to solve problems, answer questions and help residents navigate processes that can sometimes seem complicated. By creating clear service standards, we're giving both our staff and our residents a shared understanding of what great customer service looks like.

At the end of the day, government works best when it is responsive, transparent and accountable. The 48-Hour Customer Service Guarantee is our promise that when you reach out to West Bloomfield Township, someone will listen, someone will respond and someone will take ownership of helping you move forward.

Jonathan Warshay
Township Supervisor



Nakisher
ORTHODONTICS

Where patients are family



Specialists in
Orthodontics
for Children,
Teens and Adults

MODERN CARE
TRUSTED EXPERIENCE
CONFIDENT SMILES



Scan here
to schedule
your FREE
Consultation

BRACES AND INVISALIGN

Serving the community for over 25 years

2 LOCATIONS

Farmington Hills: 248.855.4142

Commerce Township: 248.363.2011

**GOLD
BUY**
& JEWELRY
PAWN LOANS

BEST SELECTION OF
RECONDITIONED GOLD AND
DIAMOND ESTATE JEWELRY AT
WHOLESALE PRICES!



WE PAY THE MOST

41490 GRAND RIVER AVE STE D NOVI, MI 248.465.1118

WE BUY
GOLD, SILVER, PLATINUM
DIAMONDS, COINS,
ROLEX WATCHES



**CASH
FOR
GOLD**



GET \$20 CASH

UPON SELLING US \$150 WORTH OF JEWELRY.
FREE JEWELRY APPRAISALS!

Limited Time Offer. Gold Buy Novi Location Only. We Beat All Competitors.

WE BUY,
SELL & TRADE
BULLION & COINS



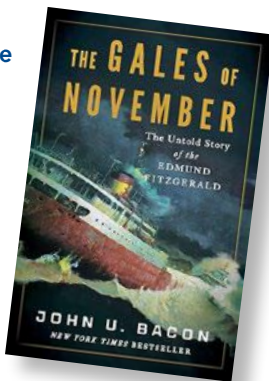
Q&A with Author John U. Bacon

ON Wednesday, October 21 at 6:30 p.m., bestselling author John U. Bacon will speak at the West Bloomfield Township Public Library's Main Branch in celebration of National Book Club Month.

Executive Library Director Cathy Russ penned a series of questions to give readers a peek at the mind behind "The Gales of November: The Untold Story of the Edmund Fitzgerald." Read Bacon's responses below, then register to attend the event at wblib.org/author-visits.

Q: You have been touring to promote "The Gales of November." How is the tour going and what has the response to the book been like?

I toured for seven months, on and off, with 56 stops in 20 states, to see some 12,000 readers and sign 8,000 books—all records for me. And the response has been even greater than we could have reasonably hoped. The publisher knew we had to appeal to Great Lakes dads, but hitting 16 weeks on the *New York Times* bestseller list required getting the attention of people on the coasts, younger people and women, and all that has happened enough to require 11 printings so far. So, thank you!



Q: What drew you to writing about the wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald?

Probably like most of you, I grew up on the Great Lakes, but I was surprised to learn how little I actually knew about them, and especially the shipping industry that our economy depends on. I also wanted to tell the story of the 29 crew who were on the Fitzgerald that night. I knew the song, like most of us, but I didn't know a single name of the crew. That didn't seem right to me, and I wanted to do what I could to fix that.

Q: What is it about this tragedy that continues to resonate with people?

We were pleasantly surprised to discover how much people were still interested in this story. I think it's for a few reasons: the song, first and foremost; the fact that the mystery has never been fully solved; and even more surprising, after the Great Lakes claimed 6,000 commercial shipwrecks from 1875 to 1975, there has not been a single one since the Fitzgerald went down on November 10, 1975.

Q: You've written books about history, about leadership and quite a bit about University of Michigan sports. How do you decide what to write about?

Honestly, it's whatever interests me at the time. This drives my agent crazy, because all agents want their authors to pick a lane and stick to it, but I've found it more rewarding. I still give speeches on "Let Them Lead: Unexpected Lessons in Leadership from America's Worst High School Team" around the country,



About the Author

John U. Bacon has written 14 books, including eight national bestsellers. He has written for *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Washington Post*, and *Time* magazine, among others, appears often on national TV, and won NPR's prize for the nation's best commentary in 2014. Learn more at johnubacon.com.

while simultaneously making book tour stops for "The Gales of November." Any topic I decide to pursue needs to fascinate me for a couple years, or the readers will never find it interesting.



Q: What are some of your favorite books? Do you have any recommendations for our readers?

Not surprisingly, I tend to read narrative, non-fiction, the same genre in which I write. Obviously there are a lot of great novelists, but I feel there are so many great authors writing non-fiction that I'd rather get the best of both worlds with great scenes, characters and plots, plus deep and accurate research. Some of my favorites include:

- Doug Stanton's "In Harm's Way"
- Hampton Sides' "The Wide Wide Sea" – truly a masterpiece –
- Jonathan Eig's "King"
- Douglas Brinkley's "Moonshot"
- David Grann's "The Wager"

Those should keep you busy for a while!

109th McGLINCH Home Improvements **SONS Co.** EST. 1917

ANNIVERSARY SALE

Specializing in all aspects
of exterior construction.

 **James Hardie**
SIDING

**LEAF PROTECTION
& GUTTERS**

**STONE &
BRICK**

ELDORADO
STONE

VELUX®

SKYLIGHTS

Satisfying
Metro Detroit
Homeowners
since 1917

 **MasterElite**
FACTORY CERTIFIED
WEATHER STOPPER ROOFING CONTRACTOR

GAF

ROOFING



**DOORS &
DOORWALLS**



WINDOWS

Visit our
New Showroom
for an additional
**\$500
OFF**

Some restrictions apply.*

THE BEST WARRANTIES IN THE BUSINESS

25 YEARS
ON LABOR

LIFETIME
ON MATERIAL

**CERTIFIED
INSTALLER**
for all the premier
manufacturers



TAKE UP TO
\$2500 OFF
James Hardie Siding*

TAKE UP TO
\$1500 OFF
Pella Windows*

18 Months
Deferred Interest

TAKE UP TO
\$1000 OFF
Roofing*

- LICENSED
- BONDED
- INSURED

A+ Rated



GUILD QUALITY



Five Generations of Trust & Service

McGLINCH
Home Improvements



EST. 1917
SONS Co.

248.987.6300 | mcglinchsons.com

29565 Grand River Ave. Farmington Hills, 48336

Valid on initial consultations only. Some restrictions apply. Must present ad. Expires 11/30/26



HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE & SHREDDING

2026



HAZARDOUS WASTE & ELECTRONICS

@Town Hall

4550 Walnut Lake Road
West Bloomfield, MI 48323



SEP 18	SEP 19
4:00 – 6:00 p.m.	9:00 a.m. – Noon

Township Staff will pick up items from homebound West Bloomfield residents on September 18.

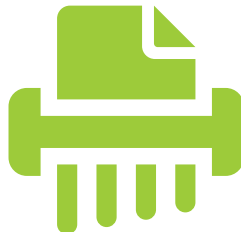
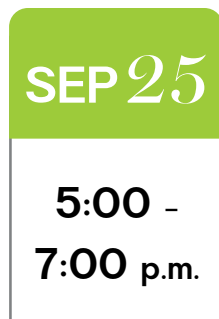
Call Parks Community Transit
at (248) 706-2411 to schedule service.

ON-SITE SHREDDING

Secure, on-site
shredding of
personal, household
documents.

**NO COMMERCIAL
SHREDDING.**

Limit 50lb/vehicle



ACCEPTED ITEMS

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

Aerosols Cans, Automotive Fluids (Gas, Oil, Antifreeze, Starter, Transmission, Brake, Lubricants), Batteries (Alkaline/ Auto/Household), Cleaners & Solvents (Household & Auto), Expired OTC Medications and Vitamins, Fire Extinguishers, Freon, Herbicides, Household Adhesives (Putty, Caulk), Lightbulbs (Incandescent, Fluorescent, LED, U-Shaped, Automotive, Floodlight), Liquid Mercury, Mercury Devices (Thermostats, Blood Pressure Cuffs, Thermometers, Switches, Barometers), Nail Polish (and Remover), Needles & Sharps (must be in puncture resistant container w/cap), Paint & Stains (Oil and Latex-based), Pesticides, Pool & Spa Chemicals, Propane Cylinders

ELECTRONIC WASTE

Cable Boxes, Cell Phones, Computers (Keyboard, Laptop, Monitor, Mouse, Terminal), Cords/Cables, DVD/VCR, Fax Machines, Gaming Units, Notebooks, Pagers, Home Phones, Printers, Scanners, Stereos/Radios, Typewriters, Televisions.
No items in boxes.

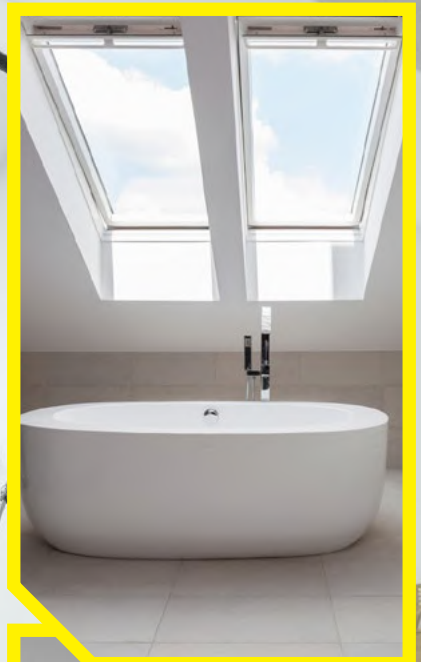
UNACCEPTED ITEMS

Air Conditioning Units, Ammunition, Appliances, Compost/Yard Waste, Construction Material or Debris, Controlled Substances/Narcotics (accepted by West Bloomfield Police Department), Dehumidifiers, Car Parts, Plastic Shopping Bags, Radioactive Material, Trash/ Recycling, Tires, Tools or Shredding.

No Commercial or Business Waste.

West Bloomfield residents can recycle their hazardous waste **year-round** at ERG Environmental Services in Livonia. **Pick up a voucher** at Town Hall and present upon arrival. For more information, call (248) 451-4818.

**The
No Leak
Skylight**
No Leak Promise
No Worries



Michigan Skylight Pros

SIGNATURE SKYLIGHT SPECIALIST



NEW INSTALLATIONS | REPAIRS | REPLACEMENTS

**BUY NOW
PAY LATER**

buy now, pay later based upon 12 months, no interest,
no payments with approved credit



Signature Skylight Specialist
•Skylights •Sun Tunnels •Roof Windows

**Schedule a no obligation
consultation with a trusted
Velux Pro!**

248-987-6305

Scan to
schedule
online



MichiganSkylightPros.com | 31205 Grand River Ave., Farmington Hills 48336

Offers cannot be combined. Buy now pay later program is based upon 12 months, no interest, no payments, with approved credit. offer expires 11/30/26



We Are Here to Serve You

Clerk's Office working to improve your voting experience

By Debbie Binder, West Bloomfield Township Clerk

AS I am writing this, we are just days after the August State Primary election and have a few reminders we would like to share. The election went extremely well; however, acting on a few observations, we can make it even better.

On Election Day, we noticed there were many voters who weren't sure where their precinct was. In late 2023, legislative changes allowed clerks to increase the number of registered voters per precinct from 2,999 to 4,999. This change was based upon a shift in voter habits toward absentee voting. We did not make any changes to our precinct map until after the 2024 November Presidential General Election, when we had solid numbers in a large election to determine the feasibility of consolidating precincts.

Beginning with the 2025 Special Election, we consolidated our precincts from 26 to 20. The lines were redrawn so that all voters in each precinct would have the same ballot style.

Previously, a precinct's workers would have to keep track of unique ballots for different school districts (West Bloomfield has seven). Precinct numbers were also changed to help streamline the Clerk's Office Election Day preparation and administration.

Every voter was mailed a new voter information card reflecting their new precinct number and polling location. If you can't find yours, you can always obtain this information at Michigan.gov/vote, or contact us to request a copy. It is always good to confirm your location ahead of each election in case there are circumstances where a temporary relocation is necessary.

Another important reminder is to **MAKE A PLAN**. Information is easily available at Michigan.gov/vote, where voting options for **Early, Absentee, and In-Person Election Day voting** are outlined.

There are deadlines and requirements that are important to be aware of. For example, you need to allow sufficient time if you wish for an absentee ballot to be mailed. You are able to obtain an absentee ballot, in-person, for yourself only, at the Clerk's Office beginning 40 days prior to the election, up to 4:00 p.m. (sharp) on the Monday immediately preceding Election Day. For residents with mobility or health issues, curbside service is available by calling **(248) 451-4848**.



It is important to know we can only provide a voter with their own ballot.

If you have requested/received an absentee ballot, whether on the Permanent Ballot list or not, we suggest you try to bring your absentee ballot with you to your Early Voting Center or polling location on Election Day. Having your ballot with you will expedite the process, and Early Voting will now offer an express lane for voters who have their absentee ballot with them.

Early Voting is a fabulous option for voters who want to maintain a precinct experience and feed their ballot into the tabulator (voting machine) themselves. Additionally, if you make a mistake, like crossing party lines in a primary or overvoting a specific race, you are able to spoil your ballot and request another. An additional benefit is Early Voting offers flexibility if you have a work conflict or are out of town on Election Day.

Michigan.gov/vote or your friendly West Bloomfield Clerk's Office are your best places for accurate information! We are here to serve you!





TREASURER'S TALK

Budget 101: Where Does the Money Go?

By Teri Weingarden, West Bloomfield Township Treasurer

EACH autumn, West Bloomfield Township enters one of the most important seasons of the year: budgeting. While this process happens behind the scenes, its impact is visible in nearly every aspect of our community – from the condition of our parks to the safety of our neighborhoods.

As your township treasurer, I often hear a common question: “Where do my tax dollars actually go?” The answer is both straightforward and important to understand.

At its core, the township budget is a blueprint for how we invest in the services that you rely on every day. Property taxes are not collected without purpose – they are carefully allocated across essential services that maintain the quality of life that makes West Bloomfield such a desirable place to live.

Our largest township expense is funding for public safety. This includes our police and fire services, emergency response capabilities and ongoing training and equipment to ensure our first responders are prepared for any situation. These are foundational services, which protect lives, property and the overall sense of security in our community.

Another key area of investment is infrastructure and maintenance. While the county maintains our roads, West Bloomfield invests in an extensive network of safety paths.

These paths are more than just recreational amenities, they connect neighborhoods, schools, parks, and commercial areas, allowing all of us to walk and bike safely throughout the township. Maintaining and improving this



network requires ongoing funding, planning and coordination.

West Bloomfield is renowned for its natural beauty – an oasis in the metropolis, which means environmental stewardship is a priority reflected in the budget. With 28 lakes and a commitment to protecting wetlands and woodlands, the township invests in programs and policies that preserve these natural assets. These efforts not only protect the environment but also sustain property values and the character of our community for future generations.

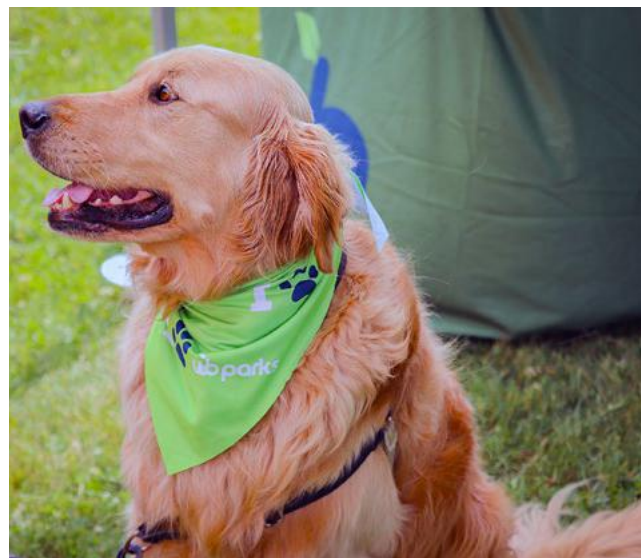
It is also important to understand that the township budget is not static. Each year, we evaluate current needs, future priorities and financial sustainability. We look carefully at revenues, expenditures and long-term obligations to ensure that we are managing public resources responsibly. This includes maintaining strong financial practices, preserving reserves and planning for future capital needs.

Transparency is a key part of this process. The budgeting season provides an opportunity for residents to learn more, ask questions and understand how decisions are made. Our goal is not only to manage funds effectively, but to do so in a way that builds trust and confidence in township government.

In simple terms, your tax dollars are invested into the services and infrastructure that make West Bloomfield function and thrive. From public safety to parks, from environmental protection to connected pathways, each dollar plays a role in supporting the community we all share.

As we move through this year's budgeting process, I encourage residents to stay engaged, learn more about how the township operates and take pride in the collective investment we are making in West Bloomfield's future.





A Doggone Good Time!

First-Ever Fall Fetch Festival features four-legged, family fun

By Abby Burgess, Community Engagement Coordinator for WB Parks

WB PARKS is making "fetch" happen! Welcome the fall season at our new Fall Fetch Festival, presented by Premier Pet Supply!

Bring your four-legged family members out to Marshbank Park for an afternoon full of tail-wagging fun on Saturday, September 26 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. This event is sure to be a blast for dog-owners and non-dog owners alike and is open for all ages. The best part? While pre-registration is encouraged, admission to the event is completely free! Those who pre-register will be entered to win a variety of pet-themed raffle prizes.

Stroll through the park to shop from a variety of pet vendors and enjoy a make-and-take stuffed animal station with The Friendship Factory (fee required). Participants won't want to miss the incredible K9 Star Productions Stunt Shows at 12 and 2 p.m.



Make a day of it and enjoy lunch from a variety of local food trucks available onsite and explore the beautiful, fall scenery at Marshbank Park. Please note that all dogs must remain on-leash within the park.

Don't forget to break out your best pup and parent costumes for our costume contest! There is no theme, so any costume will qualify you and your pet for a chance at first-, second- and third-place prizes. Pet owners are welcome to dress up with their canine companions, but it is not required to be entered into the contest.

Commemorate this inaugural event at our doggy paint station, only \$10 per canvas! Choose your paint colors and let your pup play Picasso, with safe, plastic-sealed canvases topped with either peanut butter or whipped cream, ensuring an artwork unique to your pet.

Special Event Programmer Crystal Smith shared her excitement for this new addition to our fall event lineup:

"I'm so excited to host our fur-st

ever Fall Fetch Festival, an event that will bring animal lovers together for an afternoon of fun. Our community has been asking for pet-focused events, so I am so excited to bring this festival to our fall season lineup."

Don't miss out on this special afternoon of four-legged fun – perfect for families and pets alike! Enjoy the start of the fall season and experience this first-ever event. To learn more or to register, visit wbparks.org/fall-fetch-festival.



From left to right: Inside the new Sheiko Elementary School and West Bloomfield Preschool Academy on Walnut Lake Road, current Sheiko Elementary Principal Blaine McDowell, retired Principal Kathy Sheiko, Board of Education President Stacy Brickman, and Superintendent Dania H. Bazzi, PhD.



A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT AND SUPERINTENDENT

As we begin a new school year in West Bloomfield School District, there is momentum. We are charting new waters, but our destination remains clear: ensuring every student is challenged, supported and prepared for what comes next.

This year, that commitment will be visible in new spaces and new opportunities. We are thrilled to welcome students into the new Sheiko Elementary and West Bloomfield Preschool Academy, a state-of-the-art home for our youngest Lakers. Join us for the ribbon-cutting on September 16 at 6:30 p.m. at 4500 Walnut Lake Road. We also broke ground on Doherty Elementary at 3575 Walnut Lake Road on September 8. These projects would not have been possible without our community's support, and we are grateful for your investment in our students and schools.

But new buildings are only part of the story. Our strongest investment continues to be in teaching and learning.

At West Bloomfield Middle School, Advanced Pathways launches this year, with accelerated pathways in English, social studies and science for students ready to be challenged. This creates a bridge to West Bloomfield High School, where students can choose from 27 Advanced Placement courses.

In elementary, Level Up Math continues to expand opportunities for students ready to accelerate. Updated criteria have increased access, maintaining a success rate above 95%, with participation projected to grow roughly 40%. We want every student to have the right challenge, support and opportunity to keep growing.

That also means identifying where students need support and working intentionally to close gaps. We do that by using student achievement and growth data to identify needs, providing targeted intervention and enrichment through small-group learning, reading intervention support and dedicated support classes at the middle and high school levels.

Academic excellence, however, is never just about courses, programs or test scores. Students do their best learning when they know they belong, when someone knows their name and when school and home are working together.

Being a Laker means we challenge one another, care for one another and show up for one another.

That is why we look to our families, staff, and community as partners. It truly takes a village. Our students deserve our very best, and our staff, families and community show what is possible when we work together on their behalf.

There will be new waters ahead. We know who we are, we know what our students need and we know we can do this together.

Proud to be WB,
Stacy Brickman
Board of Education President

Dania H. Bazzi, PhD
Superintendent

SAVE THE DATE

September 16: NEW Sheiko Elementary Ribbon Cutting
September 18: Family Fun Night at WBHS
September 21: No School
October 14: Late Start
October 15: Fall Music Collage Concert at WBHS

November 3: No School
November 3: Heroes Appreciation Breakfast at WBMS
November 17-19: Conferences
November 25-27: Thanksgiving Break
December 15: Winter Choir Concert at WBHS
December 21-January 1: Winter Break

» News & Notes from the District

WBHS STUDENT-ATHLETES EARN HIGH HONORS

Congratulations to West Bloomfield High School swimmers Elizabeth Eichbrecht and Trae Lewis on earning NISCA All-American honors, one of the highest recognitions for high school swimmers in the nation!

Elizabeth has now earned 15 All-American honors throughout her remarkable high school career, including the No. 1 national ranking in the 500 Freestyle and No. 2 in the 200 Freestyle for 2026. Trae was also recognized as a 2026 NISCA All-American in the 200 Individual Medley and 100 Backstroke.

We are incredibly proud of these outstanding student-athletes for representing West Bloomfield with excellence in and out of the pool.

Kamryn Tatum has established herself as one of the nation's top high school sprint recruits, holding several school records, winning multiple MHSAA state championships in the 100m, 200m, and 400m while earning national titles and All-American honors before committing to the University of Illinois.



MEDIA MAKER CAMP

Digital Media Arts Instructor Jennifer Williamson welcomed creators, storytellers and future filmmakers for two weeks of hands-on media production. Campers learned how to operate professional cameras, report on camera, edit videos, produce social media content, and work together to create exciting projects they'll be proud to share.



More than 250 people gathered to watch "Super Mario Bros" at our largest outdoor classroom at West Bloomfield High School (thank you for the bond that made our scoreboard possible). Thank you to West Bloomfield Parks for your partnership!



CHEF JESSE ALMODOVAR

WBSD's Chef Jesse Almodovar made the summer special by guiding summer campers in planting cilantro, basil, and parsley.



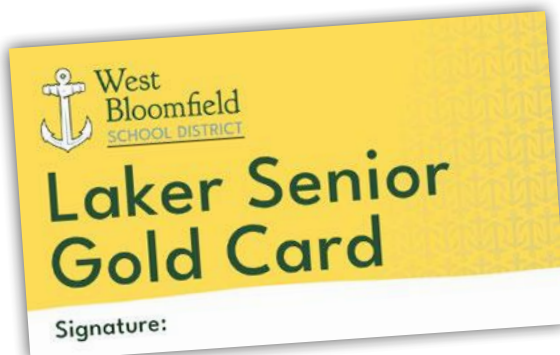
Parents of WBSD students can apply to receive six non-perishable meals each Friday of the school year. The goal of Fueling Kids' Futures is to make sure no child goes hungry during the weekend. Run by volunteers, there is NO cost to the families. To apply, visit <https://www.wbsd.org/community>.



Together we are planting the seeds for a lifelong love of learning.

West Bloomfield School District is proud to partner with Henry Ford Health West Bloomfield to support early literacy. WBSD donated 250 copies of "Goodnight Moon" to the Labor and Delivery Unit. Each book will be gifted to new mothers, along with a heartfelt message about the power of reading to children from the moment they are born.

Photo credit: WBHS student photographer Brenden Doyle/West Bloomfield School District



FREE ADMISSION FOR RESIDENTS 65+

Laker Senior Gold Cards are available for West Bloomfield School District residents age 65 and above so they may attend plays, athletic games and musical performances free of charge. Cards are available in the high school athletic office or the ACS Office at 5810 Commerce Road.

» News & Notes from the District



Congratulations!

Congratulations to WBHS student Max Columbus, who recently represented WB at the 2026 Washington Journalism and Media Conference at George Mason University!

As a national youth correspondent, Max spent the week learning from media professionals, collaborating with students from across the country, and gaining valuable journalism experience. Way to represent Laker Nation!



WEST BLOOMFIELD PRESCHOOL ACADEMY

Our teachers go above and beyond every single day, creating nurturing environments, building meaningful connections and inspiring a love of learning in each child.

FREE PRESCHOOL

FOR 4 YEAR OLDS • ENROLLING NOW
HALF & FULL DAY OPTIONS

West Bloomfield
PRESCHOOL
ACADEMY

PreK for ALL

Grow with us!
(248) 865-6466

West
Bloomfield
SCHOOL DISTRICT



WBHS ALUM SPOTLIGHT ON Evan Seigerman Class of 2006

LOOKING BACK ON YOUR TIME AT WEST BLOOMFIELD HIGH SCHOOL, WHAT EXPERIENCES OR MEMORIES STAND OUT TO YOU THE MOST?

My AP classes, including calculus and economics, while challenging, set me up well for success in college and beyond. The quality of my teachers was integral to my success in all of my classes. I was also actively involved in the theatre arts program throughout all four years at WBHS. My experience in this extracurricular activity taught me public speaking, presentation skills and general public presence, which I use frequently, including during my many TV segments on CNBC.

WAS THERE A TEACHER, CLASS AND/OR SUBJECT THAT HAD A LASTING IMPACT ON YOU, AND WHY?

AP Economics (Micro, Macro): Jackie Evola – these two classes set in motion my BBA education at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor and my interest in the financial markets.

I'd also add Dr. Brandell, who taught my AP BC Calculus class. This class, while challenging, taught me how to solve complex problems that extend beyond mathematics. I also remember my time in AP Biology fondly.

WHAT LESSONS OR SKILLS DID WEST BLOOMFIELD HIGH SCHOOL HELP YOU DEVELOP THAT YOU STILL USE TODAY?

During my time at WBHS, I honed several key skills that I still use today:

1. Writing and communication. These are integral to my success. Even in finance, writing and communication are critical. I write more now than I did in high school. The ability to communicate succinctly and coherently in writing is essential in my professional life.
2. Economics and mathematics: Understanding financial markets requires strong mathematical and economics skills. I was able to lay the foundation of these skills during my time at WBHS.
3. Public speaking and presentation: I would not be nearly as strong of a public speaker as I am today without my participation in the theatre arts program.

IN WHAT WAYS DID BEING A LAKER HELP SHAPE WHO YOU ARE PERSONALLY OR PROFESSIONALLY?

Several classes and extracurricular activities set the stage for my professional life in finance. I am currently the head of healthcare investment research at the investment bank of BMO Capital Markets, based in NYC. I focus my work on pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies. I have been on Wall Street since 2013 at four different firms. Before my Wall Street career, I was a strategy consultant, also focused on biotech and pharmaceutical companies. My official bio can be found here: <https://capitalmarkets.bmo.com/en/our-bankers/evan-david-seigerman/>.



WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO CURRENT WEST BLOOMFIELD HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS AS THEY PREPARE FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION, AND FRESHMEN AS THEY BEGIN HIGH SCHOOL?

High school is only four years of your life, but these four years can have a deep and lasting impact on the trajectory of your life. Your time in high school matters: your classes, grades, activities, and friends. You will not have all the answers about what you want to do afterward, but putting in effort now to be the best you can be across your classes and activities will pay dividends well into your adult life.

Use this time to explore new things: take that elective you are curious about, join that club (I did with theatre, and it set me up for a lifetime of public speaking) and don't be afraid to ask your teachers for help and guidance when you're stuck. They are not the enemy and are committed every day to your success and development.

2026 BOARD OF EDUCATION

Stacy Brickman, President
Nelson Hersh, Vice President
Ashleigh Davis, Secretary
Wm. Art Holdsworth, Treasurer
Julie Beaty, Trustee
Kirsten Douglass, Trustee
Deborah Evans, Trustee

WBSD Board Meetings are held in the iCenter at West Bloomfield High School at 7 p.m. Board Study Sessions are held at 6:30 p.m., in the ACS building, 5810 Commerce Road.

September 14 - Board Study Session
September 28 - Board Meeting
October 12 - Board Study Session
October 26 - Board Meeting
November 9 - Board Study Session
November 23 - Board Meeting
December 7 - Board Study Session
December 14 - Board Meeting

West Bloomfield School District

Dania H. Bazzi, PhD
Superintendent
248-865-6485

Call for a Tour

West Bloomfield High School
248-865-6720

Oakland Early College
248-522-3540

Laker Opportunity Center
248-522-3542

West Bloomfield Transition Center
248-539-0532

West Bloomfield Middle School
248-865-4480

Doherty Elementary School
(at Abbott site temporarily)
248-865-6020

Gretchko Elementary School
248-865-6570

Scotch Elementary School
248-865-3280

Sheiko Elementary School
248-865-6370

Adult Ed. English Language Learner
248-539-2390

WB Preschool Academy
248-865-6457

WBSD Communications

Andrea Frank
248-865-6454



ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER PROGRAM FOR ADULTS

Students 18 and older from any district are eligible to register for our English Language Learner program. Classes are held at 7071 Orchard Lake Road, Suite 100, West Bloomfield. Don't wait to learn English or improve your English language skills.

FALL 2026 ENGLISH CLASSES

Registration is open now for morning and evening classes. Call (248) 539-2390 or email melissa.mcdonald@wbsd.org to make a registration appointment.



2026 - 2027

Calendar

August 31 First Full Day of School
September 4-7 Labor Day - No School
September 9 Late Start
September 21 No School
October 14 Late Start
November 3 No School
November 11 Late Start
November 17 Evening Conferences - EL
November 18 Evening Conferences - MS
November 19 Evening Conferences - HS
November 20 Half Day - All Schools
Nov 25-27 Thanksgiving Break
Dec 21-Jan 1 Winter Break
January 13 Half Day - HS Only

January 14-15 Half Day - All Schools
January 18 No School - MLK Jr. Day
February 10 Late Start
February 15 No School - Mid-Winter Break
March 10 No School
March 17 Late Start
March 26 No School
Mar 29-Apr 2 No School - Spring Break
April 14 Late Start
May 12 Late Start
May 31 No School - Memorial Day
June 9 Half Day - HS Only
June 10 Half Day - All Schools
June 11 Half Day - Students' Last Day

SCHOOL	Start Time	Dismissal Time	Late Start Time	Half-Day Dismissal Time
WBHS & Transition Center	7:45 a.m.	2:38 p.m.	9:45 a.m.	10:55 a.m.
Oakland Early College	8 a.m.	3 p.m.	10 a.m.	11:14 a.m.
Doherty & WBMS	8 a.m.	2:52 p.m.	10 a.m.	11:02 a.m.
Gretchko, Scotch & Sheiko	9 a.m.	3:52 p.m.	11 a.m.	12:02 p.m.
AM Early Childhood SE	8:15 a.m.	11:15 a.m.	NA	NA
PM Early Childhood SE	12:15 p.m.	3:15 p.m.	NA	NA

Report absences between the hours of 6 p.m. and the start of the next school day by calling the Safeline # below:

Doherty Elementary (248) 865-6002
Gretchko Elementary (248) 865-6572
Scotch Elementary (248) 865-3282
Sheiko Elementary (248) 865-6372
WBMS (248) 865-4482
WBHS (248) 865-6722
Transition Center (248) 539-0532

Note: Late Start is 2 hours after the regular start time.

WEST BLOOMFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT

15th Annual FAMILY FUN NIGHT



Saluting our U.S. Military, Police,
& Fire Heroes



5 p.m. - FREE Fun Activities: Touch a Truck, Bounce Houses,
Dunk Tank, Games, Fun, & More

6:45 p.m. - Opening Tribute Ceremony

7 p.m. - WBHS vs Lake Orion

★★★★★ **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18** ★★★★★



Elementary and middle school students wearing spirit
wear items are admitted into the game for FREE!

**WEST BLOOMFIELD
HIGH SCHOOL**

www.wbsd.org



West Bloomfield
PRESCHOOL
ACADEMY

LITTLE LAKERS

PRESCHOOL FOR 3 YEAR OLDS



“Where
playing is
learning”

Enroll Today!

- ✓ Caring Staff
- ✓ Multiple Locations
- ✓ Flexible Scheduling



For More Info Call (248) 865-6466





SAVE THE DATE! KENTUCKY DERBY FUNDRAISER



West Bloomfield Educational Foundation
Proceeds benefit students and teachers
SATURDAY, MAY 1, 2027
for more information
www.wbef.org



HEROES APPRECIATION BREAKFAST



Event Partners



TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3
9-10:30 AM
WEST BLOOMFIELD
MIDDLE SCHOOL

Media Partner



FREE for Veterans+ one guest
Pre-registration required
Registration closes 10/27

Live Entertainment | Guest Speaker | Presentation from Honor Guards

Nakisher Orthodontics

Experience, Excellence and Heart By Pamela MacIntyre

FOR more than three decades, Dr. Andrea Nakisher has dedicated her career to orthodontics. While healthy smiles are the result, it's the relationships she builds with patients and their families that make her career so rewarding.

A third-generation dentist, Dr. Nakisher grew up watching her father and grandfather care for patients, an experience that inspired a lifelong passion for dentistry. Today, she leads Nakisher Orthodontics, a privately owned, doctor-run practice built on exceptional patient care, clinical excellence and compassion.

From the moment patients walk through the doors, they're welcomed into a modern office that reflects the practice's commitment to innovation and comfort. Advanced technology and a friendly team create an environment where patients of all ages can feel at ease.

With more than 32 years of experience and nearly 40 years of combined orthodontic expertise among its doctors, Nakisher Orthodontics combines decades of knowledge with today's proven technology. Joining Dr. Nakisher are Dr. Robbie Herman and Dr. Susan Rizk, who share the practice's commitment to exceptional, personalized care.

Dr. Herman's story is especially meaningful. Once a patient at Nakisher Orthodontics, he was inspired by his own experience to pursue dentistry before eventually returning to practice alongside the orthodontist who first cared for his smile. It's one example of the lasting relationships the practice builds with patients.

"We've watched children grow up, graduate, start careers and now bring in their own children," Dr. Nakisher said. "That's incredibly rewarding."

Helping patients gain confidence and building lasting relationships with families has become one of the most fulfilling aspects of her career.

"We start every day with a morning huddle and meet again at the end of the day," Dr. Nakisher said. "We review patient care, discuss treatment plans and identify ways we can provide the highest quality care."

The collaborative approach ensures every patient benefits from the team's collective knowledge and attention.

The practice also embraces proven technology that enhances both comfort and efficiency. Digital scanning has replaced traditional impressions, and 3D printing allows customized appliances to be created with remarkable precision. Dr. Nakisher and her team are committed to lifelong learning, thoughtfully incorporating advancements that have been proven to enhance patient care. Every treatment plan is customized to meet each patient's unique needs and goals. They also take time to explain treatment options, answer questions and guide patients through every step of the orthodontic journey.

That commitment to communication helps ease anxiety and transform what can be an intimidating experience into a positive one, allowing patients and their families to feel informed, comfortable and confident in every decision.

Beyond the office, Nakisher Orthodontics is deeply involved in the community. Dr. Nakisher serves on the board of Tamarack Camps, and the practice supports local schools, youth sports, dance

organizations and charitable initiatives, including Smile for a Lifetime, ViewFest and Farmington's Education and Therapy Canine Helpers.

She is equally passionate about mentoring students interested in dentistry, welcoming job-shadowing students into the practice and encouraging future dental professionals.

Today, Dr. Nakisher embraces the philosophy that has guided her career from the beginning: pursue excellence, continue learning and always put patients first. It's an approach that has earned the trust of generations of families and defines Nakisher Orthodontics today.

We welcome you to visit one of our convenient locations for a complimentary consultation. Call (248) 855-4142 to schedule at our Farmington Hills office or (248) 363-2011 for Commerce. For more information about Nakisher Orthodontics go to www.nakisherorthodontics.com.



Celebrate The Season

Fall brings plenty of family-friendly activities

By Kelsi Klein

TAKE a break from phones and screens this fall and enjoy a day of fun at one of these family-friendly fall events in Metro Detroit:

September 26

Fall Fetch Festival

11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Marshbank Park

2805 Hiller Road, West Bloomfield Township

Bring your four-legged friends to this new festival and see the K9 Star Productions stunt show at 12 and 2 p.m., shop from a variety of pet vendors, make and take a stuffed animal with The Friendship Factory, enjoy lunch from local food trucks, enter your pet in a costume contest and much more. Pre-register at www.wbparks.org.



October 10

Great Fall Festival

10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Maybury Farm

50165 8 Mile Road, Northville

Enjoy a fun-filled fall day at the farm. Admission starts at \$14/person at the door and includes live music, activities, games, photo ops, a playground, story walk around the pond and more. Add a wagon ride or corn maze to your ticket and enjoy delicious food, drinks and treats. For more information or to purchase tickets online, visit www.mayburyfarm.org/events.



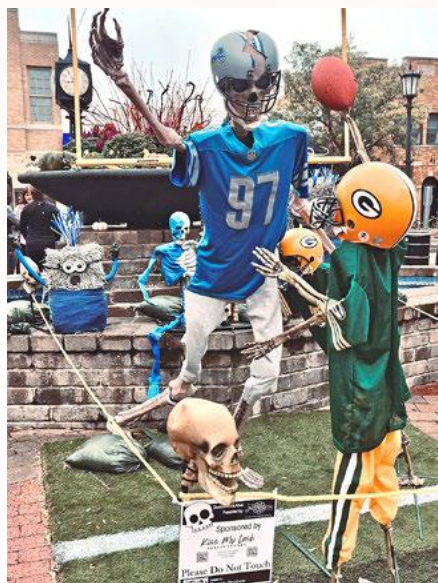
November 26

America's Thanksgiving Parade

8:45 a.m.

Woodward Avenue, Detroit

Visit Downtown Detroit for the Thanksgiving Day Parade's 100th anniversary and be a part of a fall tradition. Learn more at www.theparade.org.



October 15

Boos & BBQ Block Party

4-8 p.m.

Downtown Allen Park

Don't miss Allen Park's final fall-themed block party complete with family-friendly activities, curated vendors with high-quality goods, treats and creative finds, food from local restaurants and a visiting food truck and a live music performance by Five Towns Down from 6-8 p.m. For more information, visit www.downtownallenpark.org.

October 2-31

Skeletons Are Alive

Downtown Northville

Over 200 life-sized skeletons will be posed and displayed around Downtown Northville throughout the month with a free launch party on October 2 from 5-9 p.m., featuring food trucks, live music, street performers and family-friendly activities for all. Learn more at www.downtownnorthville.com.

November 19-20

Royal Oak Market: Art Fair Edition

11 a.m.-9 p.m.

Royal Oak Farmers Market

316 E 11 Mile Road, Royal Oak

Experience this free festive event, now in its 11th year, produced by The Guild of Artists and Artisans and enjoy art from 60 jury selected artists, live entertainment, food vendors and beverage offerings. For more information, visit www.royaloakchamber.com.



REWARDING and EMPOWERING

West Bloomfield elections provide civic engagement opportunities to young adults

By Kelsi Klein

BEHIND the scenes of every successful election day is a team of dedicated individuals who assist voters at the polls and ensure each ballot is handled accurately.

Township Clerk Debbie Binder explained that West Bloomfield has made an intentional goal to involve local youth in the election process, giving students and young adults an opportunity to experience the work that goes into administering an election while developing a strong sense of civic responsibility.

"We feel it is a productive way to instill a sense of civic engagement, as well as an opportunity to experience a supportive working environment where precision and accuracy are essential," Binder said.

The township regularly brings in young election workers through high school referrals and internship programs.

This year's young adult workers include Kennedy Dobson, Jordyn Law, Davey Lewis and Jacob Small.

Law and Lewis have each been on the team for a year while Dobson is in her third year and Small has returned for his sixth.

For Binder, this longevity is a reflection of the environment the township has created for its younger election workers.

"Once they come, they stay," Binder said.

Lewis initially started helping with the elections because of his interest in politics and the government.

"This internship gave me the opportunity to get a



Clerk's Office staff celebrating
Shark Week and a job well done!

glimpse of how this type of work is run," Lewis said.

For many young people who have gotten to work elections in West Bloomfield, the hands-on experience is both rewarding and empowering.

"The staff and community in the West Bloomfield Clerk's Office are some of the best people you will ever work with," Lewis said.

Small, who got involved with the Clerk's Office in the fall of 2021, started as an intern as part of the Professional Apprenticeship program at West Bloomfield High School. After graduating in 2022, Small transferred into a temporary election worker position and has since come back to work in the office during each election season.

"Along the way, I have taken on tasks and challenges that demanded greater responsibilities," he said. "Most fulfilling has been managing the Absent Voting Counting Board on election day."

Elections are something that impact every citizen's life in one way or another, yet most people only think about them on the way to the polls.

According to Small, his behind-the-scenes experiences have strengthened his understanding and interest in local participation.

He explained that in Michigan, election administration is decentralized to the city or township level, whereas in other

states, counties may be the administering body.

"The decentralization in Michigan allows for a unique opportunity to be involved in a truly local sense," Small said. "It provides a chance for residents to become better acquainted with their local government, the closest and potentially most impactful unit of government in people's lives, which is often overlooked and underappreciated."

Binder explained that the young election workers leave with a deep understanding of what it takes to administer an election as well as a work ethic with trained attention to detail.

"We are extremely proud of the diligence and ownership of our younger election workers, and our veteran workers truly enjoy working with them," she said.

For more information or to get involved, visit www.wbtownship.org or call the Clerk's office at (248) 451-4848.



2REVIVEYOU

FULL AESTHETICS

REFRESH.
RENEW.
Revive You.

PERSONALIZED AESTHETIC
SOLUTIONS TO **ENHANCE**
YOUR NATURAL BEAUTY
AND RESTORE CONFIDENCE.



ADVANCED TREATMENTS.

Beautiful, natural results.



BOTOX®

Smooth fine lines and wrinkles for a refreshed, youthful look.



FILLER

Restore volume, enhance contours and create natural, balanced results.



MICRONEEDLING

Boost collagen, improve texture and reveal radiant skin.



MORPHEUS

Tighten, lift and contour with advanced skin remodeling.



HAIR RESTORATION

Stimulate growth and restore confidence naturally.



BBL

BroadBand Light therapy to improve tone, texture and pigmentation.



PLEXR PLASMA PEN

Non-surgical skin tightening for smoother, firmer looking skin.



BHRT
Hormone
balance therapy
to restore
energy and
vitality naturally.



BE YOU. REVIVED.

BOOK YOUR CONSULTATION TODAY
AND START YOUR JOURNEY.

📞 248-642-1020

📍 40950 Woodward Ste 345
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304

🌐 2Reviveyou.com

Behind The Badge

Why I became a West Bloomfield Township police officer

By Nick Israel

I am proud to be a West Bloomfield police officer and serve the West Bloomfield Police Department's mission: "To safeguard the community through constitutional policing and community engagement."



I grew up in Michigan, graduated college in Ann Arbor and left the state – returning years later to make a home in West Bloomfield. I first worked with a New York nonprofit and then joined the Army. I served around the U.S., and in some wonderful and not-so-wonderful places in Europe and the Middle East. I was an armored cavalry officer and, later, a PSYOP officer. I operated Abrams tanks, jumped out of airplanes, learned Russian, and did other challenging and rewarding things. I served on active duty for years and after that, in the Army Reserve. I now serve part-time in the Air Force with the Michigan National Guard.

After I left active Army service, I joined a D.C.-based, nonprofit, non-governmental organization (NGO). We worked on projects with the U.S. military, partner militaries and diplomats, strengthening U.S. ties throughout Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

After a few years, I returned to Michigan, earned a master's degree, started a family, and went to work for an innovative artificial intelligence software company.

The corporate experience was gratifying but I mostly worked in front of a computer. I missed working face-to-face with people and the day-to-day problem-solving I had become used to in the military and working with the NGO. I mentioned this to a friend, a Detroit-area police officer. He suggested I join the police. He said my new hometown, West Bloomfield, had a great department. There was an idea. I contacted WBPD, did a ride-along with an experienced officer and was hooked.

I filled out the applications, passed the requisite tests, interviews, and background checks, completed the Oakland Police Academy (where, of course, I was "the old man"), and became a certified police officer. I then completed WBPD's internal training, which included becoming familiar with all the township's beautiful neighborhoods and many roads, schools, parks, religious institutions, libraries, medical facilities, and businesses.

I completed all my entry-level work and – as the saying goes – the rest is history. I say entry-level work, because police officers are perpetually



enhancing their knowledge and training to do their jobs with greater proficiency.

Behind every WBPD badge is an accomplished hard-working human being.

I learned a lot about what it means to safeguard the community – as our mission statement says – on March 12, 2026. We heard the alert:

"Something is happening at Temple Israel."

Every available WBPD member, on duty or off, went to work. We were joined by the West Bloomfield Fire Department; other law enforcement agencies; Temple Israel's security staff, teachers and parents; community residents and many others who rose to the difficult occasion.

Everything I have learned over the years – in school, in the military, at various jobs, at the academy and on patrol – helps me to be a more effective police officer. In addition, working with a department of dedicated, engaged and caring officers and command staff – a team of varied backgrounds and many strengths – helps me to better do what every police officer is sworn to do: "protect and serve."



Officer Israel (center) with Officer Zena Dailey (left) and Lieutenant Stephen Tratechaud (right).



WBPD Officer Nick Israel with his dog, a German Shepherd named Shaina.

HOUSEHOLD DANGERS You May Not Be Aware Of!

Simple maintenance can prevent hidden fire hazards before they become emergencies

By the West Bloomfield Fire Marshal Division

WHEN most people think about fire hazards in the home, they think of cooking, candles or space heaters. While those remain common causes of residential fires, two overlooked household items continue to cause fires in our community: bathroom exhaust fans and clothes dryers.

Bathroom Exhaust Fans

Over the past two years, the West Bloomfield Fire Marshal Division has investigated numerous bathroom exhaust fan fires. While it's unclear if these incidents are rising, they raise concern.



Bathroom exhaust fans collect dust, lint and debris. As this buildup increases, the motor must work harder, creating additional heat. Older motors, worn bearings and electrical failures can ignite accumulated lint, dust or nearby combustible materials.

Bathroom Exhaust Fan Safety Tips

- Vacuum the fan cover and housing once or twice each year.
- Remove the cover and carefully clean dust from the blades and motor.
- Replace noisy, vibrating or malfunctioning fans.
- Verify the fan exhausts outdoors, not into the attic.

Dryer Fires

Dryer fires remain one of the most preventable residential fires we investigate.

In a recent investigation, more than half of a dryer's exhaust duct was blocked by lint. This restriction led to



higher operating temperatures, and the lint buildup acted as fuel, increasing the risk of fire.

Cleaning the lint screen after every load is important, but it is only part of the system. The exhaust duct should also be inspected and cleaned regularly. Keeping the duct and lint trap clean also helps decrease the energy required to dry clothes, saving you money on electricity.

Dryer Safety Tips

- Clean the lint filter before every load.
- Vacuum around and beneath the dryer.
- Inspect and clean the complete dryer vent annually.
- Ensure the outside vent flap opens freely.
- Avoid crushed or kinked vent tubing.
- If clothes take longer to dry, inspect the vent immediately.
- If your dryer vent is difficult to access or has a long run through the home, consider using a professional dryer vent cleaning service.

Prevention Starts at Home

Many home fires begin with appliances we rarely think about because they quietly operate in the background every day. Spending just a few minutes each year to inspect and clean bathroom exhaust fans and dryer vents can reduce the risk of fire, extend the life of your appliances and help keep your family safe.

The West Bloomfield Fire Marshal Division encourages every resident to include these simple tasks in their annual home maintenance routine. Fire prevention begins long before the fire department is called.





A World of Stories

Author Priya Dee creates children's books that celebrate kindness, culture and courage

By Ryan M. Place

FOR Priya Dee, books have always been more than entertainment. They have been lifelong companions.

"I grew up reading constantly," Dee said. "Books were my closest friends."

Today, the West Bloomfield resident is an award-winning children's author whose books celebrate kindness, resilience, empathy and cultural understanding.

Born in Chennai, India, Dee spent much of her childhood moving wherever her parents work took the family. Her mother was a gynecologist, her father a radiologist, and both worked in government service. The family lived in London, Liverpool, Reading and remote regions of Iran, where Dee and her sister were homeschooled through eighth grade.

"My parents believed in service," she said. "We grew up around the world because of their work."

Growing up, Dee relied on British and American consulate libraries, where she discovered authors like Charles Dickens, Jane Austen, Agatha Christie, Mark Twain, C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien.

"Those stories shaped how I see the world," she said.

Upon moving to the United States for college, Dee began studying biomedical engineering before realizing it wasn't the right fit. She ultimately earned a master's degree in information technology and now works in cybersecurity risk management for a health insurance provider.

After publishing her first novel in 2015, it was a series of funny photographs of her dog that unexpectedly led her to children's literature.

"I originally wrote those stories just for my kids and friends," she said.

That inspiration led to "Balu Saves the Day", a picture book set in rural India



that celebrates generosity and community. Released in 2021, Dee donated the proceeds to the Red Cross, and the book has since led to school visits where she speaks about cultural inclusion.

Although "The Monster Did It" remains her most popular book with readers, Dee says "Little Moe Can't Fly" is her personal favorite, inspired by an injured Canada goose she watched struggling to keep up with its family.

"I love finding stories in everyday moments," she said.

Balancing writing with a full-time career requires routine.

"I write first thing in the morning," Dee said. "I'll go for a walk, get ideas, write them down, then come home with a cup of coffee and start writing."

She also credits her critique group via the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI), where she serves as the Michigan chapter's Detroit ShopTalk co-coordinator, with helping keep her grounded.

Dee enjoys traveling, especially to Kenya, Japan, India and northern Michigan, and she collects turtle-themed keepsakes that may someday inspire another story.

For many years, Dee and her family have called West Bloomfield home.

"We moved here because of the schools but we stayed because of the community," she said. "We've made wonderful long-term friends here."

She especially appreciates West Bloomfield's diversity, beautiful lakes and abundance of nature. Among her favorite local spots are Marshbank Park, Zerbo's Market and Aurora on the Lake, and she never tires of seeing the community's fall colors and sandhill cranes.

Currently working on two new books, Dee hopes to continue creating stories that help children see themselves and others with greater compassion.

"I want children to see themselves in stories," she said. "If my books help them become a little kinder, then I've accomplished what I set out to do."



**OUR MESSAGE
IS CLEAR**

**God
Family
St. Mary's**

**A Co-Divisional
Catholic High School**

www.stmarysprep.com
admissions@stmarysprep.com



Set Up Online
Payments, Go
Paperless, or
Pay by Text >



West Bloomfield Township Residents:

**THERE IS A NEW,
BETTER WAY TO PAY.**

Pay Your Way. Easy. Convenient. Secure.

West Bloomfield Township offers more convenient payment options with our **NEW** online billing and payment service.

Access your online account via desktop or mobile to get started and set your preferences. Online bill pay option is available for real and personal property tax statements, water & sewer bills, special assessments, permits and other Township fees.

Powered by:



Go Paperless!

Questions? Call us at (248) 451-4860 | www.wbtownship.org

Fall Brings the Best of Networking!

Suzanne Levine, Executive Director

THERE'S something special



about fall. While

we all enjoy the beautiful colors of the season, it's also one of the best times of the year to reconnect, make new business relationships and support our local community. The West Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce has an exciting lineup of events planned, and we hope you'll join us.

Our annual **Golf Outing** returns to **Twin Beach Country Club** on **Tuesday, September 29**. Last year's event was such a tremendous success that we couldn't wait to take a swing at it again! This year we're adding even more fun with new games, exciting prizes, raffles, and surprises throughout the day. Whether you're an experienced golfer or simply looking for a great networking opportunity, this is an event that's sure to be a hole-in-one success. Sponsorships are still available, and there are a limited number of golfer registrations remaining.

Then, mark your calendar for **Saturday, November 7**, when we gather at **Bay Pointe Golf Club** for one of our first but soon-to-be one of our favorite annual events — **Shop, Sip & Sparkle**. This festive afternoon celebrates and showcases women-owned businesses while offering delicious food, great conversation and plenty of unique gifts for your holiday shopping. It's a wonderful way to support local entrepreneurs and enjoy a fun afternoon with friends and the community!

Of course, these are just two of the many opportunities to stay connected this fall. We'll continue celebrating new businesses with ribbon cuttings, and our regular networking events — including **Cup of Connections**, the **Senior Resource Group**, and **WELLTh (Wellness & Health Professionals)** — will keep our members engaged and strengthen valuable relationships all season long.

Whether you're a longtime member or thinking about joining the Chamber, there's never been a better time to get involved. We look forward to welcoming you at one — or all — of our upcoming events.

To learn more, visit www.westbloomfieldchamber.com, email wbloomfieldchamber@gmail.com, or call (248) 626-3636. We look forward to seeing you this fall!

GWB GREATER WEST BLOOMFIELD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
BRINGING BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY TOGETHER

GOLF OUTING 2026

SEPT 29 | TWIN BEACH COUNTRY CLUB
TUESDAY | 2026 | 7625 Glascott Ave, West Bloomfield

REGISTRATION	9:00AM
SHOTGUN START	10:00AM

Golf ticket includes: 18 holes with cart, breakfast item, lunch buffet, awards, snack ticket, and raffle ticket

ONE PLAYER	FOURSOME
\$130	\$475

Deadline to register - Sept 14
Event Coordinator: Kim Oderkirk
(248) 388-4605

www.westbloomfieldchamber.com/2026-golf-registration

ASSOCIATION SERVICES
stellar events & travel

BACK NINE
WEST BLOOMFIELD, MI

GWB GREATER WEST BLOOMFIELD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
BRINGING BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY TOGETHER

ASSOCIATION SERVICES
stellar events & travel

Shop, Sip & Sparkle Pop-Up Expo

Call for Vendors & Sponsors
Vendors must be at least 51% women -Owned

Saturday, Nov 7, 2026
11 am - 3 pm
Bay Pointe Golf Club

www.westbloomfieldchamber.com/2026-expo-vendors

TO YOUR HEALTH!

NUTS & SEEDS

Tiny But Potent Flavors for Fall

By Lisa Howard

FAVORITE fall dishes have many perks, among them that their key ingredients tend to be easy and inexpensive to prepare: hearty greens take well to long simmers, chicken thighs with the bones and skin create their own broth, brown rice pilafs are an excellent way to use leftover veggies in the fridge.

No matter which dishes are on the menu, nuts and seeds are the perfect way to add even more flavor and texture! A little goes a long way, and as long as you store your nuts and seeds in the fridge (or even freezer), those can be inexpensive pantry items since they'll stay fresh that way.

Raw nuts and seeds taste more subtle than their toasted counterparts, and many can be ground in a regular coffee grinder to create fresh flour to be used in a wide variety of baked goods, from pumpkin bread to DIY crackers. (Technically, the coarser-than-flour result is a meal, but you can swap it out for a quarter of the flour called for in most recipes, or you can find recipes based on nut and seed meals.)

Candidates for the coffee grinder are: flax seeds, chia seeds, sunflower seeds, sesame seeds, pepitas, rolled oats, sliced almonds, chopped pecans and chopped walnuts. Larger, harder nuts can be ground in a flour mill or a very sturdy food processor.

Two bonuses of grinding your own nuts and seeds are that they're maximally fresh – they haven't been sitting pre-ground on a grocery shelf with their delicate inner fats exposed to light – and they're less costly because you can use them as nuts or meal (two for the price of one!). Also, the sticker price of the pre-ground version is typically far higher than the price of the un-ground nut or seed. A quick zzzt! through the coffee grinder is a big money-saver.

Toasted nuts and seeds have a far more robust flavor and make excellent garnishes for just about anything: soups, salads, pilafs, roasted squash halves, homemade cereals, yogurt parfaits, you name it.

The most

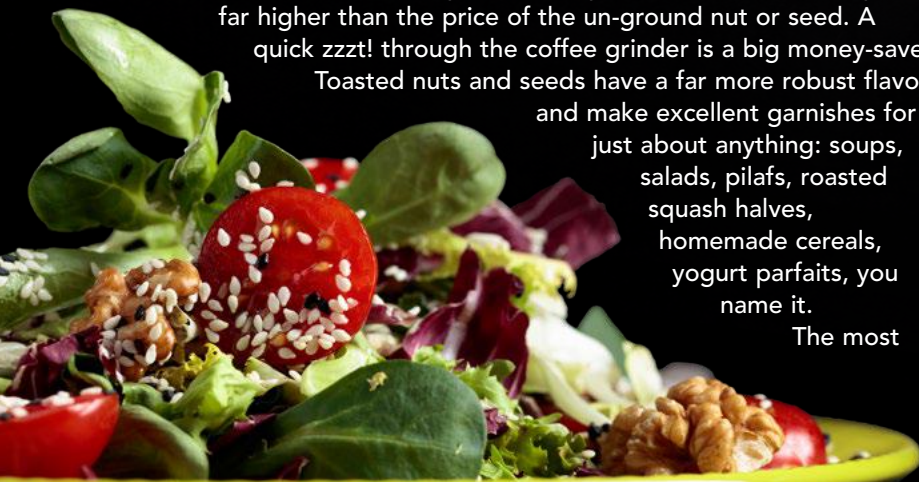
foolproof way to toast them is to scatter them onto a skillet over medium-low heat in a single layer. No need to add oil – just let them toast, stirring them or shaking the skillet occasionally, for 5 to 8 minutes or until they smell delightfully toasty. (Smaller pieces will toast more quickly than larger pieces.)

Do not leave nuts or seeds unattended! They go from perfectly toasted to burnt slag surprisingly quickly. Have a cool plate ready and just slide them onto the plate as soon as they're aromatic and darkening.

In addition to a big kick of flavor, certain nuts and seeds offer outsized nutritional oomph. Walnuts, chia seeds and flax seeds, in particular, have high levels of anti-inflammatory omega-3 fats, making them especially welcome toppers for a wide range of dishes. Chia and flax both have mucilaginous qualities, too, meaning that they'll thicken any liquid they're stirred into. (To make a no-cook pudding, stir chia seeds into coconut milk or half-and-half along with a splash of maple syrup and a few drops of vanilla and let sit for about 5 minutes.)

Of course, all nuts and seeds are an excellent source of fiber. So this fall, go nuts! And don't forget the seeds.

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.





September 26 Fall Fetch Festival

11 a.m.-3 p.m.
Marshbank Park
2805 Hiller Road
Bring your four-legged friends to this new festival, free to the community! See the K9 Star Productions stunt show at 12 and 2 p.m., shop from a variety of pet vendors, make and take a stuffed animal with The Friendship Factory, enjoy lunch from local food trucks, enter your pet in a costume contest and much more. Pre-register for the chance to win raffle prizes at www.wbparks.org.



OCTOBER October 1, 8, 22 Spooky Animal Storytime

6-7 p.m.
Marshbank Park
2805 Hiller Road
Visit the park on select Thursdays in October for a fall reading adventure featuring Halloween-themed books focusing on a different animal. After the story, meet a live animal that looks just like the story's main character. October 1: Bewitched Bunnies. October 8: Chilling Chickens. October 22: Cautious Cats. \$6 per resident for the entire series. Drop-in rates are available per session. Register at www.wbparks.org.

October 25 Trick-or-Treat Trail

3-5 p.m.
Marshbank Park
2805 Hiller Road
Children are invited to dress in their favorite costume and collect goodies along the trail from costumed characters, local businesses and community organizations. The event is split into four sessions and is \$10/resident child. Register for a timeslot at www.wbparks.org.

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



NOVEMBER November 3 Heroes Appreciation Breakfast

9-10:30 a.m.
West Bloomfield Middle School
6000 Orchard Lake Road
This breakfast will honor the hard work and sacrifices made by those in the military. Veterans and one guest can attend free. Additional guests or non-veterans can attend for \$15. There will be breakfast, an honor guard presentation and live entertainment. Register at www.wbparks.org.

November 7 Pumpkin Playoff: A Family Competition

1-3 p.m.
Marshbank Park
2805 Hiller Road
Families are encouraged to bring their old pumpkins and participate in a variety of pumpkin games from rolling and tossing to smashing and stacking. Each team will receive a prize. Bring at least one pumpkin per group. Register at www.wbparks.org.

November 14 Mom & Son Carnival Night

5-7 p.m.
Connect Senior Center
33230 W. 14 Mile Road
Moms and sons are invited to enjoy unlimited access to a carnival-style game room where they will earn tickets to win prizes. Registration is \$15/resident and includes pizza, popcorn, cotton candy, beverages, balloon twists, photo booth, temporary tattoos, a bounce house and more. Register at www.wbparks.org.

AROUND West Bloomfield September – November



ONGOING

- Enjoy the final days of the 2026 Food Truck Tuesday series from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at the Civic Center Campus Tent, 4640 Walnut Lake Road on September 15, 22 and 29. For more information or a list of food trucks, visit www.wbparks.org.

SEPTEMBER September 18-19 Camp Out

3 p.m.-10:30 a.m.
Marshbank Park
2805 Hiller Road
Enjoy the great outdoors at the annual Camp Out and experience a craft station, fishing, telescope viewing, s'mores by the campfire, a tent decorating contest, a naturalist-guided hike, dinner available for purchase and family-friendly fun. \$10/resident. For more information or to register, visit www.wbparks.org.



WALLED LAKE CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS

A destination public school district in Oakland County serving Walled Lake and eight bordering municipalities.

- Three Award Winning, Comprehensive High Schools
- State of the Art Early Childhood Center
- Junior Kindergarten Offered
- World Class Performing Arts
- Career Technical Opportunities



CONTACT US

248-956-2000

info@wlcsd.org

www.wlcsd.org



Our mission, in partnership with parents and the community is to become the best educational system in America so all students demonstrate they are caring, responsible and knowledgeable citizens.



4550 Walnut Lake Road West Bloomfield, MI 48323

Jonathan Warshay *Supervisor*
Debbie Binder *Clerk*
Teri Weingarden *Treasurer*
Vincent Kirkwood *Trustee*
Jim Manna *Trustee*
Michael Patton *Trustee*
Diane Rosenfeld Swimmer *Trustee*

Community Publishing
26955 Northline Road
Taylor, Michigan 48180
*****ECRWSS*****
LOCAL
POSTAL CUSTOMER

PRST STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
DEARBORN, MI 48120
PERMIT NO. 11

COME RECYCLE WITH US!



@Town Hall

4550 Walnut Lake Road
West Bloomfield, MI 48323

**HAZARDOUS WASTE
& ELECTRONICS**

SEP 18

4:00 –
6:00 p.m.

SEP 19

9:00 a.m.
– Noon



SHREDDING

SEP 25

5:00 –
7:00 p.m.



Township staff with pick-up hazardous waste and electronics from homebound West Bloomfield residents on **September 18**. All items **MUST** be curbside and weigh fewer than 50 lbs. **By Appointment Only**. Call (248) 706-2411 to schedule.

For more information on all recycling, please visit wbtownship.org, or call (248) 451-4818. A comprehensive list of acceptable and unacceptable items can be found at wbtownship.org. All Household Hazardous Waste & Shredding events are held at West Bloomfield Town Hall, and open to all residents of West Bloomfield Township, Orchard Lake Village, Sylvan Lake and Keego Harbor. (ID Required)